

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA: 1949-1951

By *William J. Petersen*

During the past two years the State Historical Society of Iowa has experienced the same healthy growth it exhibited during the biennium, 1947-1949. It has enjoyed a membership growth which has swept it from somewhere around twentieth up to second place in the United States. It has carried out a publication program that is unequalled by any other State Historical Society in the nation. So far as is known, its institutional memberships among the schools of Iowa are without a parallel in the United States. Although a newcomer in historical tours, its membership participation in these events already places the Society in the front rank in such activities. It has won numerous awards and recognition, continued to merit the friendly support of the General Assembly, and in general maintained a gratifying progress in all areas of its activities.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Members have been advised through *News for Members* regarding both the monthly accretions and the yearly gains in membership by the Society. It will not be amiss to place this current membership growth in proper historical perspective to our growth over the past half century. In 1903, when the first issue of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS was printed, there were only 60 members in the Society. In 1920, when *The Palimpsest* first appeared, the membership stood at 978. In 1940, at the time of Dr. Shambaugh's death, a total of 1,560 Iowans were members of the State Historical Society. This marked the end of an era, for to many Iowans the names of Benj. F. Shambaugh and State Historical Society were synonymous. During the next seven years the well-established policy of periodically inviting interested Iowans to membership was dropped, and the membership consequently declined to 1,121. On July 1, 1947, the Society numbered only 683 active members and 438 life members. At that time the historical societies of the five states of the Upper Mississippi Valley ranked as follows in active and life membership combined: Missouri — 4,312; Wisconsin — 2,343; Illinois — 1,682; Minnesota — 1,674; Iowa — 1,121.

In 1947 your present Superintendent and Board of Curators adopted new policies and formulated broader objectives. At that time one-third of our counties had two or less members — and six counties actually had no members at all. The first objective, it was felt, should be a state historical society with a more evenly distributed membership. The compilation on page 195 reveals rather graphically the growth that our Society has enjoyed over the last two bienniums.

This represents the greatest increase of any Society in the country over the past four years. The following figures on our neighboring societies in the Upper Mississippi Valley are significant.

<i>Historical Society</i>	<i>1947</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>Yearly Dues</i>	<i>Population, 4-1-1950</i>
Missouri	4,312	5,471	\$1.00	3,954,653
Wisconsin	2,343	3,225	\$3.50	3,434,575
Illinois	1,682	3,400	\$2.00	8,712,176
Minnesota	1,674	2,900	\$4.00	2,982,483
Iowa	1,121	3,709	\$3.00	2,621,073

On July 20, 1951, Mr. Floyd C. Shoemaker, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Missouri, who had been assigned by the American Association for State and Local History to collect membership statistics for all historical societies, sent the following letter:

Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent
The State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Bill:

Congratulations! Data on hand, which I believe is sufficiently complete, give you second rank in the United States in adult pay members and in total number of pages of historical (magazine and book) and documentary material published by a state historical society during the biennium ending June 30, 1951. We are still first, of course, in both!!! Our adult pay membership on July 1, 1951, was 5,471. . . .

Cordially,
Floyd C. Shoemaker,
Secretary.

The gratifying factor in this growth has been its relative uniformity — all 99 counties have shown an increase and while some counties have ex-

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Membership Gains by County, 1947-1951

July Membership

County	1947	1949	1951	County	1947	1949	1951
Polk	127	186	315	Humboldt	2	9	19
Johnson	123	202	285	Butler	4	6	18
Linn	81	101	204	Mills	5	9	18
Scott	90	152	197	O'Brien	5	18	18
Black Hawk	48	93	138	Palo Alto	4	9	17
Clinton	17	36	71	Allamakee	8	10	16
Dubuque	25	46	71	Buena Vista	0	6	16
Muscatine	8	22	71	Cherokee	4	12	16
Iowa	15	38	68	Osceola	1	9	16
Washington	18	30	64	Wright	5	9	16
Wapello	14	44	60	Hardin	4	8	15
Lee	20	43	58	Sioux	2	9	15
Cerro Gordo	15	20	57	Taylor	3	6	15
Des Moines	19	36	56	Lyon	1	11	14
Benton	13	23	52	Marion	9	9	14
Pottawattamie	16	23	46	Union	2	6	14
Mahaska	8	14	45	Van Buren	2	9	14
Story	12	20	45	Winneshiek	5	7	14
Cedar	10	26	42	Madison	0	5	13
Tama	3	15	40	Calhoun	4	7	12
Appanoose	8	12	39	Crawford	4	6	12
Webster	5	31	39	Hancock	4	7	12
Keokuk	12	17	35	Shelby	4	5	12
Cass	8	30	34	Emmet	1	11	11
Marshall	14	18	33	Floyd	1	7	11
Page	6	13	31	Fremont	2	12	11
Grundy	8	21	30	Warren	3	4	11
Hamilton	7	12	30	Sac	3	7	11
Jasper	5	14	30	Adair	0	4	10
Jefferson	12	23	30	Audubon	0	9	10
Woodbury	14	21	30	Franklin	4	7	10
Clayton	5	10	29	Monroe	2	5	10
Kossuth	4	24	29	Clarke	1	10	9
Dickinson	6	32	28	Decatur	0	9	9
Montgomery	8	18	28	Guthrie	5	7	9
Buchanan	7	13	27	Lucas	3	4	9
Boone	3	18	25	Monona	5	5	9
Fayette	6	9	25	Ringgold	2	5	9
Louisa	8	24	25	Howard	1	1	8
Pocahontas	8	9	25	Plymouth	4	10	8
Poweshiek	6	11	25	Worth	2	2	8
Carroll	5	15	23	Harrison	2	2	7
Henry	9	11	23	Ida	5	5	7
Jones	8	17	23	Winnebago	0	4	7
Greene	4	11	22	Adams	3	5	6
Jackson	4	5	22	Chickasaw	2	4	6
Bremer	7	10	21	Davis	2	2	6
Clay	2	16	21	Mitchell	1	1	5
Dallas	9	16	19	Wayne	4	6	4
Delaware	1	15	19				

celled others, the following shows that the average increase of the thirty weakest counties actually exceeds the total over-all membership increase.

Increase in Active and Life Members

	1947	1949	1951
Active Members	683	1,749	3,095
Life Members	438	545	614
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Members	1,121	2,294	3,709
Net Gain		1,171	1,344
Total Membership, 30 lowest counties...	80	146	306
Average Membership, 30 lowest counties	2.6	4.9	10.2

Two years ago we set our future goals at 3,138 members in 1951 and 3,650 members in 1953. Our 3,709 members this year actually exceeded our goal for two years hence. It now appears as though we will readily exceed our 1955 goal in 1953, provided our members continue their warm support of our program. It would really be heartening to gain our 1957 goal of 5,000 by 1955. Here is our "Past Membership" and "Future Goals":

Past Membership

	Active	Life	Total
1947.....	683	438	1,121
1949.....	1,749	545	2,294
1951.....	3,095	614	3,709

Future Goals

1953.....	3,600	650	4,250
1955.....	4,000	700	4,700
1957.....	4,500	725	5,225
1959.....	5,000	750	5,750

There is still plenty of opportunity for our members to increase our representation in over half the counties, more especially in the weaker counties. The past four years have demonstrated how quickly a weak county can become strong: Madison, from 0 to 13; Buena Vista, from 0 to 16; Delaware and Mills, both from 1 to 18; Osceola, from 1 to 16; Lyon, from 1 to 13; Clay, from 2 to 21; Humboldt, from 2 to 19; Sioux, from 2 to 15; Boone, from 3 to 27; Tama, from 3 to 41; Kossuth, from 4 to 29; Greene, from 4 to 22; Webster, from 5 to 39; Dickinson, from 6 to 28; Buchanan, from 7 to 26; Muscatine, from 8 to 71. These fine gains can be attributed to the good work of such members as Mrs. Ray Mills of Madison, Mrs. F. A.

Wortman of Mills, Miss Elizabeth Trei of Osceola, Judge Otho S. Thomas of Lyon, Mrs. Harry Narey of Dickinson, Leo Fitzgibbons of Emmet, W. C. Dewel and Norman Cotton of Kossuth, J. F. Traer and Mrs. Faye B. MacMartin of Tama, Senator Paul E. McCarville of Webster, Clarence R. Off and Glenn A. Ellis of Iowa, Walter Jacobs of Clayton, Wm. S. Lynes of Bremer, and William D. Randall of Muscatine. The latter is responsible for over thirty members in Muscatine County, and has largely through his own personal efforts more than doubled the membership there.

During the next four years I would like to see similar increases in the following counties, which are the only ones remaining with less than 10 members per county:

Clarke 9	Howard 8	Adams 6
Decatur 9	Worth 8	Davis 6
Guthrie 9	Harrison 7	Chickasaw 5
Lucas 9	Ida 7	Mitchell 4
Monona 9	Plymouth 7	Wayne 4
Ringgold 9	Winnebago 7	

While our first objective should be to see that all of the above counties increase their membership well over ten, it should be pointed out that one county in Iowa which has a population equivalent to ten of the above can count only 29 members. Although this represents a 100 per cent gain over four years ago, Sioux City, the second largest city in Iowa, should have at least 150 members. It is the only large city in Iowa where work really needs to be done, although Council Bluffs, Marshalltown, and Oskaloosa can improve their standing.

PUBLICATIONS

Turning next to our publication program, we find that both our quarterly and monthly magazines have appeared regularly, and both have gained a wider reader interest than ever before.

The first issue of our quarterly appeared in January, 1903; the JOURNAL is now in its forty-ninth volume. Designed for the publication of scholarly articles on Iowa history, the quarterly has, over the years, made available in permanent form to members and students of history articles based on sound historical research in every phase of Iowa life.

With the issue of January, 1949, certain changes were made. The name was shortened to IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY; a smaller but more readable

type font was selected on the advice of Carroll Coleman; a colorful, illustrated cover was chosen; and every effort has been made to find and publish articles and documents of value and interest.

In choosing articles for publication we have looked for sound research, adequate documentation, and a variety in subject matter. In order to appeal to as many readers as possible, and to provide articles on several different subjects in each issue, we have abandoned the former practice of publishing long condensations of theses of limited interest. Rather, these sixty or ninety-page articles have been issued, where publication was justified, in separates, such as the booklet on the *Iowa Tax Commission*. In the *JOURNAL*, during the past two and one-half years, we have published twenty-six articles dealing with agriculture, railroads, newspapers, magazines, education, medicine, the theater, and such prominent political figures in Iowa life as William Boyd Allison, Jonathan P. Dolliver, Cyrus C. Carpenter, Horace Boies, and Albert Baird Cummins.

Documents — letters or diaries written by our forefathers — have been included in each issue not only because they are of value to the historian but also because they afford reading of unusual personal interest to the members of the Society. The sixteen documents published have been original materials on pioneering, westward travel, and Iowans in the Civil War. Most of these documents were either loaned or given to us by members. We want more of these original documents and will welcome such contributions from our members, who, in this way, can help us preserve the history of Iowa, and at the same time share their family letters and diaries with a wider audience.

With the January, 1951, issue a new department has been inaugurated which should prove valuable. Old newspapers, farm journals, and out-of-print books contain much of Iowa history not readily available. By reprinting some of this material, under the heading, "Source Material in Iowa History," we hope to add new value and variety to the *JOURNAL*.

The scholarship of the material published in the *JOURNAL* is shown by the fact that of the 37 authors who have contributed to our quarterly since the change in format, 31 have been holders of the Ph. D. degree, and 4 of the M. A. degree. Thus, we feel that our quarterly can compare more than favorably with the historical journals of our sister institutions in the sound scholarship of its contributions to local history.

Our monthly magazine is unique in the field of state historical society

publications. The purpose behind *The Palimpsest* has always been to present history accurately, interestingly, and dramatically. In addition to maintaining the above qualities, a new feature has been added: the use of photos, maps, graphs, and charts has brought new color and meaning to the story. The popularity of *The Palimpsest* has increased appreciably since pictures have been introduced on a large scale. During 1950 more than 100,000 copies of *The Palimpsest* were printed, or more than double the requirements for memberships, depositories, and exchanges. Almost all of these extra copies have been distributed, and the supply in some instances is exceedingly low and soon will be completely exhausted. For instance, 13,000 of the 15,000 *Amana* copies printed in June, 1950, were distributed in less than a year; less than 2,000 of the 18,000 copies of *Iowa Government in Action* are still available. When schools order their customary supplies this fall it is likely that most of these issues will go out of print.

The magnitude of the editorial problem involved in securing appropriate and interesting pictures is revealed by the fact that the 1950 volume of *The Palimpsest* contained more pictures than were placed in the first twenty volumes combined. And pictures, it must be remembered, are difficult and sometimes almost impossible to secure. Some of our most experienced contributors have found it relatively easy to prepare an issue for *The Palimpsest* but have found it virtually impossible to secure the necessary illustrations.

There is a great need for alerting Iowans to the need of preserving their choicest historical pictures — not merely in their own homes, but in the files of the State Historical Society of Iowa, where they will ultimately have a fair chance of being printed in one of our publications and thus being shared with thousands of readers. On a recent visit to George Wright's law office in Council Bluffs I spied a picture of Senator William Boyd Allison and Speaker of the House David B. Henderson, seated in an automobile in front of the Allison home in Dubuque. The car was a Dubuque-built Adams-Farwell, and hence the picture is a priceless gem both from the standpoint of personalities and of automobile construction in Iowa. Some day soon members can expect to see it on the front cover of *The Palimpsest*.

During the biennium, two unusually fine books were issued. The reprint of *Galland's Iowa Emigrant* appeared in January, 1950, and was promptly hailed by some as one of the best volumes ever produced by the Society.

Fully 3,500 copies of the book were printed, with the type being set by Carroll Coleman, nationally-known typographer at the University of Iowa. Shortly after he performed this work Mr. Coleman was elected a member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa. An original copy of the book was so rare that the Library of Congress has been able to locate only a half dozen copies, two of which were found in Iowa. Since the reprint was issued a number of originals have come to light. Meanwhile, the 3,500-reprint has gone out of print, due largely to the great number of new members taken in before April 1, 1950.

When the Galland book appeared, your superintendent pointed out that members would be receiving "a typographical gem as well as one of the most unique volumes on early Iowa." That assertion was vindicated early in 1951 when *Galland's Iowa Emigrant* was named one of the "Fifty Books of the Year" by the American Institute of Graphic Arts, because of its typographical excellence. Sets of these "Fifty Books of the Year" have been placed on display in leading centers in the United States and Europe. In July word was received that the United States Army had acquired three sets of these "Fifty Books of the Year" and was placing them on a tour of the leading Japanese cities.

The second and latest bound volume produced by the Society was Dr. Earle D. Ross's *Iowa Agriculture: An Historical Survey*, which was distributed to members in February, 1951. A total of 4,500 copies of this book were printed and the price was set at \$4.50 for non-members. This scholarly work has won warm praise from many members. It will be distributed as a book dividend to new members as long as the supply lasts. Since both the Plumbe and Galland books went out of print in less than six months, it is likely that the Ross book will follow this same pattern and be out of print by this fall. Our growing membership is attested by the increased printing of the Plumbe, Galland, and Ross books — 3,000, 3,500, and 4,500 respectively.

Spurred on by Floyd C. Shoemaker, amiable Secretary of the State Historical Society of Missouri, I have compiled the following statistics on the number of pages printed by the State Historical Society of Iowa for the biennium — July 1, 1949–July 1, 1951:

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>The Palimpsest</i>		
July–Dec. 1949	245	

Jan.-Dec. 1950	592	
Jan.-June 1951	296	
		1,133
<i>Iowa Journal of History</i>		
July-Oct. 1949	226	
Jan.-Oct. 1950	424	
Jan.-Apr. 1951	192	
		842
<i>News for Members</i>		
July-Dec. 1949	24	
Jan.-Dec. 1950	48	
Jan.-June 1951	24	
		96
<i>Some Information</i> (Jan. 1951)	64	64
<i>Membership List</i> (Jan. 1950)	56	56
<i>Iowa State Tax Commission</i> by David C. Scott		
(Mar. 1950)	80	80
<i>Legislation of the Fifty-Third General Assembly of Iowa</i>		
by J. A. Swisher & R. M. Ross (Jan. 1951)	72	72
<i>Galland's Iowa Emigrant</i> (1950)	48	48
<i>Iowa Agriculture</i> by Earle D. Ross (1951)	226	226
		2,617

During the same period, Mr. Shoemaker's Society printed 2,492 pages — but members received only the *Missouri Historical Review* (their quarterly magazine totaling 902 pages). The Missouri quarterly includes in the total their pictures, which are paged. Our *Palimpsest* contained 165 pages of pictures during the biennium, and these 165 pages do not include our pictured covers. We still believe that the Missouri membership at \$1.00 and the Iowa membership at \$3.00 are the two best bargains in the United States.

THE LIBRARY

Most members have little idea of the magnitude of the library resources of the State Historical Society. The following figures are impressive:

Books	70,000
Pamphlets	29,000
Newspapers	6,000

It is worth while noting that about one book in every eight on the University of Iowa campus is in the possession of the State Historical Society of Iowa. These books are specialized and are widely used by graduate students in history, political science, economics, sociology, journalism, education, and other fields. In addition, faculty members and scholars from all over the country come and use these books. Our library also forms the chief source of information for most of the historical research by our Society staff.

During the past two years 3,380 books were accessioned, compared with 1,325 books accessioned in the previous biennium. If the average rate of accretion during the past four years is maintained during the next twenty years, the Society's library will contain 100,000 books, compared with only 70,000 today. And a one-third increase means that adequate shelving space must be provided to house such acquisitions.

The same proportionate growth is likely to take place in our pamphlet and manuscript collections. This means that more space is needed for steel filing cabinets and shelves, beyond that required to contain our already bulging cases and cabinets. This need becomes all the more acute if we are going to institute our much-needed collection of historic and current photographs. The latter would require the services of at least a half-time employee, and the proper acquisition and cataloguing of newspaper clippings would necessitate another half-time employee, or a full-time employee for the two activities. Thus, space and adequate full-time help, reasonably compensated, are two crucial needs that cannot long be overlooked. Space must be provided by the University, while the General Assembly must vote sufficient funds to carry out this much-needed work.

The subject matter of photographs — both historical and contemporary, both of personalities and events — has engrossed much of our thought over the past two years. One can readily see, from what has been said above, that such a project would demand considerable individual attention. The following are only suggested possibilities for collecting:

<i>Transportation</i>	trains	television
<i>& Communication</i>	trucks	<i>Sports</i>
aviation	telephone	baseball
automobile	telegraph	basketball
bicycles	radio	football
busses	waterways	track

tennis	<i>Amusements</i>	<i>Historic Homes and Buildings</i>
golf	theater	<i>Notable Iowans</i>
swimming	opera	<i>Iowa Events</i>
wrestling	movies	
hunting	lyceum	<i>War</i>
fishing	circus	Civil War
horse racing	state parks	Spanish-American
	county fairs	Mexican
<i>Churches</i>	<i>Clubs</i>	World War I
exteriors	service	World War II
interiors	fraternal	Korea
sociables	women's	
missions	patriotic	<i>Agriculture</i>
Sunday school	farm-labor	grain
leaders		livestock
<i>Education</i>	<i>Professions</i>	dairy
college	doctors	fruit
high school	dentists	poultry-eggs
grade school	druggists	cheese
consolidate	lawyers	
1-room	barbers	<i>Industry</i>
academies	<i>Architecture</i>	meat packing
Chautauqua	churches	wood working
professional	schools	brick & tile
special	courthouses	cement
	farm homes	printing
	city homes	special

Splendid as are our library and research facilities, they do not compare with the resources of our sister institution at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1948:

<i>Books and Pamphlets</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>Iowa City</i>
State University	575,000	576,000
State Historical Society	695,000	92,000

It is in our newspaper collections that we have been especially derelict. The Wisconsin and Minnesota Historical Societies each have approximately 40,000 bound volumes of newspapers, while the Kansas Historical Society has 63,000 bound volumes. In contrast, the State Historical Society of Iowa has approximately 6,000 bound volumes, or less than one-tenth the holdings of Kansas. Viewed in still another way, our Iowa society has acquired bound volumes of newspapers at the rate of only 65 volumes per year over the past 90 years. During the biennium 1949-1951, the Society bound 254

volumes of newspapers: 20 dailies and 20 weeklies. During the years 1951-1953 we will probably bind 20 dailies and 50 weeklies, which will work up into about 300 volumes. Thus, in 20 years we will bind 3,000 volumes of newspapers, while in 40 years we will add 6,000 volumes to our holdings, or as many as were acquired in the previous 90 years. Although our program will be accelerated to more than double its past rate, it will still leave us far in the rear of our sister institutions. What we lose in quantity, however, we hope to make up in selectivity, for the weeklies and dailies bound will be chosen on the basis of geography, editorial and mechanical excellence, size of town, and an equitable representation of political parties and labor and farm elements. Thus, we hope to find mirrored in our newspaper files all phases of life in Iowa as we find it today.

Meanwhile, it is important for our membership to advise us should any bound volumes of newspapers become available. Many such collections are housed in fire traps and are in imminent danger of destruction. Sometimes lack of space is a factor, and newspapers are thereupon burned or hauled away to a dump. In many instances local public libraries are affording newspapers reasonable assurance from destruction by fire. Wherever and whenever it seems best to house a newspaper file here at Iowa City, it would be wise to write the Society at once. There are many towns in sections that are not well-represented in our newspaper collections, and hence it is difficult for us to do adequate research on these towns and districts. This can be quickly rectified if we can acquire a good file of newspapers from a town.

Meanwhile, the Society library itself is being converted from the Dewey to the Library of Congress system of classification. In 1947 this work was about half finished; during the biennium ending in 1949 I was able to report 7,305 books had been reclassified. During the biennium 1949-1951 a total of 10,150 books were recatalogued into the Library of Congress system. This meant that the work was more than 90 per cent done, and that the most significant sections of our library were now easily accessible through a cross-reference system that is highly effective and has proven a boon to our staff and to scholars using our library as a research laboratory.

HISTORICAL TOURS

For many years several of the leading state historical societies have sponsored overland tours to various sections of their states. These tours have been highly educational and have cemented together, by a common bond of

historical interest, the members of the societies. The tours have served to revitalize local historical societies; provided spot news for radios and newspapers; and in general quickened the pulse of public interest in state and local history.

Your Superintendent is still mindful of the fact that both the Minnesota and Wisconsin societies have larger staffs with which to promote such tours. Indeed, both have paid individuals to carry on membership promotion and historical tours. The enthusiastic reactions of the 44 members of our first trip aboard the *Rob Roy III* on October 10, 1948, and the response of our members to our second annual two-day trip on July 30 and 31, 1949, when 230 jammed the decks of the *Rob Roy III* and the *Alma*, revealed the genuine interest and enthusiasm of our members for such trips. One of the features of this second annual cruise was the All-Iowa-Menu of forty-eight varieties of food, supplied at cost by thirty Iowa processors located in twenty-three Iowa towns, making it possible to provide State Historical Society members with a trip at a cost of only \$2.00 per person. The rising cost of food made it necessary to increase the fee to \$3.00 per person for the 1950 and 1951 trips.

The response of press and radio to these tours was equally prompt and enthusiastic. No activity of the Society in the past has won such widespread publicity. The river cruises also caught the attention of the American Association for State and Local History. At its annual meeting at Portland, Oregon, on August 30, 1950, the Association voted an Award of Merit to the State Historical Society of Iowa:

For having developed a unique annual tour in the form of a boat excursion down the Mississippi river for the Society's members and their friends, with attendant broadcasts, newspaper publicity, and colored photography; for initiating an all-Iowa food menu; and for encouraging a dynamic educational program in state and local history.

In 1949, acting on the recommendation of the Superintendent of the Society, Commodore O. D. Collis was presented with a special Award of Merit by the American Association for having made his *Rob Roy III* available to members of the Society, thus promoting interest in state and local history. In 1950 the *Des Moines Register* and the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* were presented with Awards of Merit by the Association. The citation to the *Des Moines Register* reads: "For recurrent featuring of Iowa history in the

Sunday edition through illustrated articles which are both authentic and colorfully written; for almost daily attention given to local history; and for the historical features of their centennial edition." The award to the Cedar Rapids *Gazette* reads: "For publication of special editions devoted to state and local history which have won widespread acclaim and awakened interest in local history throughout the region; and for almost daily publication of illustrated articles dealing with a large section of Iowa."

This splendid recognition on the part of the American Association for State and Local History should be a source of gratification to our membership. If increased attendance is any criteria, certainly the Mississippi cruises have been a great success. The following figures are significant:

Year	Days	Boats	Passengers Carried
1948.....	1	1	49
1949.....	2	2	230
1950.....	4	1	375
1951.....	6	1	600

In analyzing the figures for the 1951 cruise it would appear that about one in every 10 of our 3,709 members boarded the *Rob Roy III*. These members came from over a hundred Iowa communities in over sixty Iowa counties. A gratifying fact is that members came from many of our western counties — from Fremont, Page, and Pottawattamie in the southwest, and from Woodbury, O'Brien, Clay, and Emmet in the northwest. One member came all the way from Redlands, California, while several came from the Chicago area.

Originally, it will be recalled, your Superintendent suggested that an overland tour over the Old Military Road from Iowa City to Dubuque (with a return by way of Jackson County) would afford a rich scenic and historic trip. More than two hundred members signified an interest in such a tour, but our limited personnel caused us to drop this project. Last year, however, we ran a "pilot tour" of the Amana colonies to discover the problems involved in an overland trip. A total of 130 members and friends made the tour, and great enthusiasm was expressed over it. During the year that followed, so many requests were made for another Amana tour that it was decided to combine one with the biennial business meeting and election of a Board of Curators. This eliminated arranging a special program for the biennial business meeting. The decision proved to be a happy one, for a caravan of 75 cars brought 225 members, relatives, and guests from 52 dif-

ferent Iowa towns to make the second annual Amana tour. At the Ox Yoke Inn, 195 reservations were made for a fine Amana dinner and the biennial business meeting. This more than doubled the 96 reservations for a similar dinner at the Hotel Jefferson two years before. One can only conclude that Society members have a deep and abiding interest in the Amana colonies, and that overland tours to interesting points are as popular as river cruises and should be promoted just as vigorously.

We hope to promote trips over the Old Military Road and, as time goes on, tours for Society members to the Pella Tulip Festival, to the Kalona-Wellman Amish-Mennonite country, to Davenport-Muscatine, and to the Keokuk-Fort Madison area, which is a veritable cradle of Iowa history. Nor will we overlook trips to southwestern Iowa and to the lovely Okoboji region in northwestern Iowa. Much good will accrue from such tours. Indeed, many Iowans are joining the Society because it has instituted this particular form of activity.

It goes without saying that our Society will continue to sponsor overland tours to the limits of staff ability and the interest of our members. Any activity that can win the widespread interest of the press and public, and at the same time enlist the participation of a goodly segment of our membership, deserves further support. It is my hope that our members will join in promoting celebrations, such as the Pella Tulip Festival, throughout Iowa. If our membership takes an interest and an active part in such activities we can be sure there will be no cheap commercialism introduced into such community festivals and pageants. It was heartening to note the response to my recent editorial in *News for Members*. In "Carroll Can Do It" in the *Carroll Daily Times-Herald*, James W. Wilson declared:

"Steamboat Bill" (W. J.) Petersen . . . has advanced an idea well-worthwhile the consideration of every community in the state.

Mr. Petersen believes Iowa should have more celebrations like Pella's and Orange City's tulip festivals.

He has a good idea there. Few communities in Iowa could not stage some kind of a local observance each year that would contribute in a big way to the Iowa scene.

He was discussing this idea on a tour of the Amana colonies where he felt an annual festival would be highly successful in those richly historic colonies.

There is no reason, he feels, why other Iowa communities cannot produce outstanding historic festivals around their national

POINTS OF INTEREST ON THE AMANA TOUR

Homestead:

1. Homestead Church.
2. Bill Zuber's Dugout, Formerly Homestead Hotel.
3. Homestead Store. William Ehrle, Mgr.
4. Homestead of Dr. Henry G. Moershel: President, Amana Society.
5. Homestead Store — Implement Department.
6. Homestead Meat Market. William Ackerman, Mgr.
7. The Winery. William and Emil Ehrle.
8. Sandwich Shop. H. Theo. Kippenhan, Mgr.

Upper South:

9. Bakery. Ferdinand Shoup, Mgr.
10. View of Amana Colonies.

Lower South:

11. Sandwich Shop. F. J. Ruff, Mgr.

West:

12. Dairy.
13. Amana Society Apple Orchard.

High:

14. Cattle Barns.

Middle:

15. High School.
16. Middle Store. Wm. H. Zuber, Mgr.
17. Hearth Oven at Karl Hahn Home.
18. Amana Refrigeration, Inc. George Foerstner, Mgr.
19. Amana Lake and Lilies.

Amana:

20. Amana Pharmacy. F. W. Miller, Mgr.
21. Old Amana Pump.
22. Home and Garden of Dr. Charles F. Noe.
23. Ronneburg Inn. Mrs. Helen Zimmerman, Owner.
24. Ox Yoke Inn. Bill Leichsenring, Owner.
25. Colony Inn. Jacob Roemig, Owner.
26. Amana Woolen Mills. Dave Krauss, Supt.
27. Woolen Mill Sales Room. John Reihman.
28. Cabinet Shop. Jacob R. Zscherny, Mgr.
29. Meat Market. George Schuerer, Mgr.
30. Hog Farrowing House. Harry A. Geiger, Farm Mgr.
31. Dairy Barn—90 head of Holsteins.
32. Christian Metz Home.
33. Amana Store. Fred P. Goerler.

East Amana:

34. Mrs. Lena Schuerer Home and Gardens.
35. East Amana Church.
36. East Amana Cemetery.

groups. He named the Bohemians at Cedar Rapids, Germans at Davenport, Norwegians at Decorah, the Swedes and Danes as among those having potentialities.

Hasn't Carroll, too, some possibilities in its predominantly German background? This might be worth looking into. . . .

The Davenport *Times* was equally enthusiastic about the possibilities of promoting more tours and festivals in Iowa. Such a program, the editor observed, "goes far toward keeping alive a link with the achievements of the pioneers who laid the foundations for Iowa's happiness and prosperity as we of today know it."

MUCH HAS BEEN DONE — MUCH WORK LIES AHEAD

One cannot help expressing satisfaction with the accomplishments of the biennium — 1949–1951. Much solid and important work has been accomplished, but much hard work lies ahead. To those of us who love the opportunity of helping to preserve and disseminate the history of Iowa, this work must always serve as an inspiration and a challenge. Many of the goals of 1949 have been reached, and our sights must now be trained on more distant objectives. The addition of 300 institutional school memberships brings us to the half-way mark. Let's see if we can't reach 600 institutional school memberships by 1953. The promotion of one Book Shelf of Iowa History in every county is still a dream; let's make it a reality. The development of an endowment fund, and the securing of private financial support for special projects, are still objectives worthy of our best efforts. The foundation has been laid and real progress has been registered. The enthusiastic support of our membership will do much toward finally achieving these goals.