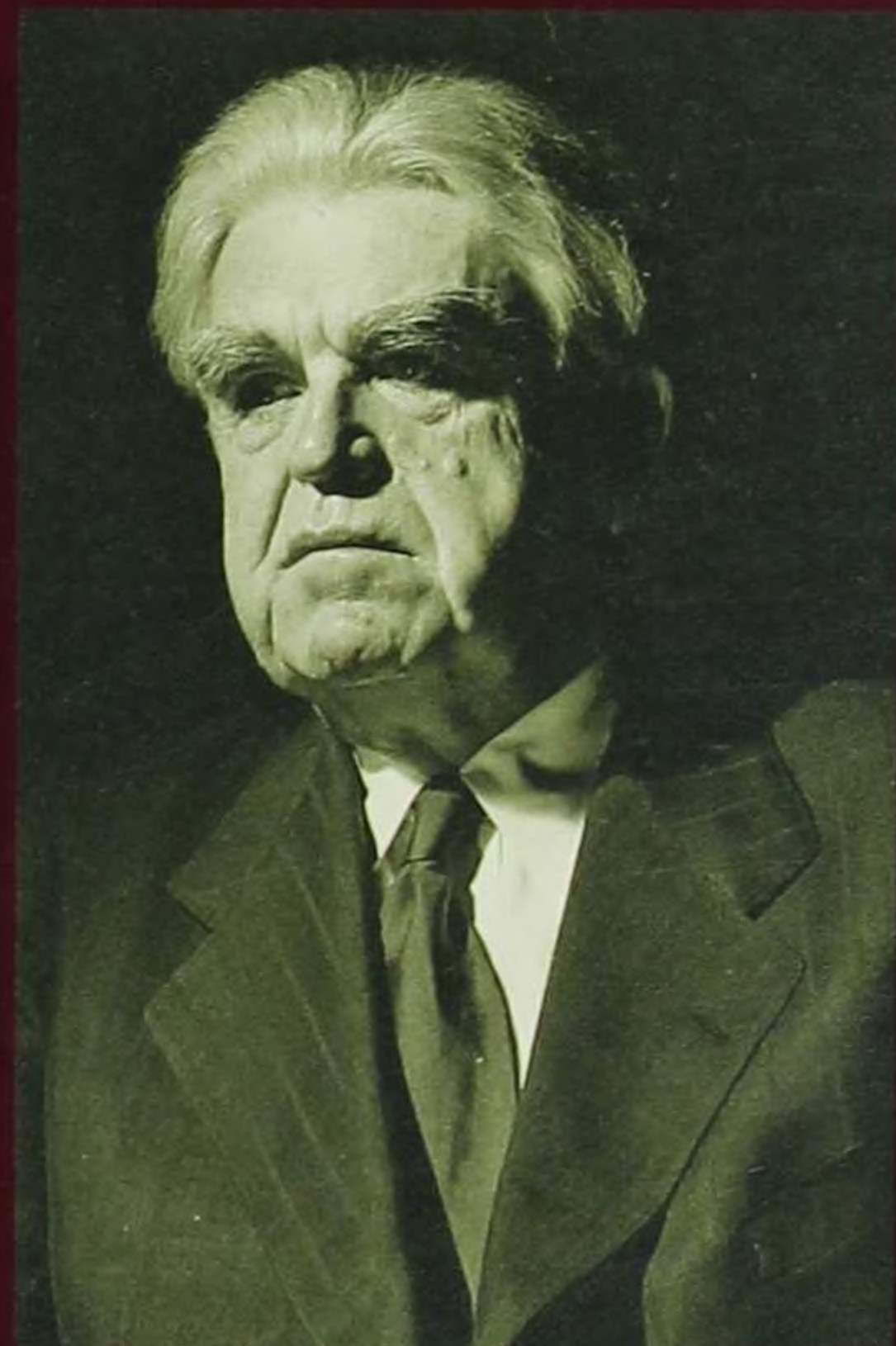


John L. Lewis • Adeline Wanatee • Herbert Hoxie • Clark Mollenhoff • Cristine Wilson • And More!

Spring & Summer 2008 • \$7

# Iowa Heritage

ILLUSTRATED



# Front Porch

Dear Readers,

Do some of you remember a television show many years ago based on the premise that the host had invited a few famous individuals from various times in history to gather around a table and converse? Perhaps a group like St. Augustine, Charles Dickens, Martin Luther, and Leo Tolstoy, for example. As the conversation stretched across the centuries, the guests would grow ever more passionate and provocative.

As I wrapped up this issue, I fantasized about hosting a party and encouraging conversations between some of the 41 individuals you'll meet in these pages. The time span here is far shorter—and I anticipate more agreement than argument in some of the conversations—but there would still be plenty to talk about concerning the human condition and society.

Here is one of the groups I would invite: A. T. Andreas, Herbert Quick, and Louis Pammel. Andreas mapped woodlands and rivers, towns and farms for his 1875 atlas of Iowa. Quick knew the land up-close: he wrote evocatively of farming on the prairie in his novels set in Iowa. Pammel, as a conservationist determined to save Iowa's natural places, would update Andreas and Quick on the changes to the landscape by the 1920s. It will be a sobering conversation.

Here's another group: John L. Lewis, Edna Griffin, and Cristine Wilson. All three worked for human rights: Lewis in the 1930s and '40s for workers, Griffin in the 1940s and '50s for African Americans, and Wilson in the 1970s for women. I hope they take heart from each other's efforts.

If you relish a good political discussion, eavesdrop on this foursome: conservative 19th-century Congressman John Kasson, Republican National Committee Chair Mary Louise Smith, controversial Sioux City Mayor Wallace Short, and Socialist gubernatorial candidate John Work.

Politely refusing a glass of wine, Ida B. Wise Smith and Harold Hughes are recounting their battles against alcohol. Smith led the national Woman's Christian Temperance Union in the 1930s, and Hughes was an alcoholic before he became governor of Iowa.

Over in a corner, war memories have kindled the conversation of S. H. M. Byers, James B. Morris Sr., James Norman Hall, and William Shirer. Byers was a prisoner in a Confederate prison. In World War I, Morris served in the Third Battalion and Hall flew in the Escadrille Lafayette. As a CBS radio correspondent in Europe, Shirer reported the dramatic build-up of the Nazis leading up to World War II.

Sketching routes across Iowa on table napkins, "Hub" Hoxie, "Diamond Jo" Reynolds, and Thomas MacDonald are hashing out the promises and problems of transportation. Hoxie pushed for a transcontinental railroad, Reynolds built a successful line of freight and passenger steamboats on the Mississippi, and MacDonald championed an interstate highway system. Imagine Hoxie's and Reynolds's responses when MacDonald brings up aviation.

By the window, John Plumbe is sharing his impressions of Washington, D.C., with Clark Mollenhoff. In 1846 Plumbe lugged his camera equipment around town, producing some of the earliest photographic images we have of the capital. Nearly a century later, Mollenhoff covered Washington as an investigative reporter, trained to ferret out hidden stories.

And, just because they're two of my favorites, I quietly join Hallie Flanagan and Harry Hopkins as they relive the 1930s and the New Deal programs they directed.

The conversations lag, and the guests drift away from their original groups. As they strike up conversations with others, they find unexpected connections—and so will you in this special double issue of *Iowa Heritage Illustrated*.

—Ginalie Swaim, editor

## Iowa Heritage Illustrated

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Share your thoughts with the editor and readers here on the Front Porch. Send letters or e-mail to address above. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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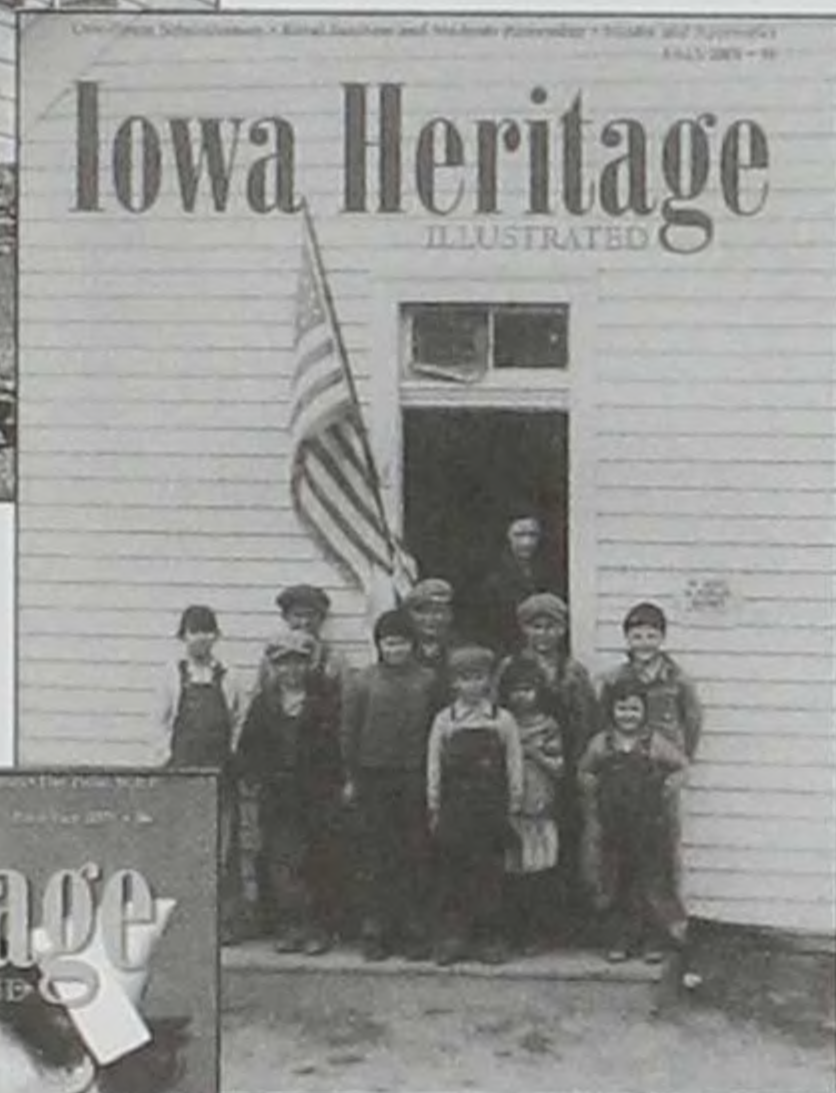
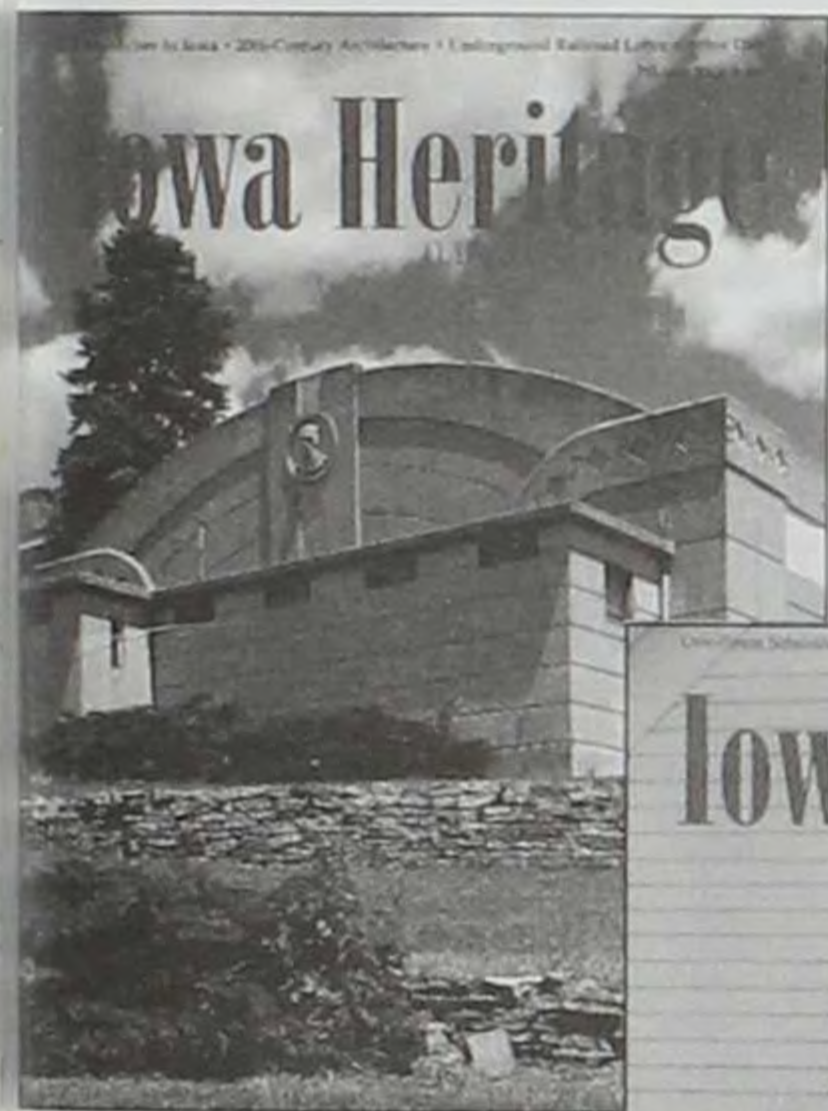
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## STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of IOWA

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You're holding  
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you can find  
for traveling into  
Iowa's past.

## Iowa Heritage

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Rare photos  
and rich history  
in every issue.

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*Left: Jennie McCowen, Crisbaby Sarah, John L. Lewis, Concert Band. This issue preserves Iowans who made their mark and the essence of their Iowa larger world.*

# Iowa Heritage

ILLUSTRATED

The Magazine of the State Historical Society of Iowa Spring & Summer 2008, 89:1&2

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## On the Cover

*Clockwise from top left: Jennie McCowen, Cristine Wilson and her baby Sarah, John L. Lewis, and the Minburn Concert Band. This issue presents the stories of 41 Iowans who made their mark on the state or carried the essence of their Iowa background into the larger world.*

# Salmagundi

I have always wanted to use the word salmagundi in this magazine.

The first definition is culinary: a salad of meat, hard-boiled eggs, beets, and pickles, served on lettuce with oil and vinegar. (Anchovies, thank goodness, are optional.)

But it's the second definition that I refer to. Salmagundi is an assortment, a miscellany, a medley. Therefore, this special double issue of *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* is a salmagundi of Iowans—41 Iowans, in fact.

The 41 featured here are only a tenth of the Iowans you'll learn about in an important new resource for Iowa history, *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*, published for the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) by the University of Iowa Press. More than five years in the making, the book includes brief (mostly about 750 words) biographies of more than 400 Iowans written by a pool of about 150 writers.

The book was edited by three people with a combination of more than 50 years of exploring Iowa history within SHSI: David Hudson, retired acquisitions librarian for SHSI; Marvin Bergman, editor of SHSI's history journal, *The Annals of Iowa*, since 1987; and Loren Horton, who retired as SHSI's senior historian after 24 years of working for SHSI.

In such an undertaking as this, how does one deter-

mine who gets in and who is left out? First off, the coeditors decided that the book would not include living Iowans (or, for that matter, anyone who died after December 31, 2000), so that the biographies could cover the subject's entire life. It does include every Iowa governor, U.S. senator, and U.S. Supreme Court justice. The rest of the names were culled from a list of more than 2,000 names of people who were born in Iowa or lived for at least 20 years in the state. The coeditors went through that list name by name, reaching easy consensus in most cases, but negotiating and arguing their way to a decision on many.

"We agreed that we did not simply want a list of 'famous Iowans,'" said coeditor Marvin Bergman, "people who may have happened to be born in the state or passed through it at some point but made their mark elsewhere. We wanted to call attention primarily to people who made their mark on the state or whose national reputation was grounded in their Iowa experience."

As a result, there are not many famous actors or musicians. On the other hand, Bergman notes, there are a number of Iowa-born writers who left the state upon reaching adulthood, but whose writing reflects their experiences growing up in Iowa.

"The character of a state is determined by the char-

acter of the people who inhabit it. Iowa has been blessed with citizens of strong character who have made invaluable contributions to the state and to the nation," the co-editors note in the introduction.

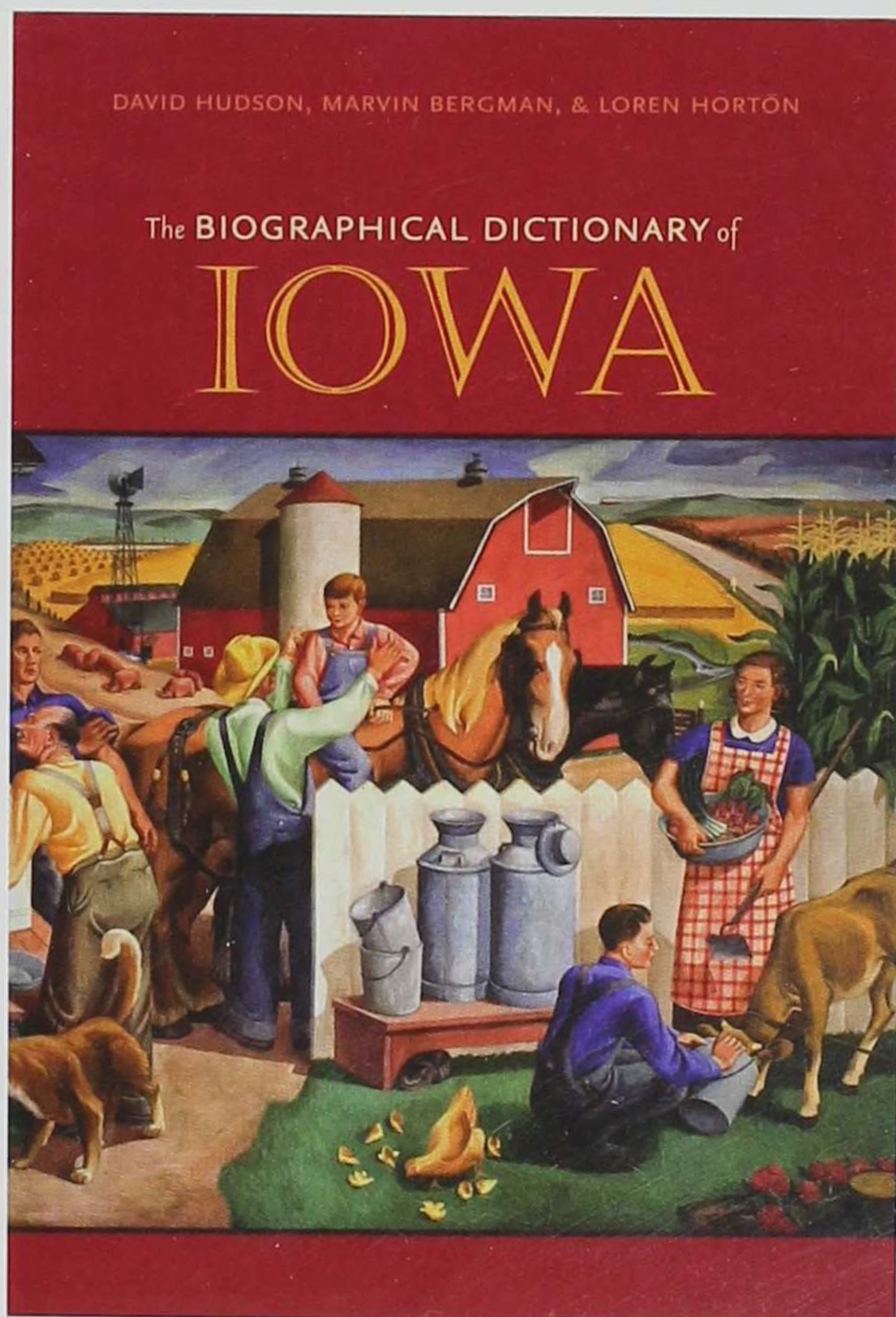
"Many of the names we include will be instantly recognizable to most Iowans; others are largely forgotten but deserve to be remembered."

So how did I whittle down a very long list and decide whom to include in this issue? First, I looked for a mix—a salmagundi—of Iowans from both the 19th and the 20th centuries.

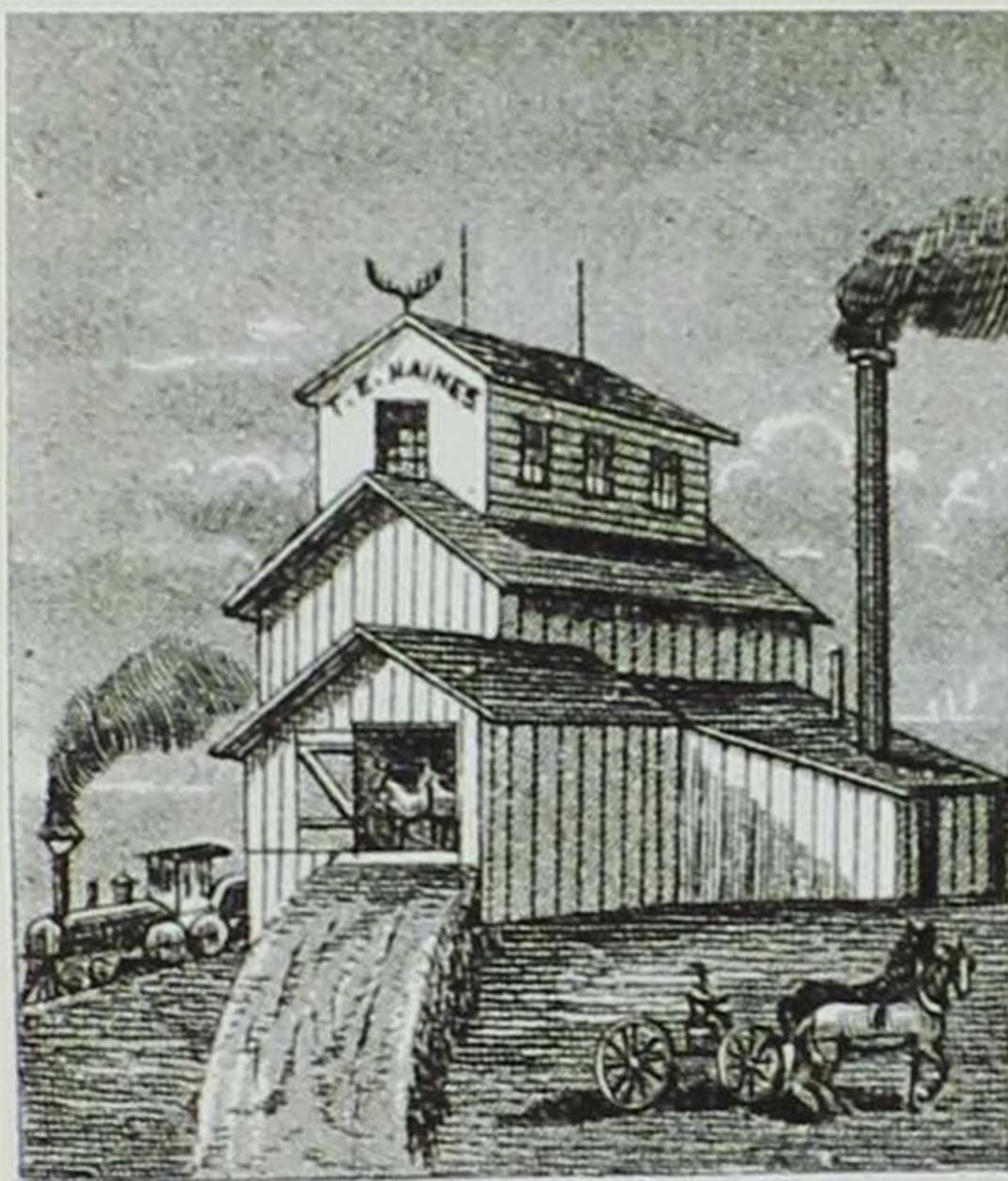
Second, I held to a hallmark of the magazine: half of the content is visual. Visual history can be as informative and compelling as written history. (As do most reference works, the biographical dictionary includes no images.)

Third, I'll confess to editor's prerogative. But I believe that you'll find the following 41 Iowans to be intriguing examples of what the biographical dictionary offers to curious readers seeking to know the character of the state and the stories of its individuals.

—Ginalie Swaim, editor



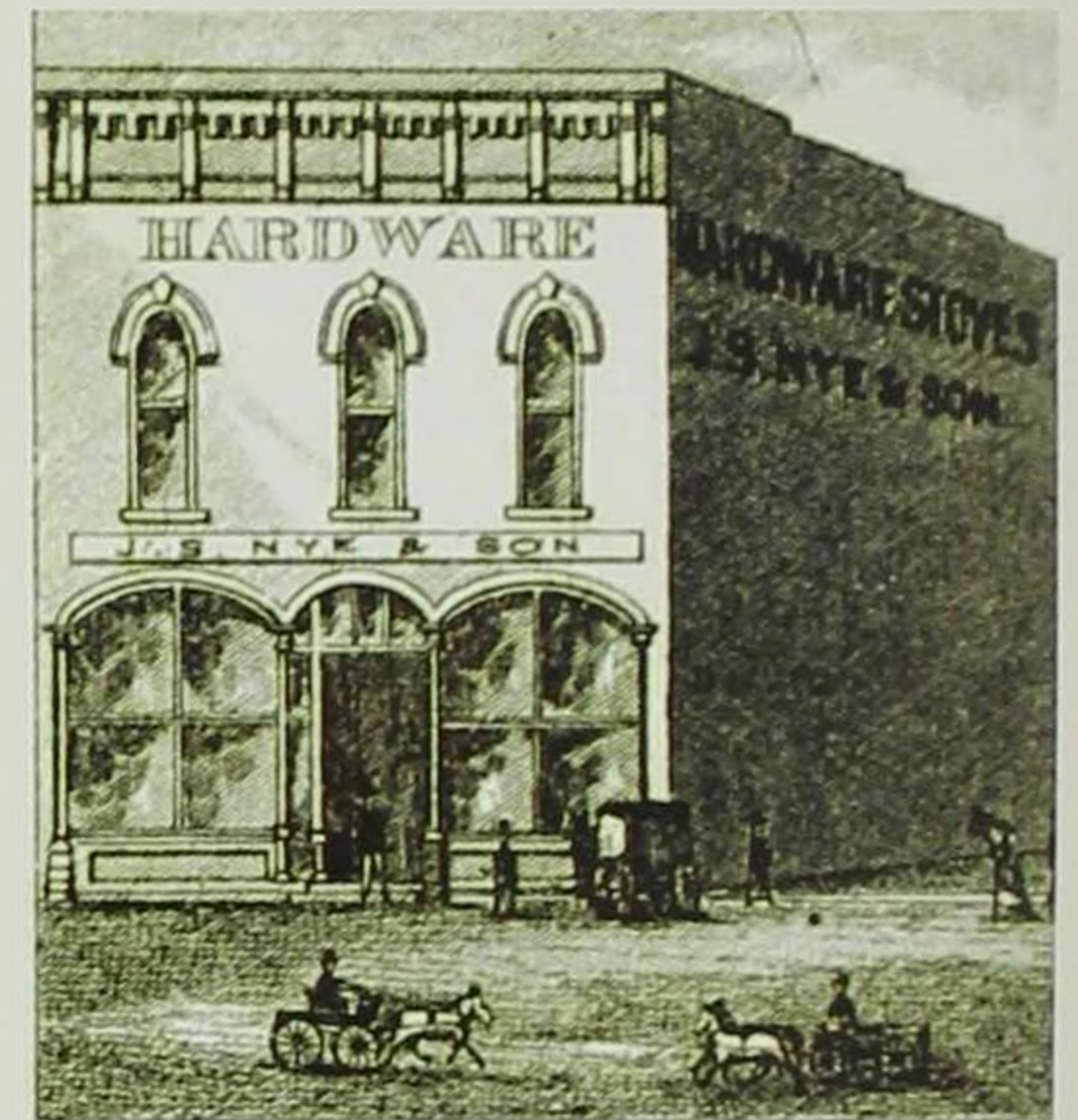
*The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa* is a reference work, so please tell your local and school libraries about it. It also rewards the general reader who browses. Purchase it at your local bookstore or through the publisher, University of Iowa Press, at [www.uiopress.uiowa.edu](http://www.uiopress.uiowa.edu).



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## A. T. Andreas and His Vision for Marketing Iowa

Alfred Theodore Andreas (May 29, 1839–February 10, 1900)—publisher of the 1875 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*—was one of the foremost cartographic recorders of societal and economic changes in post-Civil War America. Besides the Iowa atlas, he published some two dozen county and state atlases between 1871 and 1875, all built on the same commercial model—lavishly illustrated volumes containing basic maps, land ownership information, portraits of local and state dignitaries, and lithographs of towns, businesses, and farm properties [see above].

Andreas was born in Amity, New York, and migrated to Dubuque at age 18. Having moved to Illinois in 1860, Andreas enlisted

in the 12th Illinois Infantry when the Civil War began. A talent for organization helped him advance rapidly in rank, and he ended his army career as a division commissary, serving with General William Sherman on the March to the Sea and the Carolinas campaigns. Discharged from the army in 1865, Andreas moved to Davenport (a town he had visited during an earlier furlough) and married Davenport native Sophia Lyter.

Due to economic and societal factors in the rapidly growing western United States, the publication of maps and atlases increased tremendously after the Civil War. Taking advantage of that growing market and a job offer from three former army associates, Andreas

began as a salesman for the Thompson & Everts publishing company in 1867. Thompson & Everts was one of a number of companies that published individual county maps based on General Land Office surveys, modified for county residents and sold on subscription. Local subscribers would receive a map that included their name in the list of subscribers as well as on the land they owned in the county. Andreas, one of the firm's best salesmen, soon determined that if one divided county maps into individual township maps and included more information on landowners, businesses, and towns at additional subscriber cost, a complete county atlas could be published and sold even to subscribers who

had already purchased an earlier, relatively unadorned county map.

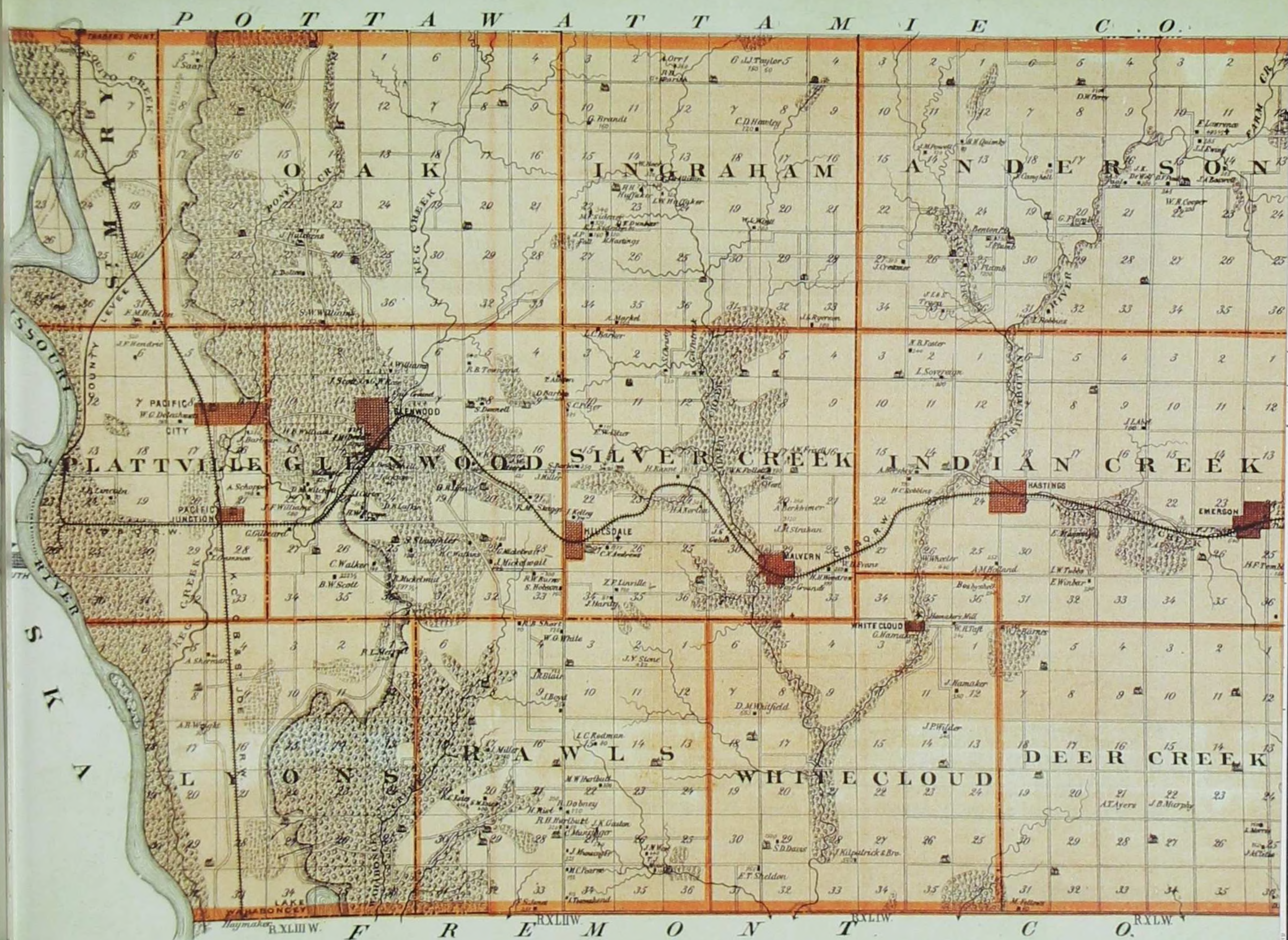
In 1869–1870, Andreas quit his salesman job and founded Andreas, Lyter & Company, later A. T. Andreas, in Davenport with his brother-in-law John Lyter. That firm compiled approximately two dozen county atlases from 1871 to 1875 at considerable profit. Andreas reasoned that a similar market existed for comparable statewide atlases—large books sold on subscription and containing substantial text and illustrations beyond maps. His company, reorganized and located in Chicago, began work on a state atlas for the relatively new

state of Minnesota. Problems with a financial backer, a small base of potential subscribers (less than half a million people in the state), and a wheat crop failure resulted in a substantial loss of money on the Minnesota atlas.

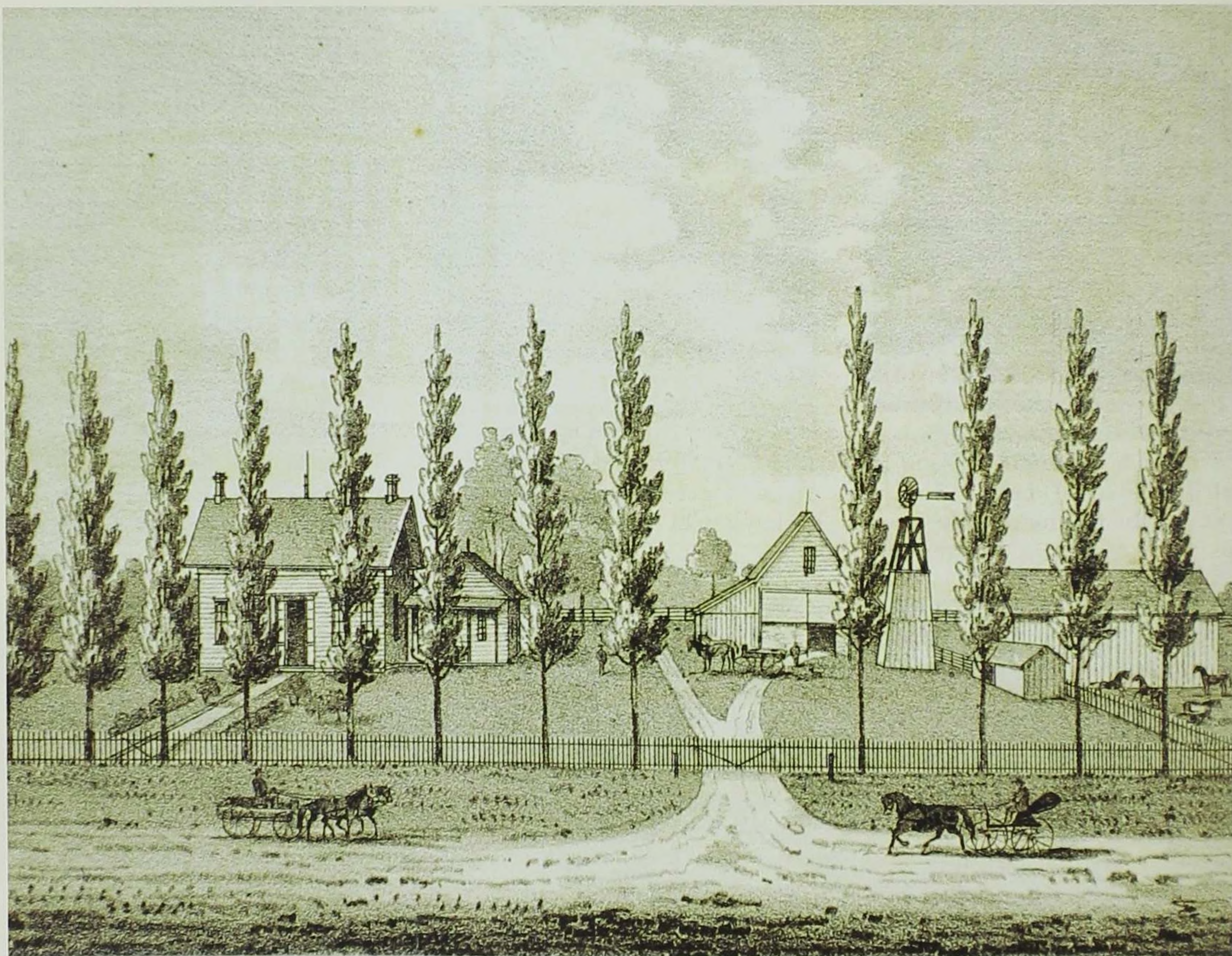
Undeterred, Andreas used the same marketing strategy and began work on a similar atlas for Iowa, a state of nearly 1.2 million people in 1870. The Iowa atlas was sold to over 22,000 subscribers for \$15, plus additional fees for non-map extras. The resulting 600-page 1875 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa* contained county maps [below], plat maps of 44 towns,

over 300 pages of pictorial subjects, biographical sketches, brief state and county histories, 1870 census statistics, and a listing of atlas patrons. The atlas was then, and still is, an outstanding reference book, giving past and present readers a look at Iowa life in the 1870s.

Production costs were very high, and sources differ on whether the Iowa atlas made a profit for Andreas. Nonetheless, Andreas moved on to produce an Indiana atlas, a financial disaster from which he never recovered. His company remained in Chicago and reorganized several times between 1876 and 1884; Andreas also worked off







FARM RESIDENCE OF L. S. LIBBEY, SEC. 32 Orleans T<sup>w</sup>, Winneshiek Co  
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and on for other publishers. His final publishing effort resulted in what is still deemed the best historical record of 19th-century Chicago, a three-volume *History of Chicago*. That venture was probably also, for Andreas, a financial failure.

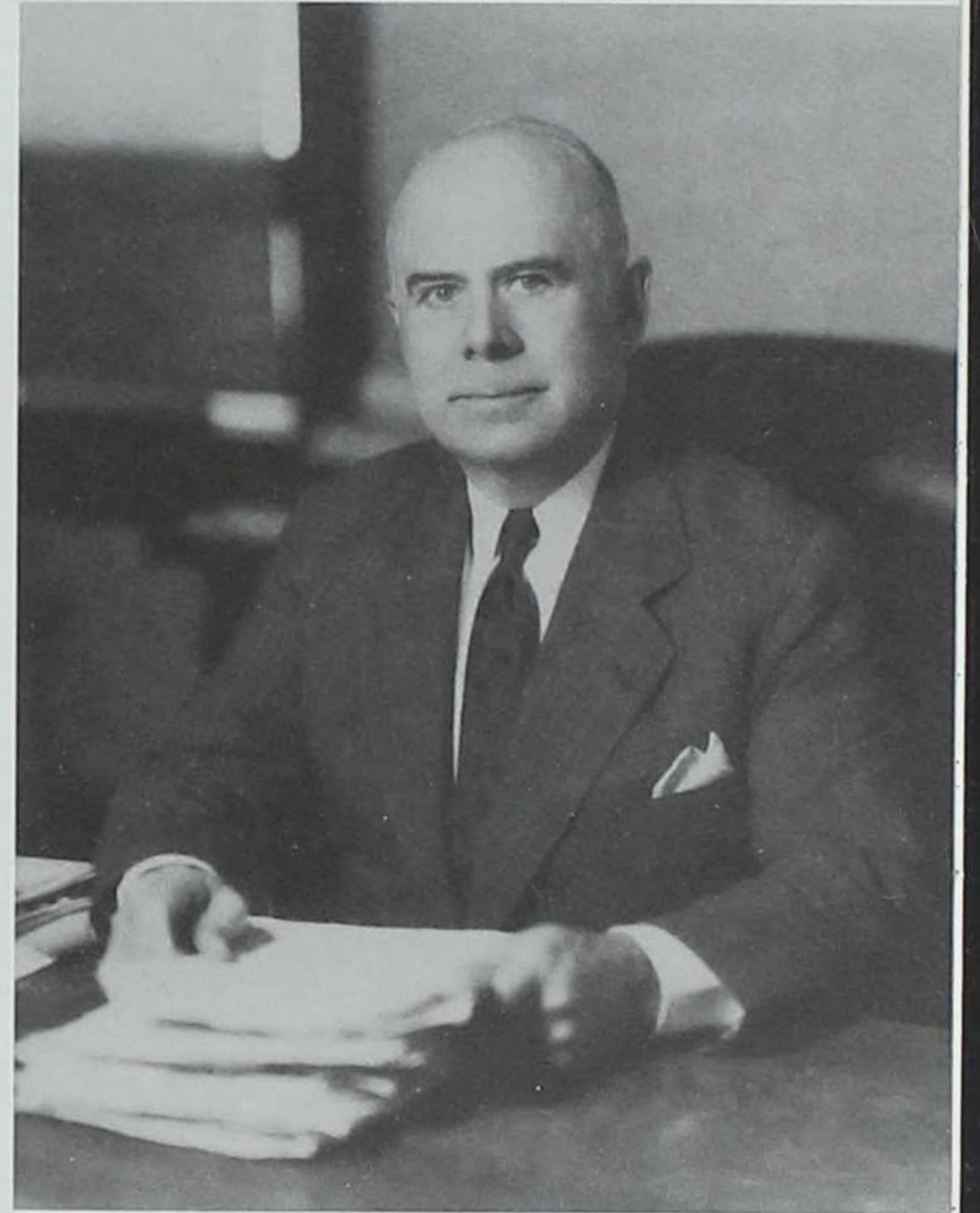
Andreas left major publishing behind after the Chicago volumes and never found another gainful occupation. He died in New Rochelle, New York, in 1900.

Among the many commercial map and atlas producers of the

19th century, Andreas stands out as an excellent recorder of everyday midwestern life. Although his publishing efforts never made him financially stable, his organizational skills and vision of marketing to new landowners were groundbreaking at the time and were soon emulated by others.

—Mary R. McInroy

SHSI (IOWA CITY)



# Thomas MacDonald

## Father of the Nation's Highway System

Thomas Harris MacDonald (July 23, 1881–April 7, 1957)—civil engineer, chief engineer for the Iowa State Highway Commission, and director of the U.S. Bureau Public Roads—was born in Leadville, Colorado. His family moved to Poweshiek County, Iowa, in 1884, and he attended elementary and high school in Montezuma. He first attended Iowa State Normal School, but transferred to Iowa State College after one year. A student of Anson Marston, MacDonald received his civil engineering degree in 1904. His senior thesis, written with L. T. Gaylord, was titled “Iowa Good Roads Investigations.” Studying roads in Story and Linn counties, MacDonald and Gaylord sought to replicate the conditions encountered by Iowa farmers. Based on the collected data, they asserted, not surprisingly, that hard-surfaced roads required the least draft. The power required to pull a load on dirt roads could be seven times greater than the draft necessary on hard-surfaced roads. After graduation, MacDonald joined the fledgling Iowa State Highway Commission (ISHC) as the Assistant in Charge of Good Roads Investigation.

In 1905 MacDonald became the ISHC’s chief engineer, with oversight of the state road program. That same year, he traveled on two “Good Road” trains promoting the ISHC and better roads across the state. That model, used successfully by Iowa State College

to promote better farming of corn in 1904, also proved effective for introducing road improvement to Iowans across the state.

As chief engineer, MacDonald disseminated information from commission meetings to the engineering staff and county officials. In addition, MacDonald served on the Engineering Experiment Station (EES) staff while at the ISHC. The commission required a diligent and effective chief to provide focus for the agency and to serve as a credible representative to the public and legislators. MacDonald proved to be such a leader.

By 1909 he realized the necessity to establish the commission as an entity independent from the college. MacDonald objected to the college’s practice of referring to the Highway Commission as the “Good Roads Department,” as if it were but another academic unit at the college. MacDonald also wanted an environment with less interruption. However, when the time for separating the commission from the college arrived, he expressed concern that “there will be a determined effort to remove the work from the college to Des Moines.” When the separation occurred in 1913, MacDonald’s opinion prevailed, and the commission’s successor, the Iowa Department of Transportation, remained in Ames. MacDonald served the department





SHSI (IOWA CITY)

until 1919, when he was appointed commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads (BPR).

As commissioner of the BPR, MacDonald furthered his reputation as a champion of systematic and scientific analysis of the national road network. He quickly established a precedent for effective management and credibility with state and federal officials. He knew many of the other state engineers, and used his reputation to build trust and establish the federal-state planning system that became the basis for the national program. He backed a federal aid program, and when he first took the position it was unknown if the U.S. Congress would support such a system. He worked with the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) to standardize signage and design standards. In 1924 he worked with the National Research Council to create a Highway Research Board, an agency that has continued into the 21st century as the Transportation Research Board, serving on its executive committee until his retirement. During the Great Depression and World War II, he promoted road building for economic stability and national security. After World War II, he proposed a program of interstate highways that would be the model for the federal interstate highway system. He received the National Medal of Merit from President Truman in 1946, but was forced to retire in 1953 when the Eisenhower administration decided to restructure highway authority, creating a deputy undersecretary for transportation to oversee public road expenditures.

Upon his retirement, the *Des Moines Register* remarked that MacDonald deserved the title the "father of the nation's highway system." When he became the director of the BPR, the country had about 250,000 miles of public roads, many in poor condition with no prospect of improvement. By the time he retired, American drivers had access to 3.5 million miles of public roads, and most, if not all, were in better condition. He owned a national reputation for his 34 years of federal service.

After his departure from the BPR, Texas A&M University hired him to work at its Texas Transportation Institute. He assisted the Texas Highway Commission in addition to his work with the university. After his death in 1957, a *Washington Post* obituary referred to MacDonald as "the father of all good roads in the United States." He deserved the title, as he shaped the American road system more than any single person and established a professional highway commission for the state of Iowa prior to his federal position.

—by Leo Landis



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—by Leo Lantitis

SHSI (IOWA CITY)



# Harry Hopkins

*“Lord Root of the Matter”*

Harry Lloyd Hopkins (August 17, 1890–January 29, 1946)—social worker, relief director, and presidential assistant—was the fourth of five children born to David Aldona Hopkins and Anna (Pickett) Hopkins. He was born in Sioux City, Iowa, one of the short-term residences of his salesman, harness maker, storekeeper father. After moves through several small towns in Nebraska and a stay in Chicago, the family settled in Grinnell, Iowa, and Harry graduated from Grinnell College in 1912. Influenced by the college's teaching of Social Gospel Christianity and political science professor Jesse Macy's advocacy of honest public service, he moved to New York City, where he secured a position with a social settlement house.

Hopkins rose rapidly in the social work profession. In 1923 he became director of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association. He also served as president of the American Association of Social Workers. In New York, he met and married social worker Ethel Gross, with whom he had three sons. In 1931 they divorced, and Harry married Barbara Duncan, with whom he had a daughter. In 1937 Barbara died of cancer. In 1942 Hopkins married Louise Macy.

Early in his career Hopkins came to believe that during times of economic decline, government should relieve the distress of the unemployed, so he experimented with "work relief" programs in New York City. When the Great Depression produced massive unemployment throughout New York, Hopkins accepted a nomination from the newly inaugurated Democratic Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt to direct his Temporary Emergency Relief Organization. Hopkins's strenuous and imaginative efforts to create work relief jobs earned Roosevelt's respect, so that when Roosevelt became president, he chose Hopkins to head his Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

Both Roosevelt and Hopkins expected that federal relief would be temporary, lasting only until Roosevelt's New Deal programs for industry and agriculture restored prosperity. But prosperity remained elusive, and Hopkins's role grew correspondingly. During the winter of 1933–1934, Hopkins responded to a rise in unemployment by setting up the Civil Works Administration, which created some four million jobs. The next year Roosevelt obtained a \$3.6 billion appropriation to relieve unemployment, much of which he allocated to Hopkins's newly created Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Hopkins threw himself into making the WPA an instrument to aid the spectrum of the nation's unemployed. Although most WPA employees worked on construction projects, others produced or performed

works of art, literature, and music. As an administrator, Hopkins showed a talent for hiring capable, dedicated persons and inspiring them to their best effort. As his programs gained national attention, they also became targets of Roosevelt's political opponents. Hopkins responded by outspokenly defending Roosevelt and the New Deal and by channeling WPA projects to the president's supporters. Hopkins's loyalty and effectiveness led Roosevelt to encourage him to run for president in 1940. As preparation, Roosevelt nominated him to be secretary of commerce, for which he was confirmed in 1938.

But Hopkins's political advancement was not to be. Late in 1937 he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Surgery removed a large portion of his stomach, saving his life but leaving him debilitated with a dangerously poor digestive system. In May 1940 Roosevelt invited him to dinner at the White House and asked him to spend the night. Hopkins would remain there for nearly four years. In the summer of 1940, Roosevelt sent him to Chicago to manage his nomination for a third presidential term. Hopkins resigned from the government, expecting that after the election he would leave Washington. But Roosevelt would have other plans.

Roosevelt had run for a third term because of the crisis created by the outbreak of war in Europe and the gathering threat from Japanese expansion in the Pacific. Determined to help Great Britain's war effort against Nazi Germany, he proposed that Congress permit him to ship war supplies to nations he identified as necessary to America's defense. In January 1941, in order to ascertain Britain's military needs, he sent Hopkins to confer with British prime minister Winston Churchill.

Hopkins returned to Washington with a list of Britain's supply requests and with a heroic impression of Churchill. Roosevelt appointed Hopkins a presidential assistant to implement the Lend-Lease Act, which Congress passed in March. During 1941, Hopkins became a key person in the American defense effort, working to remove obstacles in finance, production, and shipping. In the process, Hopkins created a network of persons strategically located in key civilian and military agencies. As Roosevelt's principal diplomatic spokesman, Hopkins again flew to London to prepare for the Atlantic Conference between Roosevelt and Churchill and to Moscow to offer American support to the Soviet Union, recently invaded by Germany.

After the United States entered the war, Hopkins continued to play a major role in developing war strategy, especially with Great Britain. He worked with Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall to coordinate







SHSI (IOWA CITY)

production and shipping with military strategy. He continued to untangle a myriad of problems and to resolve conflicts large and small. He also continued to perform his diplomatic work at the major war conferences at Casablanca and Tehran.

During 1944, Hopkins and Roosevelt drifted apart. Hopkins's third marriage resulted in a move out of the White House in late 1943. Then a bout of ill health kept him in the hospital until the summer of 1944. He returned to help Roosevelt reorganize the State Department and to accompany him to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, after which he reentered the hospital, remaining there until Roosevelt's death in April.

Hopkins's last public service came in May 1945, when President Harry Truman sent him to Moscow to resolve problems that had arisen over forming the United Nations. Hopkins's mission succeeded, and President Truman later awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal, the nation's highest civilian decoration.

Hopkins retired to New York City, where he lived only a few months before dying of liver failure.

Harry Hopkins combined a love of public service with a selfless dedication to accomplishing a task, be it helping the unemployed or winning the war. He had a gift for understanding the essentials of a given problem, winning people's confidence, and inspiring them to work together to solve it. During the war, Churchill said he should be dubbed "Lord Root of the Matter."

—by George McJimsey

In late 1943, Hopkins (fourth from left) represented the United States at the Allies' Tehran Conference, the first wartime meeting of Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. From left: George C. Marshall; British Ambassador Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr; Hopkins; interpreter M. Pavlov; Stalin; V. M. Molotov; and Klementi Voroshilov.



SHS/NOVA CITY

production and shipping with military strategy. He continued to untangle a myriad of problems and to resolve conflicts large and small. He also continued to perform his diplomatic work at the major war conferences at Casablanca and Tehran.

During 1944, Hopkins and Roosevelt drifted apart. Hopkins's third marriage resulted in a move out of the White House in late 1943. Then a bout of ill health kept him in the hospital until the summer of 1944. He returned to help Roosevelt reorganize the State Department and to accompany him to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, after which he reentered the hospital, remaining there until Roosevelt's death in April.

Hopkins's last public service came in May 1945, when President Harry Truman sent him to Moscow to resolve problems that had arisen over forming the United Nations. Hopkins's mission succeeded, and President Truman later awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal, the nation's highest civilian decoration.

Hopkins retired to New York City, where he lived only a few months before dying of liver failure.

Harry Hopkins combined a love of public service with a selfless dedication to accomplishing a task, be it helping the unemployed or winning the war. He had a gift for understanding the essentials of a given problem, winning people's confidence, and inspiring them to work together to solve it. During the war, Churchill said he should be dubbed "Lord Root of the Matter."

—by George McJinsey

In late 1943, Hopkins (fourth from left) represented the United States at the Allies' Tehran Conference, the first wartime meeting of Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. From left: George C. Marshall; British Ambassador Sir Archibald Clark Kerr; Hopkins; interpreter M. Pavlov; Stalin; V. M. Molotov; and Klementi Voroshilov.

# Barbara Landmann

## Divinely Inspired



SHSI (IOWA CITY) FRED KENT COLLECTION

days of the prophets. The Inspirationists were then in the midst of a “reawakening” triggered by the appearance of a new divinely inspired instrument. This instrument prophesied that Heinemann would receive the “gift of inspiration,” and soon thereafter she began to deliver inspired testimonies. In one of these she foretold the inspiration of another young member, Christian Metz.

Heinemann played a central role in a series of interpersonal tensions that marred the group’s next few years. The tensions arose from disparaging attitudes held by several powerful members of the community due to her sex and her lower-class origins. She met these

*When she was 22, she was suddenly seized by a feeling of inexplicable sorrow.*

difficulties with humility but resolve, and emerged as the group’s only *Werkzeug*. At that time, Heinemann began to have amorous feelings for George Landmann, but the elders threatened her with banishment if she acted on them. In January 1823 Metz became inspired. In May Heinemann suddenly lost her inspiration and that summer married Landmann.

For the next 26 years she remained a loyal, but ordinary, Inspirationist. It was a dynamic period in the community’s history. In the face of persecution, the Inspirationists emigrated to the United States. They settled near Buffalo, New York, as the Ebenezer Society, adopting a system of common property ownership, collective la-

bor, and cradle-to-grave support for the members. In 1855 the community relocated to Iowa and renamed itself the Amana Society. While still in Ebenezer, following several inspired intimations from Metz, Landmann, 54 and childless, again received the gift of inspiration. From that point on, her status as a *Werkzeug* in the community was secure, but clearly second to Metz’s. Since women did not serve as elders or on the governing council, Landmann’s influence did not extend to temporal issues, but was limited to spiritual concerns. Occasionally, she needed support from Metz, as when friction developed between her and one of the ranking elders, likely stemming from the old issues of her class and her sex. On rare occasions Metz overruled Landmann, though always gently.

Upon Metz’s death in 1867, Landmann became the spiritual head of the Amana Society. Even then, however, her status was challenged by some of the elders and members, and some of her decisions provoked dissension. In contrast to Metz’s testimonies, and even her own while he lived, Landmann’s testimonies in the years following Metz’s death became highly patterned in their timing, location, and occasion. Nevertheless, she continued to command respect and fulfilled her other functions, such as appointing elders and presiding over important church services, until her death in 1883 at the age of 88. She was buried beneath a simple marker in the cemetery in the village of Main Amana.

—by Jonathan G. Andelson

Barbara Heinemann Landmann (January 11, 1795–May 21, 1883)—an important spiritual leader and the last divinely inspired *Werkzeug*

In Main Amana, Landmann lived in the wooden addition (far right) attached to the stone meetinghouse, where she led evening prayer meetings until her death in 1883.

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Seeking an understanding of

# Barbara Landmann

## Divinely Inspired



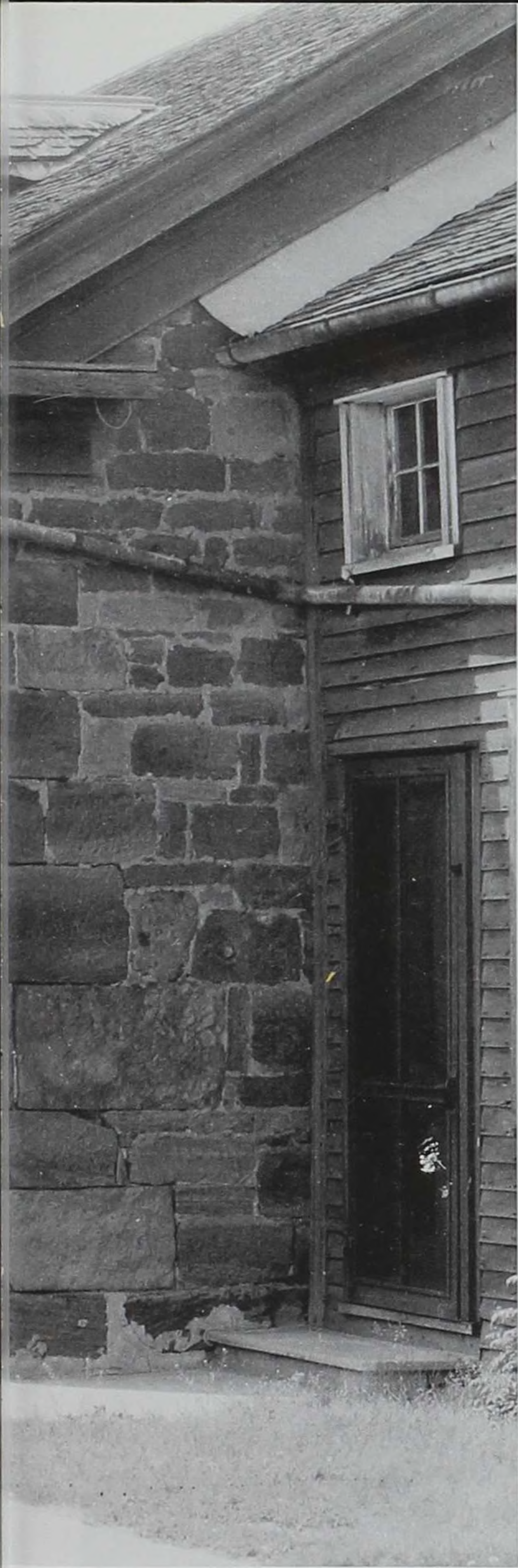
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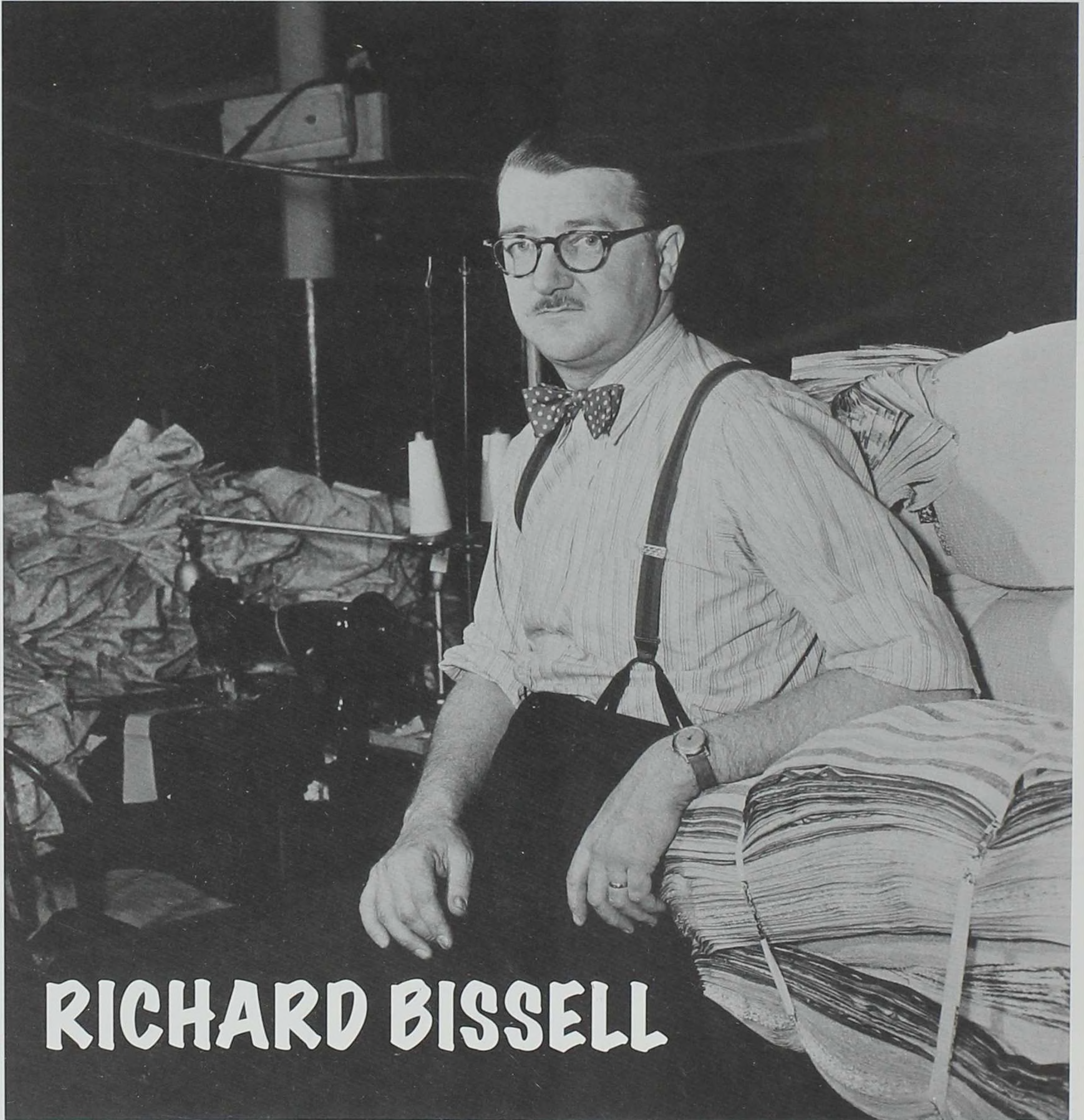
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and context for her inner spiritual promptings, Barbara Heinemann affiliated with the Community of True Inspiration, a separatist Pietist sect that had been founded in 1714 in Hessen, Germany. One of the distinguishing beliefs of the Inspirationists was that God's will continued to be revealed through *Werkzeuge* (instruments), as in the



## RICHARD BISSELL

Richard Pike Bissell (June 27, 1913–May 4, 1977)—author, playwright, business executive, and riverboat pilot/master—was born in Dubuque, Iowa, the son of Frederick Bissell, a garment manufacturer, and Edith

Mary (Pike) Bissell. He enjoyed a lifelong love affair with the Mississippi River, earning for himself the sobriquet “the Modern Day Mark Twain.” Like Twain, he had both a master and a pilot license. He is best

known for his river books and for his novel *7½ Cents*, which he helped convert into *Pajama Game*, one of the most popular Broadway musical comedies of the 1950s.

The scion of a wealthy family,

he graduated from Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire in 1932. Four years later he graduated from Harvard University with a B.A. in anthropology, an experience that he memorialized in *You Can Always Tell a Harvard Man* in 1962. After a brief adventure in the Venezuelan oil fields, he signed on as a seaman on an American Export Lines freighter. On February 15, 1938, he married Marian Van Patten Grilk and returned to Dubuque, where they lived on a houseboat on the Mississippi River. Bissell became a vice president in the H. B. Glover Company, a clothing manufacturer founded by his great-grandfather in 1845 and managed by his father. Turned down when he tried to enlist in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Bissell joined the crew of the Central Barge Company of Chicago and worked on towboats on the Ohio, Mississippi, Illinois, Tennessee, and Monongahela rivers. Returning to Dubuque and Glover's after the war, he published several articles on his riverboat experiences in such prestigious national magazines as *Atlantic Monthly*, *Collier's*, and *Esquire*.

In 1950 Bissell published his first novel, *A Stretch on the River*, a largely autobiographical story whose nonstop dialogue portrayed the excitement, humor, and independence of a hard-working steamboat crew on the upper Mississippi. It was published to significant critical acclaim; several commentators compared Bissell to Twain, and one opined that the author's "ear for dialogue is stunning." The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* asserted that "the writing is earthy, sometimes lyrical, some-

times dashed with the hyperbole of tall tales." The Minnesota Historical Society issued a paperback edition in 1987, a decade after the author's death. Both flattered and embarrassed by the frequent comparisons to Twain, Bissell addressed the issue with self-deprecating humor in 1973 with the publication of *My Life on the Mississippi, or Why I Am Not Mark Twain*.

Over the next few years, Bissell continued to write magazine articles and produced *Mononga-*

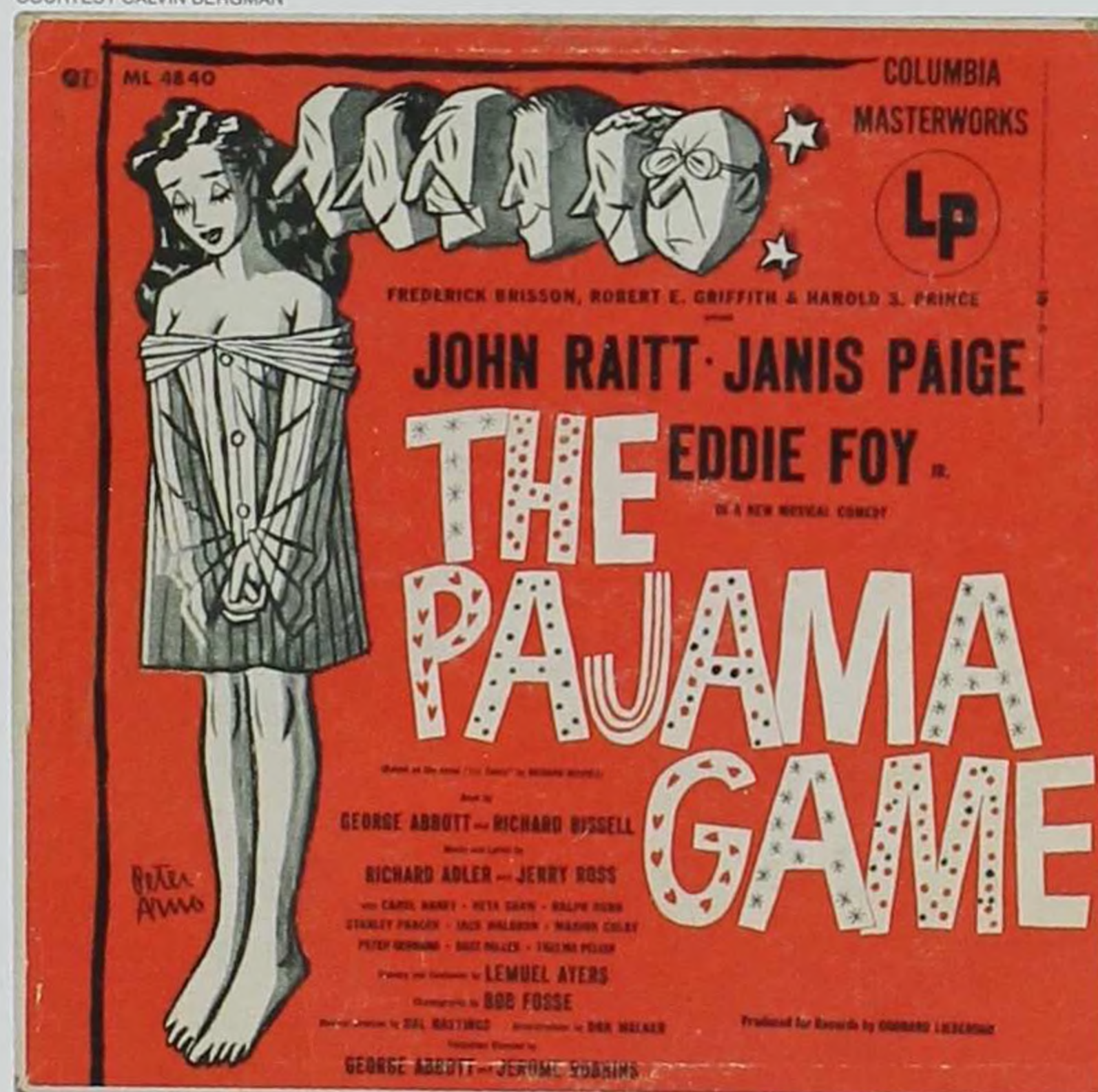
musical comedy renamed *The Pajama Game*. With a musical score written by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross and choreography by Bob Fosse, *The Pajama Game* became one of the most popular musical comedies on Broadway during the mid 1950s. For his contribution, Bissell received a prestigious Tony Award. In 1957 Abbott and Stanley Donen converted the play into a script for a highly successful movie released by Warner Brothers. That same year Bissell published a best-selling book based on his Broadway experiences titled *Say, Darling*, which he and his wife, Marian, along with comedian Abe Burrows, translated into another successful musical comedy in 1959.

Over the next 15 years, Bissell produced several books, including *Good Bye Ava* (1960), *Still Circling Moose Jaw* (1965), *How Many Miles to Galena?* (1968), *Julia Harrington, Winnebago, Iowa* (1969), and *New Light on 1776 and All That* (1975). Living in a Fairfield, Connecticut, home designed by the famous architect Stanford White in 1909, Bissell traveled extensively; belonged to 11 historical societies; spent his summers in

Boothbay Harbor, Maine; and collected everything from antique cars to saloon pianos. His most prized possession was a majestic 11-foot mirror from Mark Twain's New York home. In 1975 he and Marian moved back to Dubuque, where they lived in a house built by his grandfather. He died there two years later at the age of 63.

—by John D. Buenker

COURTESY CALVIN BERGMAN



hela, a volume in the Great Rivers of America series. In 1953 he ventured into new territory with the publication of *7½ Cents*, in which he drew heavily on his experience in the family business, barely disguised as the Sleep-Tite pajama factory in an unnamed Iowa river town. That same year Bissell moved his family to Rowayton, Connecticut. There he collaborated with famed playwright George Abbott in turning the book into a

SHSI (DES MOINES)





# Luigi Ligutti

Luigi Gino Ligutti (March 21, 1895–December 28, 1983)—leader of the Catholic rural life movement in the United States—was born in Romans, Italy, the youngest of five children of Spiridione and Teresa (Ciriani) Ligutti. The child of peasants began study for the priesthood in Italy, and emigrated to America in 1912, traveling immediately to Des Moines, where he had relatives. After obtaining his bachelor's degree at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, in 1914, and studying at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Ligutti was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1917—at the time, the youngest priest in the United States. His superiors allowed him to cultivate his love for the classics with graduate studies at Catholic University, Columbia University, and the University of Chicago, and service as a Latin teacher at Dowling Academy in Des Moines. However, a shortage of rural pastors led to his appointment to Woodbine, Iowa, in 1920, and then

to Assumption Parish in Granger, 15 miles northwest of Des Moines, in 1926.

Ligutti's country pastorates exposed him to the various problems of rural life for Catholics. In 1924 he joined the newly formed National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC), which intended to be an advocate for the neglected rural segment of the American Catholic population. However, until the 1930s Ligutti

*"When a poor family becomes the owner of a cow, then communism goes out the back door."*

was not a very active member. As the United States slipped into the Depression, Ligutti's search for the meaning of the distress led him to read social and economic tracts ranging from the social encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI to radical socialist literature. Eventually, his interest was expressed in action.

The turning point in Ligutti's life came with the Granger homesteads project in 1933. He secured a loan from the federal Subsistence Homesteads Division that settled 50 families of underemployed coal miners on two- to eight-acre subsistence plots. Combined with the formation of cooperatives, the project helped all of the families get off relief by 1935. As one of the most successful New Deal

community projects, the Granger homesteads were honored by a visit from Eleanor Roosevelt. The project was extensively publicized in the Catholic press, and helped link the Catholic church and the Catholic rural life movement to the New Deal.

The Granger homesteads project also helped launch

Ligutti's rise within the Catholic rural life movement. In 1934 the young pastor was appointed the Des Moines diocesan director of rural life and was elected to the executive committee of the NCRLC. The next year he was elected chairman of the diocesan directors' section of the conference, and in 1937 he was elected president. Ligutti was honored for his new prominence in the movement by receiving the title of monsignor in 1938.

As titular head of the NCRLC from 1937 to 1939, Ligutti presided over the acrimonious severance of the grassroots-oriented conference from its Washington, D.C.-based executive secretary. The monsignor himself was appointed executive secretary (later titled executive director) of the NCRLC

in 1940. In 1942 he moved the conference headquarters from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Des Moines, where it has remained ever since. Ligutti built up the organization of the NCRLC, multiplying its budget about 30-fold by the end of his 20-year tenure and increasing the staff to 18 full-time employees. He tried to reach the average American Catholic farmer through popular periodicals and massive distribution of literature on both social doctrine and devotions.

Ligutti became the personal symbol for the Catholic rural life movement through his enthusiasm, energy, and unique style. The tall, balding cleric spread the Catholic rural gospel by frequent travel—throughout the United States by train in the 1940s, and throughout the world

by airplane in the 1950s. In a typical year, he gave more than 200 lectures. The monsignor had a gift for expressing his homespun philosophy in pithy sayings that were dubbed "Ligutti-isms." They ranged from his humorous advice to farmers ("*Ora et labora*—and use a lot of fertilizer!") to his reflection to Pope Pius XII on the relation of rural life to Cold War politics: "When a poor family becomes the owner of a cow, then communism goes out the back door."

After World War II, Ligutti mirrored the emergence of the United States as a world power with his expanding interest in international rural life. Ligutti joined the call for American participation in food relief for the many war-devastated countries. He also helped many refugees



## A DECADE OF HOMESTEADING

By

REV. PATRICK T. QUINLAN

Reprint from AMERICA  
(Dec. 29, 1945)

The people at Granger Homesteads have shown the nation that it can be done. They have demonstrated that rural homesteading is truly a practical way of living. Just before Christmas in the year 1935—on the fifteenth of December to be exact—the first family of homesteaders took up residence; and this family was soon followed by forty-nine others. The idea of transferring fifty families from the squalor of a mining camp to a place of wholesome environment, of converting them from the condition of tenants to that of ownership, originated in the energetic mind of Monsignor Luigi G. Ligutti, and through his efforts the idea became a practical reality.



BEFORE 1935

The initial step took place in the days of the great depression. The Government, it is true, made many attempts to relieve the miseries of the poor, but no investment in those days brought better or more tangible returns than the funds invested in 224 acres of Iowa's fertile prairie land. This acreage was divided into fifty-one tracts, each with an average of about four acres. Upon fifty of these plots homes were constructed with four, five or six rooms. A community building was located upon the remaining plot. A tract of land together with the home thereon was sold to each family at an approximate cost of \$1,925. (This does not represent the full cost of construction, but rather the basic cost.) No down payment was demanded. Each homesteader, however, was expected to pay \$17.50 per month, and it was agreed that he would take title upon payment of ten per cent of the total. Each was given a period of forty years in which to pay the Government.

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### GRANGER HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION

Seven years later, on September 1, 1942, the homesteaders formed a corporation known as the Granger Homestead Association. This Association took over all the obligations which were due to the Government. It functioned upon a non-profit basis and only homesteaders were admitted to membership. The Association gave the Government a mortgage on the unpaid balance and received in return the deed to the homestead tract.

The contract entered into between the individual homesteader and the Association is of great interest. We do not care to enter into this in great detail, but at least some of its features might well be pointed out here. In Article Two it is agreed that should the homesteader decide to sell, the Association will have the first right and option to purchase the homestead upon payment of an appraised price decided upon by three persons, one selected by the homesteader, another selected by the Association and a third selected by both. According to Article Five, the homesteader agrees to use the property in person and for residential and agricultural purposes only. According to Article Seven, the homesteader agrees to use the pasture and the woodland to plant, cultivate and harvest crops and to conduct livestock, dairy and poultry enterprises on the property in accordance with approved farm organization and management and practices of good husbandry. Article Twelve binds the homesteader to pay his just share toward the upkeep and the development of community building and property which serves the purposes of the group of homesteaders. Article Thirteen forbids the homesteader to mortgage the property, or pledge it as security for any debt or loan without the written consent of the Board of Directors of the Association. It is plain that much thought was given to the composition of this con-

3

SHS (DES MOINES)

find homes on American farms. In 1948 the monsignor was appointed Vatican observer to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. He used that platform to lobby for increased food aid and technical assistance to developing nations. From 1950 to 1967 Ligutti helped convene nine international rural life conferences, which issued statements on issues such as hunger and land reform. In 1962 the monsignor presided over the formation of the International Catholic Rural Association, which included 124 organizations from 49 countries.

By his participation in international rural life, Ligutti came into contact with the highest levels of the Catholic church. He developed personal

friendships with Popes Pius XII, John XXIII, and Paul VI, and used those friendships to benefit rural Catholics around the world. Ligutti induced Pius to do several favors for the rural movement, and influenced the writing of the rural sections of John's and Paul's social encyclicals and a document of the Second Vatican Council. From 1969 to 1971 he served Paul as apostolic visitor to straighten out the financial affairs of the church in Malta.

Due to financial difficulties within the NCRLC brought on in part by Ligutti's absorption in his international travels, the monsignor was removed as executive director in 1960. However, through his appointment to the new position of NCRLC director of international

affairs, he continued to aid rural Catholics around the world until 1970, when he moved to Rome, eventually living in a home built by Chauncey Stillman, a philanthropist who had made many financial contributions to the NCRLC. In 1971 Ligutti fulfilled a longtime dream by founding Agrimissio, an organization dedicated to helping Catholic missionaries promote agricultural development. He served as the first chairman of its board of directors until 1981. Ligutti died in Rome after a short illness in 1983. He was buried among his former parishioners at Granger.

—by David S. Bovee

tract. A note of added interest is the fact that the contract was drawn up after two years of democratic study concerning this subject on the part of the homesteaders themselves. (Should *America* readers be interested in receiving copies of this contract, they are available at the headquarters of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 3801 Grand Avenue, Des Moines 12, Iowa.)

The fifty homesteaders had agreed to make full payment within a period of forty years. Only ten years have now passed, and twenty-nine members of the Association—well over half—have satisfied their obligations in full and have received title to the homes in which they dwell. Seven others expect to do so at an early date. It is to be remembered that these tracts were not gifts from a paternal Government to a group of needy families. These families were simply given an opportunity to change their status from that of tenants to that of owners. They have magnificently shown themselves to be capable of taking advantage of the opportunity when presented to them.

The homes in which these people live, although situated in the open country, have all of the comforts of modern urban dwellings. Each is equipped with electricity, which provides not only lighting facilities but an individual electric force pump as well. Each home is constructed over a full and dry basement. Since taking over the deeds to their property, several families have added greatly to its value by the construction of additional buildings such as corn cribs, barns and brooder-houses. In spite of the fact that an early freeze destroyed many of the young fruit trees a few years ago, ownership has given incentive to the homesteaders to make replacements. An up-to-date survey has shown, moreover, that the fifty families have added to their wealth through the ownership of forty head of

cattle, ninety-three pigs and 4,990 chickens. The value of the vegetables grown in the gardens within the past summer, to provide food for the table as well as for winter use, cannot be estimated; that it is considerable is certain.

The breadwinners of these families follow various occupations. In the beginning, forty-one of them were coal miners; at the present time twenty-two follow this occupation. Some of the mines in the vicinity have recently been closed. Many of the remaining workers commute to the city of Des Moines, some seventeen miles away. Others are employed in nearby towns.

#### COOPERATION

Thirty-three of the original homesteaders still retain their homesteads. The remaining ones have, owing to various circumstances, departed. However, Father Gorman, the present pastor of Granger and the elected manager of the cooperative association, remarks that there is never a vacancy in a Granger homestead. Rather there is at all times a long waiting list of those who desire to occupy a home as soon as there is a vacancy.

Cooperation is taken for granted among these people. Not only are the tractor and other farm machines used cooperatively throughout the planting and harvesting seasons, but credit-union facilities are utilized in the purchase of livestock and for other productive purposes.

Best of all, a true family spirit exists around the Granger Homesteads. Two hundred children are to be found in the families which dwell upon these acres. One hundred and thirty-one of these reside upon the tracts. Thirty-nine boys and girls have faithfully served their country during the recent war. Five instances are known in which sons and daughters have replaced their deceased parents on



AFTER 1935

the homesteads, or have purchased when others have departed. At a time when the leaders of the nation are in turmoil and seeking a solution for the problems of juvenile delinquency, such problems do not present themselves for solution among the owners of Granger homes. This investment has paid dividends a thousandfold.

#### READ

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# Wallace Short

## Defending the Wobblies and Free Speech



Wallace Mertin Short (June 28, 1866–January 3, 1953)—Congregationalist minister, mayor of Sioux City, gubernatorial candidate, and labor journalist—was born on a farm near College Springs, Iowa, close to the Iowa-Missouri border. He attended the nearby Amity Academy, then Beloit College, eventually graduating from Yale Seminary as a Phi Beta Kappa in 1896. He married May Belle Morse that same year, and they had a daughter, Emily, and adopted two sons, John and Burton.

In an era when the Social Gospel was prominent, Short was strongly influenced by the theology of Washington Gladden. Politically, he was a disciple of the Wisconsin Progressive Robert M. La Follette. Short's career as a clergyman spanned more than two decades, 1896–1918, when he served Congregational churches in Evansville, Wisconsin; Kansas City; and finally the First Congregational Church in Sioux City, where he added 250 members to the church's rolls between 1910 and 1914. He was an articulate pastor from the pulpit, was fluent with his pen as he authored sermons and tracts, and expressed a strong interest in community affairs. Unfortunately for Short's ministerial career, he tangled with the growing power of the Anti-Saloon League, as he refused to lend support to the organization or permit it to conduct programs in his church. It was also discovered that Short, seeking to express support for working folk, had become a member of the bartender's union in Kansas City. Short's continued opposition to prohibition (he thought that temperance was a matter of personal self-discipline) led to his dismissal in 1914 and ultimate defrocking by the hierarchy of the Congregational church. He proceeded to establish a new congregation, Central Church, in September 1914, which he served for the next four years. A minority of his First Church congregation followed him into his new church, which was located in a Sioux City theater.

The controversial pastor's Social Gospel message and sympathy for the working class attracted the atten-

tion of Sioux City union leaders, who urged him to run for mayor in 1918.

Short obliged, running on a platform espousing open government, a beautification program, economy, honesty, justice, and the golden rule for every person whether "worth a dollar or a million." The six-year tenure that followed his electoral victory was among the most turbulent in the city's history.

In June 1918 one of Sioux City's major landmarks, the Ruff Building, collapsed, killing 39 people. Critics blamed the mayor for weak appointees who failed to enforce inspection codes. The mayor further alienated the conservative business community by defending free speech rights of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), permitting them to meet in Sioux City and even addressing the group. He further enlarged his reputation as a "radical" by traveling to Chicago and speaking in defense of 100 "Wobblies" charged with violating the Espionage Act. Short was not sympathetic to radicalism, but believed that all citizens were entitled to free speech. His activities, however, led his opponents to force a recall election. The charismatic Short survived with an overwhelming victory and won two more elections in 1920 and 1922. He strongly defended labor during a bitter meatpacking strike in 1921 and a strike of railroad shopmen in 1922.

Mayor Short also battled the influence of the Ku Klux Klan, which was strong in Iowa during the 1920s. By 1924 he felt destined for higher office, but was defeated in his bid to achieve the Republican nomination for Congress. Two years later Short was thwarted in an effort to regain the mayoralty.

By then in his late 50s, Short turned to a career in journalism. In 1927 he founded the *Unionist and Public Forum*. During the 1930s, the paper had more than 2,000 subscribers in Sioux City, and as many as 3,700 copies

were printed, some of which were read by Iowa legislators. The paper demonstrated Short's support for the cause of both farm and labor elements in Iowa. Short and his paper backed the farmers who opposed mandatory bovine testing for tuberculosis, endorsed Milo Reno and his Farm Holiday movement, and helped organize the small but vocal Iowa Farm Labor Party.

Still active in politics, Short was elected to the state legislature in 1930, but was swept out of office along with other Republicans in the Democratic landslide of 1932. He attempted to win the Republican nomination for governor in 1934, but won fewer than 25,000 votes. As the Farm Labor candidate for governor in 1936, 1938, and 1940, he received only minimal support. When he earned only 1.2 percent of the state vote in 1940, the party was eliminated from future ballots.

Defeat did not remove the aging editor from political controversy. During the 1930s, he was attracted to Huey Long, William Lemke, and, for a time, Father Charles Coughlin, although he repudiated the cleric's anti-Semitic harangues. World War II brought him briefly into the Roosevelt camp, but by 1948 Short was supporting Henry A. Wallace's quest for international peace and social justice. Meanwhile, Short, suffering from criticism from local union leaders along with advancing years and poor health, sold the paper he had

edited for more than 20 years. Absent Short's leadership, the *Unionist and Public Forum* soon disappeared.

Throughout his career, Short's politics contained both liberal and conservative elements. He never wavered in his advocacy of civil liberties, deplored both racism and religious intolerance, fought for unions both as mayor and editor, saw the family farm as the bulwark of American civilization, opposed the sales tax because of its impact on working people, and was a strong advocate of pensions. But he also feared too much centralized authority at the federal level and opposed a number of New Deal programs. Throughout his life, as a champion of common folk, Short remained faithful to the motto of his paper: "This is our country. It is a place for us to be happy in; not merely a place for a few to get rich in."

When Short died in 1953, the *New York Times* noted that a "one time stormy figure in Iowa politics had died." Throughout his life Short had championed unpopular causes, waged spectacular battles, and led an often losing struggle to enhance the cause of the dispossessed. He was highly educated, but possessed charisma and the courage to attract attention and sometimes make himself a major force in Iowa local and state politics for half a century.

—by William H. Cumberland

BOTH IMAGES: SHSI (IOWA CITY)

# The Speech the Daily Press Would Not Print

(Both papers had in their office the first half of the speech in manuscript, and had their reporters present to take the second half which was spoken without manuscript, but was taken down by a stenographer.)

## SPEECH OF WALLACE M. SHORT

(Mayor of Sioux City, Iowa.)

At the L. W. W. Hall, April 21, 1919.

Gentlemen: The next day after your secretary suggested to me that I would be welcome here for a talk this morning, I dictated and had written out a couple of pages which I hold in my hand. I am going to read this, and then after I have read it I shall perhaps say a few words off-hand.

(HERE FOLLOWS WHAT WAS READ FROM MANUSCRIPT.)

I speak to you today simply as an American citizen, and as one who has always felt a keen and sympathetic interest in every sort of human problem.

Sioux City is the center of a great agricultural region. During the last three and one-half weeks the United States employment agent at the City Building has had requests for 692 farm hands, and has actually placed 252 men in farm jobs. He tells me that the demands from now on during the spring and summer will be much more numerous and more urgent. And the United States agency is only one of the agencies in Sioux City for bringing together the farm jobs and the farm laborers.

Naturally these thousands of farm laborers who from Sioux City answer each year the call of

America is a democracy in the making. It is as yet a very imperfect democracy. But it has gone so much farther in the line of democracy than any other of the great nations of the earth, that the vast majority of the American people believe we are going forward by orderly and constitutional methods toward a yet more perfect democracy.

I believe there are certain fundamental principles that are established in the minds of the American people, so firmly established that order and progress in America are more secure than anywhere else on the face of the earth.

I believe that the true American holds that the highest achievement of true Americanism is a happy home and family supported by the products of honest toil. I am just an average American, with a little plot of ground 6 by 9 rods where vegetables and flowers and trees grow and birds sing and children laugh and play and where the house stands which I call home. That little plot of ground on which the stars and the sun shine is the visible product of 30 years of careful economy. It is sacred to me.

The order and progress of American society is secure because our society is made up of tens of millions of average Americans who believe very

of righteousness. There are other men who need it.

In my department at the city hall there is the pure food administration. Now I believe that if there is any duty that organized society owes to its members, it is to see to it that the man who would reap unrighteous profit by adulterating and poisoning the food you and I must eat, and that our children must live upon, is restrained. And yet I know that when we catch a man poisoning the food our families must eat, if he is a large advertiser in the papers we cannot get a line in the papers to advertise his crime. And he does not care much for a hundred dollars fine we levy upon him. But the little sinner is sure to get plenty of publicity.

I just mention these things to show you I know these things. I might stand here for a day and a night and tell things like that.

Well, what is a man to do? Am I to start down the street and beat up somebody, and let the matter get on my nerves until I am sore all over? No. I can smile at that thing and keep sweet about it, because I see the forces that are gradually changing these conditions.

It is not more than six weeks since I sat in his private compartment in the Pullman, as the train sped across the Iowa farms, with a man who is



SHSI (DES MOINES)

# Ada North

Ada E. North (November 19, 1840–January 9, 1899)—librarian—was born in Alexander, New York, the daughter of Rev. Milo N. Miles. In 1865 she married Major J. North, an assistant to Iowa Governor William M. Stone, but in 1870 her husband died, leaving her a widow with small children. The following year, Governor Samuel Merrill appointed her Iowa's first State Librarian at an annual salary of \$1,200, a post she held until 1878, when she became Des Moines' city librarian. In 1879 the Board of Regents of the State University of Iowa (UI) voted to employ a full-time librarian at a salary of no more than \$900, and the same day hired North, who held the job for the next 13 years. However, politics rather than merit governed state appointments, and in 1892 she was relieved of her position to make room for a political appointee, Joseph W. Rich, a UI alumnus and member of the university's Board of Regents since 1886. Although still in her early 50s, North retired from librarianship after losing her UI position. She died at the age of 58.

Over a 21-year career North helped shape the nascent profession of librarianship in Iowa and nationally. At a time when the appointment of a woman to a state

## A driving force, she envisioned libraries as dynamic institutions.

position was highly controversial, she contributed to the opening up of new possibilities for women's participation in the public sphere. She also helped establish a vision for libraries as dynamic institutions that emphasized accessible and relevant collections designed primarily for use rather than preservation and storage. She was the first State Librarian and the first full-time librarian at the UI, and as a founder of the Iowa Library Association was a driving force behind the eventual establishment of a library training program.

North instituted several radical improvements in the libraries she managed. On becoming State Librarian, she immediately set about improving accessibility by producing the State Library's first printed catalog of about 14,500 volumes, in 1872. Two years after becoming UI Librarian, she devoted vacation time to touring eastern libraries to learn about new methods. At about the same time she introduced a card catalog to the university library. She was also responsible, a student newspaper article reported with approval, for reclassifying the 27,000 volumes of the university library according to the Dewey Decimal

system, making the university library "the best regulated library in the state." In response to student demand, North extended the time the library was open from five to nine hours daily, and encouraged greater student use by instituting lending procedures and opening the stacks to students.

North was also active at the state professional level. In 1890 she was one of five library leaders to call a meeting of librarians at the State Library in Des Moines to set up the Iowa Library Society (renamed the Iowa Library Association in 1896). In 1892 North encouraged the society to set up a training program for working librarians, which eventually opened in 1901, when the UI held a six-week summer course in conjunction with the Iowa Library Commission.

The official pretext for North's dismissal from the UI in 1892 was "failing health," but the *Library Journal* protested indignantly that she had been "summarily dismissed" despite her popularity with students. In 1903, however, an article by Johnson Brigham in the *Annals of Iowa* concurred with the official view and reported that from 1892 to her death in 1899 she was

an "invalid and sufferer most of the time." There may be some truth in both of these accounts, but there is no doubt that up until 1892, North worked energetically for libraries and librarianship. In addition to reorganizing the libraries and extending their services, she gave talks to students and wrote articles for student newspapers and professional journals. In 1891 she gave no hint in a *Library Journal* article that she was about to retire. Reporting on the tireless efforts of Iowa's librarians to increase the number and quality of the state's libraries, she called for greater awareness and understanding on the part of the public, as well as more financial support. "What is wanted now," she wrote, "is a general waking up to the progress of library movement around us, and to the superlative importance of the library as a factor in education. Once having started the demand for larger libraries and improved accommodations, we believe that the necessary money will be forthcoming from both public and private funds, until Iowa . . . shall have a library and reading-room in every town and village."

—by Christine Pawley

# Susan Glaspell

## From News Girl to Pulitzer Prize Winner

Susan Keating Glaspell (July 1, 1876–July 27, 1948)—Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and novelist—was born in Davenport, Iowa, to Elmer and Alice (Keating) Glaspell, descendants of pioneer settlers. She graduated from Davenport High School and then worked as a reporter for Charles Eugene Banks's *Davenport Republican* and as society editor of the *Davenport Weekly Outlook* before earning a Ph.B. from Drake University in 1899.

After graduating from Drake, Glaspell covered the statehouse beat for the *Des Moines Daily News* and soon was given her own column, "The News Girl." In 1901, after covering the Margaret Hossack murder trial for the *Daily News*, she returned to Davenport to write short fiction. The following year, she moved to Chicago, where she took two graduate courses in literature and worked as a journalist and freelance writer. In 1904 she returned to Davenport and renewed her friendship with writer George Cram Cook. Like Cook and his friend Floyd Dell, she became involved in progressive social and political activities; in 1910, along with Cook, she led the fight against censorship in Davenport when the library board refused to buy a book titled *The Finality of the Christian Religion*.

Glaspell and Cook began an affair while he was married to feminist journalist Mollie Price. The affair sparked a scandal in Davenport social circles and earned the disapproval of some family members and friends. Both writers left Davenport and, after separate sojourns in Chicago, settled in Greenwich Village, marrying in 1913. They began summering in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

There, in 1915, they formed a theater collective, the Provincetown Players, whose mission was to develop a native American drama that would provide an alternative to the commercial entertainments of Broadway. Glaspell's best-known plays—*Trifles* (1916), *Inheritors* (1921), and *The Verge* (1922)—were produced

by the Provincetown Players. The frequently anthologized one-act play *Trifles*, which implies that the desolation of the Iowa prairies was partly responsible for the death of one of the central characters, was based on the Hossack trial that Glaspell covered for the *Des Moines Daily News*.

Several of her other plays, most notably *Inheritors* (1921) and *Chains of Dew* (1922), were inspired by her Iowa background. Set in a small Iowa college town in the Mississippi Valley of her birth, *Inheritors* explores the tension between midwestern isolationists and proponents of a wider world outlook. *Chains of Dew*, probably based on the life of Davenport poet Arthur Davison Ficke, focuses on a Mississippi Valley lawyer-poet whose creative impulses derive from his being torn between professional and familial responsibilities at home in Iowa and the more intellectually stimulating attractions of New York.

In 1922 Glaspell left the United States with Cook to pursue his lifelong dream of living in Greece. They remained there until Cook's death in 1924. Glaspell then returned to Provincetown, where she fell in love with writer Norman Matson and lived with him until 1932. Prior to her split with Matson, Glaspell published a biography of Cook, *The Road to the Temple* (1927), and a collection of his poetry, *Greek Coins* (1925). A play she cowrote with Matson, *The Comic Artist*, was produced on Broadway in 1933. Two years earlier, *Alison's House*, set in Iowa and loosely based on the life of Emily Dickinson, won the Pulitzer Prize for drama. That recognition, along with the frequency with which *Trifles* has been anthologized and produced, undoubtedly explains why Glaspell's work has endured into the 21st century.

Always a supporter of progressive social causes, Glaspell moved to Chicago in 1936 to direct the Midwest Play Bureau of the Federal Theatre Project. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, she also wrote



several speeches and articles supporting American involvement in World War II. Glaspell published prolifically during the final decades of her life. She died in Provincetown in 1948.

Her experimental works of drama are often the focus of Glaspell scholarship, but Glaspell's short stories and novels are far more indicative of her Iowa upbringing. Her second novel, *The Visioning* (1911), is set on Arsenal Island, midway between Davenport and Rock Island, Illinois. Glaspell draws attention to contemporary social issues through the development of her protagonist, society-girl Katie Jones, who begins to question conventional ideas about gender and class. In 1912 Glaspell published *Lifted Masks*, a collection of short stories based on situations she had encountered while writing for the *Des Moines Daily News*. She also published a number of stories set in "Freeport," a fictional midwestern small town modeled on Davenport, in popular magazines such as *Harper's*, *American Magazine*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Pictorial Review*.

Her best early novel, *Fidelity*, also set in "Freeport," firmly established her as a prominent regionalist: Glaspell's theme of a female protagonist attempting to escape the socially restrictive conventions of midwestern small-town life begins in *Fidelity* and continues throughout several of her other novels. *Brook Evans* (1928), *Fugitive's Return* (1929), *Ambrose Holt and Family* (1931), *The Morning Is Near Us* (1940), *Norma Ashe* (1942), and *Judd Rankin's Daughter* (1945) are all set, in whole or in part, in Glaspell's native Mississippi Valley, but only *Judd Rankin's Daughter* successfully engages the multiple perspectives of midwestern thinking and presents an appropriately complex view of the region. Her early novels show a hint of bitterness toward the

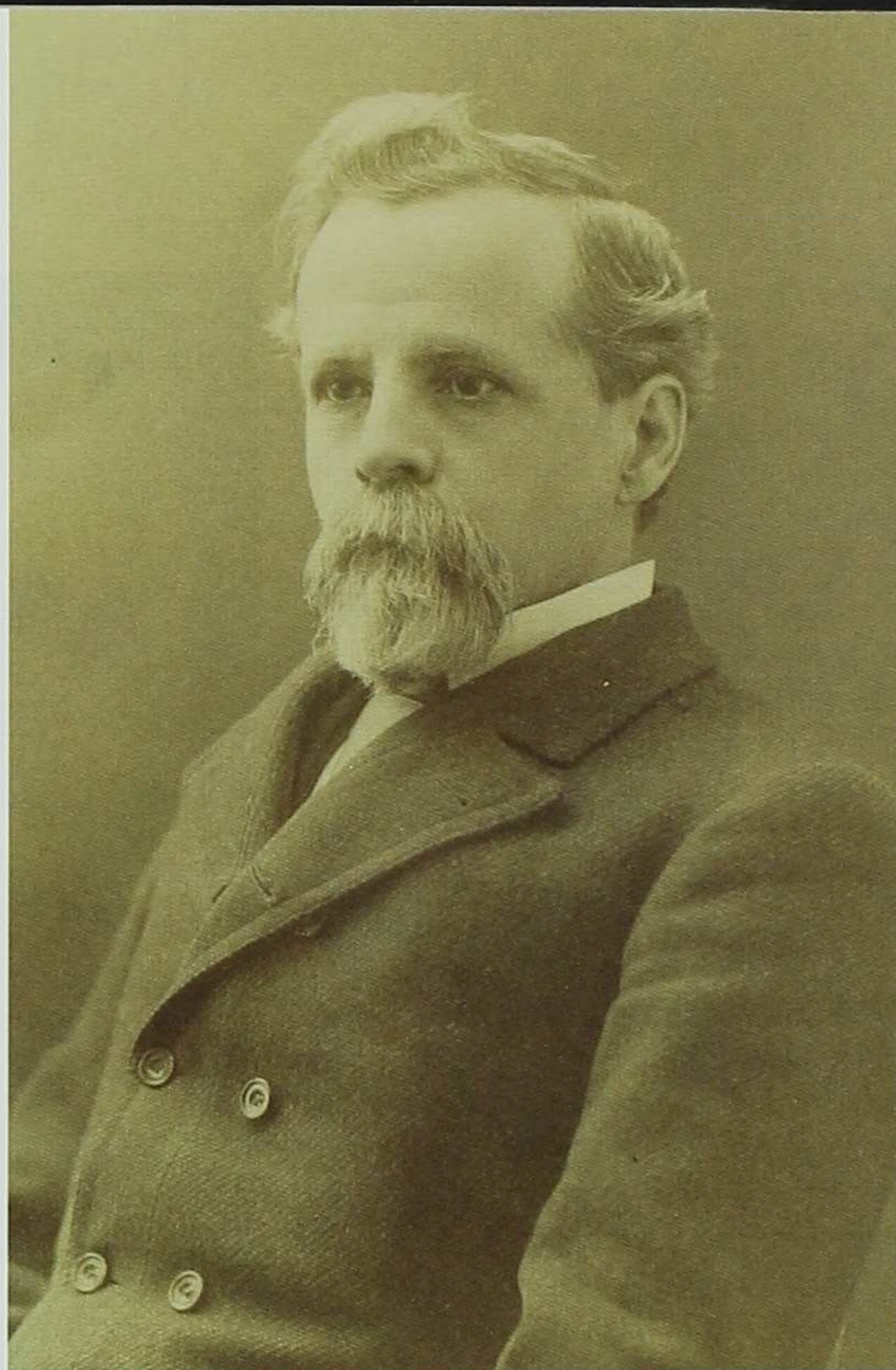


Midwest, particularly toward the "Freeport" society that shunned her after her affair with Cook. As her writing matured, however, Glaspell's views softened; *Judd Rankin's Daughter*, her final novel, best represents a holistic interpretation of Iowa life.

—by Marcia Noe and Emily Monnig

# John F. Lacey

## Conservationist in Congress



SHSI (DES MOINES)

John Fletcher Lacey (May 30, 1841–September 29, 1913)—Civil War veteran, lawyer, Iowa assemblyman, and U.S. congressman—was born at New Martinsville, Virginia, the fourth of six children of Eleanor (Patten) Lacey and John Mills Lacey, a brick and stone mason. In 1853, when Lacey was 12 years old, his parents moved to Wheeling; two years later they continued west, settling in 1855 on a farm along the Des Moines River a few miles from Oskaloosa. Although his mother had taught him to read and write, Lacey received his first formal schooling in Wheeling. After the family settled in Iowa, Lacey worked on the farm and attended private academies during the winter months. Beginning in 1858, he taught school during the winter, but also continued his own studies.

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, Lacey volunteered for service

in the Third Iowa Voluntary Infantry. Within the year, he was taken prisoner but was later released and then discharged from service. Back in Oskaloosa, he read law under the tutelage of Samuel Rice, the state's attorney general, until early 1862, when Lacey reenlisted along with Rice. For the next two years First Lieutenant Lacey served as assistant adjutant general to Colonel Rice, his commanding officer. After Rice was fatally wounded in the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry (Arkansas), Lacey joined the staff of General Frederick Steele. He mustered out of service in 1865 bearing the rank of brevet major and returned to Oskaloosa.

Within a few months, Lacey was admitted to the Iowa bar, opened a private law office, and married Martha Newell. He served one term in the Iowa General Assembly (1870–1872); until the late 1880s, however, he devoted most

of his attention to the law and his family, not politics. Between 1866 and 1876 four children were born to the Laceys, two of whom, Eleanor and Berenice, lived to adulthood. In tandem with building his law practice, he also published the *Third Iowa Digest* (1870), a compendium of Iowa Supreme Court decisions, and his two-volume *Lacey's Railway Digest* (1875, 1884), a widely used encyclopedia of railway case law covering the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and Australia.

In 1888 Lacey was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives on the Republican ticket. Defeated in his first reelection bid, he was returned to office in 1892 and held his congressional seat until 1906. During his first term, Lacey secured passage of the Mine Safety Act, which gave the federal government broad authority to improve working conditions in coal mines on territorial

lands, and the Yellowstone Park Protection Act, which empowered the Interior Department to protect the park's natural resources from human destruction. Lacey wielded his greatest influence in Congress as chair of the House Committee on Public Lands (1894–1906). A strong advocate of federal responsibility for resource conservation in the public domain, Lacey championed the establishment of game preserves in Yellowstone and other public lands, including Alaska, the Grand Canyon, and the Olympic Range; worked to establish bison breeding grounds in Yellowstone and the Wichita Forest Reserve (Oklahoma); and advocated scientific management of forest reserves and scenic wonders.

Lacey's name is especially associated with the 1900 Bird and Game Act, also known as the Lacey Act, which prohibited the interstate transportation of wild animals or birds killed in violation of state laws. It earned him wide respect among prominent sportsmen, who made him an honorary member of the Boone and Crockett Club. Lacey himself regarded the 1900 law as "one of the most useful of all my Congressional acts," although he acknowledged its constitutional limitations for protecting wildlife from market hunters. Lacey also played a key role in securing passage of the 1906 Antiquities Act, the first federal historic preservation law, which authorized the president to designate as national

monuments archaeological sites, historic landmarks, and other objects of historic or scientific interest located on public lands.

Despite Lacey's progressive legislative record on conservation, he aligned himself locally with Standpat Republicanism, which led to his defeat in 1906. Taking his loss in stride, Lacey returned to Oskaloosa and resumed his law practice. He was elected president of the Iowa Bar Association in 1913. Following his death later that year in Oskaloosa, the Iowa Park and Forestry Association honored his conservation achievements by publishing the *Major John F. Lacey Memorial Volume* (1915).

—by Rebecca Conard



Hunters pose with nearly 40 ducks and geese, shot along the Mississippi. U.S. Senator John Lacey won the respect of sportsmen and naturalists for the passage of the Bird and Game Act in 1900 and his work on other conservation measures.

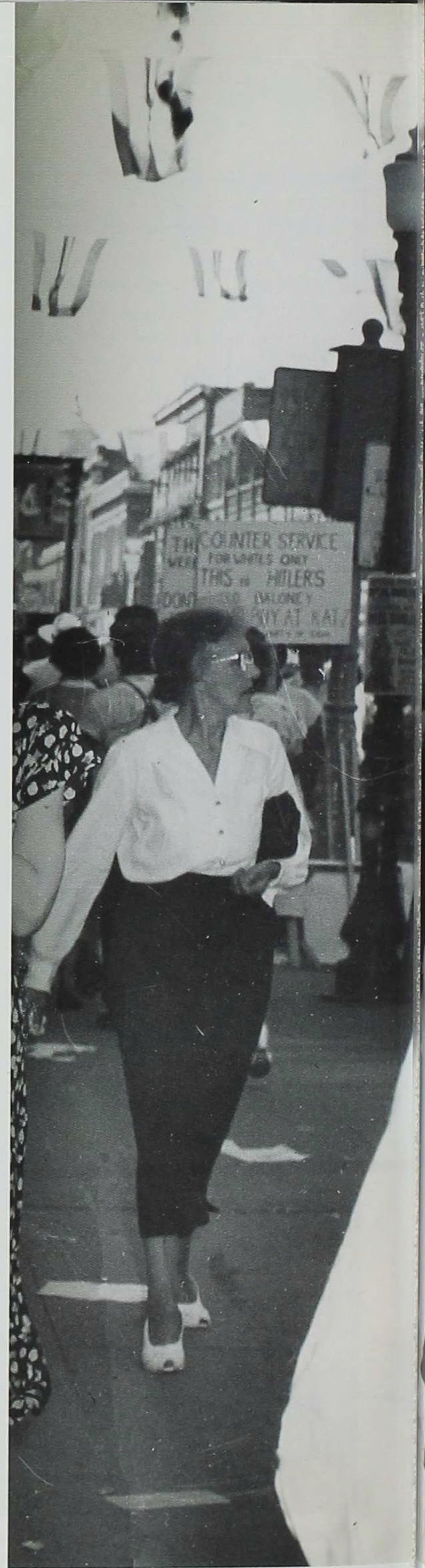
SHSI (DES MOINES)



# Edna Griffin Fights Jim Crow

Edna Mae Williams Griffin (October 23, 1909–February 8, 2000)—civil rights activist—was dubbed by the Iowa State Civil Rights Commission as “the Rosa Parks of Iowa” for her leadership in the movement to end segregation in Des Moines in the late 1940s. Although Griffin is best remembered for leading a legal and political battle against the Katz Drug Store after she and two friends were denied service at a lunch counter on July 7, 1948,

**Above: Edna Griffin. Right: Protesters carry picket signs outside Katz Drug Store in Des Moines in 1948. One sign reminds passersby that “the bullets weren’t for whites only.” Although African American soldiers had risked their lives in World War II, they continued to face segregation back home.**





SHSI (IOWA CITY). ORIGINAL FROM "STATE OF IOWA VS. M. C. KATZ: APPELLANT'S ABSTRACT OF RECORD," ARTICLES AND ABSTRACTS, 241 IOWA 20, JUNE 1949, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LAW LIBRARY, IOWA CITY.



SHS I (DES MOINES)

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SHS I (IOWA CITY). ORIGINAL FROM: STATE OF IOWA VS. M. C. KATZ, APPELLANT'S ABSTRACT OF RECORD. ARTICLES AND ABSTRACTS, 241 IOWA 60, JUNE 1948. UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARY, IOWA CITY.

her entire life was committed to advocating for human rights: from protesting against Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia while a student at Fisk University in the early 1930s to joining a march against nuclear weapons development in the 1980s.

Edna Williams was born in Kentucky in 1909, grew up on a New Hampshire farm, and attended prestigious Fisk University in the 1930s. While at Fisk, the leading predominantly black university of the time, Williams met her future husband, Stanley Griffin. The Griffins moved to Des Moines in 1947 when Stanley was accepted as a student at Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery (now Des Moines University—Osteopathic Medical Center). Stanley Griffin would be one of the first black physicians in Iowa, and his successful practice afforded Edna the opportunity to commit her time and resources to raising the Griffins' three children and getting involved in social and political causes.

Dismayed both at the second-class citizenship accorded to African Americans in Des Moines and the evident apathy of the black community in Des Moines toward such treatment, Griffin became an active member of a small but committed group of activists in Des Moines, joining the Iowa Progressive Party in 1948 and supporting Henry A. Wallace, himself an Iowan, in his presidential bid.

On a sweltering July day in 1948 Griffin, along with fellow Progressive Party members Leonard Hudson and John Bibbs (as well as her infant daughter Phyllis), entered Katz Drug Store and attempted to order ice cream, but were told by the management,

"We don't serve coloreds here." That rebuke inspired Griffin to lead a movement to force Katz to obey state law and treat all patrons equally. Griffin employed a variety of tactics: she led boycotts outside the store, formed a Committee to End Jim Crow at Katz, organized sit-ins, and printed up handbills for distribution to would-be Katz customers. In addition, Griffin, as well as Bibbs and Hudson, filed civil

## Griffin's commitment to social justice permeated her life's work.

suits against Katz and testified in a criminal case brought by the state of Iowa against the drugstore.

Ultimately, the struggle ended in a legal victory for Griffin and Katz's agreement to cease denying service to black patrons. Griffin's first major activist effort in Iowa led to the virtual elimination of discrimination against African Americans in public accommodations in Des Moines. Yet Griffin's commitment to social justice permeated her life's work. After the victory against Katz, Griffin continued the fight for civil and human rights. Most notably, she participated in the national civil rights movement by founding and serving as the first president of the Des Moines chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Among her first efforts in that capacity was to organize a day of mourning in September 1963 for the four Birmingham children killed in a church bombing by white supremacists. Two thousand

protesters marched from Ames to the statehouse in Des Moines in a walk of "penitence and mourning." Griffin also fought to persuade lawmakers to support civil rights legislation and sought to persuade local authorities to address the problem of police brutality.

Griffin's legacy was rich: she was a regular contributor to the *Iowa Bystander* (Iowa's statewide African American newspaper), organized a group of Iowans to attend the March on Washington in 1963, spoke out against housing discrimination, and was an ardent advocate for early childhood education.

In recognition of her efforts on behalf of the dispossessed, Griffin was elected to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1998. Soon afterward, the state of Iowa placed a plaque commemorating her efforts on the corner of Seventh and Locust in Des Moines, location of the former Katz Drug Store. Nearby is the Edna Griffin Building. Most recently, a new bridge over I-235 in Des Moines was named the "Edna Griffin Bridge" in her honor. Edna Griffin died in Des Moines in February 2000, but her struggles for civil rights continue to benefit all Iowans and all Americans.

—by Noah Lawrence



COURTESY OUTSIDE IN: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN IOWA, 1838-2000

# Charles P. Howard

Charles P. Howard Sr. (March 10, 1890–January 25, 1969)—lawyer, journalist, publicist, civil rights activist, Progressive Party leader, and United Nations correspondent—was born in

Abbeville, South Carolina, and attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta. In 1917 he graduated from the Fort Des Moines Army Officer Candidate School. He then served as a second lieutenant with the 92nd Division, 366th Infantry in France during World War I.

After graduating from Drake University law school in 1922, Howard joined the Iowa Bar Association and soon became chairman of the Iowa Negro Bar Association. In 1925 he helped found the National Negro Bar Association, later renamed the National Bar Association (NBA), which was organized in part to protest the American Bar Association's (ABA) refusal to admit black lawyers. Although the ABA later admitted African Americans, Howard and other NBA founders saw a continuing need for an organization to represent the interests of minority attorneys.

While practicing law in Des Moines in the 1920s and 1930s, Howard was a columnist for the *Iowa Bystander* (Iowa's statewide African American newspaper). He also served as legal counsel for the Polk County Insanity Commission. In 1932 Des Moines Mayor Dwight Lewis appointed him city prosecutor. In 1939 Howard helped his three sons found the *Iowa Observer*, an African American neighborhood newspaper. The *Iowa Observer* expanded in the 1940s into several weekly publications in Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin. In the 1950s he headed the Howard News Syndicate, which served 34 newspapers in the United States and abroad.

Between 1935 and 1951 Howard's private law practice was tarnished by clients' complaints of unethical or negligent conduct. In 1940 an Iowa district court suspended for six months Howard's license to practice law. Additional client complaints in the 1940s led Howard, on February 16, 1951, to voluntarily surrender his license. Howard failed twice in his attempts to obtain readmission to the Iowa bar. In 1994 the Iowa Supreme Court refused Howard's admirers' request to have him posthumously readmitted to practice in Iowa courts.

While embroiled in ethical issues, Howard distinguished himself in the 1940s as a trial lawyer and

champion of civil rights in Iowa. In 1947 he represented a light-skinned African American woman who alleged that Des Moines police officers had mistaken her as white and then jailed her for being in the company of a black man. In 1948 and 1949 he was lead attorney for Edna Griffin and other blacks in their discrimination suits against Katz Drug Store in Des Moines. Settlement of the famous Katz case effectively ended overt discrimination against African Americans in Iowa's public accommodations. In 1950 Howard represented, in an Iowa Supreme Court case, an African American man who claimed police in Sioux City had beaten out of him a confession of raping a white female teenager.

On July 23, 1948, Howard delivered the keynote address at the national Progressive Party convention that nominated fellow Iowan Henry A. Wallace for president. Wallace and the Progressive Party pursued an aggressive antidiscrimination campaign in the North and South. In March 1948 Howard brought to Iowa his friend Paul Robeson, the world famous actor, singer, and civil rights activist, to campaign for Wallace and other Progressive Party candidates. Howard's close association with Robeson coincided with his increasingly internationalist outlook. He also voiced protests against increased government surveillance, investigations, and trials of alleged Communist Party members, civil rights leaders, and peace activists. In 1948 he worked with Robeson, W. E. B. DuBois, and publisher Charlotta Bass to establish a committee to fight Jim Crow segregation in the Panama Canal Zone. In 1950 Howard was elected as a U.S. delegate to the World Peace Conference in Warsaw, Poland. Following the Warsaw conference, he accepted Joseph Stalin's invitation to visit the Soviet Union. In the early 1950s, unsurprisingly, Howard himself came under Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) surveillance.

In 1951, after relinquishing his attorney's license, Howard moved from Des Moines to New York City. There he worked as a representative of African nations at the United Nations and published essays on African independence movements and on the civil rights movement in the United States. Howard's articles in *Freedomways: A Quarterly Review of the Freedom Movement* castigated United States' and European nations' exploitation of newly independent African states.

Howard died in Baltimore at age 79 and was survived by three sons, Charles P. Howard Jr., Joseph, and Lawrence.

—by Bruce Fehn





# Archie Alexander

PORTRAIT: SHSI (IOWA CITY); POWER PLANT: KENT COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES, IOWA CITY

Archie Alphonso Alexander (May 14, 1888–January 4, 1958)—engineer, designer, builder, and community leader—built a number of structures still in use around the nation. “Engineering is a tough field at best and it may be twice as tough for a Negro,” a professor at the State University of Iowa told Alexander in 1909. Moreover, the dean had “never heard of a Negro engineer.” Yet 40 years later Carter Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, recognized that Alexander had overcome those discouraging words to become “the most successful Negro businessman in America.” That same year *Ebony Magazine* profiled Alexander as an accomplished and wealthy African American businessman. His commercial success as a design engineer is noteworthy for an

unusual business structure: an interracial partnership.

Only about 500 African Americans lived in Ottumwa, Iowa (pop. 14,000), at the time Archie Alexander was born there. Among them were his parents, Price and Mary Alexander. Price earned a living as coachman and janitor. One of young Archie’s play activities with his eight brothers and sisters involved building dams in a creek behind his home. In 1899 the family moved to a small farm outside Des Moines. His father became head custodian at the Des Moines National Bank, a prestigious job for an African American. In Iowa’s capital, Archie attended Oak Park Grammar School and Oak Park High School, and for one year he attended Highland Park College, which no longer exists.

Alexander’s engineering education began in ear-

nest at the State University of Iowa, where he also played football, earning the nickname "Alexander the Great," and joined Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. During the summers he worked as a draftsman for Marsh Engineers, a Des Moines bridge designing firm. In 1912 Alexander received his B.S.—the university's first black engineering graduate. He continued his education at the University of London, where he took some coursework in bridge design in 1921, and obtained his civil engineering degree in 1925 at the State University of Iowa. Howard University granted him an honorary doctorate in engineering in 1947.

His first years in the business world seemed to bear out his professor's prediction. Every engineering firm in Des Moines turned down his employment application. Initially discouraged, he became a laborer in a steel shop at Marsh Engineering, earning 25 cents per hour. Within two years he was earning \$70 per week supervising bridge construction in Iowa and Minnesota.

In 1914 Alexander embarked on a career as a self-employed engineer, A. A. Alexander, Inc. Desiring to extend his construction projects beyond minority clients, he became partners with a white contractor, George F. Higbee, in 1917. Alexander and Higbee, Inc. specialized primarily in bridge construction, sewer systems, and road construction. Alexander lost his partner in 1925, when Higbee died from an injury suffered in a construction accident.

Shortly after Higbee's death Alexander received his largest contract to date—the construction in 1927 of a \$1.2 million central heating and generating station for the State University of Iowa. Perched along the Iowa River, it is still in use. The following year he finished two other projects for his alma mater in Iowa City: a power plant [see left] and a tunnel system under the Iowa River designed to pipe steam, water, and electricity from the power plant to the campus buildings on the west side of the river.

A year after completing these projects, Alexander teamed with his second white partner, Maurice A. Repass, a former football teammate. They completed a number of successful projects, but as the Great Depression worsened, the firm struggled to stay in business despite a good reputation. Alexander and Repass's fortunes improved considerably after they affiliated with Glen C. Herrick, a prominent white contractor and road builder in Des Moines. Herrick, under contract to develop a canal system in Nebraska, hired Alexander and Repass for the accompanying bridge work. Herrick provided financing for a number of other Alexander and Repass projects, including some bridge building projects in Des Moines.

A positive reputation, proven ability, and solid financial resources and capitalization enabled the firm to bid successfully on projects in other parts of the country. The expansion of federal contracts brought on by World War II helped the firm make a successful bid to build at the Tuskegee Army Air Force base field, where the Tuskegee Airmen trained. During the war, Alexander and Repass established a second office in Washington, D.C., and continued to receive federal and local government construction projects, such as the granite and limestone Tidal Basin Bridge and Seawall.

Alexander had an aggressive style. His role in the partnership was to pursue the bids. "Some of them act as though they want to bar me but I walk in, throw my cards down and I'm in. My money talks," Alexander once asserted, "just as loudly as theirs." Alexander, with his football player frame, was a capable taskmaster and known for his directness and honesty. Repass served as the inside man, checking contracts and handling mechanical details.

Alexander's financial success made him a prominent figure around Des Moines and the nation. He led a number of civic and racial improvement efforts, and was a trustee at both Tuskegee Institute and Howard University. In Iowa, Alexander served as state chairman of the Republican Party and held positions on the Negro Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) board, the Des Moines branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Des Moines Interracial Commission.

Alexander's prominence did not allow him to escape the clutches of racism. One of the worst examples occurred in 1944, when he purchased a large Des Moines home in a fashionable white neighborhood and had to fight a restrictive covenant. The morning after he moved into his new home, he and his wife, Audra, woke up to a cross burning on their front lawn.

The culmination of his public service was his selection by President Dwight Eisenhower to serve as governor of the Virgin Islands in 1954. That turned out to be an unhappy experience. His blunt, outspoken style and aggressive agenda to develop the islands did little to endear him with the population. After 18 months he resigned, partially because of declining health. He also retired from active construction work and moved back to Des Moines, where he died of a heart attack in 1958.

—by Jack Lufkin



SHSI (IOWA CITY)

# Clark Mollenhoff

## *Watch on Washington*

Clark R. Mollenhoff (April 16, 1921–March 2, 1991)—*Des Moines Register* investigative reporter—was born in Burnside, Iowa. He attended schools in Lohrville and Algona before graduating from Webster City High School and Junior College. He entered law school at Drake University in 1941 and the following year started working part-time as a reporter for the *Des Moines Register*. Typically for a new reporter, he was assigned to cover police news and the municipal court. He re-

ceived his law degree in 1944 and left for two years' duty with the U.S. Navy.

In 1946 Mollenhoff returned to the *Register* staff to cover the courts. The newspaper in 1950 assigned him to the Cowles Washington Bureau directed by Richard

**Above: Mollenhoff startled his colleagues in the press when he became counsel to President Richard Nixon in 1969.**

Wilson. Early on, Wilson recognized the new man's wide interest in law, his high energy, and his zeal for rooting out what he considered corruption and malfeasance by public officials and other prominent public figures.

Anyone meeting Clark Mollenhoff for the first time never forgot him. He was a large man, especially for his generation, standing six feet four and weighing 250 pounds. He also had a loud voice and aggressive manner, which helped a correspondent for a middle-size newspaper in the Midwest get attention in Washington, D.C., where the bigger-named reporters and larger, national newspapers commanded the stage. In making a name for himself, writing many investigative articles and winning a Pulitzer Prize, Mollenhoff also raised the profile of the *Des Moines Register* and the other publications owned by the Cowles family.

The 1950s marked an important point in the history of the public media. While newspapers were clearly the dominant force in news distribution, television was becoming a major factor in educating the public. Newspapers were challenged to improve their role as the public's watchdog in those years when Senator Joseph R. McCarthy dominated headlines with his charges of a widespread Communist conspiracy in Washington. Editors thought they had to do more independent reporting to compete with television and to dispense information that illuminated, and sometimes contradicted, official comments and statements.

Mollenhoff directed his attention to the nefarious activities and influence of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and its president, James R. Hoffa. Mollenhoff traveled across the country for five years collecting information and writing articles about corruption in the Teamsters union. His work contributed to an investigation and hearings by a Senate committee, and he was rewarded with a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting in 1958. One of Mollenhoff's key sources was Robert F. Kennedy, then a young attorney and chief investigator for the Senate committee.

Mollenhoff continued to dog Hoffa's trail for years, but he also investigated what he considered to be corrupt contracting procedures in the Defense Department. Among the many books he wrote, the best known are *Tentacles of Power: The Story of Jimmy Hoffa*, *Washington Cover-Up*, *The Pentagon*, and *Atanasoff: Forgotten Father of the Computer*.

In the mid 1960s Mollenhoff, as chair of the Freedom of Information Committee of Sigma Delta Chi (now the Society of Professional Journalists), directed some of his abundant energy to a media industry campaign that led to the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act requiring the federal government to

make more of its records public. The legislation was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 4, 1966.

Mollenhoff turned more conservative and frustrated with what he considered the lack of fervor and catering to the government by his press colleagues. His reputation was irretrievably damaged by his attacks on colleagues and by his startling decision in 1969 to accept an invitation to enter the White House as counsel to President Richard M. Nixon. He was flattered to be asked to be ombudsman, warning the administration of ethical failures within the government. To his chagrin, however, Mollenhoff was soon lending his credibility to the White House by defending some of its actions in public. He lost his temper on national television debating the merits of one of Nixon's controversial nominees for the Supreme Court, Clement F. Haynsworth, who was rejected by the Senate, as was Harrold Carswell.

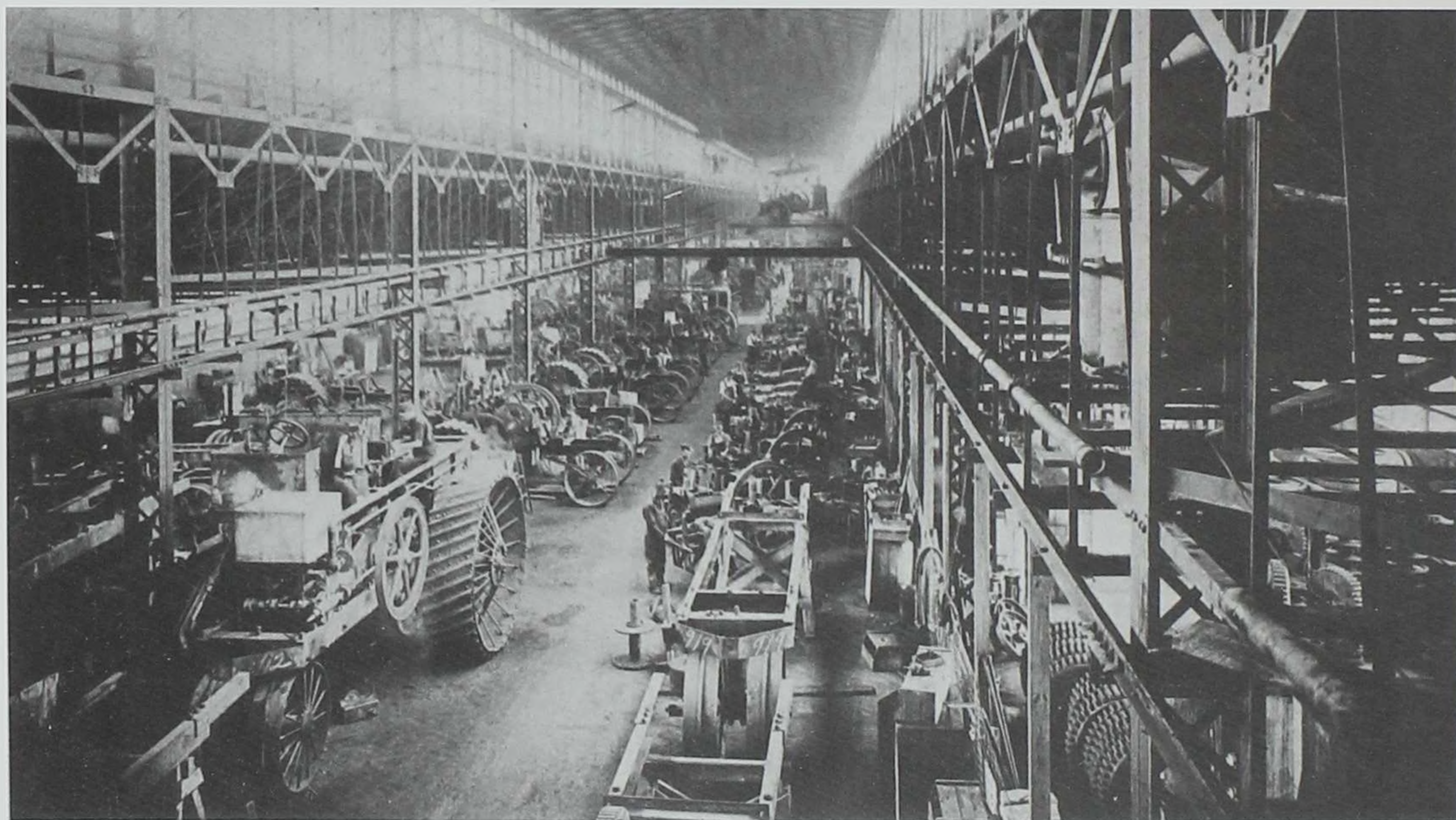
Mollenhoff left the White House after only one year and returned to the *Register*, replacing Richard Wilson as bureau chief. But he found that the journalism world had changed. His reputation could not be restored even as he became a notable critic of Nixon's actions. He was stunned when the president issued a pardon to get Jimmy Hoffa out of jail.

At a relatively young age, 56 in 1977, Mollenhoff left Washington to become a professor of journalism at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. The next year he initiated a weekly column, "Watch on Washington," which was distributed nationwide by the Register-Tribune Syndicate.

Mollenhoff was an inspirational teacher who brought attention and credit to what had been a modest academic journalism program. He lectured widely, including a European tour sponsored by the U.S. State Department, on the essential need for investigative journalism in democratic societies. In 1991, the year he died of liver cancer at 69, he published a book of 46 poems, nostalgic of his Iowa origins, *Ballad to an Iowa Farmer and Other Reflections*. He was buried in Lohrville.

His widow, Jane S. Mollenhoff, established an award in his name that is given each year to a Washington and Lee junior in journalism. Since 1996 the Institute on Political Journalism in Washington, D.C., has issued an annual Clark Mollenhoff Award for Excellence in Investigative Reporting. In addition, the Project for Excellence in Journalism uses his "Seven Basic Rules" for investigative journalism in its midcareer training programs.

—by Murray Seeger



BOTH PHOTOS, SHSI (IOWA CITY); ORIGINALS COURTESY OF FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**This page: Charles W. Hart and the Hart-Parr tractor assembly line in Charles City, circa 1915. Opposite: An advertisement from the *Charles City Daily Press*, March 1920.**

# Charles Hart

Charles Walter Hart (July 6, 1872–March 14, 1937)—inventor and manufacturer—was born near Charles City, Iowa, attended local schools, and worked for his father’s lumbering and farming operations in and around Charles City. As a teenager, he recognized the potential of gasoline engines as a labor saver for American farmers. He then attended Elliott Business College in Burlington, Iowa, and Iowa Agricultural College before transferring to the University of Wisconsin in 1893. There he met fellow student Charles H. Parr. By 1896 the two had completed five working internal combustion engines as part of their senior honors thesis in mechanical engineering. Before graduating, the two men borrowed \$3,000 and formed the Hart-Parr

Company in Madison, Wisconsin. The firm produced small gasoline engines, pumps, and power saws that employed a system of cooling with oil rather than water, and thus were well suited for year-round use on midwestern farms. In 1898 Hart married Jessie M. Case of Milwaukee; they had two children before she died in 1905. One year later he married his widow’s sister, Agnes; they had five children.

By 1900 the Hart-Parr Company had outgrown its space in Madison, so Hart and Parr moved it to Charles City. In 1902 the company built a machine that is generally considered the first commercially successful American tractor powered by an internal combustion engine. (John Froelich’s earlier machine was never a commercial suc-

cess.) Hart-Parr tractors were large and powerful, especially well suited for threshing and plowing operations on the large wheat fields of the Dakotas, Montana, and western Canada. As the tractor industry's pioneer, the company dominated the market until about 1911. Hart-Parr tractors had an international reputation and were sold in Argentina, Russia, Australia, and elsewhere. In 1907 about one-third of all the tractors in the world were manufactured in Charles City.

Hart gained national attention for his management and marketing strategies. He designed and patented several machine tools and developed a clever system to ensure that they operated at optimal efficiency. To support the company's promise that each tractor was tested before it left the factory, each was belted for several hours to an electric generator that provided the plant's needed power. Hart founded the Charles City Western Railway—the roadbed was graded with Hart-Parr tractors—an interurban line that provided transportation for company employees and allowed the company to gain favorable shipping rates from competition among three larger railways. Hart also implemented various corporate welfare strategies, as the company developed its own accident insurance programs, home-building programs, and recreational facilities. Under Hart's leadership, Charles City developed a vast complex of factory buildings, foundries, railroad lines, tenement housing, and busi-

nesses that catered to Hart-Parr's nearly 2,000 employees.

Hart-Parr ran into trouble during World War I. Other companies were more adept at producing smaller tractors better suited for the family farms of the Midwest, and Hart-Parr's efforts to produce artillery shells and other war matériel for the British government were not profitable. In 1917 a group of stockholders seized control of the company and announced that Charles Hart had retired. Hart-Parr rebounded somewhat in the 1920s, although it never again dominated the tractor industry. Its successor companies—Oliver, White, and others—continued to produce tractors in Charles City until the company closed completely in 1993.

Meanwhile, Charles Hart moved to a ranch near Hedgesville, Montana, where he developed experimental tractors designed for large-scale "power farming" operations. After some success raising wheat, a fire destroyed his tractors and ended this effort in 1922. Hart then turned to oil refining, and through the Hart Refineries Company, he developed technologies that could effectively "crack" Montana and Wyoming crude oil into gaso-

line, kerosene, and other distillates. Hart developed refineries in Missoula, Montana; Cody, Wyoming; and elsewhere in the region before he died at the age of 64.

—by Mark R. Finlay

**In 1907 about one-third of all the tractors in the world were manufactured in Charles City.**



## I Chose the Tractor Built by the Farmers

Hart-Parr Company knows that a tractor that works all right on the factory floor may act differently when it is hitched to three plows, cutting their way through mother earth. They know that conditions vary in different sections, and they have built the Hart-Parr 30 to meet the actual conditions. They have done this by getting the farmers' viewpoints.

The Hart-Parr chief engineer and assistants travel throughout the farming communities of all America, making notes, incorporating new ideas, asking advice, watching the Hart-Parr 30 perform in the field under all conditions. RESULT: *the Hart-Parr 30 is a TRACTOR BUILT BY THE FARMERS*, through the constructive brain of one of the nation's foremost tractor engineers.

The most important thing that the farmers want is POWER, and the Engineers work into the construction of the Hart-Parr 30 every practical engineering device to accomplish this end.

Accessibility to various parts of the Hart-Parr 30 is another feature much appreciated by tractor users; the convenience of the belt pulley—the fact that the Hart-Parr 30 burns kerosene as successfully as the other tractors burn gasoline—abundant power for three plows—the solid cast steel frame—are all details incorporated because the farmer insisted upon them.

When you hear a Hart-Parr owner say, "I chose a tractor built by farmers"—you know it's true.

The Hart-Parr 30 is a tractor built for the farmer, by the farmer.

**L. E. REED**  
Garage & Service Station  
Local Representative  
**HART-PARR COMPANY**  
"Pioneer of the Tractor Industry"  
CHARLES CITY, IOWA



Price \$1395.00, F. O. B. Factory

**ABUNDANT POWER FOR THREE PLOWS WEIGHS 5158 LBS.**  
**HART-PARR 30**  
NINETEEN YEARS TRACTOR BUILDING EXPERIENCE

Greatest Tractor Test of All Time  
Held by Ohio State University, July-Aug. 1919  
For 24 Hrs.

TRACTOR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
HART-PARR	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
OLIVER	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
WHITE	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
JOHN DEERE	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

# William Shirer

William Lawrence Shirer (February 23, 1904–December 28, 1993)—print and broadcast reporter and author—was born in Chicago. His father, Seward Shirer, an assistant U.S. district attorney, had a promising career in politics but died of a ruptured appendix in 1913 at the age of 42. His widow, Bessie (Tanner) Shirer, was forced to move with her three children to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to live with her parents.

After graduating from high school in 1921, Shirer enrolled in

Coe College. He began his career in journalism as the editor of the Coe College *Cosmos* and as a sports reporter for the *Cedar Rapids Republican*. After graduating in 1925, Shirer decided to take a summer trip to Paris. It appeared as though he would return home in August, when he received an offer from the head of the Paris office of the *Chicago Tribune*. "On such slender thread," Shirer wrote, "does the course of one's whole adult life hang." In Paris, the young Shirer

met some of the most famous people and witnessed some of the most important events of the decade, including Charles A. Lindbergh's arrival in Paris after his solo flight from New York in May 1927.

In the fall of 1929 the *Tribune* transferred Shirer to Vienna to report on the growing turmoil in the

**Edward R. Murrow (left) hired William Shirer (right) as a CBS correspondent to cover the build-up of Nazi Germany.**

Balkans. Shirer had hardly settled into his new assignment when he was instructed to go to India to cover the independence movement being led by Mohandas Gandhi. Shirer later recounted his friendship with Gandhi in *Gandhi: A Memoir* (1980).

Shirer married Theresa (Tess) Stiberitz on January 31, 1931, short-

## Shirer became the first of "Murrow's Boys," who revolutionized the reporting of news.

ly after returning to Vienna. They had two daughters, Eileen Inga and Linda Elizabeth.

Shirer's tenure with the *Tribune* ended in the summer of 1932. He spent the following year in Spain before accepting a job with the *Paris Herald* in January 1934, but soon left to take a job as a foreign correspondent in the Berlin office of the Hearst International News Service. He lost that job on August 24, 1937, when Hearst closed down the service. On the same day, Shirer received a telegram from Edward R. Murrow, chief of the European operations of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), asking Shirer to meet him in Berlin. Murrow hired Shirer to head his European bureau from Vienna. Shirer became the first of "Murrow's Boys," a group of foreign correspondents who revolutionized the reporting of news on radio and later television.

The revolution began on March 13, 1938, when CBS reported on Hitler's annexation of Austria. "The smooth voice of Robert Trout," Shirer later wrote, opened the *European News Roundup* in New York. For its day, the *European News Roundup* was

a masterpiece of logistics and timing, with live reports from Berlin, London, Paris, and Vienna. Shirer gained a national reputation reporting from Berlin during the period prior to World War II. He made one of his most famous broadcasts on June 22, 1940, when he reported the signing of the German-French armistice in the forest at Compiègne.

Hitler's government disliked Shirer's attempts to get around official censorship. When a German friend warned Shirer that he soon

would be charged with spying for the United States, he left Germany in December 1940. He managed to escape with the contents of a diary he had been keeping since 1934. Once home, Shirer published his best-selling *Berlin Diary* (1941) and went on

a lecture tour urging American support of Great Britain. Shirer returned to Germany in October 1945 to cover the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. He described the destruction of Berlin and other German cities, as well as the fate of the Nazi leaders brought to trial, in his book *End of Berlin Diary* (1947).

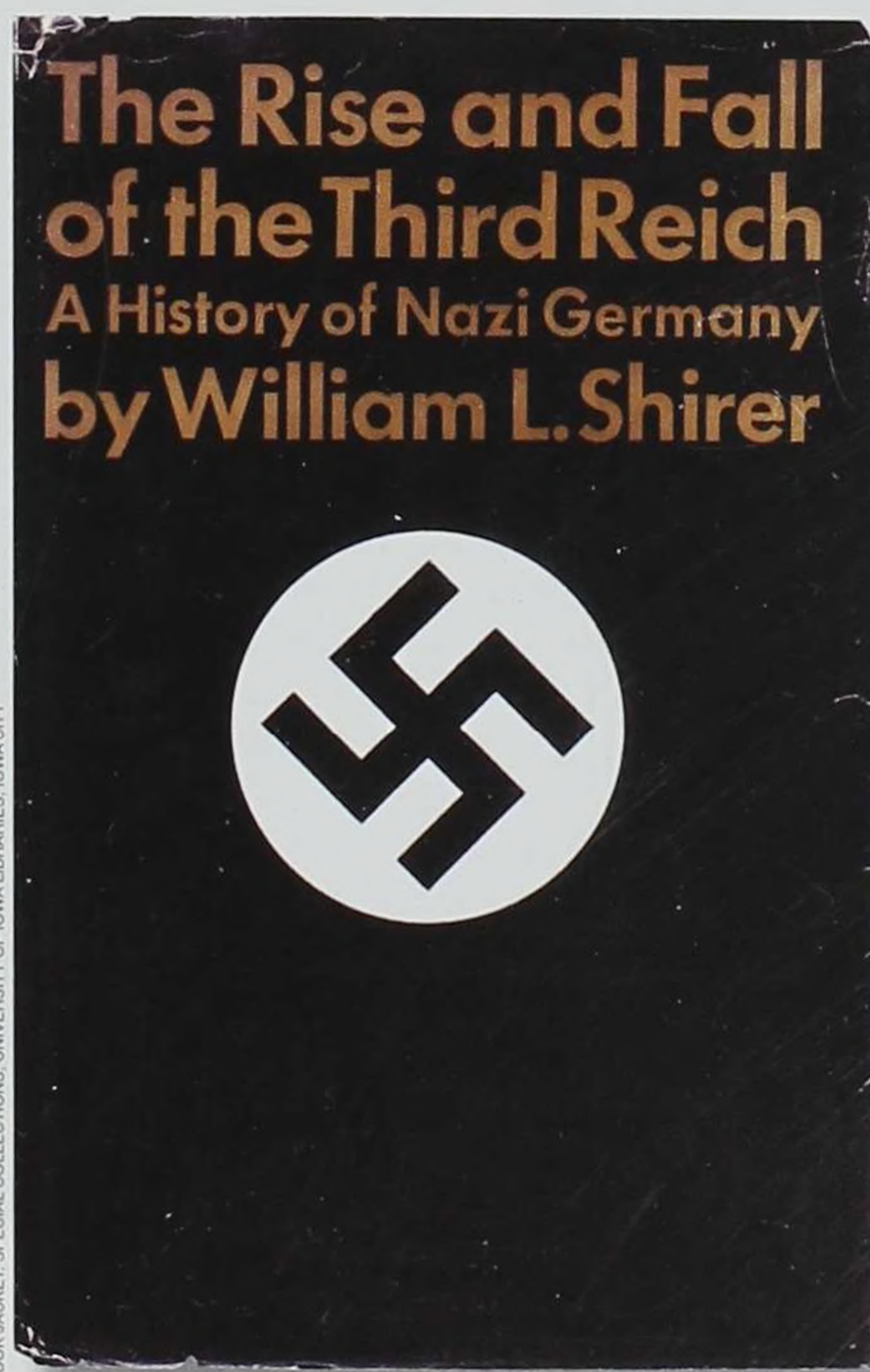
Shirer returned to the United States to continue broadcasting for CBS. His friendship with Murrow took a public, sad, and ugly turn after Murrow returned to the United States to become vice president for public affairs. By the spring of 1947 William S. Paley, the head of CBS, had cooled toward Shirer, as had the sponsor of Shirer's news program. Paley wanted Shirer out of CBS, and Murrow went along. Shirer left CBS feeling betrayed by Murrow and remained unforgiving up to Murrow's death in 1965.

The end of Shirer's radio career laid the foundation for a new career as a historian. *The Rise and Fall of the*

*Third Reich* became an immediate, surprise best seller when published in 1960 and went on to win the National Book Award. *The Collapse of the Third Republic* appeared in 1969, followed by his three-volume memoir in 1976, 1984, and 1990.

Shirer spent the last years of his life in Lenox, Massachusetts. He and Tess had divorced in July 1970. He later remarried and was survived by his wife, Irina Lugovskaya. William L. Shirer died in a Boston hospital at age 89. In his memoirs he wrote of his life, "I'm glad it was mine."

—by Donald E. Shephardson





# Arthur Davison Ficke

Arthur Davison Ficke (November 10, 1883–November 30, 1945)—poet—was born in Davenport, Iowa, to Frances (Davison) Ficke and Charles August Ficke, a prominent Davenport attorney.

Arthur Ficke graduated from Davenport High School in 1900 after serving as literary editor of the *Red and Blue*, where he published five poems, two short stories, and two essays. He then matriculated at Harvard University, where he wrote for the college's literary magazine, the *Advocate*. In 1904 he was elected president of the *Advocate* and class poet. After graduating from Harvard in 1904, Ficke spent 10 months traveling the world with his family before attending law school and teaching English at the State University of Iowa in 1906 and 1907. Also in 1907, Ficke married his first wife, Evelyn B. Blunt. Upon his admission to the Iowa State Bar in 1908, Ficke returned to Davenport to practice law with his father. During that time, Ficke published his first poetry collections, *From the Isles: A Series of Songs Out of Greece* (1907), *The Happy Princess* (1907), and *The Earth Passion, Boundary, and Other Poems* (1908). In those collections, Ficke's love of travel, romantic themes, and traditional forms of poetry are evident.

While Ficke worked with his father in Davenport, he became increasingly drawn to bohemian Chicago, as well as to the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay; in 1912 he sent her a copy of *The Earth Passion*, thus beginning a lifelong exchange of literature, flirtation, and friendship. Although he longed

to write poetry full time, Ficke was able to balance his life as a corporate lawyer and a poet quite well for many years, and some of his best work came out of that period. In 1913 Ficke published his play, *Mr. Faust*, a modern version of Goethe's tale, and his *Twelve Japanese Painters*, which combined two of his passions—poetry and art—and established him as an authority on the subject of Japanese prints. In 1914 Ficke published his most critically acclaimed work, *Sonnets of a Portrait Painter*, which was soon followed by *The Man on the Hilltop and Other Poems* and *Chats on Japanese Prints*, both published in 1915.

Ficke is perhaps best known for his part in the *Spectra* hoax of 1916, concocted by Ficke and his

continued his "serious" poetry and published many sonnets in little magazines; *An April Elegy* in 1917 was a return to the lofty romance of conventional poetry.

In 1917 Ficke's life began to change. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served first as a captain and finally as a lieutenant colonel in France during World War I. On his way to France in 1918, he finally met Edna St. Vincent Millay, and the two enjoyed a passionate three-day affair, during which they exchanged love sonnets. While in France, Ficke met artist and ambulance driver Gladys Brown; upon his return to America in 1922, he divorced Evelyn, married Gladys, and left his law practice and Davenport for good.

After the war, Ficke purchased a home in upstate New York. He continued to produce consistently good poetry, most notably *Out of Silence and Other Poems* (1924),

*In 1912 Ficke and Millay began a lifelong exchange of literature, flirtation, and friendship.*

Harvard chum, Witter Bynner, as a parody of modernist verse, which Ficke found distasteful and a corruption of the traditional poetry that he loved. The hoax fooled literary critics for quite some time, though perhaps the joke was on Ficke, as he felt that the experimental poetry he produced through his invented persona, Anne Knish, was some of his best. In addition to his clever and humorous work in *Spectra*, Ficke

*Mountain Against Mountain* (1929), *The Secret and Other Poems* (1936), and *Tumultuous Shore, and Other Poems* (1942). He also published his first and only novel, *Mrs. Morton of Mexico*, in 1939, inspired by his travels in that country. Although he suffered from tuberculosis, Ficke continued to write and travel until he lost his battle with cancer in Hudson, New York.

—by Bethany Stump



To Vincent  
from her  
Heavenly  
Bridegroom

He for  
God  
only;  
she, for  
God  
in him

(See  
J. Milton)

Iowan Arthur Ficke inscribed this photograph to poet Edna St. Vincent Millay (known to family and friends as "Vincent"). Signing himself "her heavenly bridegroom," Ficke wrote, "He for God only; she, for God in him." (See J. Milton.)

Millay was married to Eugen Boissevain about the time of this photo (circa 1923). In fact, Boissevain stands behind Ficke in the original image. In this version, Boissevain has been blanked out and the inscription written over that space. Never before published, this image speaks to the ambiguous relationship between Ficke and Millay.



SHSI (DES MOINES)

## Mary Safford and the Unitarian Church

Mary Augusta Safford (December 23, 1851–October 25, 1927)—known as “Queen Mary” of a group of women Unitarian ministers known as the Iowa Sisterhood—was born near Quincy, Illinois. In 1855 her family moved to Hamilton, Illinois, where she was educated at home and in public school. At age 17 she entered the State University of Iowa, but due to health and family problems did not graduate. She continued on her own to prepare to become a teacher, and taught in Oakwood and Hamilton, Illinois. While teaching, she organized and held all offices in the Hawthorne Literary Society in Hamilton, and was a school director in Oakwood. Meanwhile, under the tutelage of the Unitarian minister Oscar Clute in Keokuk, Iowa, across the river from Hamilton, she began her preparation to realize her lifelong dream of being a minister.

While she was studying, Safford began preaching in Oakwood and Hamilton, where she organized a Unitarian church in 1878.

It was the beginning of her missionary work, which would result in the formation or revitalization of several Unitarian churches. Already a popular preacher, she was asked to speak at the annual meeting of the Iowa Unitarian Association in Humboldt in 1880. There the assembled ministers ordained her, and the Humboldt church called her to be its minister, while she also served a small group in Algona. Her lifelong friend Eleanor Gordon accompanied her to Humboldt. Gordon served as high school principal and helped out in the church, especially in religious education for the children.

Over the next five years, the Humboldt church became a large and successful congregation, and Algona was ready to call its own minister. A group of business leaders in Sioux City wanted to start a church there. Safford and Gordon accepted the challenge, and soon that church had a new building and a large and enthusiastic congregation engaged in many

social, literary, educational, and philanthropic activities. The church served the community at large and demonstrated ways for churches to be more vital and involved. In 1893 Jenkin Lloyd Jones, the secretary of the Western Unitarian Conference, called the Sioux City church “the best pastored church in the West.” By then, Gordon was studying for the ministry, and between them they helped organize nine churches in northwestern Iowa and Nebraska. Gordon left in 1897 to take her own church, and two years later Safford and her new assistant, Marie Jenney, moved to Des Moines.

In addition to her ministerial and missionary work, Safford served as president of the Iowa Unitarian Association for seven years and its field secretary (missionary) for six, and she edited its monthly magazine, *Old and New*. She was also a director of the Western Unitarian Conference and the American Unitarian Association. She spoke at the World’s Fair in Chicago in 1893. In 1900 she went to Europe for six

months for her health, but also to preach, lecture, and study. By 1910 the strain of traveling across Iowa to speak, cajole, and support small congregations who could not find permanent ministers endangered her health, so she retired to Orlando, Florida. She bought a home and an orange grove, which she managed herself, profitably. Her missionary zeal was still alive, so she started a Unitarian church in Orlando.

Safford had great influence in Iowa, especially. She was passionate about social justice issues, and her ardent preaching, managerial skills, and radical idealist outlook doubtless had an impact on the state's development, as many of her congregants in Des Moines were judges, legislators, and prominent business leaders. She also served as president of both the Iowa and Florida Woman Suffrage associations and was on the board of directors of the National Woman Suffrage Association. Her way, in all areas, was to educate and inspire others to become involved and work for the greater good.

Her last public appearance was at the dedication of the high school auditorium that she funded in Hamilton. Two weeks later at age 75, she died in Orlando. A memorial service was held in the new auditorium, and she was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton.

Her obituary in the *Des Moines Tribune* said: "No death could possibly stir kindlier memories in Iowa than that of the Rev. Mary Safford. . . . She helped to shape the thinking and living of everybody who knew her, and always on a higher level. When the world has reached the plane she would have put it on, and struggled to put it on, we shall have a much kindlier, a more hopeful, a much more livable world."

—by Sarah Oelberg

SHSI (IOWA CITY)

Obedience to the  
Heavenly Vision.

I saw a light from  
Heaven and I heard a  
Voice saying unto me, I  
have appeared unto thee  
for this purpose to make  
thee a minister and a wit-  
ness both of these things  
which thou hast seen  
and of those things wherein  
I will appear unto thee.

One page from Safford's well-known sermon "Obedience to the Heavenly Vision." Perpendicular to the handwritten text, she listed some of the towns in which she presented the sermon between 1900 and 1902.



COURTESY JOHNATHAN BUFFALO

# ADELINE WANATEE

PRESERVING MESKWAKI CULTURE

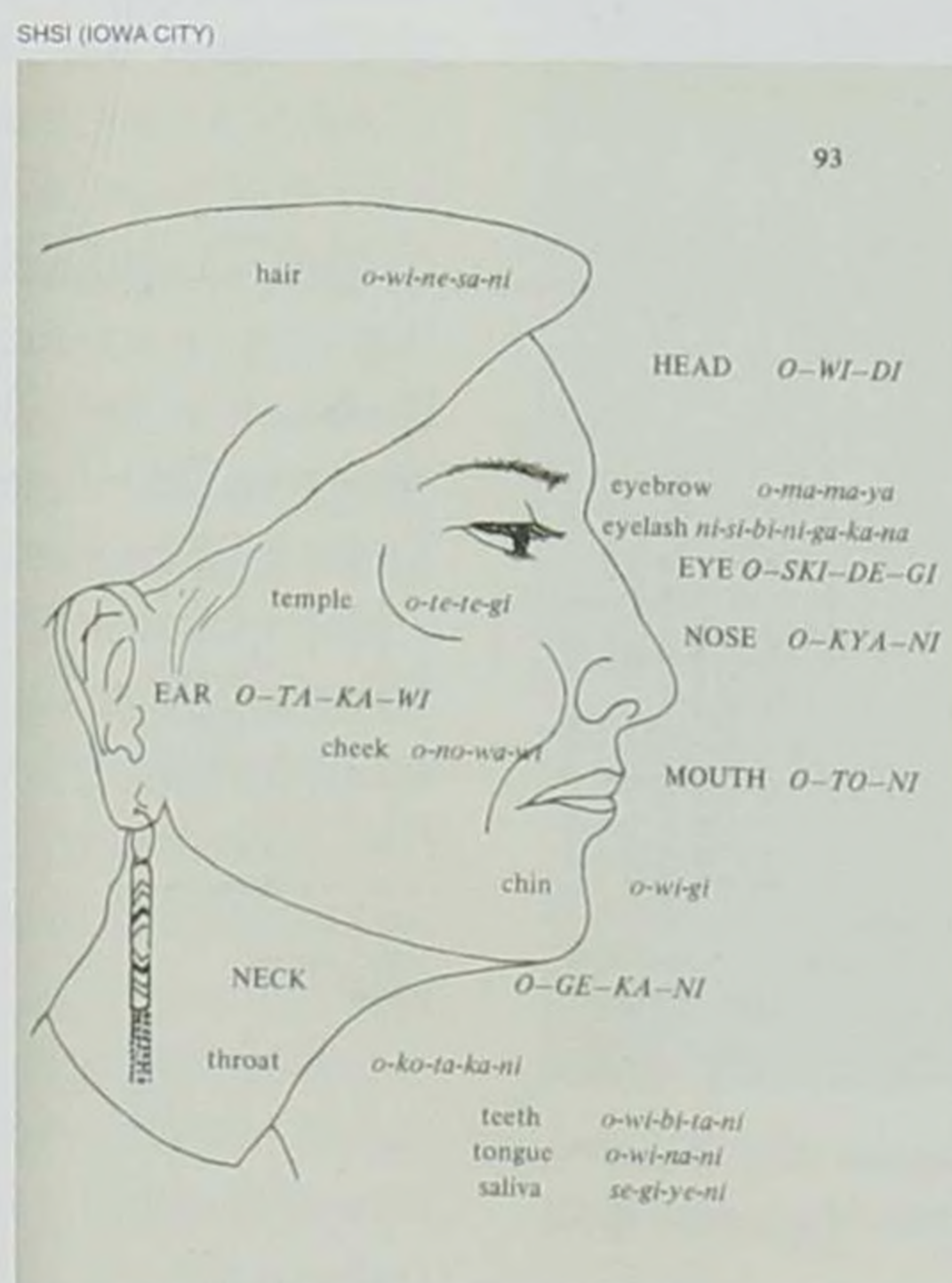
Jean Adeline Morgan Wanatee (December 9, 1910–October 15, 1996)—artist and advocate of American Indian and women’s rights—was born at the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama County, Iowa. Her parents were Annie (Waseskuk) Morgan and Earl D. Morgan. Her father died when she was nine months old, so she and her mother moved in with her grandmother until Annie remarried. Best known as “Adeline,” she attended the Sac and Fox Day School on the settlement until 1923, when she was sent to the government boarding school in Flandreau, South Dakota. She soon returned to the settlement to finish her schooling, then in 1931 graduated from the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. On February 7, 1932, she married Frank David Wanatee, also a Meskwaki. Their seven children who survived to adulthood were Donald, Frances, Elizabeth, Marian, Darrell, Frank Jr., and Carolyn. Two children, David Clark and Ethelyn, died as young children. Frank Sr. died in 1985.

Spending most of her life at the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama, Wanatee worked tirelessly and effectively for the rights of American Indians and for the rights of women—particularly minority women. She believed that American Indian children should be educated in local public schools under tribal control rather than sent to government boarding schools far from their families, and through her work as a tribal council member and on state and national committees, she helped win that right. She worked for the preservation of Indian culture by speaking and teaching the Meskwaki language and creating and teaching Meskwaki arts. She was instrumental in the creation of the *Mesquakie Primary: An Elementary School Text of the Mesquakie*

*Language*, a language textbook still in use by the tribe today. As an artist, she specialized in weaving traditional yarn belts.

Wanatee achieved much in her 85 years, and in later life received awards and honors for her efforts. She was the first woman elected to the Meskwaki Tribal Council, eventually serving two four-year terms. She was a Meskwaki language specialist and resource person for the Smithsonian Institution, a delegate to the National Indian Council on Aging, a tribal health representative who established a center for community health and nutrition, an artist in the Iowa Arts Council’s Artist-in-the-Schools program, a founding member of the Coalition of Indian Controlled School Boards, the first female member of her local powwow association, a three-term member of the Iowa Governor’s Advisory Committee, and the first American Indian to be inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame.

—by Charlotte M. Wright



Adeline Wanatee’s efforts to preserve and share Meskwaki culture included weaving traditional yarn belts (above) and writing a textbook of the Meskwaki language (left).

# James Norman Hall

James Norman Hall (April 22, 1887–July 5, 1951)—novelist, travel writer, essayist, and poet—was born in Colfax, Iowa. Although he fought under three countries' flags during World War I and traveled widely, the bulk of his adult life was spent working at his craft and enjoying simple domestic comforts on the remote island of Tahiti. Hall is most popularly known as the coauthor (with Charles Nordhoff) of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. Al-

though no stranger to extraordinary adventure and accomplishment, he was an unassuming man whose Tahitian neighbors hardly realized at his death in 1951 that their quiet but generous and likable neighbor had been a decorated military pilot and a world-famous writer.

One of five children, Hall's upbringing in a small prairie hamlet was fairly typical of his era. He attended the Colfax public schools and worked at various part-time jobs, including handyman and clerk in a local dry-goods store. His attachment to that locale is evident from the many references to it in his writings. His life in the South Seas was not an exile from that background but a distinctive attempt to hold to the reflective and serene pace he valued and which seemed to him threatened by the frenetic hubbub of modern machinery and materialism.

During his boyhood, already under the spell of reading and dreaming of a career as a world wanderer and poet, surreptitious trips to nearby Grinnell on the cowcatcher of the night train were among Hall's favorite escapades. The Grinnell College campus and the sounds of the men's glee club had their effect on young "Norman," as he was known at home, and he worked his way through that college as a student and graduated in 1910. He spent the following four years in Boston as a case worker for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He left those duties in the spring of 1914 for a sojourn in England, hoping to come to terms with his ambitions as a writer. Instead, when England declared war on Germany that August, Hall enlisted as a private in the Royal Fusiliers. His experiences training as a recruit and as a machine gunner at the front resulted in Hall's first success as an author. Discharged after 15 months of service, he received an invitation from Ellery Sedgwick, editor of the *Atlantic*, to write a series of articles that were subsequently published as a book titled *Kitchener's Mob* (1916).

Returning to France, ostensibly to prepare more articles for the *Atlantic* (reporting on Americans serving in a French flying squadron known as the Escadrille Lafayette), Hall ended up joining that dashing group

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES, IOWA CITY



A replica of the ship used in filming *Mutiny on the Bounty*, based on the 1932 novel coauthored by James Norman Hall and Charles Nordhoff.

of volunteers. That first encounter with the romance of flight was both thrilling and hazardous, as Hall recounts in *High Adventure: A Narrative of Air Fighting in France* (1918). After both victories and misadventures in combat, Hall was shot down behind enemy lines on May 7, 1918, and spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner of war. Upon America's entry into the war and the absorption of the Escadrille into the U.S. Air Service, Hall's rank changed from sergeant to captain. He was awarded military decorations from both France and the United States.

In Paris after the Armistice, Hall was assigned to write a history of the Lafayette Flying Corps in collaboration with Charles Nordhoff, a fellow corps member. That was the beginning of a friendship that took both men to Tahiti in 1920 to pursue their writing careers, both separately and jointly. For some time Hall found it difficult to settle into the writer's tasks, but after travels around the South Seas, then to Iceland and back to Iowa and other mainland destinations, in 1925 he married Sarah Winchester, the 16-year-old part-Polynesian daughter of an English sea captain, and his literary efforts became more regular and productive.

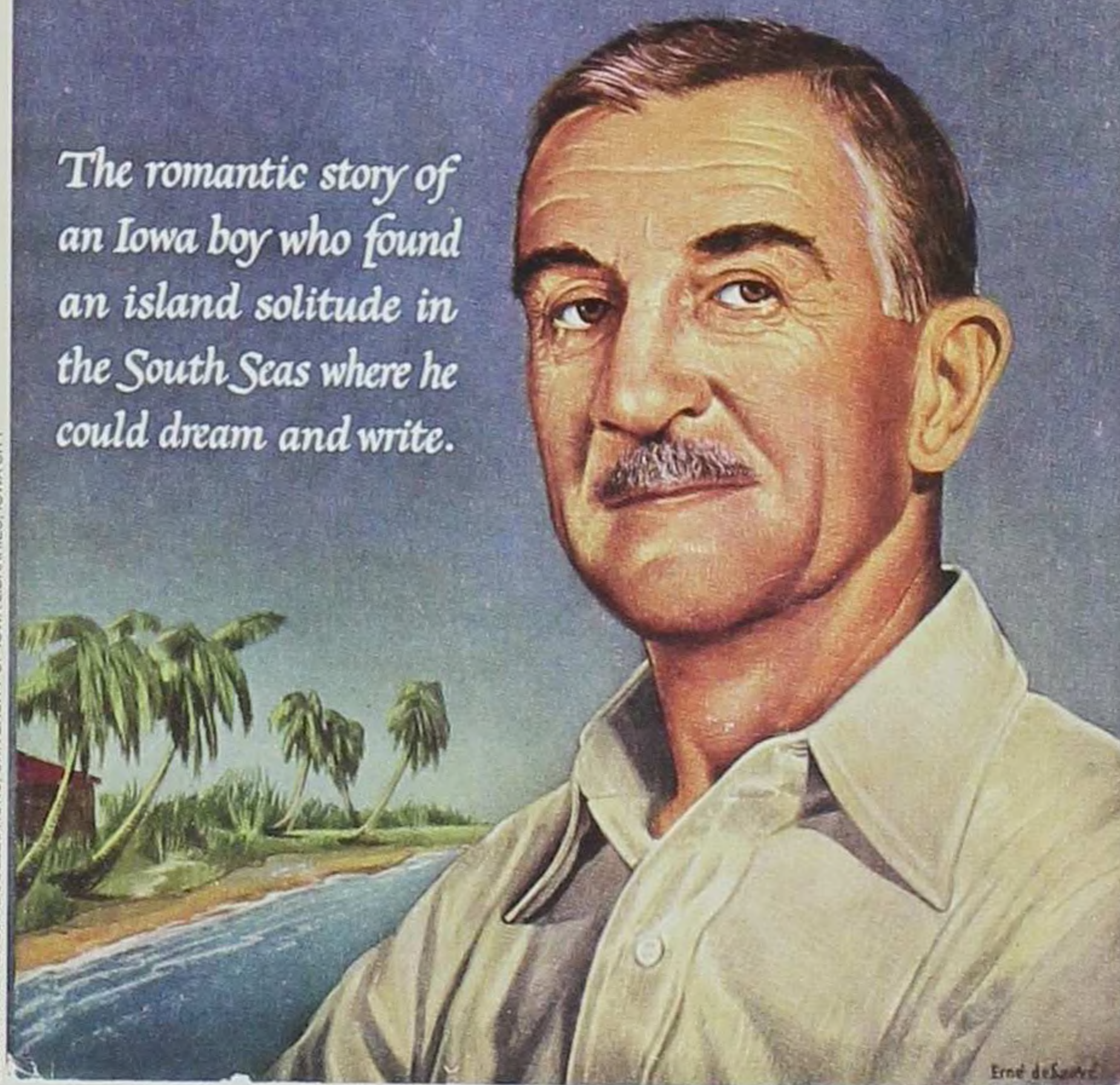
Resuming their collaboration, Hall and Nordhoff wrote *Falcons of France* (1929), a novel for boys based on their experiences as airmen during the war. Their next joint project, far more ambitious, grew out of Hall's suggestion that the pair undertake a fictionalized version of the events surrounding the notorious mutiny aboard the HMS *Bounty* in 1789. The resulting trilogy, *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1932), *Pitcairn's Island* (1934), and *Men Against the Sea* (1934), met with great success, especially the first volume, which has been made into at least two popular motion pictures.

Other notable products of the Nordhoff-Hall collaboration followed, but none rivaled the *Bounty* novels in popularity. As Nordhoff's energies as a writer began to ebb in later years, Hall increasingly assumed the impetus of their joint efforts and continued to publish separately and in a variety of forms: poems, essays, and reminiscences. Although deeply distressed by the coming of war to the Pacific, his happy and peaceful Tahitian existence was never directly threatened by it.

## The Autobiography of JAMES NORMAN HALL

### My Island Home

*The romantic story of  
an Iowa boy who found  
an island solitude in  
the South Seas where he  
could dream and write.*



BOOK JACKET, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES, IOWA CITY

In 1950 Hall received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Grinnell College. While in Boston during that visit to the United States, Hall was found to be suffering from a degenerative heart condition to which he succumbed the following year at his home in Arué, Tahiti. His wife, Sarah, and their two children, Conrad and Nancy, survived him.

—by James Kissane



# Jennie McCowen

Jennie C. McCowen (June 15, 1845–July 28, 1924)—physician, writer, teacher, suffragist, and activist—was born in Warren County, Ohio, the second of five children of John and Maria (Taylor) McCowen. John was a Presbyterian widower from Maryland, Maria an Ohio-born Quaker. In the late 1840s the family moved to Havana, Illinois, where John kept a store. By 1859 John had returned to Ohio with his children: Jennie; her older brother, Israel; and her younger sisters, Mary, Susan, and Sarah (Maria had apparently died). Settling in Lebanon, John married Elizabeth Stokes and operated a drugstore. Jennie recalled her father as a “well-known physician,” although he never practiced medicine as his primary occupation.

In Lebanon, Jennie entered normal college. She often declared that, “thrown on her own resources” in 1861, she was compelled to teach school at age 16. Many biographical sketches report that her father died that year. In fact, John McCowen died on December 31, 1878. The outbreak of war may have led to conflicts between Jennie and her father, a Southerner and a Democrat. Israel enlisted in the Union army in June 1861 and died in battle three years later. In 1864 Jennie left Ohio for Audubon County, Iowa, to live near her mother’s sister and to teach school.

In 1871 McCowen became one of the first American women to run for elective office, losing the race for county school superintendent by just 15 votes. The following year,

she left teaching and matriculated at the State University of Iowa, earning a medical degree in March 1876. Professor Mark Ranney invited her to join the staff of the Iowa Hospital for the Insane at Mount Pleasant, where he was superintendent. She was the third woman in the United States to serve in such a capacity.

After almost three years at the hospital, McCowen returned to Ohio. An opportunity to enter private practice in Davenport drew her back to Iowa in 1880. There she joined the Scott County Medical

women’s access to jobs, education, and public life. As vice president for Iowa, McCowen wrote a landmark report, “Women in Iowa,” and later published a version in the State Historical Society of Iowa’s journal, the *Annals of Iowa* (1884). During that same period, she contributed a regular column to a national suffrage paper, the *Woman’s Tribune*, and represented Iowa annually at the National Conference of Charities and Correction. She also served two terms as president of the county medical society (probably the first American woman to hold such an

*McCowen argued against the uterine-reflex theory of insanity, which held that women who rejected domesticity were especially vulnerable to madness.*

Society, which immediately elected her secretary, and affiliated with the Congregational church (having left her mother’s Quaker faith).

The 1880s were a productive period in McCowen’s life. She published articles in medical journals, including “The Prevention of Insanity” in the *Northwestern Lancet* and “Insanity in Women” in *Transactions of the Iowa State Medical Society*. In the latter she argued against the uterine-reflex theory of insanity, which held that women who rejected domesticity were especially vulnerable to madness. McCowen joined the Association for the Advancement of Women, a national organization that promoted

office) and a term as president of the Davenport Academy of Science.

Her proudest accomplishments during the 1880s were helping found the Working Woman’s Lend-a-Hand Club (1886) and the Charitable Alliance (1889). The Lend-a-Hand Club was an organization of self-supporting women that promoted women’s education and maintained downtown rooms where members could rest, eat, and socialize. It also helped launch a number of businesses owned by women, including the Hadlai Heights Women’s Hospital, run by McCowen and her longtime companion, Eliza “Lile” Bickford. The Charitable Alliance

won the appointment of a police matron in Davenport—the first in Iowa.

In the 1890s and early 1900s McCowen gave greater attention to writing and organizing on behalf of women physicians. She helped found the Iowa State Society of Medical Women, serving as its president in 1893 and 1894, and joined the editorial staff of the *Pan American Women's Medical Journal*.

McCowen was also active in the King's Daughters, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Woman's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic. She edited and published in two state medical journals and participated in national and international meetings on child welfare, insanity, public health, and geology.

After Lile Bickford left Davenport in 1900, McCowen shared a home with Clara Craine, head of the Visiting Nurse Association. At McCowen's death, hundreds of mourners filed past her casket, which lay in state in the new Lend-a-Hand building. She was buried in Davenport's Oakdale Cemetery.

—by Sharon E. Wood

SHSI (IOWA CITY)





SHSI (IOWA CITY); MATHER COLLECTION

Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Iowa

## BLOT OUT

The Liquor Traffic  
The Traffic in Women  
Child Labor  
Poverty  
Crime  
Disease

By Giving Women the Vote

Dynamic reformer Ida B. Wise Smith wasted little time on her injuries after a taxi cab accident in Chicago, where she was attending the 1932 Republican National Convention. The 60-year-old rested briefly, then returned to the convention.

SHSI (DES MOINES); DES MOINES REGISTER, JUNE 16, 1932

# Ida B. Wise Smith

Ida B. Wise Smith (July 3, 1871–February 16, 1952)—reformer, minister, educator, and lecturer—was born in Philadelphia. Her father, a sea captain, died when she was two years old. Her mother, Eliza Ann Piper, then moved the family to Hamburg, Iowa, where she married temperance reformer Robert Speakman. Ida accompanied her stepfather as he traveled around Iowa making his “School House” speeches arguing for constitutional prohibition; she usually warmed up the audience by singing temperance songs.

A member of the Disciples of Christ, Ida began teaching Sunday school in the Hamburg Christian Church at the age of 12. She made it a point to devote a part of every class session to the subject of temperance and required all of her tiny students to sign the total abstinence pledge. At the age of 16, she began teaching school.

Smith first learned about the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in 1891 when she was required to take the temperance oath in order to become

a Loyal Temperance Legion leader. By 1900 she was district president in the Iowa WCTU, and in 1902 she became statewide corresponding secretary, a position she held until 1913, when she was elected president of the Iowa WCTU.

As president of the Iowa WCTU, Smith proved to be a fearless and savvy political mover. In 1916 she wrote the Sheppard Bill, which imposed prohibition in the District of Columbia. She also launched an investigation into irregular voting practices that caused the defeat of the woman suffrage bill in the Iowa legislature.

Smith first became prominent on the WCTU national level in 1923, when she became director of the national WCTU Christian Citizenship Department. In 1925 she was elected Superintendent of Citizenship for the World Women's Christian Temperance Union at its convention in Edinburgh. The next year she was elected Vice President at Large of the national WCTU.

In 1923 Smith was ordained as a minister in the Disciples of Christ. She never served as a pastor for

a congregation, but she became a spiritual and moral leader within the denomination, promoting her favorite causes of temperance, child welfare, and women's rights.

Upon her election in 1933 as president of the national WCTU, Smith came into her own as the most prominent temperance advocate on the national stage. It was a difficult time to be in the position, with repeal of Prohibition looming (it would pass in 1934), and she met the challenge head-on.

In a speech to the 1935 International Convention of Disciples of Christ, she advocated "a program the broad aim of which is nothing less than the physical, mental, social, and spiritual liberation of the world from the strangling grip of exploitation by the beverage alcohol trade."

As WCTU president, Smith challenged the organization's members to a five-year plan of increasing membership and raising \$1 million to launch an extensive education program on the dangers of alcohol. This resulted in the most widespread campaign in WCTU history. Publicity condemning alcohol as a deadly narcotic carpeted the nation in the form of radio programs, magazine and newspaper articles, educational films, and billboards.

Smith was always a strong believer in the power of the ballot and the common sense of the voter. In her far-reaching program, citizenship courses were held in each of the 10,500 local WCTU chapters. Smith had great confidence in her grassroots movement: "When women see again the bleary eyes, the shuffling feet, the desolate faces of children in homes of poverty where the money goes for drink, wom-

en will rise again against their enemy. For, though the Prohibition law of the nation and states may be repealed, you cannot repeal the effects of alcohol. Nor can you outlaw that protective instinct with which women guard their homes."

In 1939 Smith led the celebration of temperance pioneer Frances Willard's centenary by inaugurating a new five-point program promoting a deepening of spiritual life and education in the areas of alcohol, character, citizenship, and peace.

The WCTU failed to bring back Prohibition, but did secure success in other areas of reform, particularly child welfare. Smith's influence was widespread in improving the lives of disadvantaged children, not only through her work as WCTU leader but also

through her appointments to two national initiatives: President Herbert Hoover's White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, and President Franklin Roosevelt's White House Conference on Children in Democracy.

Smith received many awards during her lifetime. In 1927 Iowa Governor John Hammill named her the "Most Distinguished Woman in Iowa" for her contributions to child welfare, and she represented Iowa at the "Famous Women's Luncheon" at the Woman's World Fair in Chicago. That same year, John Fletcher College in University Park, Iowa, awarded her an honorary LL.D. "for distinguished service to the state and meritorious service to humanity."

She married James Wise in 1889, and they had two children, one of whom, Carl Edwin Wise, lived to adulthood. After her husband died in 1902, she moved her extended family, including her children, her parents, and her sister's orphaned children, to Des Moines, where she supported them all by cleaning houses, sewing, and teaching in the Crocker School. In 1912 she married Malcolm Smith, a noted temperance campaigner from Cedar Rapids; he died in 1915.

When Smith's term as national WCTU president expired in 1944, she declined reelection and returned to Iowa, where she continued to work for the causes of temperance, child welfare, and prison reform. She died at age 80 in Clarinda. A memorial plaque in tribute to her life and service was erected in front of the

Hamburg Christian Church.

In 1977 Ida B. Wise Smith was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Two years later the Ida B. Wise Smith historical

marker was dedicated in Union Park in Des Moines. Toward the end of her last term as WCTU president, she gave a reporter the philosophy that led her to a lifetime of crusading: "I love God, my country, and little children. I hate the liquor traffic, and abhor all vice."

—by Sara Harwell

## She warmed up the audience by singing temperance songs.

# John Plumbe

John Plumbe Jr. (July 13, 1809–May 28, 1857)—civil engineer, author, photographer, printmaker, inventor, and advocate for a transcontinental railroad—was born to English parents at Castle Caereinion in Montgomeryshire, Wales, the second of five children of John Plumbe, M.D., and Frances Margaretta (Atherton) Plumbe. In July 1821 Dr. Plumbe moved his family to Philipsburg in central Pennsylvania, where he established an iron forge and opened the first metal screw factory in America. As a young boy, Plumbe worked in his father's business, attended school in Philipsburg, and at age 17 became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

In 1827, 18-year-old John Plumbe Jr. apprenticed as a civil engineer under Wirt Robinson, helping to locate a feasible railroad route across the Allegheny Mountains from the Plumbe foundry to eastern markets. That endeavor commenced Plumbe's lifelong interest in the potential of rail transportation. After serving briefly as postmaster for Philipsburg, Plumbe continued his employment with Robinson, moving

to Virginia in 1832, where he worked on the construction of the first interstate railroad in America. Plumbe then returned to Philipsburg, where he married Sarah Zimmerman; their daughter, Sarah, was baptized in 1833. After fire destroyed Dr. Plumbe's metal foundry in 1836, the Plumbe family moved to Dubuque in Wisconsin Territory, which then included all of present-day Iowa.

John Plumbe Jr. began his career in Wisconsin Territory as a land speculator. By mid November 1836 he had purchased and sold several downtown Dubuque lots. The following year he advertised the sale of properties along the Mississippi River, including the town of Parkhurst. He later established the Wisconsin General Land Agency in Dubuque. Plumbe played an active role in civic affairs, serving as president of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Dubuque in 1837 and secretary of the Dubuque Literary Association and the Temperance Society and drafting a resolution to Congress for improved postal routes in 1838. He was a prolific newspaper correspondent who

advocated internal improvements under the pseudonym "Iowaian."

In 1838 Plumbe was engaged as surveyor and agent for the town of Sinipee, Wisconsin Territory, a river port four miles north and east of Dubuque. There he first gave voice to his dream of building a transcontinental railroad and drafted a memorial to Congress for a survey from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River as the first link in that grand project. Congress responded favorably with an initial appropriation, but the work was not completed due to the economic uncertainties of the times. Plumbe remained committed to the railroad project and pursued an extensive correspondence with the leading newspapers in the East.

In an effort to draw attention to Iowa's economic opportunities and natural bounties, Plumbe authored *Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin* (1839), one of the earliest works published west of the Mississippi advocating immigration.

After working briefly for the Wisconsin territorial legislature in late 1839, Plumbe went east to con-



John Plumbe's daguerreotype of the United States Patent Office, circa 1846, is one of several that he took in Washington, D.C.

tinued his campaign for a Pacific railroad. He turned to the newly introduced daguerreotype process of photography as a means of support and excelled in that endeavor. Within six years Plumbe had attained a national reputation through photographic competitions and by establishing a chain of 23 galleries. Plumbe's Dubuque gallery, opened in 1841 and operated by his brother Richard (1810–1896), was the first photographic establishment west of the Mississippi. Plumbe manufac-

tured and imported photographic materials, gave instruction to the first generation of photographers, and published dozens of lithographic prints of noted Americans based on his daguerreotypes. Among his many achievements are the earliest photographs of the U.S. Capitol and White House (exterior and interior), the earliest photograph of a president in office (James K. Polk), and thousands of portraits of the most noted personalities of the era. Plumbe pioneered brand name rec-

ognition, obtained patent rights for color photography, and published a magazine filled with illustrations based on his photographs. By late 1848, however, Plumbe had experienced severe financial reverses due to competition and mismanagement and was forced to sell his galleries to pay his debts.

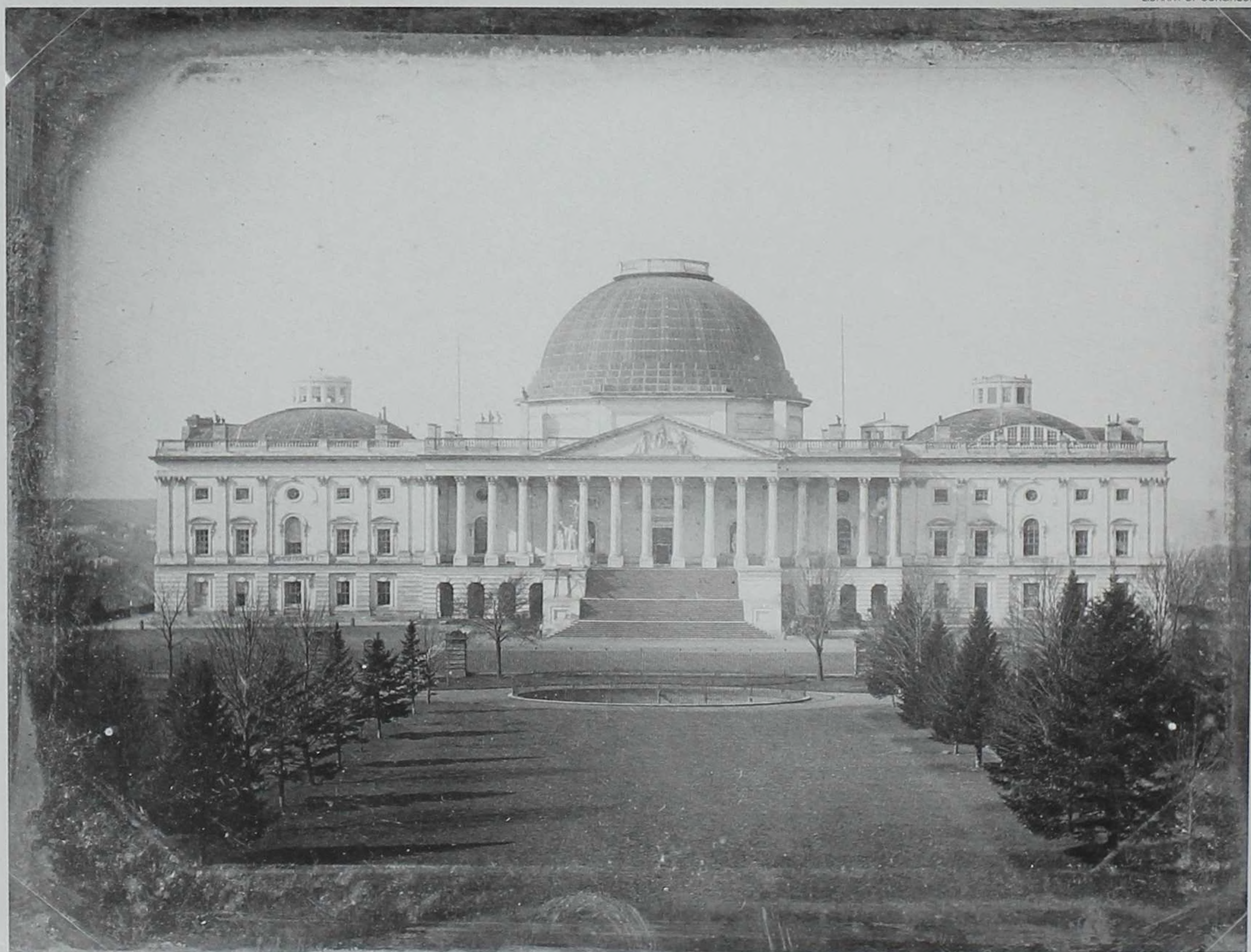
In the meantime, Plumbe had used his national notoriety to further his designs for a transcontinental railroad through a series of lectures and with a letter campaign

to influential newspapers. In the spring of 1849 he journeyed to California to survey a practical route for a railroad. At Sacramento in 1850, he served as surveyor and register of the Settlers Association and published a pamphlet challenging John Sutter's claim to that city. The following year he issued his *Memorial Against Mr. Asa Whitney's Railroad Scheme*, exposing Whitney as a land grab opportunist. Plumbe worked as a customs inspector for the port of San Francisco in 1852, engaged in California state politics, and continued his efforts to lobby Congress for a Pacific railroad. He briefly tried his luck at gold mining before returning to Dubuque.

In 1856 Plumbe opened a patent agency in Dubuque and with his brother Richard established a steam-powered mill near the present site of Cottage Hill, Iowa, then known as Plumbe's Mills. The

mill was a failure, and the Panic of 1857 drastically reduced Plumbe's financial resources. Suffering from the prolonged effects of malaria and from acute depression, Plumbe ended his eventful life by committing suicide at his brother's residence in Dubuque on May 28, 1857. In 1977 a monument was erected in Dubuque's Linwood Cemetery recognizing Plumbe's contributions to western immigration and photography and his vision for a U.S. transcontinental railroad.

—by Clifford Krainik



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Plumbe's daguerreotype of the U.S. Capitol is dated circa 1846. It shows the original dome, designed by Boston architect Charles Bulfinch and completed in 1824 after three decades of construction. The wooden dome was covered with copper. This is the east elevation of the Capitol.

SHSI (IOWA CITY)



# Harold Hughes Revitalizing the Democratic Party

Harold Everett Hughes (February 10, 1922–October 23, 1996)—self-proclaimed college dropout and drunk with a jail record who overcame childhood poverty, personal tragedy, and alcoholism to become governor of Iowa, a U.S. senator, and a seminal figure in the crusade to fight alcohol and drug addiction with prevention and rehabilitation—was a product of rural and small-town life who championed the cause of Iowa's cities. Raised as a staunch Republican, Hughes was a key figure in the revitalization of the Democratic Party in Iowa. A charismatic personality and spellbinding speaker, he built political coalitions across partisan, ethnic, geographical, and ideological lines. As a three-term governor, he enacted an unprecedented amount of progressive legislation that had been bottled up for years by rural-dominated legislatures and "led Iowa into the 20th century." As a U.S. senator, he sponsored the first federal programs for the prevention of alcoholism and the rehabilitation of alcoholics and was one of the first members of Congress to call for an end to the Vietnam War. At the height of his national reputation, Hughes resigned from the Senate to become a lay preacher and a leading light in the battle against addiction.

Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. From an early age, he and his older brother Jesse trapped wild animals and sold their hides to supplement the family's meager income. An indifferent student, he attended the State University of Iowa for one

year on a football scholarship before leaving to marry Eva Mercer, with whom he had three daughters. He later divorced Eva and married Julianne Holm. Raised in a devoutly Methodist family, he renounced his religion when his brother was killed in a car accident. That and his inability to find steady work plunged Hughes into deep despair and heavy drinking. He served in the army in World War II, fought in Sicily and Italy, won several decorations, and was court-martialed for assaulting an officer. Back home in the fall of 1945, Hughes worked at various temporary jobs and continued to drink heavily. Finally, in 1952 he seriously contemplated suicide by gunshot but experienced a moment of spiritual enlightenment and dedicated himself to spiritual growth and to aiding alcoholics. Becoming manager of a trucking firm, he battled with the state Commerce Commission and organized several independent truckers into the Iowa Better Trucking Bureau. His election to the Commerce Commission in 1958 convinced him that he could best fulfill his mission by holding public office. Backed by urban insurgent Democrats and organized labor, Hughes captured the party's gubernatorial nomination in 1962.

Hughes burst upon the scene when traditional ethnocultural, partisan politics were being supplanted by a new issue-oriented, candidate-centered version. In the four statewide elections in which he was the Democratic candidate, he ran well ahead of everyone else on the party ticket, both in its triumph of 1964 and its



disasters in 1966 and 1968. During his three terms as governor, Hughes shepherded through four constitutional amendments: one providing for legislative reapportionment, one providing for Iowa Supreme Court review of reapportionment, one providing for annual sessions of the General Assembly, and another giving the governor the line item veto. He also successfully championed more state aid to schools, increases in both workers' and unemployment compensation, the abolition of capital punishment, enactment of a state withholding tax, higher income and inheritance taxes for the affluent, four new vocational-technical schools, allowing counties to establish the office of public defender, penal reforms, and stronger guidelines for secondary education. Ironically, his most popular reform was the legalization of liquor by the drink.

Originally a staunch supporter of the Vietnam War, Hughes became one of its most outspoken opponents, a switch that severed his ties to President Lyndon Johnson. The final straw was when Hughes gave the nomination speech for Eugene McCarthy at the 1968 Democratic Party National Convention.

As a U.S. senator from 1969 to 1974, Hughes was generally a strong proponent of retaining and strengthening former president Johnson's Great Society programs and an outspoken critic of the Nixon administration. His greatest achievement as senator was the enactment of the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970, which established the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

In 1975 he resigned from the Senate because he had come to believe that "I can move more people through a spiritual approach more effectively than I have been able to achieve through the political approach." Styling himself a lay preacher, Hughes established numerous treatment centers and helped found the Society of Americans for Recovery (SOAR), which described itself as "the voice of the nation's grass-roots recovery community." He died in Glendale, Arizona, at the age of 74.

—by John D. Bunker

# James B.

James Brad Morris Sr. (October 15, 1890–December 30, 1977)—soldier, lawyer, and journalist—was born in Covington, Georgia, a small town east of Atlanta. As a young boy, he moved to Atlanta with his parents, William and Salemma Morris, both of whom had been born into slavery. William left the family shortly after the move, so Morris grew up with his mother and two brothers, Bill and Clyde. In his early teens, Morris witnessed the lynching of a friend, and when the Ku Klux Klan threatened him, his mother sent him to live with her sister and brother-in-law in Baltimore. He graduated from Hampton Institute in 1912 and the Howard University School of Law in 1915.

Inspired by Senator William E. Borah's speech about the opportunities for black attorneys out West, Morris started working his way west on the railroad after graduation. George H. Woodson, a Virginia native, 25th Infantry veteran, and Des Moines attorney, invited Morris to join him, which Morris did in 1916. A year later Morris enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the black officers Fort Des Moines Officer Training Camp and earned a commission as a second lieutenant. After training African American enlisted men at Camp Dodge and marrying his Howard sweetheart, Georgine Crowe, Morris went to France in 1918 with the Third Battalion, 92nd Division, 366th Infantry. He suffered a bad leg wound at Metz, which delayed his return to the United States until July 1919. (His son, James Brad Morris Jr., had been born five months earlier.) Woodson and S. Joe Brown welcomed Morris back to their law firm. Three years later he seized the opportunity to purchase the *Iowa Bystander*. Morris fulfilled its motto, "Fear God, tell the truth, and make money," until he sold the paper in 1972.

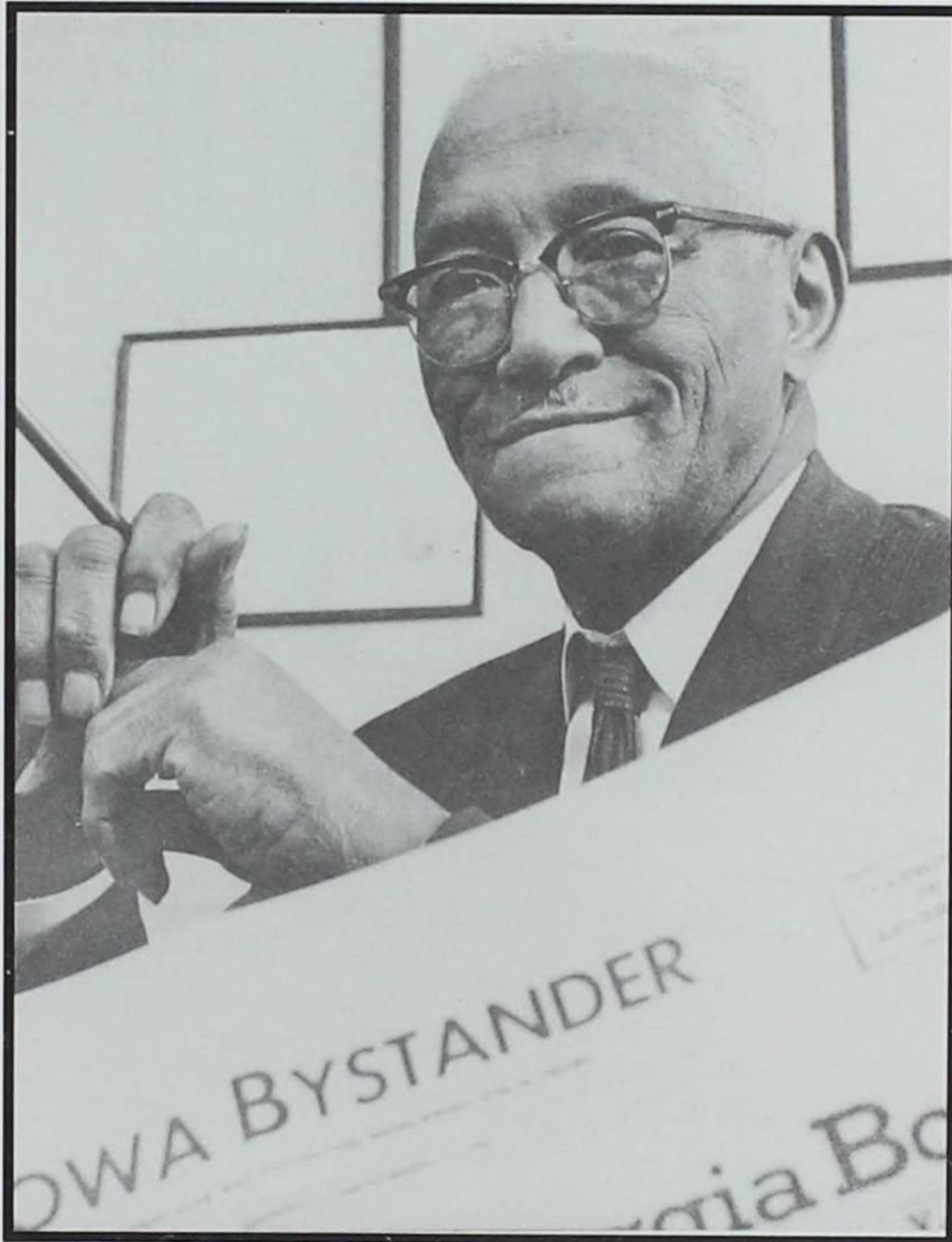
# Morris

"Fear God, tell the truth,  
and make money."

For 50 years, Morris was one of the leading African Americans in Iowa. His editorial voice from the state capital reached into black communities across the state, linking large and small together in a weekly record of national, state, and local news; African American achievement; and protest. The militant voice of attorney Charles P. Howard Sr. (a fellow graduate of the Fort Des Moines Officer Training Camp) attracted readers with his column, "The Observer." In 1937, at the depth of the Great Depression, Morris sold the paper, but a year later it was back in his hands, and, with the support of *Des Moines Register* editor Harvey Ingham, he launched a successful effort to revive it.

With the assistance of his brother Clyde and his wife, Georgine, Morris was able to sustain the *Bystander* for another 35 years, overcoming rivals such as Howard's *Observer* (1939–1949). Despite his lifelong allegiance to the Republican Party, his success continued even after African Americans began to gravitate to the Democratic Party in the 1930s. In 1940 he was a cofounder of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the first national black media network. Summing up his journalist career in a June 17, 1971, farewell editorial, Morris noted, "Certainly a business that has operated for 77 years has some merit, has earned a place in the hearts of people, and produced some satisfaction to those who have, in any way, had a part in its niche in the community." One of his grandsons still contributes a weekly column to the *Bystander*.

Morris also built a successful legal practice. In 1925 he was one of the cofounders of the National Bar Association in Des Moines, which was formed be-

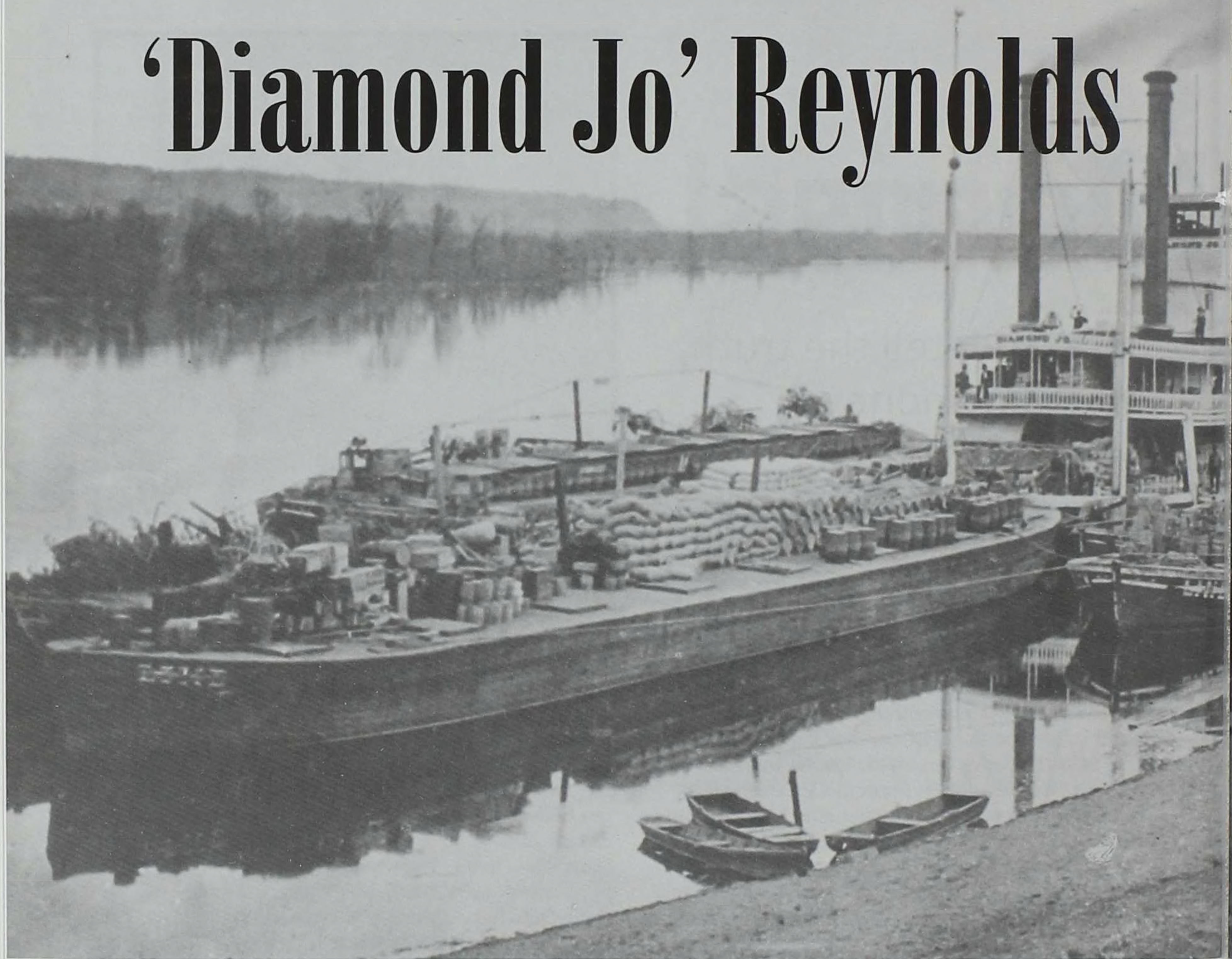


cause the American Bar Association excluded blacks. He passed on his practice to his son, Brad, after Brad graduated from the State University of Iowa College of Law. Two of his grandsons maintain the Morris & Morris law firm.

James Morris's success in journalism and law came from his ambition and activism. Both he and Georgine were active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and they were instrumental in establishing the state conference in 1940. Both were also active in their church—Corinthian Baptist, then St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal, and finally St. Paul's Episcopal—and the Iowa Republican Party, which Morris cochaired and served as delegate to the national convention in 1964. Most of all, he headed a successful family and passed on a name with a positive reputation to his son, Brad, and daughter, Jean. That legacy of honor and tradition in business, journalism, and law earned him recognition from the *Des Moines Register* as one of "The 10 Most Influential Black Iowans of the 20th Century."

—by Hal S. Chase

# 'Diamond Jo' Reynolds



Joseph "Diamond Jo" Reynolds (June 11, 1819–February 21, 1891)—steamboat entrepreneur, grain dealer, railroad builder, and miner—was born at Fallsburg, Sullivan County, New York, the youngest of six children of Quaker parentage. After attending elementary school, he engaged in various businesses, including butchering, general merchandising, flour milling, and tanning. In 1855 he and his wife, Mary E. (Morton), moved to Chicago, where he established a tannery.

Customarily, he supplied his business with hides and furs by touring Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Originally, he addressed his shipments to himself as J. Reynolds. But when he discovered that Chicago had another J. Reynolds, he developed his distinctive trademark of a diamond shape enclosing his nickname "Jo." Throughout his subsequent business career he was known as "Diamond Jo."

His career change to wheat dealer for the Chicago market prompted

him in 1860 to move to McGregor, Iowa, a major wheat market. To establish an efficient purchasing and shipping system, he invested in railroad line elevators in Iowa and Minnesota and entered steamboating to collect wheat along portions of the upper Mississippi.

He had his first steamboat built at Lansing, Iowa, in 1862, but generally until 1868 he paid other boatmen to transport his wheat. But dissatisfied with the service, he reentered steamboating by form-

ing the Chicago, Fulton, and River Line. The company's four steamers, including the *Diamond Jo*, and accompanying barges operated in connection with the Chicago and North Western Railroad out of Fulton, Illinois. The two firms arranged for freight exchanges to supply wheat to the Chicago market and deliver a variety of goods shipped westward by the railroad.

While based at Fulton, Reynolds's line became known as the Diamond Jo. However, the name was not formalized until the incorporation of the Diamond Jo Line in 1883.

In 1874 Reynolds moved his general office from Fulton to Dubuque and started a large boatyard at Eagle Point, three miles north of town. The boatyard, which employed many carpenters and mechanics, was used to build and repair Reynolds's boats as well as those of other upper Mississippi operators.

The financial difficulties of the rival Keokuk Northern Line Packet Company enabled the efficient Reynolds to expand. In 1879 Diamond Jo boats began offering St. Paul–St. Louis service, and when the Keokuk Northern went bankrupt in 1880, Reynolds turned from his previous freight business to the passenger trade. In the 1880s the most famous Diamond Jo vessels, such as the *Mary Morton*, were luxurious passenger boats. When the successor of the Keokuk Northern ceased operating in 1890, the Diamond Jo Line was the only remaining organized steamboat company between St. Louis and St. Paul.

Steamboating and wheat dealing were his main enterprises, but Reynolds turned to other ventures as well. Displeased with the stagecoach service between Malvern and the health resort town of Hot Springs, Arkansas, he had a 22-mile narrow gauge railroad built between the towns in 1875. Later

he replaced the line with a standard gauge.

In the mid 1880s Reynolds got involved in gold and silver mining in Colorado and Arizona. His most successful investment was the Congress Mine, which produced both gold and silver, at Congress, Arizona. He died of pneumonia in 1891 while visiting the mine.

The Diamond Jo Line passed to his widow, and after her death on August 2, 1895, to a group headed by her brother Jay. Finally, in 1911 it was sold to the Streckfus Steamboat Company.

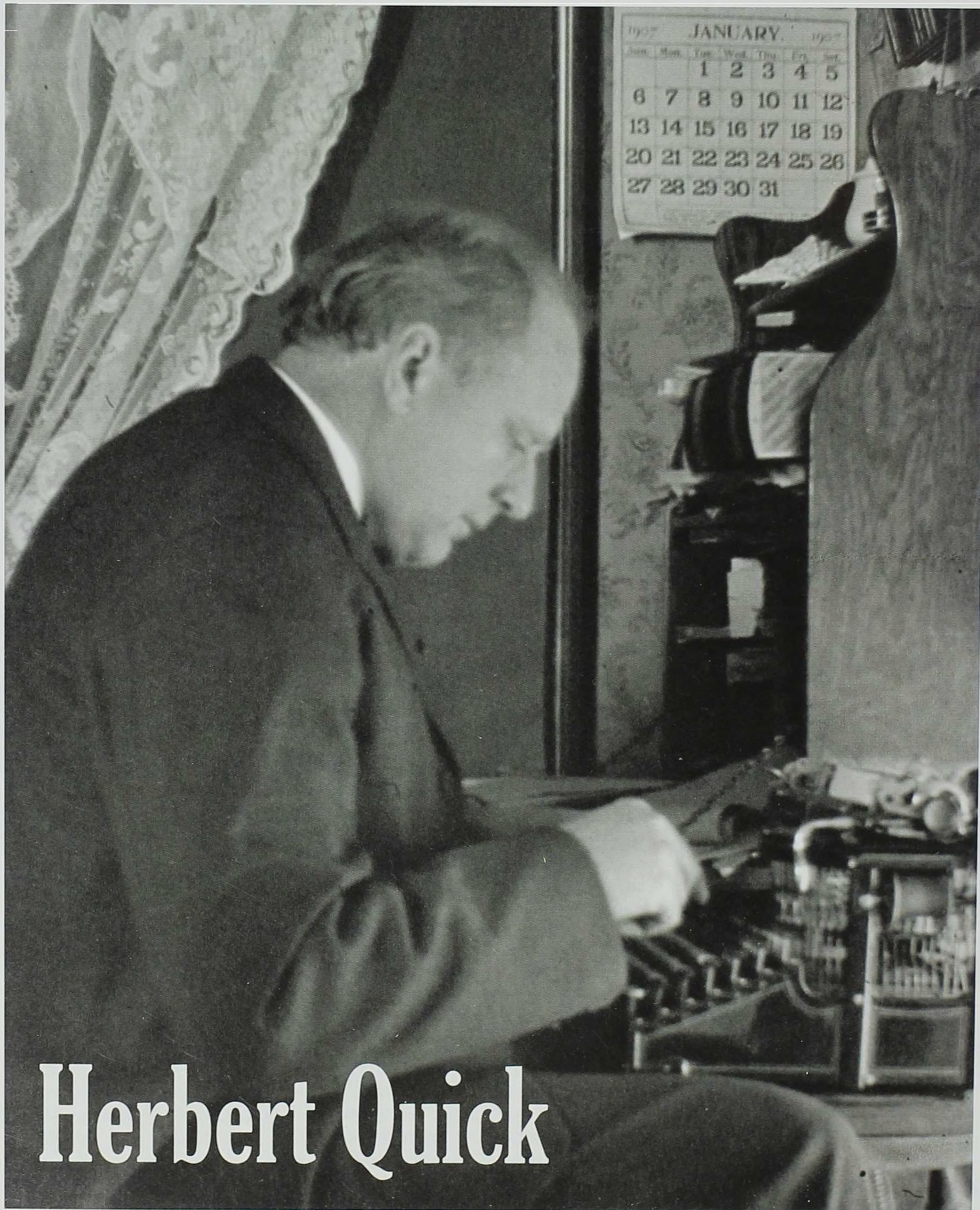
Reynolds, remembered by friends and colleagues as a frugal, unpretentious, teetotaling gentleman with a kindly disposition, loved to tinker in carpentry and mechanics. Even after he had become very wealthy, he would often appear in work clothes to repair boats.

Leaving an estimated \$7 million fortune (approximately \$150 million in 2006 dollars), Reynolds generously willed substantial amounts to some individuals and made two other significant bequests. In memory of his only child, a son named Blake, who predeceased him, he and his wife established a memorial park replete with artesian well and fountain in McGregor. His endowment to the University of Chicago was used to construct the Reynolds Club, a building still used as the institution's student union.

—by William E. Lass



Reynolds and one of his Diamond Jo Line steamboats with a four-barge tow on the Mississippi, 1875.



SHSI (DES MOINES)

# Herbert Quick

Herbert John Quick (October 23, 1861–May 10, 1925)—schoolteacher, lawyer, reform politician, journalist, and government administrator—is best known for his novels *Vandemark's Folly* and *The Hawkeye* and his autobiography, *One Man's Life*, with their realistic descriptions of native prairie, pioneer farming, and the social and political life of early Iowa towns.

Born on his parents' farm near Steamboat Rock, Iowa, and stricken with poliomyelitis in 1863 that left him partially disabled, Quick grew up having to do his full share of exhausting farm labor—something for which he was not sorry. "I was fortunately not recognized as an invalid," he wrote. That work also made him keenly aware of the physical and economic hardships of farmers. When he started teaching at age 17 in the local country school, he turned over part of his pay to his father. In 1881 the family moved to a farm in Cerro Gordo County, and Quick began teaching in Mason City. Popular and successful, he soon was hired by the county superintendent of education to teach in a summer institute for teachers. Carrie Lane (later Chapman Catt), who was then head of the Mason City schools, refused to take part because Quick had no college degree, making him unqualified, she thought, and lowering standards. Her reaction, Quick said, "burned itself into my very being," and he tried for years to go to college. He even applied to West Point, because it was free, but was rejected because of his physical disability.

For a time he was school principal in Wesley, Iowa, but returned to Mason City in 1886 to read law in the office of a local attorney, John Cliggitt. He also read Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*. Although he knew George was regarded as "a mischief-maker and disturber" by his Mason City crowd, Quick was open minded, and the book influenced his thought for the rest of his life. Land speculation was rife in early Iowa, and Quick believed the single tax, of which George was a leading advocate, was the way to keep land out of the hands of speculators and promote the welfare of farmers and small business owners.

In 1890, having passed the Iowa bar examination, he married Ella Corey of Syracuse, New York, whom he had met when she was visiting Mason City. They moved to Sioux City, then a bustling railroad and meatpacking center, and Quick began his struggles as a young lawyer. To supplement his income and also widen his acquaintance, he directed a church choir (although he was not religiously active), participated in

local intellectual clubs, and became active in reform politics. He was asked to investigate the accounts of the bank that brokered many Sioux City and Woodbury County bonds but that failed in the financial panic of 1893. Quick discovered corrupt practices by the county supervisors, some of whom resigned, and he became a hero to local reformers, including Jay N. "Ding" Darling, who was then a Sioux City cub reporter. In 1898 Quick was elected mayor, although he soon proved too radical for both Democrats and Republicans and served only two years.

But Quick had literary ambitions. He had already published a poem, "A Whiff of Smoke," in the *Century*, and in 1899 he wrote a satiric poem on American imperialism in the Philippines that was accepted in the *Public*, the Chicago weekly magazine that had an influential circulation among single-taxers and muck-rakers. He followed it with more poems and tales, and

by 1908, when he left Sioux City, he had published three novels. He had also cultivated connections with established writers and political leaders such as Edward Markham; Cleveland, Ohio, mayor Tom

Johnson; and William Jennings Bryan.

Thus, when Quick moved his family to Madison, Wisconsin, where he became associate editor of *La Follette's Weekly Magazine*, he was well on his way to fame as a writer of both fiction and political-social journalism. Work for Progressive Wisconsin Governor Robert La Follette gave Quick more contacts with prominent reformers, professors, and writers, and the opportunity to write on rural education, railroad rates, water power, canals, and river transportation. In 1911 he moved to Springfield, Ohio, where he had accepted the editorship of *Farm and Fireside*. There he again wrote about agricultural problems; promoted younger writers, including Vachel Lindsay; and also wrote *On Board the Good Ship Earth* (1911). Subtitled *A Survey of World Problems*, that prophetic book anticipated such modern problems as soil depletion, overpopulation, and global warming (although taking a more optimistic view). *The Brown Mouse* (1915) expanded on his work in the Country Life movement and argued for locally controlled agricultural education and farm cooperatives. During those years, he was also planting an orchard and building a house outside Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

A man with enormous energy, Quick soon moved

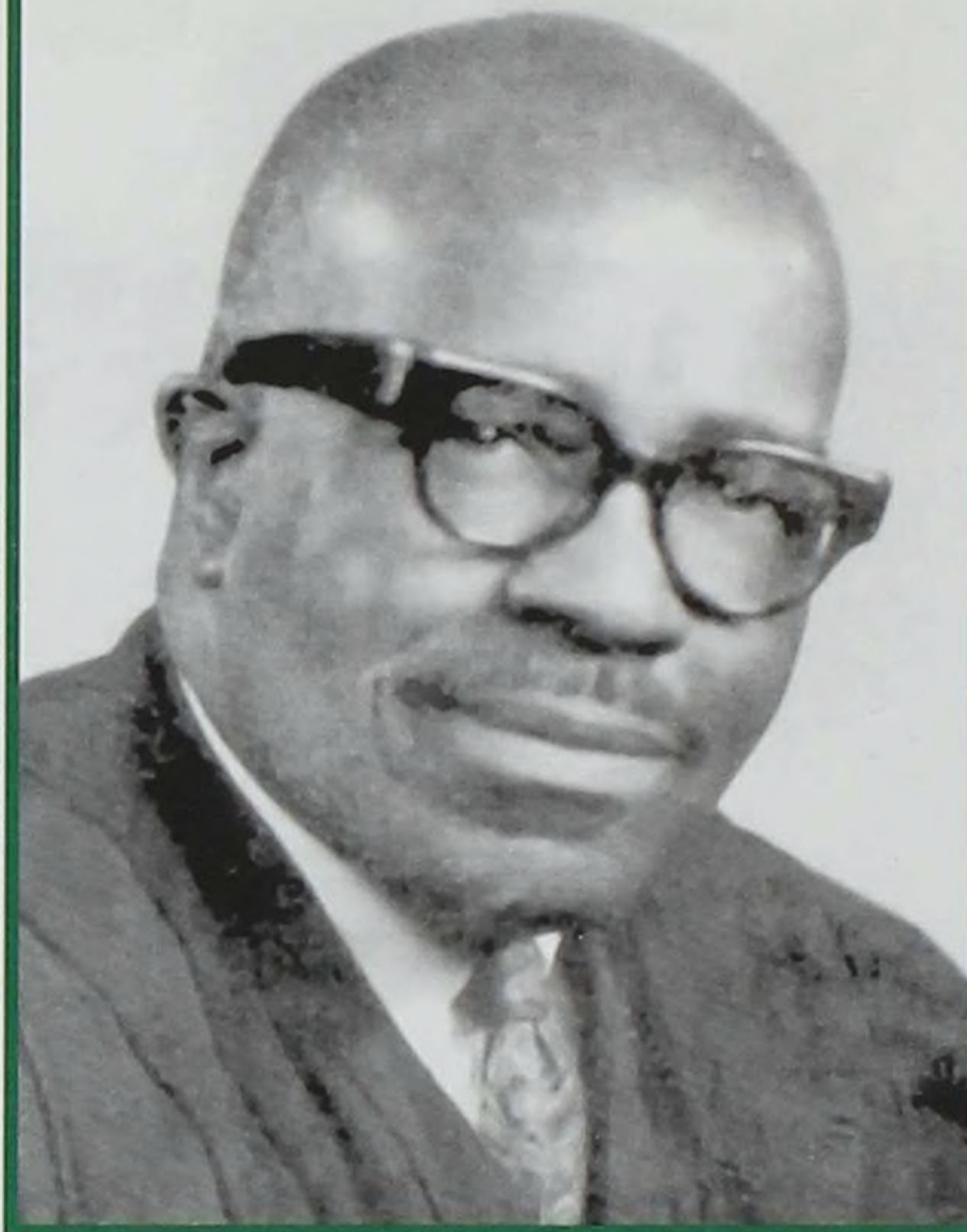
## He was one of the first to realize that farm amalgamation threatened not only farmers but also country towns.

to that idyllic spot and in 1915 resigned from *Farm and Fireside* to become a staff writer for the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Country Gentleman*. In 1916 he became a member of the new Federal Farm Loan Board, at \$10,000 a year, and began touring the country to set up a system for federally guaranteed credits to farmers. Yet his writing continued. In 1919 he published *The Fairview Idea*, promoting the kinds of changes and improvements in rural life that would preserve the family farm, and *From War to Peace*, advocating the economic and agricultural policies that Quick believed would protect democratic institutions from Bolshevism. Quick was one of the first to realize that farm amalgamation threatened not only farmers but also country towns. He resigned from the Farm Loan Board, only to accept an appointment from President Wilson in February 1920 to go to Vladivostok to close American Red Cross work there. That assignment—his first trip abroad—resulted in a dangerous hemorrhage and in a book protesting the Bolshevik revolution, *We Have Changed All That* (1928), based on the experiences of an aristocratic woman refugee, Elena Stepanoff MacMahon.

Back from Russia, Quick finally had the time and freedom to work on a long-planned trilogy covering the history of a fictional Iowa county, "Monterey," from the 1850s to 1900, the books that he called "my principal bid for fame." The first two, *Vandemark's Folly* (1922) and *The Hawkeye* (1923), are, in the words of Clarence Andrews, "the two best novels ever written about the Iowa farm and town scene in the 19th century." Unlike the work of his friend and rival Hamlin Garland, who mainly traced his own and his family's history, Quick drew on his broader experience as a teacher, politician, lawyer, and reformer in a range of small towns, counties, and bustling little cities. These he fictionalized as "Lithopolis" (for a time actually the name of Steamboat Rock), "Monterey County," and "Monterey Center."

*Invisible Woman* (1924) never received the praise of the first two books in the trilogy. Readers have preferred *One Man's Life* (1925) because of its further descriptions of 19th-century rural and small-town Iowa and its account of Quick's education (or self-education) and the origins of his ideas. Quick's death in 1925, from heart failure, came while he was at the University of Missouri to speak on the relationship between journalism and fiction. He had planned to go on to Des Moines and Sioux City to do research on a second volume of his autobiography.

—by Robert F. Sayre



COURTESY OUTSIDE IN: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN IOWA, 1838-2000

## Luther Glanton

Luther T. Glanton Jr. (January 18, 1910–July 4, 1991)—attorney, judge, and civil rights activist—was born in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the fourth of nine children of Luther T. Glanton Sr., a teacher and custodian at a local bank, and Katherine (Leigh) Glanton, a midwife and homemaker. After graduating from Murfreesboro's segregated high school, where he earned the nickname "Tank" for his fearless, headlong rushes as a running back, Glanton went to Tennessee State University. There he earned a bachelor's degree in 1939 and won the attention and admiration of his history professor, Merle R. Epps, a Drake University graduate who successfully interceded on Glanton's behalf for admission to Drake's law school. Despite being barred from the university's dormitories and dining hall, Glanton graduated from Drake Law School in 1942. Following his graduation, Glanton joined the U.S. Army and served as an intelligence officer during World War II. After the war, he served on the staff of U.S. chief prosecutor Robert Jackson at the Nuremberg trials and remained active in the U.S. Army Reserve Corps for many years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Upon his return to Des Moines in 1947, Glanton joined Henry T. McKnight, Virgil Dixon, and W. Lawrence Oliver in a law practice. He also plunged into the emerging civil rights movement, joining the Des Moines branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and chairing its Veterans Affairs Committee. He was elected first vice president of the Iowa NAACP State Conference the next year and president the following year. In 1950 he and others met with Iowa Attorney General Robert L. Larson and read him a letter urging him

to vigorously enforce the Iowa Civil Rights Act because "there are eating houses, restaurants, and even beer taverns in various cities in Iowa that have displayed in them glaring posters stating that they will not serve Negroes or colored persons." This effort led to a major victory over de facto segregation in Iowa four years later when, in the case of *Amos v. Prom, Inc.*, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in favor of a group of African Americans who sued the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake [see below] for refusing them admission.

Glanton continued his crusade for justice when he became the first African American Assistant Polk County Attorney in 1951. Congressman Neal Smith later noted, "Luther was one of the toughest prosecutors ever and was not easily fooled. He once told a jury he wouldn't believe the defendant even if the defendant said he was lying." Remembering the same years, Governor Robert Ray observed, "You thundered and roared and shook the timbers, but unlike many whom we have seen over the years in a courtroom, you also made sure you were blessed with substance." Glanton's zeal and substance were probably the main factors in Governor Herschel Loveless's decision to appoint him to fill a vacancy on the Des Moines Municipal Court in 1958, to which he won election the following year. His success as a municipal judge led to his appointment as an associate district judge in 1973 and as Iowa's first African American district judge by Governor Ray in 1976, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. At that time,

A. Arthur Davis, senior partner in one of Iowa's most prestigious law firms, lobbyist, and later mayor of Des Moines, noted, "You were, of course, Iowa's first black judge. . . . If there had been a faltering step it could have done (unfairly) a great deal of harm. There were no faltering steps, and the door is now open wider than it has been before."

Luther T. Glanton Jr. opened many doors with his persistence, passion, professionalism, and social skills. Chief among these was his compassion. A colleague was amazed "that someone of your success and stature in the community has retained his compassion for the personal problems and well-being of others." Glanton was instrumental in establishing Iowa's first chapter of Omega Psi Phi, his college fraternity, and was elected its first Basileus (president) in 1947. Not long afterward, he and others formed the Olympian Club, a men's social club that promoted athletic excellence among young African American men. Perhaps his most significant achievement in social community building came in 1984, when he played a leading role in founding Gamma Eta, the Iowa chapter of Sigma Pi Phi (also known as the Boulé), the prestigious, professional, national men's social fraternity. But he probably would have said that his greatest social success was his winning and maintaining the 50-year love of his life, Willie (Stevenson) Glanton, to whom he would have credited his success. Glanton was described by his longtime law partner Virgil Dixon as a "proud, generous, compassionate father [of his ad-

opted son, Luther T. Glanton III], husband, public servant, loving brother, lifelong friend and dedicated practitioner." In short, as *Des Moines Register* social reporter Julie Gammack wrote, Luther T. Glanton Jr. was "a symbol of what can be, what should be, and what will be."

—by Hal S. Chase



SHSI (IOWA CITY)



# Mary Louise Smith

First Woman Chair  
of the  
Republican National Committee



IOWA WOMEN'S ARCHIVES, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES, IOWA CITY

California Governor Ronald Reagan confers with Mary Louise Smith at the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Mary Louise Smith (October 6, 1914–August 22, 1997)—Republican Party official and women's rights activist—was born in Eddyville, Iowa, the second of two daughters of Frank Epperson, a bank president, and Louise (Jager) Epperson, a homemaker. In 1929 the bank failed and the Eppersons moved to Iowa City. Mary Louise graduated from Iowa City High School in 1931 and from the State University of Iowa in 1935. She married medical student Elmer Smith on October 7, 1934, and subsequently had three children: Robert (b. 1937), Margaret (b. 1939), and James (b. 1942).

From 1937 to 1940 Elmer practiced medicine before entering military service. At the end of the war, the Smiths took up residence in Eagle Grove. There Mary Louise Smith befriended Cathlene Blue, wife of former Governor Robert Blue. Although Smith had been a longtime Republican, it was the Blues' encouragement that propelled Smith into a career as a Republican Party official. She became precinct committeewoman and county vice-chair. By the 1960s she had developed statewide contacts through the networks of the Iowa Council of Republican Women. From 1961 to 1963, during Governor Norman Erbe's tenure, she served on the Iowa Commission of the Blind. Meanwhile, an Eagle Grove librarian gave Smith a copy of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). As did millions of other women, Smith credited Friedan's book with inspiring her to pursue accomplishments beyond her role as a wife and mother. For Smith, that meant taking on more prominent roles in the Republican Party.

Their children grown and Elmer recently retired, the Smiths moved to Des Moines in 1963. In 1964 Mary Louise was elected Republican National Committeewoman, a seat recently vacated by Anna Lomas's retirement. Smith rose quickly to a position of state and national prominence in Republican circles, becoming an ally of Iowa Governor Robert Ray and of George H. W. Bush. In an effort to rebuild the state party after losses suffered during Barry Goldwater's failed 1964 presidential bid, Smith helped develop a system of precinct organization that became a model for later national efforts. In 1969 she was named to the Execu-



Smith addresses delegates at the 1976 national convention in Kansas City, Missouri, while vice president Nelson Rockefeller waves.

tive Committee of the Republican National Committee (RNC), where Bush became her mentor.

By then a well-known party official, Smith would soon come to identify with the feminist movement. Although inspired by Friedan 10 years earlier, Smith initially doubted that the new feminist movement could speak to her. But younger Republican women persuaded Smith that her rights were tied to those of all women. She became an ardent supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and reproductive freedom. In 1973 she was among the Iowa feminists who founded the Iowa Women's Political Caucus, an affiliate of the recently formed National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC). Although the NWPC was intended to be a bipartisan organization, the Iowa chapter proved to be one of the few state organizations where Republican women were truly active. Smith's leadership undoubtedly played a significant role.

Arguing that equal rights and reproductive freedom were consistent with the party's tradition of individualism, Smith advocated for these issues from a position of increasing influence within the GOP. In 1974 she became the first woman to chair the RNC, when President Gerald Ford named her to succeed George H. W. Bush. Although some complained of her lack of leadership experience (in Washington, she was often

referred to as the "little old lady from Iowa"), Smith was admired as a trusted party loyalist and an experienced grassroots organizer. She chaired the RNC until she resigned in January 1977 following Ford's loss in the 1976 presidential election. Despite Ford's defeat, Smith was widely credited with having helped to revitalize the party in the critical post-Watergate years.

Yet Smith, a feminist and a political moderate, was becoming uneasy about the growing influence of Ronald Reagan and his supporters in the party. In 1980 Republican delegates nominated Reagan for president and passed a platform that eliminated the GOP's 40-year endorsement of the ERA and called for a constitutional ban on abortion. Believing that she could best work for reforms from within, Smith campaigned for Reagan's election. Although criticized, that decision was in keeping with Smith's strong Republican identity and her faith in the two-party system. Her loyalty was rewarded by an appointment to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, where she served from 1982 to 1983. Her support for affirmative action and school busing were inconsistent with the positions of the Reagan administration, however, thus shortening her tenure on the commission.

In 1984 Smith ended her 20-year career as Iowa's Republican National Committeewoman. By that time she was a widow, Elmer having died in 1980. Although she had become a national political figure, Smith continued to reside in Iowa and to work extensively on state issues. A champion of higher education, Smith left her mark on several of Iowa's universities. She served as a member of Drake University's board of trustees throughout the 1980s. At the University of Iowa, Smith founded, together with Louise Noun, the Iowa Women's Archives, a repository for the papers of Iowa women and women's organizations, which opened in 1992. At Iowa State University in 1995, she lent her name to a Chair in Women and Politics.

Inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1977, Smith continued to work on women's issues in Iowa throughout the 1980s and 1990s. She was an energetic board member of Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, and was occasionally picketed for her activism. In 1992 she campaigned for the passage of the Iowa Equal Rights Amendment in a failed voter referendum.

A member of the United Church of Christ, Smith served on the board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Iowa Region. She was also a member of the board of directors of the Iowa Peace Institute in the late 1980s before leaving to become a member of the national board.

Despite her heavy slate of state activities, Smith



Smith receives the gavel from George H. W. Bush, outgoing Republican National Committee chair, September 1976.

did not remove herself from national party work. From 1988 to 1994 she served as National Co-Chair of the Republican Mainstream Committee (an organization of moderate Republicans), was active in Republicans for Choice, and campaigned for her old friend and mentor George H. W. Bush in 1988 and 1992. As the state Republican Party moved farther to the right in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Smith found herself increasingly shunted aside, as she continued to speak against her party's positions on women's issues and civil rights, its general drift away from its moderate wing, and its embrace of the Christian Right. Smith died in Des Moines at age 82 of lung cancer.

—by Catherine E. Rymph

# George Landers and the Iowa Band Law

George W. Landers (January 13, 1860–July 5, 1955)—bandmaster—was born in Oswego County, New York, son of Washington and Mary (Patten) Landers. At age 13 he was apprenticed to a carriage and sign painter in Mexico, New York. The village band there used the carriage factory as a rehearsal hall, and Landers learned to read music and play instruments during his seven years of apprenticeship. His favorite instrument was the clarinet, and he played and composed music for it for the rest of his life.

Landers's first professional music position was with the band of the John Robinson Circus, where he played for three years. In 1884 he moved to Centerville, Iowa, to organize the band for the Second Regiment of the Iowa National Guard. In 1886 Landers enlisted in the regular army and spent the next 33 years in military service, both regular army and Iowa National Guard. In 1898 Iowa responded to the call for National Guard units for the Spanish-American War with four regiments.

BOTH ITEMS: SHSI (IOWA CITY) LANDERS COLLECTION



George Landers (in white hat) with a few members of the Page County Farmer Band, circa 1922.

## VOTE "YES"

### ON THE SPECIAL BAND LEVY

#### MARK YOUR SPECIAL BALLOT THIS WAY

Shall a tax of not exceeding two (2) mills be levied each year for the purpose of furnishing a band?

YES	X
NO	

# Vote Next Monday

FOR THE GOOD OF OUR TOWN. MAY THE BEST MEN WIN! WHOEVER WINS WILL HAVE THE BACKING OF SCRANTONS' NEW ORGANIZATION THE SCRANTON COMMERCIAL CLUB, WHO RECOMMEND THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD VOTE;

## For the Band Tax

To help the new boys' band; to pay for instruction and buy music. This tax will raise about \$300 or enough to keep them out of the "begging class." That is why

Scranton has'nt had a town band for the last three years.

## What will it cost?

Answer: Moneys and credits are non-taxable. Take a piece of property valued at \$1,000. The assessable price would be  $\frac{1}{4}$  of \$1,000 or \$250. Figuring 2 mills on this amount would be 50¢. The town folks who are "agin" this little tax are generally those who pay the least tax. Practically all the large Scranton property owners are in favor of this "mite" for the support of a band that will mean much for community betterment.

## "The Poor Widows"

There are at least two or three poor widows with growing boys who are very thankful that we have a Boys' Band to keep their boys interested in those things that are helpful and clean. They will vote for this Tax because they know that this support will mean much for community betterment, and make SCRANTON A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

Above: Local supporters of the band tax plead with Scranton citizens to pass the band tax law and keep boys out of the "begging class." Right: Building membership in the Iowa Bandmasters Association meant building legislative support for the band tax law, according to this leaflet.

## IS YOUR JOB \$4 WORTH =

Twelve years ago a few bandmen, headed by Geo. W. Landers succeeded in placing our present band tax law upon the statute books.

We have been through several legislative fights to protect our law and keep it intact. Over 250 towns in Iowa have voted the tax. Our organization is stronger now than it has ever been, but: We need you in our organization.

And you need the protection of our organization right now more than ever before.

Some of our State Representatives don't realize or don't want to realize the fact that our law is not mandatory. That any town or city can vote the tax in or out just as they see fit. We will probably have another fight on our hands with our present Legislators to keep our law intact.

Do you realize how important it is TO YOUR OWN JOB that we keep this law intact. Join our association. Become one of us. We want you in our organization and you need us now more than ever before to help protect your job. Our dues are only \$4.00 per year and this includes a year's subscription to "The Bandmaster" magazine. ACT NOW! Your band can subscribe \$4.00. Put your band on our membership roll. It is as much to their advantage as it is yours.

Mail all applications for membership to Alonzo Leach, Secretary

Iowa Bandmasters Association

805½ Locust Street

Des Moines, Iowa

Each regiment—Dubuque, Davenport, Centerville, and Sioux City—had a band. Since National Guard troops could not serve outside of their own state at that time without enlisting in the regular army, there were many vacancies in the Iowa units. Landers advertised in Des Moines newspapers for musicians to fill out the quota, and enough men responded to create one Iowa National Guard Band, renamed the 51st Iowa Volunteers.

The band followed the regiment, and played in San Francisco and in the Philippine Islands. Because Landers was the only bandmaster in the Iowa National Guard, he received the rank of major from the brigade commander. He was often ordered to mass all of the bands at the posts for concerts. At the end of the Spanish-American War, Major Landers received permission to take his regimental band on tour. For nearly six months they traveled by railroad throughout the United States, presenting popular concerts.

In 1908 the renamed 55th Regimental Band was invited to play in Clarinda for the dedication of the new Chautauqua Pavilion. The band's concerts and parades so impressed the local people that they invited Landers to move to Clarinda and start a band there. In 1909 he did relocate to Clarinda, where the Business Men's Club financed the construction of a new armory to house the band. The Regimental Band was reorganized and played 10 concerts per year, in addition to Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. In 1917 Major Landers reached mandatory



*Minburn Concert Band*

**Clutching instruments and sheet music and wearing matching uniforms, members of the Minburn Concert Band pose proudly by the depot, circa 1915. George Landers's work for the band tax law made more local groups like this one feasible.**

retirement age, and the regimental band was moved to Council Bluffs. However, he continued to conduct the municipal band in Clarinda, and also organized a series of Page County farmers bands, which regularly played at the county fair and for many other public events in the area.

Major Landers's work after retirement from the military brought him lasting fame. In 1921, due to his lobbying efforts, the Iowa legislature passed an act actually written by Landers, but known officially as House File 479, and enacted as the Municipal Band Law. Municipalities with a population of less than 40,000 were authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 2 mills annually. First, a petition had to be signed by 10 percent of the eligible voters requesting that the issue be placed on the ballot at the next municipal election. If passed, the tax could be activated, although it could be for less than the allowed 2 mills. This entire process

could be reversed by another petition, referendum, and subsequent municipal action.

The Iowa Band Law proved to be extremely popular, and hundreds of towns and small cities in Iowa took advantage of the opportunity to have a publicly funded local band. An effort in 1929 to expand the law to include all "musical purposes" was defeated, largely due to the Landers's lobbying efforts. The Iowa Band Law was copied by 33 states and at least three foreign countries.

Landers was a founding member of the Iowa Bandmasters Association. His band played at the Iowa State Fair in 1922, and in 1951, at the age of 91, he was recognized at the Chicagoland Music Festival as the nation's premier band leader. He died in a hospital in Des Moines at age 95.

—by Loren N. Horton

# Floyd Dell, Radical Writer



Floyd James Dell (June 28, 1887–July 23, 1969)—author—was born in Barry, Illinois, to Anthony and Kate (Crone) Dell. Anthony struggled and failed throughout Floyd's childhood to regain the same financial stability he had enjoyed before the Panic of 1873. That early experience of poverty was a major influence on Floyd Dell's development as a writer. In 1899 the Dell family moved to Quincy, Illinois, where Floyd attended high school. In 1903 the family left Quincy for Davenport, Iowa, and a richer cultural life than that of Barry or Quincy. At the Davenport Public Library, Dell immersed himself in the works of the English poets. In 1904 his first published poem, "Memorial," appeared in the *Davenport Times*. He subsequently published several poems in Davenport newspapers and sold four of his poems to national magazines.

In 1904 Dell dropped out of high school to work in a candy factory but soon was fired; the following summer he began working at the *Times* as a cub reporter. Dell flourished as writer partly because his

mentor, librarian Marilla Freeman, foresaw a literary future for him and worked to convince him and others of his promise. He also became acquainted with authors George Cram Cook, Arthur Davison Ficke, Harry Hansen, and Susan Glaspell, who became his companions in Davenport, Chicago, and New York.

Dell became active in Davenport's Socialist Party, serving on its program committee and as financial secretary and delegate to the state convention. In January 1906 Dell began contributing articles to the local socialist magazine, *Tri-City Worker*; in August he became editor and published more than a dozen muckraking articles before the magazine ceased publication that October. The five years that Dell spent in Davenport helped to shape the leftist writer and social activist that the rest of the world soon came to know. His first novel, *Moon-Calf* (1920), demonstrates the significance of his time in Davenport; much of the story is set in the fictional town of Port Royal, modeled on Davenport.

In 1909 Dell moved to Chicago and became a well-known critic, literary editor, and leading figure of the Chicago Renaissance. In that same year Dell married Margery Currey, but their marriage ended after four years. From 1909 to 1913 Dell wrote for the *Friday Literary Review*, a supplement of the *Chicago Evening Post*; in 1911 he became editor and hired George Cram Cook as assistant editor. In the fall of 1913, after a disagreement with the *Post*, Dell left for Greenwich Village.

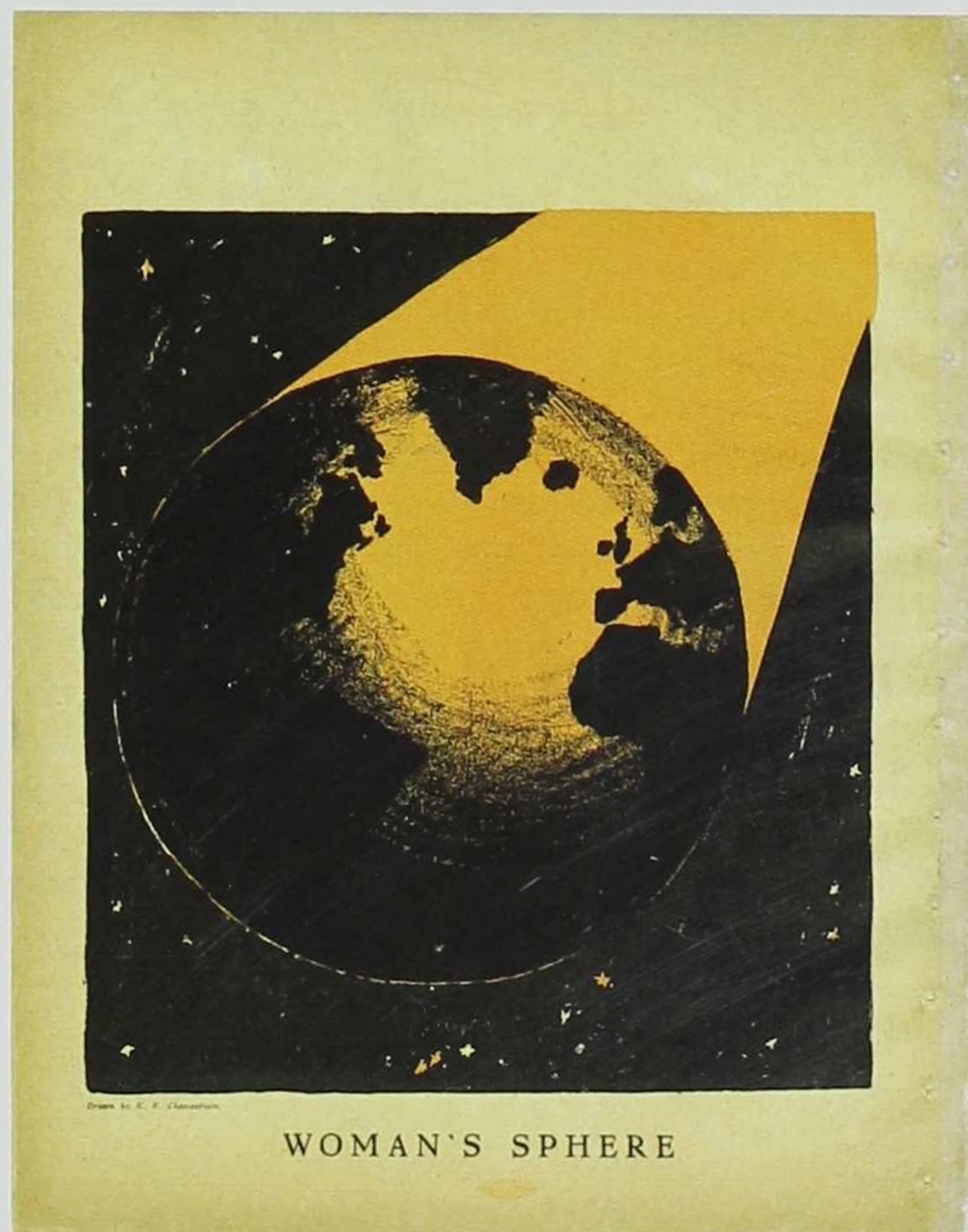
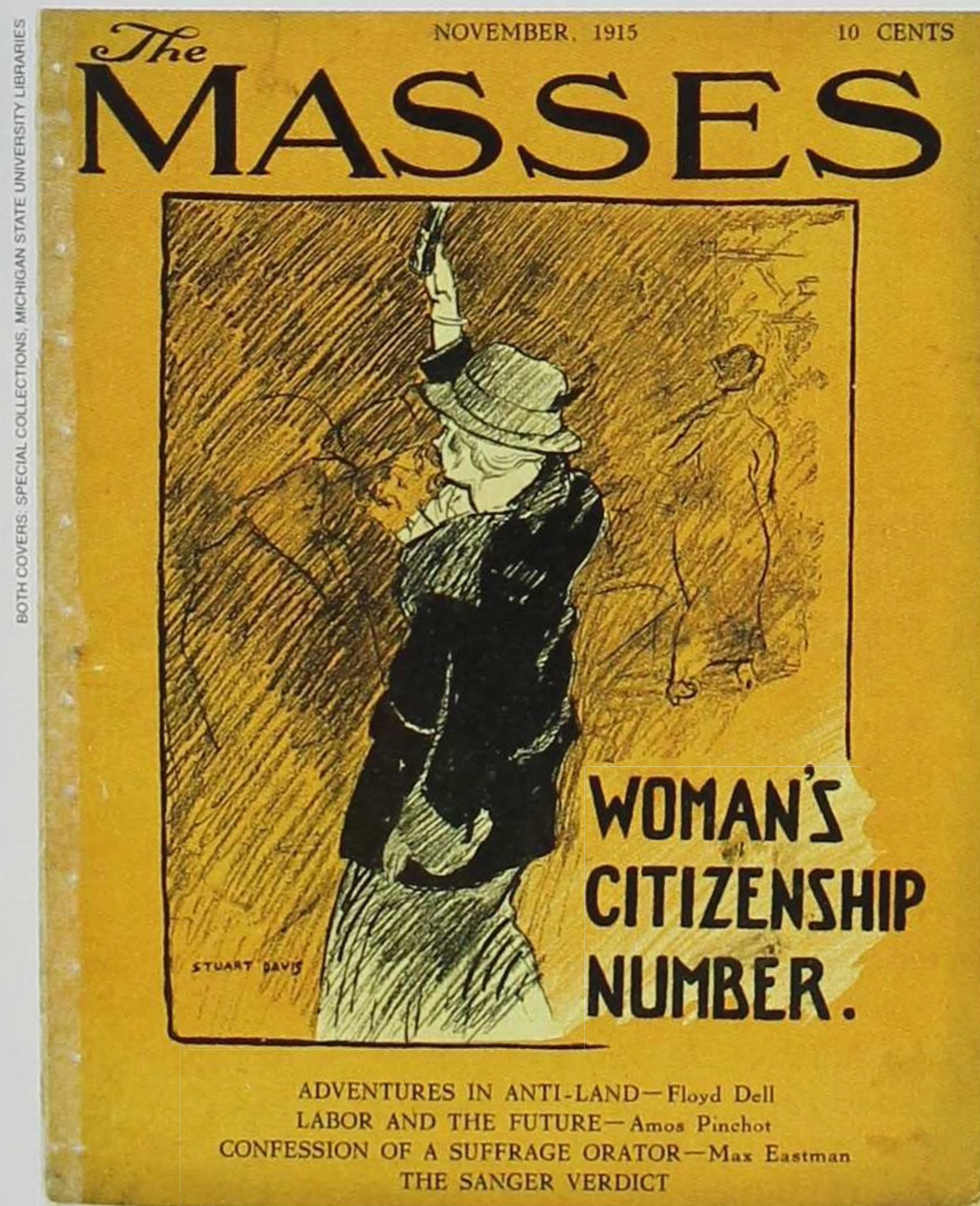
That December Dell became an editor of the radical magazine *Masses*, where he expressed his political and social opinions through essays, book reviews, and short stories. On April 15, 1918, Dell, with four other *Masses* staffers, was indicted under the Wartime Espionage Act for hindering the war effort, but two trials ended in hung juries. After publication of the *Masses* was subsequently suppressed, Dell became editor of the *Liberator*, a socialist publication that continued until 1924. From 1914 to 1929 Dell was also a member of the board of editors for another socialist journal, the *New Review*. During that time Dell also wrote several plays for the Liberal Club, beginning with his play *St.*

*George* in Greenwich Village. In November 1916 Dell's play *King Arthur's Socks* was presented by the Provincetown Players, which produced four of his plays.

On February 8, 1919, Dell married B. Marie Gage. They bought a second home in Croton, New York, and moved in permanently in March 1921. They had two sons, Anthony and Christopher.

After *Moon-Calf*, Dell published 10 more novels, but his first novel remained his most popular. In the mid 1920s Dell became disillusioned with the Socialist Party. Although he remained a liberal until his death, after the mid 1920s he no longer was associated with any radical party. In 1935 the Dells moved to Washington, D.C., where he took a job with the Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration. He continued to write essays, reviews, and poetry, and he aided scholars with his personal reflections until his death in Bethesda, Maryland.

—by Rebecca J. Gildernew



As editor of *The Masses*, Floyd Dell crusaded for liberal causes like women's rights, as presented on the front and back covers of the November 1915 issue. Opposite: Caricature of Floyd Dell by William Gropper, published in *Bookman*, March 1923.





# *Cristine Wilson*

COURTESY OF GRINNELL COLLEGE ARCHIVES

*Some are convinced that she could have been Iowa's first woman governor.*

Cristine Louise Swanson Wilson (June 28, 1945–May 20, 1991)—feminist activist, first woman to chair the Polk County Republican Party, and member and chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women—was the oldest daughter of Donald Swanson, a Des Moines lawyer, and Margaret (Boeye) Swanson.

Wilson received her B.A. in history at Grinnell College in 1967, where she was involved in student government and active in Republican politics. She hosted former president Dwight Eisenhower during his visit to the campus in May 1965 [see above]. She planned to become an educator and a lawyer.

Wilson taught social studies at Mahopac Middle School north of New York City in 1967–1968. She continued teaching at Franklin Junior High in Des Moines while getting her master's degree in history at the University of Iowa in 1969. She married George Whitgraf, an administrator of youth programs for Iowa Republican Governor Robert D. Ray. They divorced with no

children. In 1972 she married Mel Wilson, a history teacher. The Wilsons had two children, Hawkeye and Sarah [see below]. In 1975 Cristine Wilson began studying law at Drake University.

In the early 1970s Wilson became a leading Iowa feminist through her work with young people. Her employers asked her to review books for younger children; she critiqued the unvarying depiction of women in stereotypical housewife roles. Wilson's feminism consistently emerged from personal experience: unable to get a credit card without her husband's signature, she challenged the policy. She also led a lawsuit against school policy prohibiting pregnant teachers from using sick leave. Her ally in women's rights and best friend was Roxanne Conlin. With a group of like-minded friends, they founded the Iowa Women's Political Caucus in 1972 in Conlin's living room. The caucus encouraged women to become involved in politics.

In 1971, with Governor Robert Ray's support, Wilson

and other important figures—including Betty Durden of Drake University (chair of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, 1969–1972), Ralph R. Brown (chair of the commission's Legislative Committee), Arlene Dayhoff (vice-chair of the commission), Dorothy Goettsch (the first executive director), Edwin C. Lewis, and Evelyne Villines—worked to make the governor's commission permanent as the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) in 1972, making it eligible for state funding. Elizabeth Shaw shepherded the measure through the Iowa House, Arthur Neu through the Senate. Wilson served on the ICSW until 1976, including a year as chair (1972).

Under Wilson's guidance the ICSW had notable success in bettering women's status in Iowa. Achievements included state funding for child care centers, making the language throughout the Iowa Code gender neutral, eliminating the requirement for corroborative testimony in rape trials, providing that rape victims no longer be interrogated about their sexual past, and making marital rape a crime. The commission also ensured that homemakers' contributions be recognized as part of an estate (eliminating the requirement that housewives and farm wives pay taxes on inheritances), and sex discrimination became prohibited in education, credit, and housing. Other initiatives included proposing changes in divorce and abortion laws, and lobbying the Iowa legislature to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment.

At age 31 on May 20, 1977, Wilson suffered an accident that left her in a coma for 14 years until her death. Family and friends are convinced that had this untimely catastrophe not occurred, Wilson could have been Iowa's first woman governor. In 1982 the ICSW established the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice. Her life serves as the standard by which the award's nominees are judged: a life of service and dedication. In 1989 Jane Barker, an employee of the commission who worked as a secretary, nominated Wilson for a posthumous medal. When Margaret Swanson was awarded the medal in 2000, she and Wilson became the only mother and daughter to receive the award.

—by Suzanne Araas Vesely



COURTESY OF MARGARET B. SWANSON



*She believed theater could be a bulwark of democracy.*

## Hallie Flanagan

Hallie Flanagan (August 27, 1890–July 23, 1969)—educator, playwright, and administrator of the Federal Theatre Project—was born Hallie Ferguson in Redfield, South Dakota. Although her parents suffered considerable economic hardship, both understood the value of education and pushed their daughter to reach her full potential as a woman and as an artist. She attended Grinnell College in Iowa (Class of 1911), where she befriended classmate Harry Hopkins and other future New Dealers Paul Appleby, Chester Davis, and Florence Stewart Kerr. After she lost her husband, Murray Flanagan, in 1919 and then a son in 1922, she threw herself into a career centered on the theater. She received her A.M. from Radcliffe College, then taught for a short while at Grinnell and then at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She later married Philip Davis.

Dedicated to developing the American theater into

more than just an art form, she believed it could be a bulwark of democracy and an effective means of communication. Her innovative approach to theater as a social and political force drew both admiration and criticism. In 1926 she received a Guggenheim Fellowship, which she used to travel to Europe to study new theatrical methods. There Flanagan became involved in the experimental theater in the Soviet Union and was much impressed with how the medium had been used to establish a new social order. She returned to Vassar, inspired by what she had learned, and established the Vassar Experimental Theatre in 1928.

With the onset of the Great Depression, Flanagan began to use her talents to focus attention on the plight of unemployed workers and destitute farmers. In 1935 she found common ground with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in this endeavor. She and Roosevelt hoped that they could create a relief program that would also



enrich the cultural life of Americans. Harry Hopkins, who was head of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), had just created Federal One, the controversial and expensive program designed to provide jobs for unemployed artists, musicians, actors, and writers. Hopkins and Flanagan had kept in touch over the years and had much in common when it came to attitudes toward relief. When he asked his old college chum if she would run the Federal Theatre Project (FTP), Flanagan accepted because she hoped that not only would she be able to ameliorate the effects of the economic crisis for theater people, but also that she would be able to create a national theater that would outlast the Depression.

On August 27, 1936, Flanagan began the arduous task of putting thousands of people to work and at the same time realizing her artistic goals within a government bureaucracy in the midst of an economic crisis.

She quickly created six theaters in New York City, established the Living Theatre, started *Federal Theatre* (the official magazine of the FTP), and opened a Bureau of Research and Publication.

The FTP productions of *Ethiopia*, *Triple-A Plowed Under*, *Injunction Granted*, *Valley Forge*, and *One Third of a Nation* brought the wrath of conservatives and accusations that the agency and its leader had been caught up in the Popular Front. In 1938 the House Un-American Activities Committee, headed by conservative Democrat Martin Dies, attacked the FTP as propagandistic

**Above and next pages: Scenes from *Triple-A Plowed Under*, about the plight of farmers and its effect on the economy. The play was an example of the Living Newspaper, a pioneering theatrical format in which a series of brief, powerful scenes dramatized contemporary events. "Triple-A" referred to the Agricultural Adjustment Act.**

and a branch of the Communist Party, and accused Flanagan of plotting a Communist takeover of the country. In addition to such attacks, disruptive labor disputes further weakened the FTP. Although Hopkins remained supportive of her work, Flanagan lost much of her earlier influence within the Roosevelt administration. The FTP lost its funding and was ended on June 30, 1939.

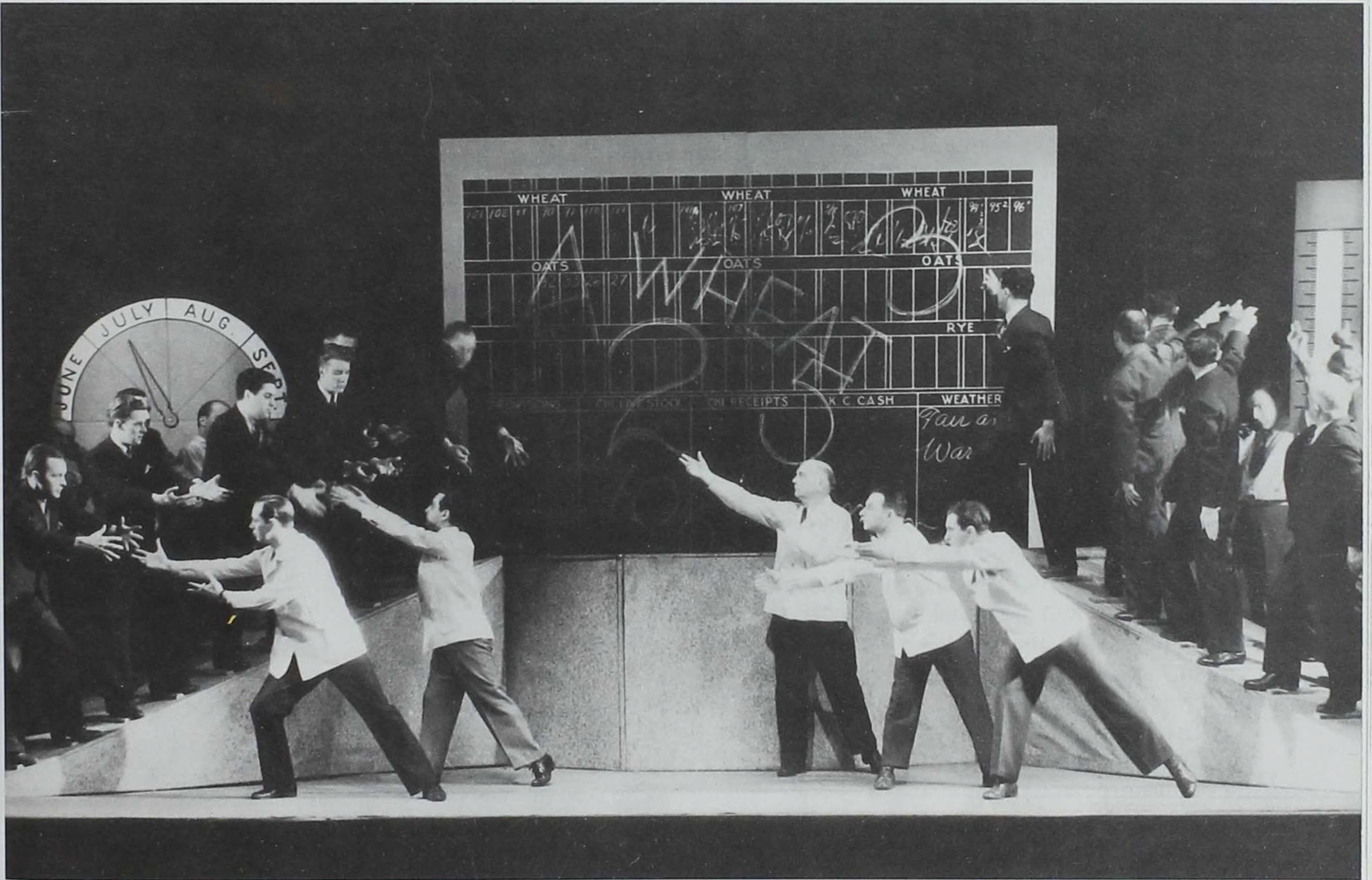
Hallie Flanagan believed that government-sponsored theater could become a dynamic force in adding to the cultural wealth of the nation. The FTP, under her direction, brought live theater to about a million people each month in 40 cities and 22 states. At its peak, the FTP gave about 100 performances per day throughout the nation and provided work to unemployed actors,

directors, playwrights, stagehands, and other theater people who had been forced onto the relief roll. However, even more than providing work for unemployed actors, Flanagan's work with the FTP was concerned with establishing a national theater that would bring the magic of actors on a stage to the American public. After the FTP closed down, Flanagan returned to Vassar, where she wrote her book, *Arena*. In 1941 she became dean of Smith College. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, she retired in 1948 and died in 1969.

—by June Hopkins



Three scenes from *Triple-A Plowed Under*, staged through the Federal Theatre Project. Right: Newsletter of North Carolina's project lists Hallie Flanagan as national director. She directed the controversial federal project from 1936 until June 1939.



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION of N.C.  
 George W. Coon, Jr., State Administrator

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 Hattie Flanagan, Nat'l. Dir. • John McGee, Asst. Nat'l. Dir.  
 Dr. J.H. Koch, Regional Advisor • Howard Baitly, State Dir.



# Herbert Hoxie

Herbert Melville "Hub" Hoxie (December 18, 1830–November 23, 1886)—U.S. Marshal during the Civil War and railroad developer—was born in New York in 1830, but migrated to Iowa Territory in 1840, eventually settling in Des Moines. At age 28 in 1858, Hoxie headed west to find his fortune in the gold fields of Colorado. Quick wealth eluded him, but his ambitious nature drew him into the turbulent world of late 1850s Iowa politics. Hoxie's hatred of slavery not only led him to establish a stop on the Iowa branch of the Underground Railroad but also drew him to the new Republican Party, which was clawing its way to power in the state. He rose quickly within the party establishment from secretary to chairman of the Republican State Central Committee by 1860, a critical year that saw the party's candidate, Abraham Lincoln, ascend to the presidency and the Republicans gain control of Congress. But the election results also led the Deep South to secede from the Union, precipitating the plunge toward civil war in April 1861.

During the war, Hoxie's influence within the party and in state politics increased as he allied himself with Republican power players such as James W. Grimes, William Allison, and John Kasson. But his most important patron by far was Grenville M. Dodge, whose meteoric rise to national prominence benefited Hoxie immensely. Using this political clout, Hoxie secured an appointment as U.S. Marshal in 1861, which allowed him to travel the length of the state to drum up support for the party and bash the opposition. During the congressional elections of 1862, Marshal Hoxie harassed prominent Democrats and committed some unsavory acts of political sabotage ostensibly in the name of patriotism and loyalty. He arrested Dennis Mahony, William Allison's Democratic opponent for a congressional seat and also owner of an anti-Republican Dubuque newspaper, for obstructing army recruiting efforts and sent him, along with another Democratic newspaper editor, to the Old Capital Prison in Washington, D.C., until after the election. Such underhanded tactics helped Republican candidates win their races.

During the 1863 Iowa gubernatorial race, Hoxie traveled across the state accusing Democratic Copperheads of



SHS (DES MOINES)

*"There must be money in this war  
some place & we ought  
to have our share."*

disloyalty and treason and, in Wapello County, arrested 12 Democrats for antigovernment activities. To Dodge, who was then commanding Union troops in the field, Hoxie boasted that his tactics had made "all the leaders to either quake in their boots, or run as fast as the other rebels you are after." At the same time, he also lobbied Dodge to ensure the Republican votes of Iowa soldiers. In return, Hoxie and other prominent Republicans pushed hard for Dodge's promotion to higher rank in the army. According to one observer, Hoxie believed that Dodge

possessed "a kind of general supervision of affairs civil and military in the state."

His interests soon extended even farther. When the Republican-dominated Congress passed legislation

promoting a transcontinental railroad [see right], he saw not only enormous benefits for Iowa but also an opportunity to increase his personal wealth. "Now is the time for War Contracts," he wrote Dodge in 1861. "There must be money in this war some place & we ought to have our share." Although Dodge, against Hoxie's advice, accepted a military command and became a general, Hoxie adjusted to the change smoothly and sought to use his

friend's rank and prestige to advantage. He kept Dodge abreast of the railroad venture and, on occasion, asked for support in helping Thomas Durant organize the Union Pacific Railroad Company. When Anne Dodge implored her husband to resign after being wounded in the 1864 Atlanta campaign, Hoxie urged the general to remain in the service "for the reason that the Union Pacific is not yet firmly in Durant's hands."

Even without Dodge's aid, Hoxie became heavily involved in angling for a piece of the new transcontinental railroad. Despite his lack of experience in railway construction, Hoxie's proposal (written by Durant's attorney) to build more than 200 miles of track at \$50,000 per mile was accepted. Then, in return for stock in the company and a large sum of cash, Hoxie quickly transferred the contract to *Crédit Mobilier of America*, a fake construction company created by Durant and other Union Pacific stockholders to divert government funds for railroad construction into their pockets. Hoxie's shady deal was only one of many unscrupulous activities that, in 1872, erupted into one of the worst scandals to plague the Grant administration. Long before that dam broke, however, Hoxie had landed a lucrative position with the Union Pacific after being forced out of his position as U.S. Marshal.

Although no longer in public office, Hoxie main-

tained an enormous reserve of political muscle, which he flexed in the 1866 congressional elections. When John Kasson appeared likely to defeat Dodge for the party's nomination in the Fifth District, Dodge's allies called upon Hoxie, who had already viciously attacked Kasson for betraying the party in Congress with regard to Reconstruction policies, to save the day. Dodge's victory proved that Hoxie and a small group of Iowa Republicans dubbed the Des Moines Regency were a force to be reckoned with in state politics.

In 1886 Hoxie entered the public arena for the last time. As a senior officer in Jay Gould's Missouri Pacific Railroad, he had to deal with a major labor dispute involving more than 9,000 workers. Hoxie firmly refused to deal with the strikers and eventually outlasted them, winning a big victory for Gould. As it turned out, that success was his last. On November 23 he died in New York of complications from kidney stones. Perhaps Dodge's words best describe Hoxie's life and behind-the-scenes contributions to Iowa politics. As Dodge faced another political crisis and bemoaned the lack of courage in the party's ranks, the old general proclaimed: "We want some Hoxies in the Republican party just now."

—by William B. Feis



SHS (IOWA CITY)





SHS (IOWA CITY)

## John L. Lewis

### Raising Industrial Workers to the Middle Class

John Llewellyn Lewis (February 12, 1880–June 11, 1969)—20th-century American labor leader—was born in Cleveland, Iowa, the son of Welsh immigrant parents, Thomas A. and Ann Louisa (Watkins) Lewis. He was the first of eight children who survived infancy. His mother was likely a Mormon, although Lewis as an adult showed little interest in religion. His father was a coal miner and a Knights of Labor loyalist.

Cleveland, together with the larger town of Lucas a mile to the west, was in 1880 a coal mining community, one of many that flourished from about 1875 to 1920 in an area radiating about 50 miles south and east from Des Moines. In 1882 Thomas Lewis's family began to move from one Iowa coal town to another. There had been a strike in Lucas, and he likely was blacklisted. During the

mid 1890s, the family lived in Des Moines, where John finished elementary school and three years of high school.

In 1897 the family returned to Lucas, where John worked as a miner and farm laborer, served as secretary of the new local of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) based in Chariton, joined the Masons, and performed in amateur theatricals at the Lucas opera house. From 1901 to 1905 he traveled and worked in the Mountain West.

The years 1905–1907 seemed to presage a life of small-town striving. He returned to Lucas, reentered the mines, renewed his active role in the UMWA, again joined in amateur theatricals, and co-leased and managed the opera house for a year. He rose to office in the Masons, ventured into a grain and feed business partnership, and became active in local politics. On June 5, 1907, he married Myrta Edith Bell, the daughter of a Lucas physician. They had three children—Mary Margaret (b. 1910), Kathryn (b. 1911), and John Jr. (b. 1918). From a locally prominent family, Myrta had completed high school, attended summer sessions at Drake University, and taught school for seven years. She seems not to have been the mentor to John alleged by Lewis's early biographers, but she was a steadying influence until her death in 1942.

In spring 1908 there came another break from Lucas and Iowa, this one permanent except for occasional family visits. John and Myrta left for the burgeoning coal fields of Illinois, settling in the town of Panama, where they were soon joined by his parents, five brothers, and two sisters. Better employment prospects doubtless fueled the decision, as did the failure of both Lewis's grain and feed business and his bid for the Lucas mayoralty. And clearly Lewis now harbored ambitions for climbing the UMWA leadership hierarchy. Illinois provided a much better base for that purpose than did Iowa.

Lewis had spent more than 23 of his first 28 years in Iowa. Iowa had been formative. There he had gained a better than average education for a working-class youth of his day, and there he first entered the mines and became active in the UMWA. His Iowa theatrical experience would later abet his natural gifts as a labor orator. Broad-framed, deep-voiced, with sharp eyes, impressive eyebrows, and wavy, abundant hair, he would soon become a master of timing, the caustic phrase, and biblical and Shakespearean allusions. Finally—and, though negative, important in view of the young Lewis's vocational equivocation—his Iowa experience channeled him toward his calling as a labor leader by process of eliminating other options.

Within a year, Lewis was president of the large Panama local. He soon also became the UMWA's legislative agent in Springfield. From 1911 to 1917 he served as field

representative for the American Federation of Labor (AFL), traveling widely but keeping close ties with key UMWA leaders, including President John P. White (he, too, had lived part of his youth in Lucas). In 1917 Lewis became the UMWA's statistician, and later that year he replaced Frank Hayes as vice president. Hayes, plagued by ill health, had assumed the UMWA presidency when White resigned to accept a federal post. Lewis was soon the de facto president of a union that was the AFL's largest, with a membership that had swelled during wartime to some 400,000. In 1920 Hayes resigned, and Lewis was elected UMWA president.

UMWA membership, along with union membership in general, declined rapidly during the 1920s and disastrously during the Depression years 1930–1933. But the remainder of the 1930s brought Lewis's great triumphs. He was one of only a few union leaders to recognize, and by far the best positioned to seize, the opportunities posed by the Roosevelt administration's relative friendliness toward the labor movement and the new protection that New Deal legislation offered to workers trying to form unions.

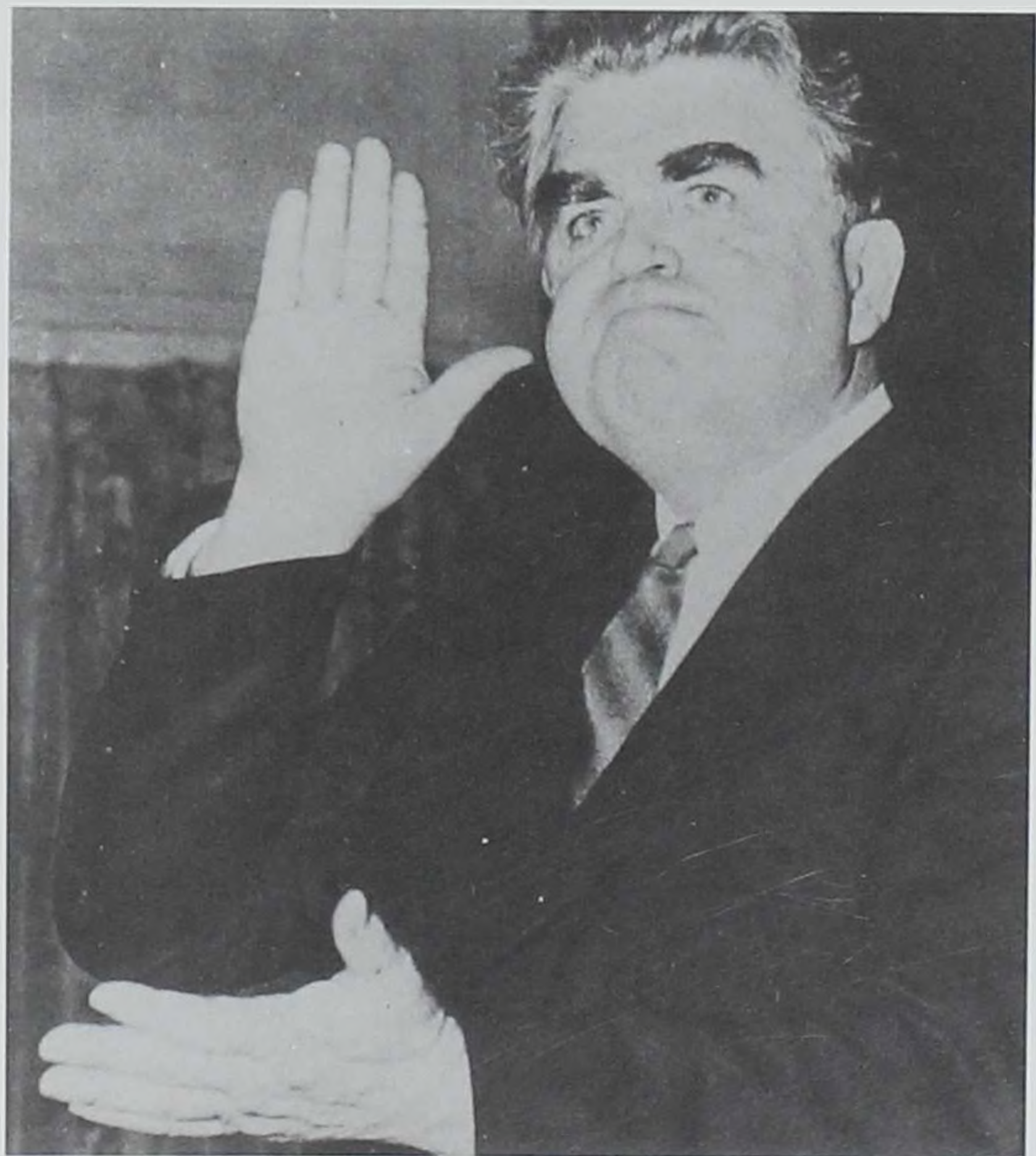
First, Lewis bet the UMWA's treasury on a mass organizing campaign among coal miners. It succeeded spectacularly. Then, sensing a widespread desire for unionization among industrial workers and brushing aside AFL leaders' wish for limited organizing along narrow "craft" lines, he launched huge organizing campaigns in the mass production industries. His vehicle was the Committee for Industrial Organization, formed in 1935 and reconstituted in 1938, upon its formal split from the AFL, as the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). The CIO was Lewis's creature. A few leaders of other AFL unions joined him in forming it, but about 70 percent of the CIO's organizing resources came from Lewis's UMWA. Again the success was spectacular. Total union membership leaped from less than 3 million in 1932 to some 7.5 million in 1939 and to 13.4 million in 1945. Nor was organized labor's new power confined to the workplace. For the first time, labor jumped wholeheartedly into electoral politics. The CIO under Lewis contributed mightily to the Roosevelt landslide of 1936. Later Democratic victories were in large part due to CIO efforts, along with the AFL's and, after the 1955 merger, those of the AFL-CIO.

Beginning with his opposition to Roosevelt's reelection in 1940, Lewis's willfulness did not serve the labor movement so well. When Roosevelt won a solid electoral victory, with the support of most unions and most union members, Lewis resigned as CIO president. In 1942 he led the UMWA out of the CIO, and in 1943 his UMWA conducted wartime strikes that, in the eyes

of many, impugned the patriotism of the entire labor movement. Until his retirement in 1960 he continued to win gains for UMWA coal miners, but their numbers were dwindling as their industry declined.

The UMWA under Lewis was always an undemocratic organization, with proclivities for violence and financial chicanery. By the time of Lewis's death in Washington, D.C., on June 11, 1969, the UMWA was thoroughly decayed. In 1973 his one-time lieutenant and eventual successor as UMWA president, W. A. "Tony" Boyle, was convicted of having ordered the infamous December 1969 murder of dissident union leader Joseph Yablonski and his wife and daughter.

Yet in any assessment, Lewis's shortcomings must



Lewis commands attention at a U.S. Senate committee, 1933. Opposite: Lewis inspects a mine after an explosion, 1947.

be balanced against his huge achievements. Lewis, more than any other person save Roosevelt, was responsible for two long-prevailing features of 20th-century American life. One was the rise of millions of industrial workers into the middle class. The other was labor's emergence as the lynchpin of the Roosevelt coalition, the core of a Democratic Party that sustained the generally centrist-liberal, reformist national politics and federal policies of the middle third of the century. As a result, he is viewed by many as the preeminent American labor leader of the 20th century.

—by John N. Schacht

# Frank Spedding

**During World War II, Spedding's group in Ames produced over two million pounds of pure uranium.**

Frank Harold Spedding (October 22, 1902–December 15, 1984)—professor of chemistry, physics, and metallurgy and director of the Ames Laboratory, Iowa State University—was born in Hamilton, Ontario, to Howard Leslie Spedding and Mary Ann Elizabeth (Marshall) Spedding. In 1918 the elder Spedding established his photography business in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Two years later Frank Spedding entered the University of Michigan. In 1925 he earned a B.S. in chemical engineering with a major in metallurgy, and the next year he completed work for his M.S. in analytical chemistry. He subsequently was granted a teaching fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley, where he worked with the well-known chemist Gilbert N. Lewis. At Berkeley, Spedding learned about electronic spectroscopy, especially its use in analyzing absorption spectra, and he became intensely interested in rare-earth elements. He completed his Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1929 just when the Great Depression was descending upon the nation. For the next several years, Spedding lived a nomadic life, moving from one poorly paid position to another. Temporary fellowships enabled him to stay at Berkeley doing research until 1934. His study of rare-

earth crystal structure earned him the prestigious Langmuir Prize in 1933, which was awarded to outstanding chemists who were younger than 31.

Spedding married Ethel Annie MacFarlane in June 1931. They later had a daughter, Elizabeth. After receiving the Langmuir Prize, Spedding earned a Guggenheim travel grant and traveled to Europe in 1934–1935, which gave him the opportunity to converse with other prominent chemists, such as Max Born in Germany. Back in the United States, he took another short-term position at Cornell University (1935–1937). Fortunately, in the fall of 1937 a physical chemistry position opened at Iowa State College, and Spedding negotiated employment as an associate professor with tenure and head of the physical chemistry section of the Chemistry Department.

Between 1937 and 1941 Spedding turned his attention to the complex task of separating rare earths from each other. His work was interrupted by World War II and the U.S. government's desire to create a nuclear fission bomb with U-235 if the chain reaction challenge could be solved. The University of Chicago became one of the primary research centers for the Manhattan Project. In February



1942 its director, Arthur H. Compton, selected Spedding to organize the chemistry division of the Chicago laboratory. Spedding recruited some of his colleagues at Iowa State to assist him and spent half of each week in Chicago and the other half in Ames. Assisted by Harley A. Wilhelm and I. B. Johns, and with support from the U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development, Spedding led the Ames Project in creating a successful process for producing pure uranium ingots that would serve as the inner core for the exponential piles of pressed uranium oxide and graphite that became the basis for the nuclear fission chain reactions. During the war, Spedding's group in Ames produced over two million pounds of pure uranium and eventually turned its process over to industry in 1945. For its excellent work, the Ames Project was awarded the Army-Navy E Flag with four stars.

After the war ended in 1945, the Institute for Atomic Research

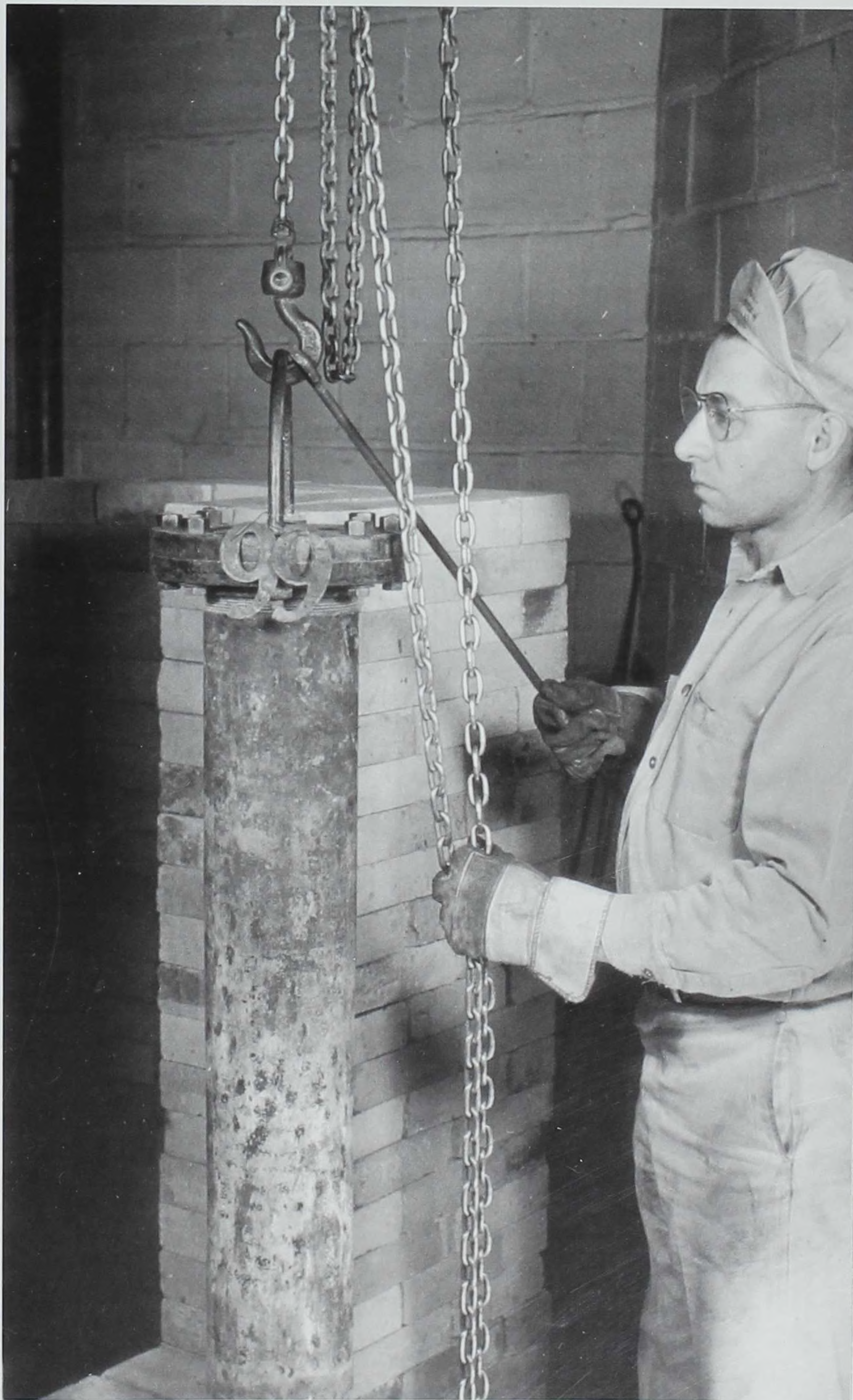
was set up at Iowa State College, with Spedding as its director. In 1947 the Atomic Energy Commission officially created the Ames Laboratory, again with Spedding at its head. Research at the laboratory focused on nuclear energy, with an emphasis on pure metals and their properties as a defining feature. Over the next 25 years until his retirement in 1972, Spedding devoted the bulk of his research activities to finding methods of purifying individual rare earths, creating pure metals, and determining the physical and chemical properties of the rare-earth metals, alloys, and compounds. During the late 1950s, the Ames Laboratory developed processes for producing yttrium, which was needed for atomic research.

Over the years, Spedding published more than 250 scientific articles and obtained 22 patents, which were all turned over to the government. One of his major publications was the volume he edited with Adrian H. Daane, *The Rare Earths* (1961). He also guided 88 graduate students to the successful completion of the Ph.D. Among his many honors was his election in 1952 to the National Academy of Sciences. An active scholar in his retirement years—he authored over 60 publications from 1972 to 1982—Spedding suffered a stroke early in the fall of 1984 and died in December.

—by Edward A. Goedecken

**Opposite: Frank Spedding, 1948. Right: In the “Little Ankeny” building on the Iowa State College campus, Fritz Hemness uses a bomb hoist to place uranium reduction bomb 399 in a gas-fired furnace, circa 1942–1945.**

BOTH PHOTOS: COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, AMES LABORATORY



# John M. Work

John McClelland Work (January 3, 1869–January 5, 1961)—one of the most important leaders of the Socialist Party of America in Iowa and the nation—remained an active Socialist from the founding of the Iowa Socialist Party in Oskaloosa in August 1900 until he ended his career in 1942. He was a party executive and leader, a sought-after lecturer, a perennial candidate for public office, and author of articles and books espousing the socialist cause.

Work was born near West Chester, Iowa, and grew up on a farm in that area. He received a B.A. from Monmouth College in Illinois. An early religious bent led Work to study for the ministry at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. He quickly abandoned his theological pursuits to study law at Columbian College (now George Washington University), where he received his LL.B. in 1893. He established a law practice in Des Moines and joined the Young Men's Republican Club.

Serving as a delegate to national Republican clubs in Louisville in 1893 opened the young lawyer's eyes to the ruthless inner nature of politics. A lifelong supporter of prohibition, a vegetarian, and eventually an advocate of various health fads, Work was shocked by the convivial beer garden atmosphere of the convention and by what he considered the raucous behavior of the Iowa delegation, which included

progressive leaders such as Albert B. Cummins (future governor and senator) and Jonathan Dolliver (a future leader of the Iowa delegation in Congress). Work soon began to search for alternatives to conventional politics. One of the major influences on Work was the *Co-operative Commonwealth* by Laurence Gronlund.

Becoming a confirmed socialist by 1897 was not beneficial to his struggling law practice. By 1900 he had become one of the leaders in the Iowa Socialist Party, a conglomeration of ex-Populists, reformers, Marxists, exploited miners, and farmers. Work quickly set out to form Iowa branches of the young party and became

a consistent if unsuccessful candidate for public office. He waged a series of futile campaigns, running for mayor of Des Moines in 1902, governor in 1903 and 1910, and the U.S. Senate in 1908. Nevertheless, Work was successful in establishing many Socialist locals as he traversed the state. By 1912 the Socialist candidate for governor and longtime Work friend I. S. McCrillis received nearly 15,000 votes. Work by then was serving on the national executive committee of the Socialist Party of America (SPA), and had moved to Chicago. There, in 1911, he was elected national executive secretary of the party; he held the post for one term, which ended in 1913. While living in Chicago, Work ran for alderman (1914), Congress (1914), and superior court judge (1917).

**Hear**  
**JOHN M. WORK,**  
**Socialist Candidate for**  
**GOVERNOR of IOWA,**  
**— AT —**  
**TEMPLE HALL,**  
**Ninth and Locust Sts,**  
**(First Floor)**  
**DUBUQUE, IOWA,**  
**Wednesday Eve., Oct. 28**



He moved to Wisconsin in 1917 to serve as editorial page editor of the *Milwaukee Leader*. Work made his last campaign for public office when he ran for the U.S. Senate in 1925. He continued working for the *Leader* until his retirement in 1942.

Work was one of socialism's most prolific writers. His columns appeared in the mainstream socialist paper, the *Appeal to Reason*, as well as the short-lived *Iowa Socialist*. He was also the author of at least seven books. His most popular book was *What's So and What Isn't* (1905), which sold more than 200,000 copies. The 96-page volume sold for 15¢ each or \$7.50 per 100 and was published by Julius A. Wayland, the editor of the *Appeal to Reason*. The book contained short, pithy answers to questions about and objections to socialism. Work's popular column, "X-Rays," also appeared in the leading socialist publications of the early 20th century. He also claimed to have written several of the editorials for which national socialist leader Victor Berger was tried in 1917 for violation of the wartime Espionage and Sedition Act.

Work's socialism was moderate and had strong moral and ethical elements. Socialism, he believed, would not only remove the cause for class division and economic exploitation, but would also improve morals. He was something of a moral purist, arguing that capitalism contributed to moral dissipation, which included smoking, drinking, and an unhealthy diet.

## By 1900 he had become a leader in the Iowa Socialist Party.

But he also believed that socialists should work for health and old-age insurance, woman suffrage, a shorter workday, employer's liability insurance, the prevention of injunctions and use of police in breaking strikes, public ownership of utilities and railroads, a national banking system, abolition of child labor, and proper education for the young. Work did not advocate the collective ownership of all land as advertised in the national platform of the SPA, which he regarded as unappealing to farmers who might otherwise be attracted to the socialist cause. More radical elements in the Socialist Party charged that Work was merely a middle-class reformer and scoffed at his seeming eccentricities.

Morris Hillquit, the SPA's leading theoretician in the early 20th century, deplored Work's "primer" style of writing. However, Work adhered to his principles throughout his life.

He died in Milwaukee at the age of 92. By that time, many of the causes he espoused had become part of the nation's social program.

—by William H. Cumberland



SHSI (DES MOINES)

# Louis Pammel

Louis Hermann Pammel (April 19, 1862–March 23, 1931)—botanist, educator, conservationist, and state parks advocate—was the second of five children born to Louis Carl Pammel and Sophie (Freise) Pammel, Prussian immigrants who settled in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. As the oldest son, Louis was expected to follow in his father's footsteps, so after completing the fifth grade, he spent several years apprenticed to his father, a prosperous farmer and community leader. Louis's natural inquisitiveness, however, propelled him to read widely from the family library and to experiment on his own with bees and honey. Determined to go to college, at age 17 he published a "Letter of Inquiry about Bergamot" (a honey plant) in the *American Bee Journal*. Persuaded that he had the makings of a scholar, his parents permitted him to leave farming.

Pammel studied botany under William Trelease at the University of Wisconsin, graduating in 1885. He then went to Chicago to study medicine but quickly abandoned that career path when he received an offer to work at Harvard University as an assistant to botanist William G. Farlow. Pammel might have taken up graduate study at Harvard except that, a year later, Trelease moved to St. Louis to become the first director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and asked Pammel to become his assistant. Pammel accepted Trelease's offer and moved to St. Louis, where he began graduate studies at Washington University. In 1887 he married Augusta Marie Emmel, whom he had met during his brief sojourn in Chicago. During the next decade, six children were born to the couple, which undoubtedly contributed to his delay in earning a doctoral degree (1899).

Trelease and Farlow assisted Pammel in securing a post as professor of botany at Iowa Agricultural College, where he began teaching in 1889. Pammel immediately established the pattern of "volcanic, almost furious activity" that biographer Marjorie Pohl observes was the hallmark of his character. He continued to work on his doctorate for the next decade, during which time his family also continued to grow. As a teacher and researcher, he had expansive interests in economic botany, plant pathology, bacteriology, mycology, horticulture, forestry,

**A tireless worker for conservation, Louis Pammel (on truckbed) speaks to the public, perhaps at a park dedication.**





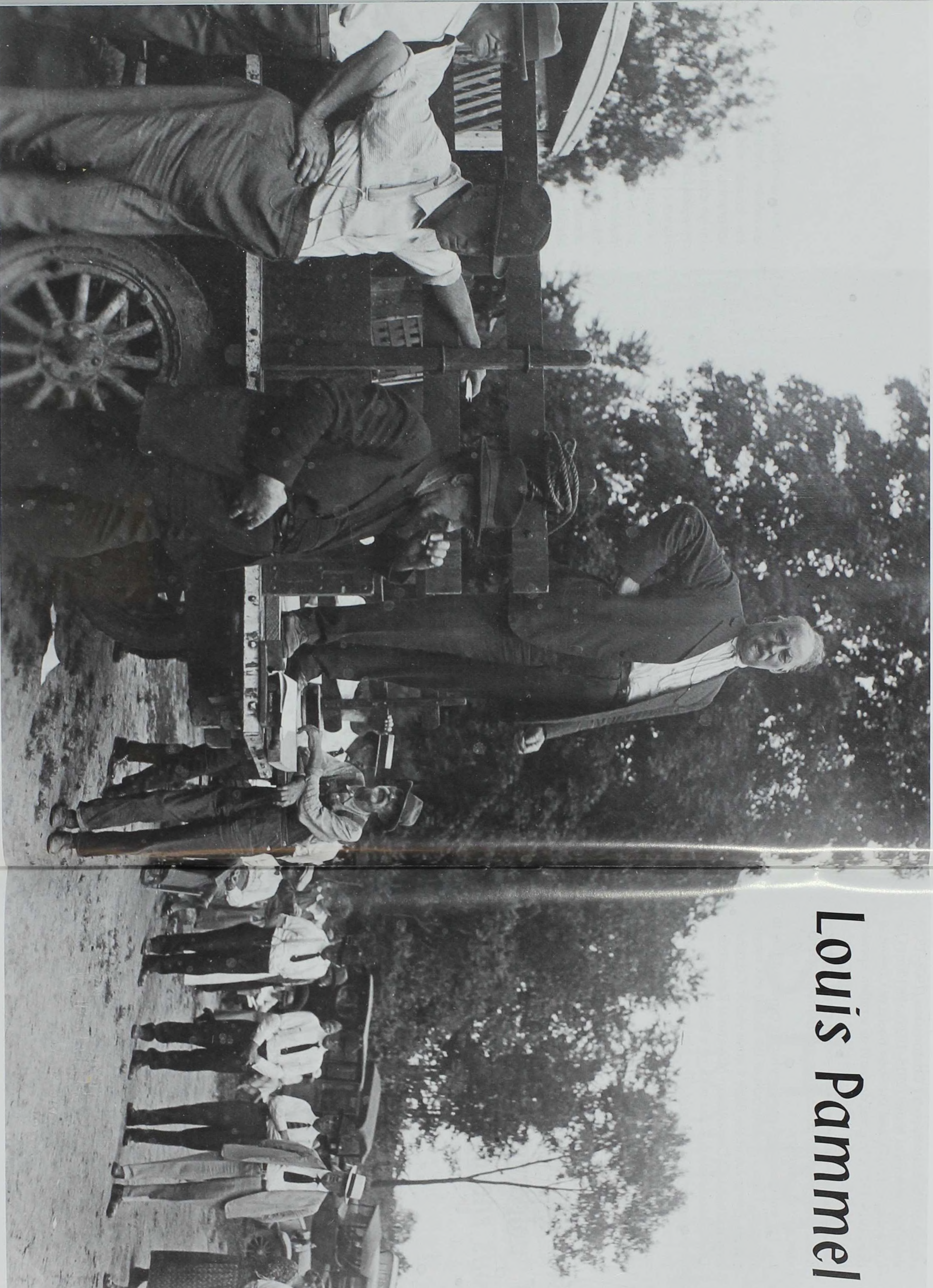
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SHIRLEY MONNEN

bees and pollination, seeds and germination, flowers, grasses, climate, ecology, and conservation. Much of his research was carried out under the auspices of the Botanical Seed Laboratory, which he established at Iowa State College in 1906. He often spent summers conducting research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which enabled him to build the collections of the Iowa State Herbarium. His name lives on in the taxonomy of several plants, including *Melica subulata* var. *pammellii* (Scribn.) C. L. Hitch. (Pammel's oniongrass), *Hordeum pammellii* Scribn. & Ball (a grass), *Aecidium pammellii* Trelease (a rust), and *Senecio pammellii* Greenman (a composite). A prolific scholar, Pammel authored or coauthored six scholarly books (a seventh was published posthumously); wrote nearly 700 articles, research notes, reports, educational circulars, and addresses; edited the *Major John F. Lacey Memorial Volume* for the Iowa Park and Forestry Association; and penned two reminiscences.

Pammel seems never to have erected artificial boundaries between the professional, public, and personal aspects of his life, and the thrust of his scholarship was always directed toward practical applications and public education. Through the Iowa State Extension Service, he made his services, and those of his students, available to municipalities and state agencies. He analyzed public water supplies and sewage disposal systems. For the state legislature, he helped write bills addressing agricultural and horticultural needs. He oversaw the preparation of exhibits and educational pamphlets for the annual Iowa State Fair and established a plant laboratory on the fairgrounds. He directed the preparation of exhibits on crop diseases as part of Iowa's displays at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. He initiated annual plant disease surveys for the state, public service work that brought national and international recognition—in 1919 he was called upon to serve as one of four distinguished scientists on the American Plant Pest Committee, a joint U.S.-Canada initiative. He also served as president of the Iowa Academy of Science (1892–1893, 1923) and the Iowa Park and Forestry Association (1904–1906). Additionally, he

## Pammel established a pattern of “volcanic, almost furious energy.”

served on the State Forestry Commission (1908–1929), the State Geological Board (1918–1929), the Plant Life Commission (1917), and the State Board of Conservation (1918–1927). In great demand as a public speaker, Pammel often spoke before chambers of commerce, men's groups, women's clubs, and campus organizations; at high school and college graduation ceremonies; and at churches.

Pammel made his most enduring contributions to the state of Iowa as chairman of the Board of Conservation, precursor of the State Conservation Commission and today's Department of Natural Resources. Under his direction, Iowa became a leader in the development of state parks. The National Conference on State Parks (NCSP) held its 1921 organizational meeting in Des Moines, and when the NCSP made its first national assessment of state parks in 1925,

Iowa ranked fourth in terms of the number of parks established. The park acquisition list he developed, published in 1919 as *Iowa Parks: Conservation of Iowa Historic, Scenic and Scientific Areas*, set resource conservation above recreation and determined the course

of park development throughout his lifetime. When the Devil's Backbone area of Madison County was renamed and dedicated as Pammel State Park in 1930, the Board of Conservation cited his work “for the cause of conservation” as “the most valuable single influence in this movement” in the state of Iowa. Deteriorating health prompted Pammel to relinquish his chairmanship in 1927, although he continued to be a forceful advocate. When he died in 1931, Iowa had 40 designated state parks and preserves, and the Board of Conservation had jurisdiction over 7,500 acres of land, 41,000 acres of lake waters, 800 miles of rivers, and 4,200 acres of drained lake beds.

—by Rebecca Conard

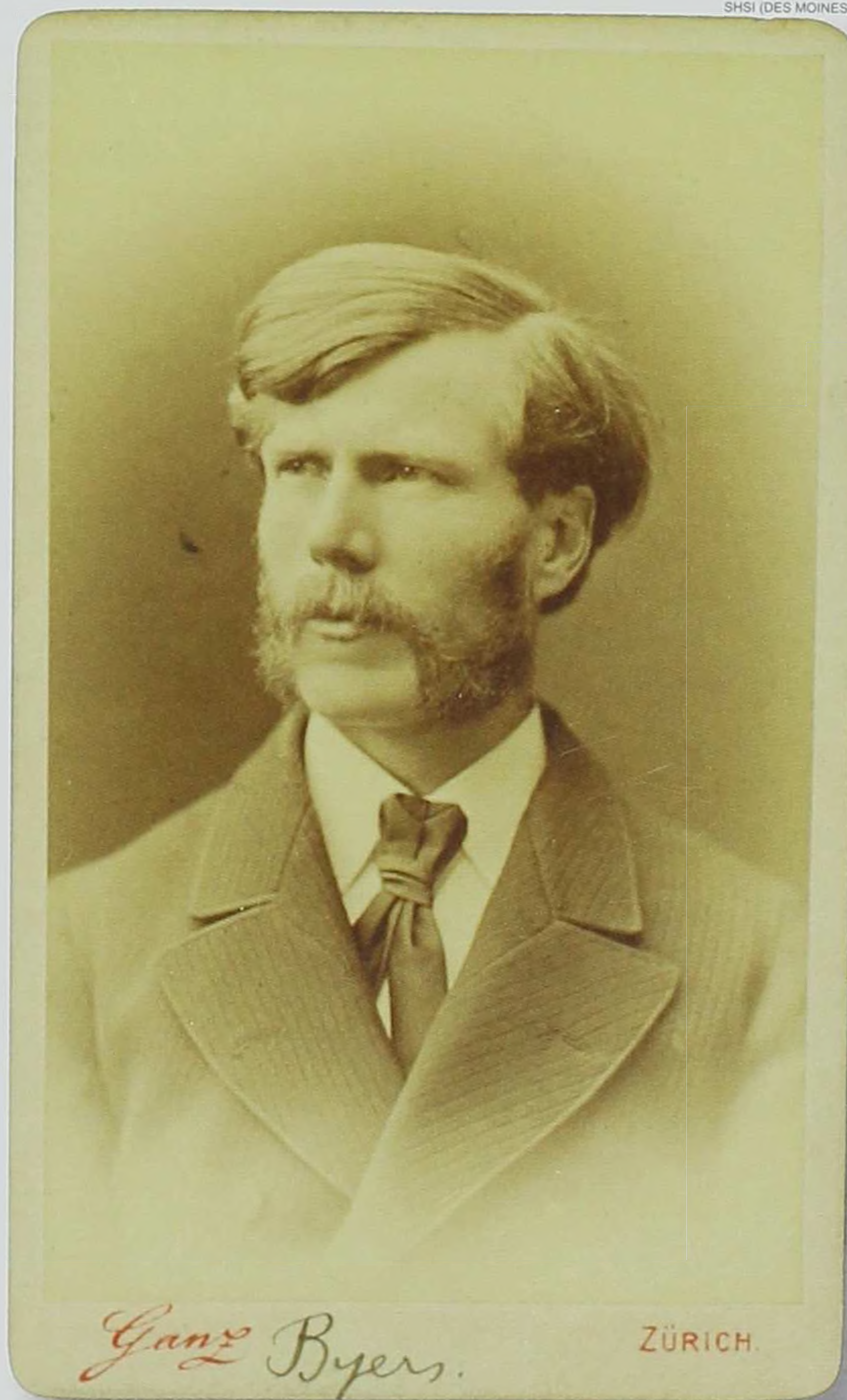
# S. H. M. BYERS

## POET IN PRISON

Samuel Hawkins Marshall Byers (July 23, 1838–May 24, 1933)—poet—was born in Pulaski, Pennsylvania. His mother died soon after he was born. In 1851 his father took him to Burlington, Iowa, finally settling in Oskaloosa in 1853. Byers received a few years of frontier education and studied law with an Oskaloosa attorney. He was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1861.

Byers was profoundly influenced by a visit to Memphis, Tennessee, where he witnessed slaves being whipped and beaten. Thus, when the Southern states seceded, Byers was one of the first to enlist in a company of volunteers from Newton, Iowa. The company became B Company, Fifth Iowa Infantry, and Byers was promoted to quartermaster sergeant. He saw action at Iuka, Corinth, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga. The Fifth Iowa participated in the attack on Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga, where Byers and about 80 of the regiment were captured.

It is not known if Byers had any literary ambitions before the war, but military service and wartime captivity made him a writer. He spent seven months in Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, and was transferred to Macon, Georgia, in 1864. He escaped from the Macon camp only to be recaptured. He was transferred to Charleston, South Carolina, and then to "Camp Sorghum" just outside Columbia, South Carolina. He escaped again and was captured again. After the camp was closed, the prisoners were moved into Columbia itself and housed in a large building that had previously served as a state mental asylum. The Union prisoners, shut off from the outside world, had no idea how the war was progressing. A slave, assigned to carry food to the prisoners, hid an article from a South Carolina newspaper inside a loaf of bread. The article



# 1 Sherman's March to the Sea!

Our camp fires shone bright on the mountains  
That crooked on the river below,  
While we stood by our guns, in the morning,  
And eagerly watched for the foe,  
When the rider came out from the darkness,  
That hung over mountain and tree,  
And shouted "boys up, and be ready!"  
"For Sherman will march to the Sea!"

Byers' Song

2  
Then cheer upon cheer for bold Sherman,  
Went up from each valley and glen;  
And the bugles re-echoed the music  
That came from the lips of the men:  
For we knew that the stars in our banner  
more bright in their splendor would be,  
and that blessings from Northland would greet us,  
When Sherman marched down to the Sea.

3  
Then forward, boys, forward to battle,  
We marched on our perilous way,  
and we stormed the wild hills of Resaca;  
God bless those who fell on that day.  
Then Kennesaw, dark in its glory,  
frowned down on the flag of the free,  
But the East, and the West, bore our standards,  
and Sherman marched on to the Sea.

4  
Still onward we pressed, till our banners  
swept out from Atlanta's grim walls,  
and the blood of the patriot dampened  
the soil where the rebel flag falls.  
Yet we paused not to weep for the fallen,  
who slept by each river and tree,  
but we twined them a wreath of the laurel,  
and Sherman marched on to the Sea.

5  
O! proud was our army that morning,  
that stood where the pine darkly towered,  
when Sherman said - "Boys you are weary?  
"But to day, fair Savannah is ours!"  
Then sang we the song to our chieftain,  
that reached our river and sea,  
and the stars in our banner shone brighter,  
when Sherman marched down to the Sea.

D. N. W. Byers,

In prison  
Columbia S.C.  
Feb 1865



carried news of General William Sherman's victory at Atlanta and his triumphant march across Georgia to Savannah. Byers read the article and was inspired to write a poem that he titled "Sherman's March to the Sea." Another prisoner, W. O. Rockwell, set the poem to music, and soon the camp's glee club was singing it. The song rapidly worked its way through the network of prisoners. When another prisoner, Lieutenant Daniel W. Tower, was exchanged by way of an Alabama prison camp, he left the prison carrying a copy of the song with him, smuggled through the lines in his wooden leg. Once available outside the prisons, the song quickly became a national sensation. It gave Sherman's march its famous name and became a Union rallying cry.

Byers, still in prison, had no idea that his song had become so popular, but when Sherman's army closed in on Columbia, his troops were singing Byers's song right along with "John Brown's Body" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." With Sherman getting closer to Columbia, the prisoners were taken from the asylum and transferred out of the state. Byers and a few others took advantage of the confusion to hide in the attic of the building and were overlooked as the other prisoners were taken away. When the Yankee soldiers entered Columbia, Byers was one of the first to greet them. General

SHSI (IOWA CITY)

Sherman heard that Byers was in the town and was eager to meet the poet. He rewarded Byers with a position on his staff. Back in Iowa, Byers was promoted to the rank of brevet major by Governor William M. Stone.

Byers would always be known for his song, but it was just the start of a long and distinguished career. His articles on the war for the *Annals of Iowa* and his books *What I Saw in Dixie: Or Sixteen Months in Rebel Prisons, With Fire and Sword*, and *Iowa in Wartime* are invaluable contributions to Civil War scholarship. He served as U.S. consul to Switzerland from 1869 to 1884, which resulted in the books *Switzerland and the Swiss* and *Twenty Years in Europe*. He wrote articles for *Harper's* and the *Magazine of American History* as well as several volumes of poetry. His best-known poems are about Iowa. In 1911 the state legislature declared "Song of Iowa" Iowa's state song. Byers moved to Los Angeles in his later years and wrote poetry for the *Los Angeles Times*. He died in Los Angeles on May 24, 1933.

—by Kenneth L. Lyftogt

By S. H. M. BYERS.

1. You ask what land I love the best, I - o - wa, 'tis I - o - wa, The  
 2. See yon - der fields of tassel'd corn, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa, Where

fair - est State of all the west, I - o - wa, O! I - o - wa, From  
 Plen - ty fills her gold - en horn, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa. See

yon - der Mis - sis - sip - pi's stream To where Mis - sou - ri's wa - ters gleam O!  
 how her won - drous prai - ries shine To yon - der sun - set's pur - pling line, O!

far it is as po - et's dream, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa.  
 hap - py land, O! land of mine, I - o - wa, O! I - o - wa.

Opposite: Captured by the Confederates, S. H. M. Byers wrote "Sherman's March to the Sea" while in prison.

Right: Byers's "Song of Iowa" is sung to the tune of "O Tannenbaum."



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## John Kasson

### *The Great Survivor*

John Adams Kasson (January 11, 1822–May 18, 1910)—the great survivor of 19th-century Iowa politics—was born in Charlotte, Vermont, the son of a prosperous farmer and devout mother. After his father's death, the family moved to the lumber port of Burlington, Vermont. In 1837 Kasson entered the town's Old Academy, where he studied classics and mathematics for a year. He was then admitted to the University of Vermont, where he excelled in German literature and shared the predominantly nationalist and conservative outlook of his middle-class peers. After graduation, he took up a series of temporary tutorial positions in Virginia. Although the young man developed a liking

for Southern whites and harbored no moral objections to life in a slaveholding society, he observed the thinness of the soil and the wasteful farming practices of the Virginians. The "niggers," he wrote, were kindly treated but were "as lazy as the land is lean."

In July 1843 Kasson returned to New England to train as a lawyer, eventually settling in the whaling town of New Bedford. There this erstwhile Jacksonian Democrat first became involved in politics, joining the new Free-Soil Party, which, for a brief moment in 1848, threatened to secure dominance over the nation's two main parties. Kasson's flirtation with the antislavery Free-Soilers evidenced no conversion to abolitionism

but rather his desire to join a new organization that would circumvent the power of older political elites. Shortly after marrying Caroline Eliot, the daughter of his New Bedford law partner and a woman scarcely less pious than his own mother, Kasson migrated westward to St. Louis. Although he acquired a domestic slave named Lydia as well as his own law office, he quickly attached himself to the free-soil wing of the local Democratic Party led by the old Jacksonian warrior Thomas Hart Benton and his chief lieutenant, Francis P. Blair. Restless, vain, and ambitious, Kasson moved on again in 1857—this time to Des Moines, the ramshackle new capital of Iowa.

Kasson's fierce intellect, political skill, and organizing talents rendered him an influential power broker in the raw settler society taking root west of the Mississippi River. He soon garnered not only a reputation as one of Des Moines' most competent lawyers but also a growing fortune based partly on his practice of lending cash at interest rates as high as 40 percent. An ally of local businessmen and railroad promoters such as the Council Bluffs engineer Grenville M. Dodge, Kasson was appointed chairman of the new Republican Party's State Central Committee in 1858. That position gave him a strong power base within the new party, and he used it to good effect, masterminding Samuel J. Kirkwood's gubernatorial election in 1859 and playing a leading role on the subcommittee appointed to draft the Republican Party's national platform at Chicago in 1860.

Although his conservatism was not shared by radical antislavery Republicans, it helped to moderate the party's dangerously sectional image in the eyes of many Northern voters. At Chicago, Kasson worked closely with the influential *New York Tribune* editor Horace Greeley. Greeley was far more progressive than Kasson on the slavery question, but both men understood that the party's radical instincts had to be curbed if Abraham Lincoln was to be elected. Kasson's empathy for Southern whites resurfaced after Lincoln's victory in November 1860. Unlike most of his copartisans, he argued that the seceding states should be allowed to leave the Union in peace.

During the Civil War, Kasson established himself as a staunch supporter of President Lincoln, initially in his capacity as first assistant postmaster general and then, from 1863, as an Iowa congressman. He advanced his political career in both positions in part through his continu-

ing contacts with the conservative Blair family, whose influence in Lincoln's cabinet was regarded with suspicion by growing numbers of Republicans. No less helpful to Kasson's ambitions were his connections to Iowa's embryonic railroad ring. He pressed hard for Dodge's promotion after the Union army's impressive victory at Pea Ridge in March 1862 and urged the general to avoid the blandishments of antislavery radicals in Union-controlled Missouri. Although Kasson supported Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation as a necessary war measure, his utility to the ring declined as the temper of the country grew more extreme under the strains of war. By 1866 his political career was in trouble. He had alienated Dodge by refusing to promote the general's scheming lickspittle,

George Tichenor, as federal postmaster at Des Moines and now found himself out of step with popular opinion at home because of his support for President Andrew Johnson's lenient South-

ern policy. Worse still, he was the subject of sensational claims that he was an adulterer. A damaging and very public lawsuit ended in divorce, and the congressman's political stock plummeted. Notwithstanding his belated efforts to pose as a radical, Kasson's opponents launched a coordinated and ultimately successful campaign to defeat his renomination in 1866.

During the late 1860s and early 1870s, the wounded politician advanced his career by rebuilding his local base. He served three consecutive terms in the Iowa House, playing a leading role in securing appropriations for a new state capitol and cultivating a compelling image as a reform-oriented but essentially loyal Republican. His efforts paid off. In 1872 he was reelected to Congress once again; two years later he survived final attempts by the ruling machine to oust him. Although he never quite fulfilled his early potential, Kasson went on to build a solid record of partisan and diplomatic service.

Suave, polished, and an admirer of all things German (he was an outspoken champion of Bismarck), he accepted a variety of high-profile foreign missions in the 1880s and 1890s, notably the posts of American minister to Germany and U.S. representative to the 1889 Berlin conference, which settled the two nations' differences over the Samoan islands. He was also a conservative commentator on some of the worst evils of the Gilded Age, urging a greater voice for the wealthy in municipal elections. He died at the age of 88.

—by Robert J. Cook

***Restless, vain, and ambitious,  
Kasson moved to Des Moines,  
the ramshackle new capital.***

# Mary Treglia

Mary Joanna Treglia (October 7, 1897–October 10, 1959)—settlement house director—was born in Sioux City, Iowa, the only child of Italian immigrants Rose and Anthony Treglia. After her husband died before Mary's second birthday, Rose Treglia supported herself and her daughter with a fruit stand that she and Anthony had opened.

As a youngster in Sioux City, Mary Treglia developed a power pitching ability, a skill she developed into paying jobs when she was a young adult. She traveled the area giving demonstrations of her throwing and catching abilities before men's baseball games, sometimes catching a baseball tossed from an airplane. She also earned money as an umpire for men's baseball games.

Rose's declining health and her desire for a warmer climate led Mary to take her mother to California in 1919. While there, Mary played for one of the many women's baseball teams of the era. She also had a brief career in silent movies, first as an extra and then in bit parts. In 1921 the Treglias returned to Sioux City. While Mary Treglia and her mother had been in California, the Sioux City Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) had sponsored a survey of the city's east side, revealing the need for a social gathering place and resulting in the founding of the Sioux City Community House in April 1921. Mary Treglia volunteered at the Community House soon after she returned to Iowa, organizing a club for working girls. Within a year, the center had employed Treglia as assistant to the director, the only other paid employee. She also began working to obtain an academic background for her work, taking a course in settlement house work at the University of Minnesota, doing fieldwork and coursework at the New York School for Social Work and at United Charities in Chicago, and enrolling at Morningside College in Sioux City. Her academic studies were interrupted in 1925 when the Community House's director left and she became the director. Treglia completed her bachelor's degree in 1933. She later became active in the professional community, serving on the board of directors of the National Federation of Settlements from 1947 to 1951 and as president of the Iowa branch of the American Association of Social Workers in 1942.

As director of the Sioux City Community House, Treglia developed clubs, such as the Women of All Nations Club, one her mother supported by going door to door inviting women to join. There were also groups for the arts, youth groups, and programs for girls referred to the Community House by the courts. Classes in English,

American government and history, and assistance with the naturalization process were central to the Community House. Treglia respected the courage and commitment demonstrated by those she served. In 1931 she said, "It is gratifying to have these men and women who for the most part are engaged in industrial work coming twice a week to study English and to see them gradually and sanely assimilated."

In 1933 Treglia helped organize the Booker T. Washington Center, later the Sanford Center, on Sioux City's west side. Initially intended to provide a social gathering place for the city's African American residents, it expanded to include an educational program, a preschool nursery, and a black servicemen's club. The center had an on-site executive director, but Treglia, as executive supervisor, helped develop programs.

With one foot firmly planted with immigrants and other disadvantaged groups, Treglia had her other foot planted in Sioux City's social and political power base, helping them understand and work with each other. When the school board threatened to close a neighborhood school, Lincoln School, Treglia helped turn a potentially volatile situation into a mediated agreement. Later, when the school board did close the school, she helped negotiate the end of the resulting school strike.

In 1932 when the city condemned the building that housed Community House, Treglia oversaw the construction of a new facility, which was built on the site of the former Lincoln School. Before the new building opened, the Floyd River flooded, damaging the building. After another major flood in 1936, Treglia organized the Community House's clubs to gather petitions, and she chaired more than 200 meetings with city officials and flood control planners. World War II suspended action, but following the 1953 Floyd River flood, sustained planning continued for six years. When the comprehensive plan was finally completed in 1959, it included diverting the channel through the Community House neighborhood and razing homes as well as the Community House building itself. The Community House moved to another area of the city and was renamed the Mary J. Treglia Community House.



COURTESY OF MARY J. TREGLIA COMMUNITY HOUSE

—by Suzanne O'Dea





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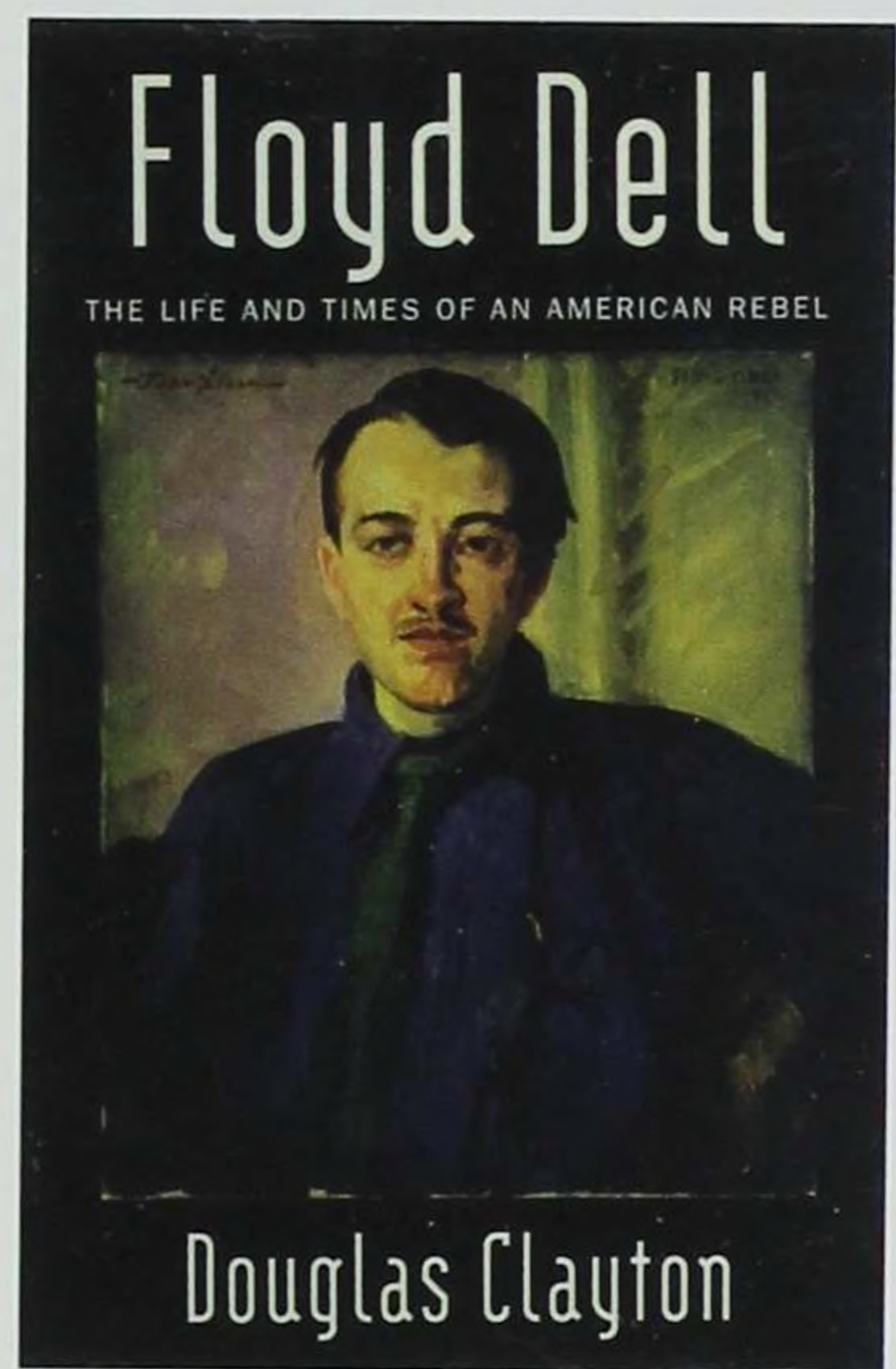
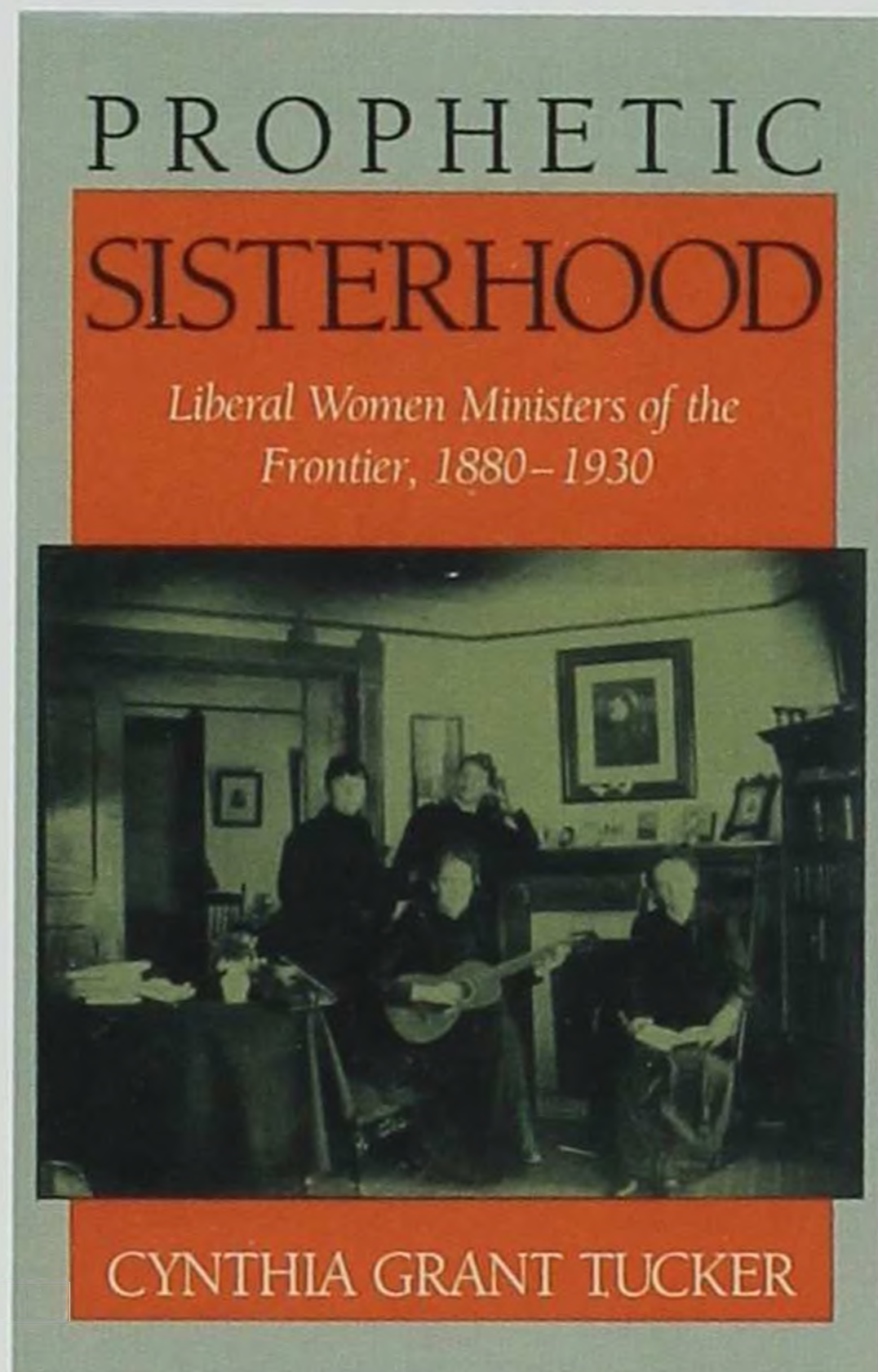
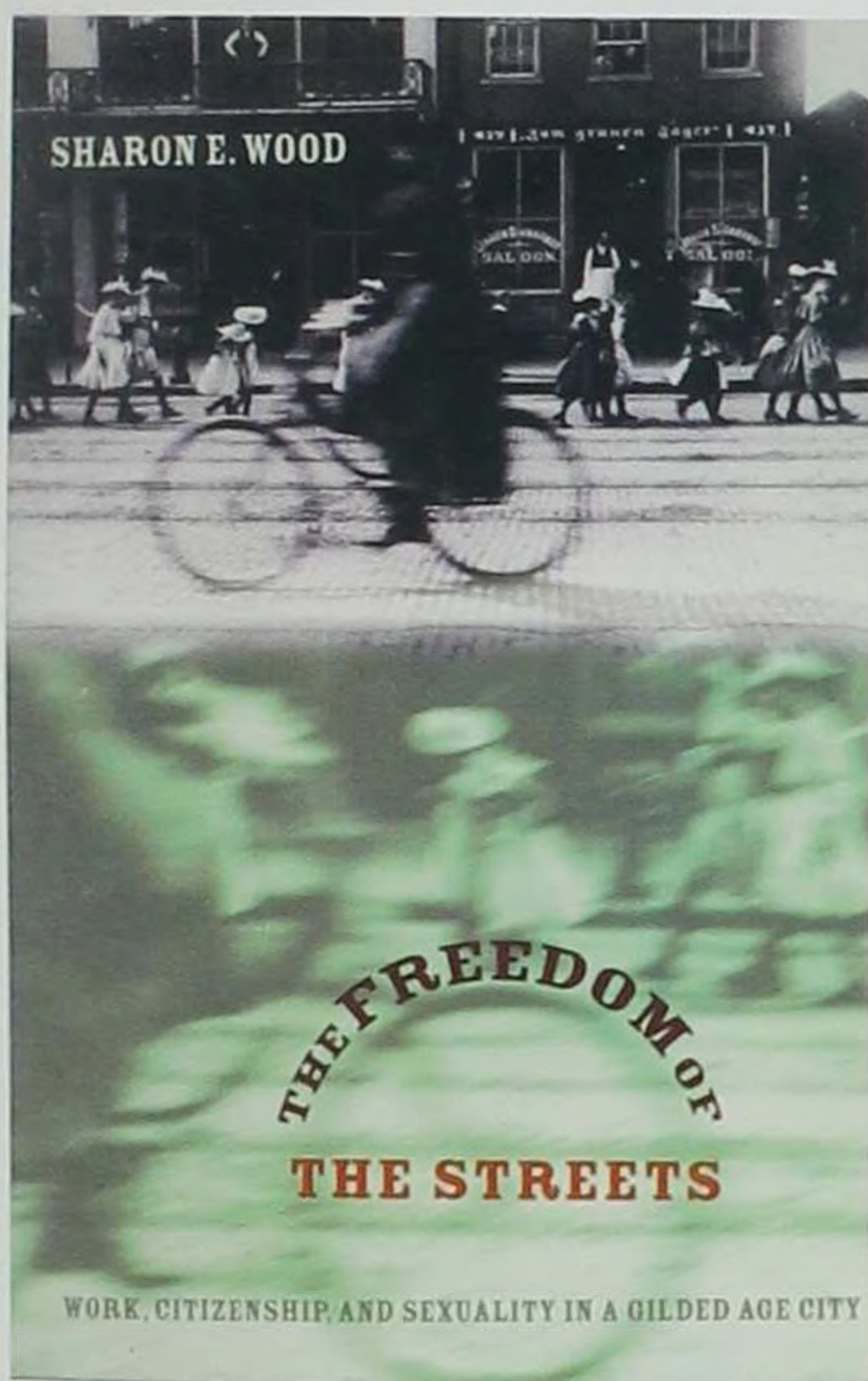
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Thousands of people use the libraries here at the State Historical Society of Iowa as they research the lives of their ancestors. Indeed, our libraries in Iowa City and Des Moines are packed with genealogical material, local and county histories, land records, business chronicles, and censuses. The details you'll find here will build the basic structure—the who, what, when, and where—of an individual's life.

But our library collections also include books that place individuals and events in the context of their time and place. If you'd like to know more about what the times were like when your ancestors lived, and what problems and opportunities they faced, then ask our librarians to help you locate books that may be helpful.

Suppose you've discovered that your grandmother left the family farm before she married and got a

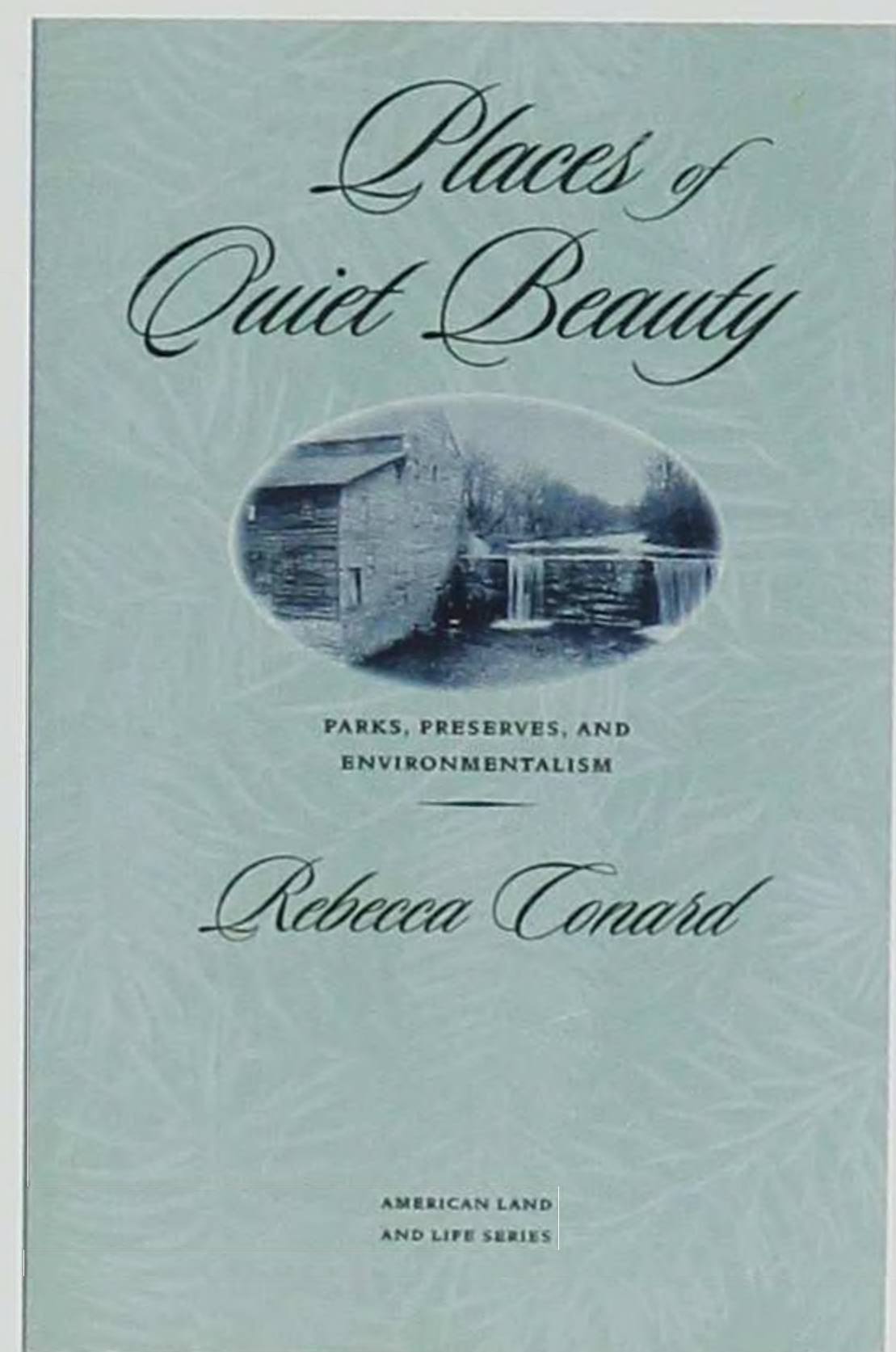
factory job in an Iowa city. Learn about some of the risks young working women faced in *The Freedom of the Streets* (above), and what role Dr. Jennie McCowen played to protect them.

Curious about the challenges of being a woman minister in the 19th century? Browse through *Prophetic Sisterhood*, where you'll encounter Mary Safford and other female pastors.

How was it that a group of radicals, writers, and intellectuals emerged in Davenport a century ago? The biography *Floyd Dell* places you in such a setting.

Let's say your uncle worked in an Iowa park through the Civilian Conservation Corps. Discover in *Places of Quiet Beauty* what the CCC accomplished in parks, and how early conservationists like Louis Pammel helped create the parks in the first place.

Books like these, which repre-



sent cutting-edge research by professional historians, are essential for understanding the larger picture of an individual's story. Our historical libraries can help you answer the who, what, when, and where—and oftentimes even the why—of your ancestors' lives.

—Ginalie Swaim, editor