

# The Annals of Iowa

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## In This Issue

MATTHEW CECIL, associate professor in the South Dakota State University Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, describes the up-and-down relationship between J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and the staff at the *Des Moines Register and Tribune* and Cowles Publications. *Register* and *Tribune* staff, for the most part, kept some editorial distance from the bureau and occasionally gently criticized Hoover and the FBI, but at times some of them were willing to flatter Hoover or fit their reporting to FBI public relations rubrics in order to secure access to information.

JON K. LAUCK, senior advisor and counsel to U.S. Senator John Thune, offers a portrait of a group of historians he calls "Prairie Historians." From the late nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth, those historians, in reaction to a sense that the profession was unduly dominated by easterners, called attention to the Midwest, toiled to make the region's historical institutions functional and productive, wrote substantial histories of the region, won Pulitzer Prizes, and focused on the nation's democratic heritage and prospects.

## Front Cover

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association (MVHA) met in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1932. (The State Historical Society of Iowa's Benjamin F. Shambaugh is seated just to the right of center in the foreground, with Louis Pelzer across the table from him.) For more on the founders of the MVHA and their contributions to the history of the Midwest, see Jon Lauck's article in this issue. Image from State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.

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