

produce which had been offered as payment, gradually decreased.

The newspaper offices acquired fresh paint and steam presses replaced the temperamental hand-operated machinery. One by one, the newspapers grew to startling proportions until in size, appearance and advertising they little resembled their humble predecessors.

In the yellow, brittle pages of the old newspapers the story of the creation of the Commonwealth of Iowa can be traced. The files are alive with political events; the blazing of westward trails; the initiation of cultural activities; and the controversies over such questions as slavery, politics and temperance. In the life of the Territory, the newspapers played a conspicuous part.

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#### **NEWSPAPER DIVISION ACTIVE IN RECORDING IOWA'S HISTORY**

The Newspaper Division of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives was created in 1892 when the first Curator of the Department, Charles Aldrich, foresaw the need of preserving newspapers of Iowa. With each succeeding Curator, the Newspaper Division has made an effort to expand and improve its facilities and services to the public. Today this division receives over 40 daily Iowa papers and approximately 200 weeklies. These papers are sorted, indexed and filed within the division; they are then microfilmed for better preservation by the staff.

This division has preserved papers dating from the 1850's to the present. These papers, when properly compiled, give an accurate day by day history of Iowa, its towns and cities and its people. A card index of the newspapers as well as of events is housed and developed by this division to aid researchers, students and the general public in finding desired information.

The Newspaper Division is in the basement of the State Historical Building in Des Moines and is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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