

# The Annals of Iowa

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## In This Issue

VICTORIA E. M. CAIN, a Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Southern California, recounts the early history (1868–1910) of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences. She focuses on its transformation from a society devoted to scientific research into a museum dedicated to popular education.

PAM STEK, a graduate student in history at the University of Iowa, describes the development in the 1880s and 1890s of a flourishing African American community from the small Iowa coal camp at Muchakinock. She shows how the attitudes and business practices of the coal company executives as well as the presence of strong African American leaders in the community contributed to the formation of an African American community that was not subjected to the enforced segregation, disfranchisement, and racial violence perpetrated against blacks in many other parts of the United States at that time.

## Front Cover

J. H. Paarmann, curator of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, led the institution's transformation from a society devoted to scientific research into a museum dedicated to popular education. Here, Paarmann is seen leading a group of girls on a field trip along the Mississippi River. For more on Paarmann's role in transforming the Davenport academy, see Victorian E. M. Cain's article in this issue. Photo courtesy Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, Davenport, Iowa.

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