

## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA 1951-1953

By *William J. Petersen*

Once more it is a pleasure to report solid progress for the State Historical Society of Iowa during the biennium 1951-1953. It has shown a net membership increase of over seven hundred. Its publication program has been continued on the same high plane that has characterized its work for over half a century. Its publications can be found in every college and tax-supported library in the state, while almost every first rate high school and junior high school has taken out an institutional membership in the Society. From a small beginning five years ago its historical tours have grown in popularity and have actually attracted national attention. As a result, during the past biennium the Society has won numerous awards and recognition. It has continued to merit the friendly support of the General Assembly, and in general it has maintained a gratifying progress in all areas of its activities.

### MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

In my last report I indicated that the membership of the Society had increased from 60 at the time the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS was established in 1903 to 978 when *The Palimpsest* was founded in 1920. By 1940 membership had risen to 1,560. During the next seven years the membership declined to 1,121; of these 683 were active members and 438 were 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, it will be remembered, one-third of our counties had two or less members — and six counties actually had no members at all. Your Superintendent and Board of Curators promptly adopted new policies and formulated broader objectives. 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 our Society has enjoyed over the past three bienniums.

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

| <i>Historical Society</i> | 1947  | 1953  | Yearly<br>Dues | Population<br>1950 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|----------------|--------------------|
| Missouri .....            | 4,312 | 6,300 | \$1.00         | 3,954,653          |
| Wisconsin .....           | 2,343 | 3,413 | \$3.50         | 3,434,575          |
| Illinois .....            | 1,682 | 3,574 | \$2.00         | 8,712,176          |
| Minnesota .....           | 1,674 | 2,662 | \$4.00         | 2,982,483          |
| Iowa .....                | 1,121 | 4,452 | \$3.00         | 2,621,073          |

During the past six years our Society registered gains in active as well as life memberships. The following figures should be gratifying to all who are interested in a broader dissemination of Iowa history:

*Iowa's Increase in Active and Life Members*

|                          | 1947  | 1949  | 1951  | 1953  |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Active Members .....     | 683   | 1,749 | 3,095 | 3,776 |
| Life Members .....       | 438   | 545   | 614   | 676   |
| Total Members .....      | 1,121 | 2,294 | 3,709 | 4,452 |
| Net Gain .....           | —     | 1,171 | 1,344 | 743   |
| Total Membership         |       |       |       |       |
| 30 lowest counties ..... | 80    | 146   | 306   | 288   |
| Average Membership       |       |       |       |       |
| 30 lowest counties ..... | 2.6   | 4.9   | 10.2  | 9.6   |

Two years ago we set our 1953 goal at 4,250 members; we have actually exceeded this goal by 202, our membership now standing at 4,452. If our members will only continue their warm support of our program we should continue to register substantial gains. 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 |
| 1953 ..... | 3,771  | 676  | 4,452 |

*Future Goals*

|            |       |     |       |
|------------|-------|-----|-------|
| 1955 ..... | 4,000 | 700 | 4,700 |
| 1957 ..... | 4,500 | 725 | 5,225 |
| 1959 ..... | 5,000 | 750 | 5,750 |

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

*Membership Gains by County, 1947-1953*

| County        | 1947 | 1949 | 1951 | 1953 | County      | 1947 | 1949 | 1951 | 1953 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| Polk          | 127  | 186  | 315  | 420  | Mills       | 5    | 9    | 18   | 21   |
| Johnson       | 123  | 202  | 285  | 328  | Greene      | 4    | 11   | 22   | 20   |
| Linn          | 81   | 101  | 204  | 271  | Hardin      | 4    | 8    | 15   | 20   |
| Scott         | 90   | 152  | 197  | 226  | Pocahontas  | 8    | 9    | 25   | 19   |
| Black Hawk    | 48   | 93   | 138  | 160  | Palo Alto   | 4    | 9    | 17   | 19   |
| Cerro Gordo   | 15   | 20   | 57   | 76   | Cherokee    | 4    | 12   | 16   | 19   |
| Dubuque       | 25   | 46   | 71   | 75   | Sioux       | 2    | 9    | 15   | 19   |
| Muscatine     | 8    | 22   | 71   | 75   | Butler      | 4    | 6    | 18   | 18   |
| Washington    | 18   | 30   | 64   | 75   | O'Brien     | 5    | 18   | 18   | 18   |
| Clinton       | 17   | 36   | 71   | 72   | Allamakee   | 8    | 10   | 16   | 18   |
| Wapello       | 14   | 44   | 60   | 67   | Van Buren   | 2    | 9    | 14   | 18   |
| Iowa          | 15   | 38   | 68   | 66   | Harrison    | 2    | 2    | 7    | 18   |
| Lee           | 20   | 43   | 58   | 65   | Osceola     | 1    | 9    | 16   | 17   |
| Benton        | 13   | 23   | 52   | 65   | Calhoun     | 4    | 7    | 12   | 16   |
| Jasper        | 5    | 14   | 30   | 62   | Wright      | 5    | 9    | 16   | 16   |
| Des Moines    | 19   | 36   | 56   | 61   | Marion      | 9    | 9    | 14   | 15   |
| Story         | 12   | 20   | 45   | 55   | Buena Vista | 0    | 6    | 16   | 14   |
| Cedar         | 10   | 26   | 42   | 55   | Lyon        | 1    | 11   | 14   | 14   |
| Pottawattamie | 16   | 23   | 46   | 49   | Union       | 2    | 6    | 14   | 14   |
| Clayton       | 5    | 10   | 29   | 48   | Winneshiek  | 5    | 7    | 14   | 14   |
| Louisa        | 8    | 24   | 25   | 46   | Taylor      | 3    | 6    | 15   | 13   |
| Tama          | 3    | 15   | 40   | 44   | Warren      | 3    | 4    | 11   | 13   |
| Webster       | 5    | 31   | 39   | 43   | Monona      | 5    | 5    | 9    | 13   |
| Keokuk        | 12   | 17   | 35   | 40   | Worth       | 2    | 2    | 8    | 13   |
| Poweshiek     | 6    | 11   | 25   | 39   | Winnebago   | 0    | 4    | 7    | 13   |
| Hamilton      | 7    | 12   | 30   | 38   | Crawford    | 4    | 6    | 12   | 12   |
| Kossuth       | 4    | 24   | 29   | 37   | Hancock     | 4    | 7    | 12   | 12   |
| Woodbury      | 14   | 21   | 30   | 36   | Shelby      | 4    | 5    | 12   | 11   |
| Marshall      | 14   | 18   | 33   | 35   | Sac         | 3    | 7    | 11   | 11   |
| Cass          | 8    | 30   | 34   | 33   | Adair       | 0    | 4    | 10   | 11   |
| Page          | 6    | 13   | 31   | 33   | Ringgold    | 2    | 5    | 9    | 11   |
| Buchanan      | 7    | 13   | 27   | 31   | Emmet       | 1    | 11   | 11   | 10   |
| Jefferson     | 12   | 23   | 30   | 30   | Plymouth    | 4    | 10   | 8    | 10   |
| Mahaska       | 8    | 14   | 45   | 30   | Madison     | 0    | 5    | 13   | 9    |
| Delaware      | 1    | 15   | 19   | 29   | Monroe      | 2    | 5    | 10   | 9    |
| Boone         | 3    | 18   | 25   | 28   | Clarke      | 1    | 10   | 9    | 9    |
| Fayette       | 6    | 9    | 25   | 28   | Guthrie     | 5    | 7    | 9    | 9    |
| Jones         | 8    | 17   | 23   | 28   | Lucas       | 3    | 4    | 9    | 9    |
| Jackson       | 4    | 5    | 22   | 28   | Audubon     | 0    | 9    | 10   | 8    |
| Grundy        | 8    | 21   | 30   | 27   | Franklin    | 4    | 7    | 10   | 9    |
| Humboldt      | 2    | 9    | 19   | 27   | Adams       | 3    | 5    | 6    | 8    |
| Henry         | 9    | 11   | 23   | 26   | Howard      | 1    | 1    | 8    | 8    |
| Appanoose     | 8    | 12   | 39   | 25   | Fremont     | 2    | 12   | 11   | 8    |
| Montgomery    | 8    | 18   | 28   | 25   | Ida         | 5    | 5    | 7    | 7    |
| Carroll       | 5    | 15   | 23   | 25   | Chickasaw   | 2    | 4    | 6    | 7    |
| Clay          | 2    | 16   | 21   | 23   | Decatur     | 0    | 9    | 9    | 6    |
| Dickinson     | 6    | 32   | 28   | 22   | Davis       | 2    | 2    | 6    | 5    |
| Bremer        | 7    | 10   | 21   | 22   | Mitchell    | 4    | 6    | 4    | 5    |
| Dallas        | 9    | 16   | 19   | 22   | Wayne       | 4    | 6    | 4    | 5    |
| Floyd         | 1    | 7    | 11   | 22   |             |      |      |      |      |

There is still plenty of opportunity for our members to increase our representation, particularly in the weaker counties in the state. While it is true that two-thirds of our 99 counties have registered gains and a dozen more have remained unchanged, 20 counties have sustained a loss. Most of these counties lost only one or two members, but Appanoose and Mahaska, both in the coal mining area, actually suffered real reversals. Furthermore, in studying the 30 lowest counties we find for the first time a slight decline — from 306 to 288 members. This loss in itself would not be so bad if it were not for the over-all gains of 700 members for all 99 counties. One cannot help noticing that Polk and Johnson counties have more members than the thirty lowest counties, and Linn County has almost as many. It is also interesting to observe that the 6 leading counties gained 285 members during the biennium while the total membership of the 30 lowest counties stands at only 288. These comparisons must be qualified by the fact that Polk County has 420 members and a population of 225,000. Actually, while many rural counties are down in membership representation, compared with the average for the state, there are some metropolitan areas that make a miserable showing. For example, Hamilton and Poweshiek counties, each with 19,000 population, can count more members than Woodbury County with a population of 103,000.

During the next two years I would like to see our members concentrate particularly on the counties in the second column on page 195. Strenuous efforts should be made to have every county in Iowa have a membership equal to one member for every 1,000 population. If this is done we can readily achieve our 1955 membership goal without any increase in the counties in the first column on page 195. Exceptions of course should be made to Woodbury and Pottawattamie, the former having the weakest comparative membership in the entire state.

#### PUBLICATIONS

During the past two years *The Palimpsest* and the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY have appeared regularly. Our monthly magazine continues to receive such heavy demands for extra copies that each year more than 100,000 copies are being printed. Indeed, the 54,000 copies printed of the September, 1952, issue not only set a record for our own Society but doubtless has never been matched by any other Society. An additional 10,000 copies have been printed of the Amana issue, bringing the total to 25,000 since it

appeared in June, 1950. Cornell College ordered 11,500 extra copies of the April, 1953, issue, while the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs took 3,000 extra copies of the May, 1953, number of *The Palimpsest*. The wide variety of subjects treated during the biennium is indicated by the following:

*The Palimpsest*

| <i>1951</i> | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>  |
|-------------|---|--|
| July        | The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway                 | Frank P. Donovan, Jr.                                    |
| August      | Prehistoric Indians of Iowa                         | Charles Reuben Keyes                                     |
| Sept.       | Iowa in 1950  | Kenneth F. Millsap                                       |
| October     | The Gate City of Iowa                               | Frederic C. Smith  |
| Nov.        | Hoover in Iowa                                      | Herbert Hoover,<br>Mildred Throne,<br>and W. J. Petersen |
| Dec.        | Frontier Journalism                                 | Thomas E. Tweito   |
|             |   |  |
| <i>1952</i> | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>  |
| January     | The Burlington & Missouri River<br>Railroad in Iowa | Mildred Throne   |
| February    | The University Museum of Natural<br>History         | Homer R. Dill  |
| March       | The Battleship <i>Iowa</i>                          | William J. Petersen                                      |
| April       | The Presbyterians in Iowa                           | Frederick I. Kuhns                                       |
| May         | Builders of the Hawkeye State                       | William J. Petersen                                      |
| June        | The Evangelical and Reformed Church<br>in Iowa      | Frederick I. Kuhns                                       |
| July        | The Hog in Iowa                                     | Elvin Lee Quaife and<br>Arthur L. Anderson               |
| August      | Johnson Brigham                                     | Luella M. Wright   |
| Sept.       | The W. A. Sheaffer Pen Co.                          | William J. Petersen                                      |
| October     | Iowa and the Presidential Election of<br>1912       | Mildred Throne   |
| Nov.        | Iowa in 1951  | Robert Rutland   |
| Dec.        | The Jones County Calf Case                          | Jasper H. Ramsey   |
|             |   |  |
| <i>1953</i> | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Author</i>  |
| January     | The 54th General Assembly of Iowa                   | Frank T. Nye   |
| February    | The Boy Scouts of Iowa                              | Jacob A. Swisher   |

|       |                                     |  |
|-------|-------------------------------------|--|
| March | Ralph Shannon of the <i>Journal</i> | William J. Petersen,<br>Ralph Shannon, and<br>Robert Rutland |
| April | The History of Cornell College      | Marjorie Medary  |
| May   | Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs    | Hazel P. Buffum  |
| June  | The Chicago Great Western Railway   | Frank P. Donovan, Jr.  |

*Iowa Journal of History*

During the same period our quarterly magazine has stood at the forefront among the documented publications issued by state historical societies. It has published a wide variety of articles that have attracted widespread interest among our membership. The following monographs and documents have appeared during the biennium:

| <i>Issue</i>  | <i>Article</i>  | <i>Author</i>  |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| July, 1951    | "The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1949-1951"           | W. J. Petersen |
|               | "The Cummins-Cannon Controversy of 1909"                    | W. W. Braden   |
| October, 1951 | "The Education of John A. Kasson"                           | E. Younger     |
|               | "Life on a Jones County Farm, 1873-1912"                    | M. E. Jarchow  |
| January, 1952 | "Local Aid to Railroads in Iowa"                            | E. S. Beard    |
|               | "Iowa Reactions to Wendell Phillips, 1867"                  | W. W. Braden   |
| April, 1952   | "Chautauqua in Iowa"  | H. J. Thornton |
|               | "Social Life of an Iowa Farm Family, 1873-1912"             | M. E. Jarchow  |
| July, 1952    | "The Keokuk Packet Company"                                 | W. J. Petersen |
|               | "Southern Iowa Agriculture, 1865-1870"                      | Mildred Throne |
|               | "Ben Samuels in the Democratic National Convention of 1860" | Owen Peterson  |
| October, 1952 | "The Rise of John A. Kasson in Iowa Politics, 1857-1859"    | E. Younger     |
|               | "William B. Allison's First Term in Congress, 1863-1865"    | L. L. Sage     |
| January, 1953 | "The Background of Railroad Regulation in Iowa"             | E. S. Beard    |

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
|   | "Religion on the Iowa Frontier to 1846"  | F. I. Kuhns    |
| April, 1953                                     | "The Repeal of the Iowa Granger Law,<br>1878"  | Mildred Throne |
|   | "A Little Girl on an Iowa<br>Forty, 1873-1880 —<br>Catharine Wiggins Porter"                           | K. W. Porter   |
| <i>Issue</i>                                    | <i>Document</i>  | <i>Editor</i>  |
| July, 1951                                      | "Across the Plains in 1863:<br>Diary of Peter Winne"   | R. G. Athearn  |
|   | "Excerpts from the Civil War Diary of<br>Lieutenant Charles Alley, Company<br>'C,' Fifth Iowa Cavalry" | J. S. Ezell    |
| January, April,<br>July, and Oc-<br>tober, 1952 | "Civil War Diary of C. F. Boyd,<br>Fifteenth Iowa Infantry"  | Mildred Throne |
| January, 1953                                   | "A Journal of the First Dragoons in the<br>Iowa Territory, 1844"                                       | Robert Rutland |
| April, 1953                                     | "The Dragoons in the Iowa Territory,<br>1845"  | Robert Rutland |

In addition, from time to time there appears in the *JOURNAL*, under the heading "Source Material of Iowa History," a reprint of some document or newspaper story which is self-explanatory and does not need formal editing. Those published during the past biennium are: "The Davenport & Iowa City Rail Road," the 1850-1853 records of the organization of one of Iowa's many "paper railroads" (July, 1951); and "Adventures of Geo. A. Tod, an Iowa Drummer Boy in Rebel Prisons at Cahawba and Andersonville," taken from the *Fort Dodge North West* of January 10 and 17, 1865 (October, 1951). Other such reprints from old papers and documents will appear from time to time, as space allows.

Special mention should be made of "The Civil War Diary of C. F. Boyd, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry," which appeared in four consecutive issues of the *IOWA JOURNAL* during 1952 under the able editing of Dr. Mildred Throne, Associate Editor of the Society. This graphic Civil War diary of a citizen soldier has won enthusiastic praise from the membership and has been widely acclaimed by scholars and experts on Civil War history. James W. Holland, Regional Historian for the National Park Service, declared: "The Boyd Diary is one of the very best of its kind I have ever seen and it is

beautifully edited. I can think of only one Shiloh source which can rival it for graphic quality." Albert Dillahunty, Historian of the Shiloh National Military Park, wrote: "All of us who have read the diary think the material is excellent. The splendid work in editing the diary has done much to increase its interest and value as a reference." Another outstanding authority on the Civil War, Professor Bell I. Wiley of Emory University, Georgia, declared: "It is a fascinating document. The account of the organization and training of the unit is delightful, and the narrative of Shiloh is exciting and rich."

*Members Should Be on Alert for Diaries and Journals*

While journals as outstanding as the Boyd Diary are uncovered only once in a generation, it might be pointed out that this diary was in the process of publishing within six months after it was acquired. We have a great need for documents of this type, but the need is even greater for the diaries and journals of private citizens in every walk of life. Farm diaries, the diaries and records of business and professional men, the records that may have been kept by a grocer, a blacksmith, a locksmith, a carpenter, a bricklayer, or a common laborer — all these have value in unfolding the Iowa story. It is not too early to alert Iowans that the records of their sons and daughters in World War I and World War II, as well as in present-day Korea, may have real value to posterity. Not one in 100 such diaries might achieve the lasting recognition of the Boyd Diary, but that one can be very important. Furthermore the cumulative value and importance of other smaller diaries cannot be overemphasized. Members should think twice before they allow some valuable fugitive manuscript to be destroyed.

*Two Books Issued During Biennium*

During the biennium two books have been published by the Society. Petersen's *Iowa History Reference Guide* is an invaluable tool for the historian, the librarian, the teacher, and the casual student of Iowa history. Members of the Society will find it comparatively simple to find the answers to many questions by simply consulting the *Reference Guide*. Judging by the letters coming to the Superintendent's desk, some members do not realize they have such a mine of information at their finger tips. Many others, happily enough, have spent illuminating hours thumbing through the *Guide*. Patriotic organizations and study clubs have found the book of real value in preparing their programs.



A second volume was in the bindery as the biennium came to a close on June 30, 1953. This was John Nollen's *Grinnell College* which was distributed to the membership in July, 1953. Written by one of Iowa's outstanding educators, this handsome volume contains much valuable information, not only on higher education, but on the Dutch at Pella, the Iowa Band and Congregationalism in Iowa, and student life at the University of Iowa. During the coming biennium members will receive at least two and possibly three books.

In addition to the above, the Society has issued regularly its *News for Members* and sent out copies of *Iowa History News Flashes*. The former aims to keep members alert on the activities of the Society. It has been responsible for bringing many valuable manuscripts and books into our possession. It is equally significant in chronicling the development of the Society. The history of our organization will be easier to record since *News for Members* first appeared in 1947. *Iowa History News Flashes* goes out to 550 newspaper editors, providing them with feature articles and fillers for their papers. It has been widely used and helps bring Iowa history down to the very grass roots.

#### THE LIBRARY

From time to time in *News for Members* we have endeavored to give our members some idea of the extent of our library resources. The following figures are impressive:

|                      | 1951   | 1953   |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Books . . . . .      | 70,000 | 74,270 |
| Pamphlets . . . . .  | 29,000 | 29,305 |
| Newspapers . . . . . | 6,000  | 6,500  |

During the past two years 4,015 books have been accessioned compared with 3,380 books accessioned for the biennium 1949-1951. If this rate is maintained during the next fifteen years, the Society library will contain over 100,000 volumes compared with only 74,270 in 1953. An increase of this magnitude means that adequate shelving space must be provided to house such acquisitions.

#### *Recataloguing of Library Completed*

It is pleasant to record that the work of recataloguing our books from the Dewey decimal to the Library of Congress system has been virtually com-

pleted. This task has been in progress for ten years and has been pushed steadily since 1948 when the work was about two-thirds done. The recataloguing began under Dr. Jean P. Black (July, 1943, to August, 1946) and was continued under Mary Elizabeth Sparks (December, 1946, to March, 1948). The recataloguing was carried to completion by Mrs. Adelaide Seemuth beginning in April, 1948. The magnitude of this task can be seen from the following figures:

| <i>Year</i>                 | <i>Books<br/>Recatalogued</i> | <i>Cards Typed<br/>and Filed</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1948 (April-December) ..... | 2,825                         | 10,000 (approx.)                 |
| 1949 .....                  | 5,529                         | 10,000 "                         |
| 1950 .....                  | 5,575                         | 12,162                           |
| 1951 .....                  | 4,065                         | 14,216                           |
| 1952 .....                  | 4,025                         | 8,201                            |
| 1953 (January-June) .....   | 2,730                         | 10,283                           |
|                             | 24,749                        | 64,862                           |

Although no exact records were kept under Dr. Black and Miss Sparks, it is clear from the work completed under Mrs. Seemuth (24,749 books recatalogued and 64,862 cards typed and filed) that our library catalog now contains approximately 200,000 cards beautifully cross-referenced to afford maximum research value to our staff, graduate students, visiting historians, and the public generally.

#### *County Plat Books and Atlases*

One of the most spectacular gains has been made in our holdings of county plat books and atlases. In December, 1951, your Superintendent called attention to the fact that our Society library had only 30 counties out of the 99 represented in this collection. Members promptly and wholeheartedly rallied behind this campaign with amazing and highly gratifying results. A year and a half later, in June, 1953, we can report 87 of our Iowa counties represented by one or more plat books and atlases in our library. The counties still not represented in our collection are:

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Adams    | Jefferson |
| Cedar    | Lucas     |
| Cherokee | Osceola   |
| Franklin | Palo Alto |
| Hardin   | Taylor    |
| Harrison | Wayne     |

The above record in itself would be electrifying to most librarians. It should be pointed out, however, that the gain is even more impressive than indicated when we remember that copies for different years have been received for numerous counties. Since it would be ideal from the standpoint of research and reference if we could space these atlases about twenty years apart, our final objective should be to have counties represented by atlases for around 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940, and perhaps one for the present. This would mean 99 counties represented by approximately 500 different plat books and atlases. At the present time we have 87 counties represented by a total of 135 plat books and atlases. I hope that in 1955 our biennial report will indicate every county represented by at least one plat book and atlas and that most of them will be represented by two or more different copies. The following list is of counties now represented. The number immediately after the county refers to the publisher listed below; the date refers to the year in which our book was published. Members can check their own holdings against this list.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Adair 20 (1917)                                    | Davis 16 (1912)                             |
| Allamakee 19 (1886)                                | Decatur N. P. (1952)                        |
| Appanoose 34 (1915)                                | Delaware 23 (1894); 24 (1936)               |
| Audubon 36 (1930)                                  | Des Moines 2 (1873)                         |
| Benton 8 (1872); 19 (1885);<br>16 (1901); 1 (1917) | Dickinson 16 (1911)                         |
| Black Hawk 21 (1910)                               | Dubuque 15 (1892); 14 (1906);<br>25 (N. D.) |
| Boone 11 (1902)                                    | Emmet 39 (1947)                             |
| Bremer 9 (1875); 16 (1917)                         | Fayette 18 (1896); 16 (1916);<br>25 (1938)  |
| Buchanan 19 (1866)                                 | Floyd 37 (1913); 35 (1952)                  |
| Buena Vista 16 (1908)                              | Fremont 15 (1891); 1 (1910);<br>32 (1920)   |
| Butler 18 (1895); 1 (1917)                         | Greene 15 (1896)                            |
| Calhoun 16 (1911); 22 (1920)                       | Grundy 21 (1911)                            |
| Carroll 14 (1906)                                  | Guthrie 22 (1917)                           |
| Cass 1 (1917)                                      | Hamilton 16 (1918); 24 (1937)               |
| Cedar (badly damaged)                              | Hancock 37 (1914)                           |
| Cerro Gordo 37 (1912); 35 (1952)                   | Henry 17 (1870); 5 (1895)                   |
| Chickasaw 37 (1915)                                | Howard 40 (1915)                            |
| Clarke 22 (1915); N. P. (1951)                     | Humboldt N. P. (1941); 35 (1952)            |
| Clay 16 (1909); 1 (1919)                           | Ida 33 (1946)                               |
| Clayton 19 (1886); 38 (1914)                       | Iowa 1 (1917)                               |
| Clinton 7 (1874)                                   | Jackson 15 (1893); 6 (1913)                 |
| Crawford 16 (1908); 32 (1920)                      |   |
| Dallas 1 (1916)                                    |   |

- Jasper 12 (1901)  
 Johnson 17 (1870); N. P. (1889);  
 12 (1900); 26 (1917)  
 Jones 28 (1877); 15 (1893);  
 16 (1915); 27 (1921)  
 Keokuk 7 (1874); 4 (1895)  
 Kossuth 41 (1946)  
 Lee 2 (1874); 15 (1897); 16 (1916)  
 Linn 29 (1895); 30 (1921)  
 Louisa 2 (1874); 16 (1917)  
 Lyon 42 (1911)  
 Madison 31 (1912)  
 Mahaska 34 (1905)  
 Marion 10 (1901)  
 Marshall 43 (1941); 44 (1951)  
 Mills and Fremont 1 (1910)  
 Mills and Pottawattamie 3 (1913)  
 Mitchell 37 (1911)  
 Monona 45 (1937)  
 Monroe 16 (1919); 46 (1952)  
 Montgomery 32 (1919); 47 (1949)  
 Muscatine 7 (1874); 1 (1916)  
 O'Brien 16 (1911)  
 Page 1 (1920)  
 Plymouth 37 (1914); 32 (1921)  
 Pocahontas 1 (1918)  
 Polk 22 (1914)  
 Pottawattamie 3 (1913)  
 Poweshiek 30 (N. D.)  
 Ringgold 15 (1894); 48 (1915)  
 Sac 49 (1951)  
 Scott 12 (1894); 14 (1905);  
 50 (1941)  
 Shelby 16 (1911); 32 (1921)  
 Sioux 37 (1908)  
 Story 34 (1908)  
 Tama 7 (1875); 15 (1892);  
 37 (1916)  
 Union 16 (1916)  
 Van Buren 16 (1918)  
 Wapello 16 (1908)  
 Warren 11 (1902); 13 (1903);  
 34 (1915)  
 Washington 7 (1874); 14 (1906)  
 Webster 35 (1951)  
 Winnebago 37 (1913)  
 Winneshiek 19 (1886); 38 (1915)  
 Woodbury 1 (1917)  
 Worth 37 (1913)  
 Wright 16 (1912)

1. Anderson Publishing Co., Mason City, Iowa
2. Andreas, A. T., Chicago, Illinois
3. Bee Publishing Co., Omaha, Nebraska
4. Bishop, H. G., Sigourney, Iowa
5. Brooks and Whiting, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
6. Excelsior Printing Co., Maquoketa, Iowa
7. Harrison and Warner, Clinton, Iowa
8. Harrison and Warner, Marshalltown, Iowa
9. Hoover, H. S., and Reeves, Wm. P., Waverly, Iowa
10. Hovey, Arthur M., Chicago, Illinois
11. Hovey and Frame, Knoxville, Iowa
12. Huebinger Survey and Map Publishing Co., Davenport, Iowa
13. Indianola Record, Indianola, Iowa
14. Iowa Publishing Co., Davenport, Iowa
15. North West Publishing Co.
16. Ogle, George A., and Co., Chicago, Illinois
17. Thompson and Everts, Geneva, Illinois
18. Union Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

19. Warner and Foote, Minneapolis, Minnesota
20. Successful Farming Pub. Co., Des Moines, Iowa
21. Iowa Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa
22. Kenyon Company, Inc. Map Makers, Des Moines, Iowa
23. J. E. Davis
24. Stacy Map Publisher, Rockford, Illinois
25. W. W. Hixon & Co., Rockford, Illinois
26. Economy Advertising Co., Iowa City, Iowa
27. Jones County Times, Monticello, Iowa
28. O. Burlingame
29. S. N. Parsons
30. Midland Map and Engineering Co., Des Moines, Iowa
31. Winterset Madisionian, Winterset, Iowa
32. Anderson Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa
33. Maple Valley Map and Publishing Co., Holstein, Iowa
34. Midland Map Co., Knoxville, Iowa
35. Joe C. Johnson Map Co., Mason City, Iowa
36. Advocate-Republican, Audubon, Iowa
37. Anderson Publishing Co., Chicago, Illinois
38. Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minnesota
39. Estherville Daily News, Estherville, Iowa
40. W. H. Lee, Chicago, Illinois
41. Advance Publishing Co., Algona, Iowa
42. Alden Publishing Co., Chicago, Illinois
43. Acme Printing Co., Marshalltown, Iowa
44. Ames Engineering Testing Service, Ames, Iowa
45. Onawa Democrat, Onawa, Iowa
46. Albia Union-Republican, Albia, Iowa
47. Express Publishing Co., Red Oak, Iowa
48. Mount Ayr Record-News, Mount Ayr, Iowa
49. Sac Sun and Odebolt Chronicle, Sac City, Iowa
50. Dickerson Map Service, Rock Island, Illinois

*Seek City Directories*

Members are urged to assist us in a new library campaign, namely, the acquisition of a good cross-section of Iowa city directories. If we could acquire one directory for each decade of a town's history the resulting mass of names concentrated in one place would be of immense value to research. The campaign will be inaugurated in *News for Members*, and we hope two years hence to announce substantial results.

*Acquire Draper Collection on Microfilm*

Probably the most valuable single addition to our library during the past

two years was the acquisition of a complete microfilm set of the Lyman C. Draper manuscript collection. The original papers are in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and comprise 486 volumes of source materials. Through the cooperative effort of the Wisconsin society and the University of Chicago, the manuscripts were recently microfilmed in order that historians might carry on their work in key libraries nearer their homes.

Draper was a self-taught historian who devoted his life to collecting materials dealing with American history, particularly western history. Draper traveled through the country, interviewing survivors of old Indian wars, seeking lost documents, and transcribing family papers that told the saga of frontier heroes. The history of the American frontier was a magnet which constantly drew him away from intended labor in the field of biography. During his long years (1854-1886) as secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society the collection of source materials was his primary task. Before his death in 1891 he had built this collection into the greatest single mass of Western Americana extant.

As a result of Draper's interest, the collection embraces the papers of such notable frontier figures as Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, and George Rogers Clark. The thirty-eight volumes in the "Life of Boone" and the Boone manuscripts bear testimony to Draper's affection for the frontiersman. Twenty-four volumes are devoted to frontier warfare. Twenty-five volumes relate to the activities of the famous Mohawk Chief, Joseph Brant.

For historians of the Midwest, which was originally the "Northwest Frontier" in American history, the Draper collection offers extensive materials. There are, in addition to the Clark papers, four volumes on General William Henry Harrison, two volumes of Illinois papers dealing with pioneer life in the Sucker State, four volumes of John Cleves Symmes papers, and forty-one volumes of Thomas Spottswood Hinde papers. Thirty-three volumes of Draper's own notes are included in the collection.

To house the Draper Collection, as well as the other microfilm acquisitions of the Society, two compression-type steel microfilm cabinets have been placed in the Society library. These cabinets are equipped with humidity-control drawers designed to preserve the life of the film.

These drawers also contain other microfilm previously acquired by the Society, including the *Chicago Daily Drover's Journal* (1882-1925), a number of early newspapers dating from 1828 to 1859, and early census records, theses, and private papers of prominent figures in nineteenth century Iowa.

All of these materials are now available for research workers, and present plans call for a systematic enlargement of this collection. The ease of handling microfilm, and the tremendous space-saving advantages of film strips over the bulk of newspaper and manuscript files, make a microfilm project particularly urgent for our library, which is faced with a desperate shortage of storage space.

#### HISTORICAL TOURS

##### *Steamboat Cruises*

Our State Historical Society tours have maintained their popularity throughout the biennium and have proved of immeasurable value in increasing the interest of Iowans in the work of the Society. As an organization we are deeply indebted to Commodore O. D. Collis for continuing to make the *Rob Roy III* available to us for annual cruises. Some idea of his contribution can be gleaned from the following figures:

| <i>Year</i>       | <i>Days</i> | <i>Boats</i> | <i>Passengers Carried</i> |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1948 .....        | 1           | 1            | 49                        |
| 1949 .....        | 2           | 2            | 230                       |
| 1950 .....        | 4           | 1            | 375                       |
| 1951 .....        | 6           | 1            | 550                       |
| 1952 .....        | 7           | 1            | 630                       |
| 1953 .....        | 6           | 1            | 660                       |
| Grand Total ..... | 26          |              | 2,494                     |

During the past six years the *Rob Roy III* has transported almost 2,500 members and friends of the Society on 26 regular cruises, and has traveled an average of 70 miles per trip, or a total of 1,820 miles along the eastern border of Iowa. When the final figures are tabulated I believe they will show that approximately one-third of the membership (present and past) have enjoyed these trips and profited greatly from their experiences. These members have come from almost every county in the state and from over 200 different towns. In addition, many members have come from such far-flung points as Maine and Oregon, California and Carolina, Canada and Mexico. Our annual river cruises have done much to stimulate interest in the work of the Society, brought together many Iowans with kindred interests, and cemented friendships that will endure through the years. The trips have also served to dramatize the history of Iowa as it unfolded along its eastern border from the days of the French voyageurs to the towboat era.

*Amana Tour for Legislative Wives*

During 1951 and 1952 we sponsored a total of thirteen river cruises for 1,180 passengers. No attempt was made in 1952 to repeat the Amana tour of 1951 that had attracted 230 participants. While the General Assembly was in session in Des Moines, however, Dr. and Mrs. William J. Petersen invited members of the Legislative Ladies' League to accompany them on a personally conducted tour of the Amana colonies on March 24. Forty-nine members of the League, led by their president, Mrs. William S. Lynes, and including Mrs. William S. Beardsley, Mrs. Leo Elthon, and four former presidents of the League, made the tour.

At the Homestead Church, Dr. Henry Moershel, president of the Amana Society, set the mood for the entire trip by tracing the religious backgrounds of the Society. After driving through Homestead, the ladies visited the Ehrle home and winery, and then proceeded to the Amana woolen mills where they inspected the mill and made purchases in the salesroom. Every department of the woolen mill was seen, and the ladies left impressed with the complexity of the whole process.

At 12:45 they were luncheon guests of Mr. George Foerstner and the Amana Refrigerator Plant. The ladies were delighted to find an Amana resident serving as host or hostess at each table. After a splendid lunch that was topped off with fritters, the group toured the Refrigerator Plant at Middle and then visited the home of Carl Hahn in the same village. They drove by Amana Lake and saw the cemetery where Christian Metz lies buried. Next they visited the Amana meat market and smoke house, the cabinet shop, and the home of William Noe, treasurer of the Society.

The members of the LLL left Amana at four o'clock and were back in Des Moines at six, loaded down with Amana bread, meat, woolens, and souvenirs. The trip followed much the same pattern as those previously conducted for members of the State Historical Society by the Petersens.

The enthusiasm for the trip is attested by the fact that fifty members of the Legislative Ladies' League attended an Amana breakfast in the Pioneer Room of the Hotel Kirkwood in Des Moines on April 17. The breakfast included Amana meats and bread, and was followed by a showing of the 1951 motion picture made of Amana for the State Historical Society by Station WOI-TV. Another feature of the breakfast was the showing of kodachrome and stereorealist slides made during the LLL Amana tour.

The reactions of this representative group of ladies hailing from all sec-



tions of the Hawkeye State attest the great need for members of the Society to continue urging the people of Amana to establish an Amana Day, and to prepare for the proper observation of their Centennial.

*Towns Recognize Need for Enlarged Activity*

During the course of a biennium one gets many ideas and suggestions for enlarging the scope of our work in state and local history. Some of these come directly to the Superintendent, others frequently appear in letters written by interested citizens to editors and printed in newspaper columns. Some suggestions are entirely practical and highly desirable. Some would require a relatively small sum to inaugurate, while others would require a considerable outlay of money. In many instances the writers of these letters have seen good examples of their suggestions in other states, viz.: marking historic spots on highways; making film strips on state history for schools and study clubs; inaugurating a Junior Historian movement; or establishing and encouraging local historical societies. Frequently it is possible to answer such suggestions by personal letter. Sometimes your Superintendent gets an assist from an unexpected source. For example, on July 9, 1953, the Grinnell *Herald-Register* editorialized on "Know Your Iowa History."

Some time ago we received a letter from Mrs. Wm. Molison of Malcom enclosing a clipping of a letter in the Des Moines *Register*, the writer of which deplored the lack of records of Iowa's early history. The writer said that in her effort to do some research work on the subject she had drawn a blank when it came to records prior to 1880 and wanted to know why some one does not form a sons (or daughters) of the early Iowa pioneers and investigate "this profoundly moving and interesting history."

We agree with the writer of this letter that too little is known about the early history of Iowa. A little while ago in a gathering of ordinarily well informed men, the question was asked as to what year Iowa became a state. The general expression of blankness which crept over their faces was illuminating. We were proud that we happened to know the answer to that one, anyhow.

However, we are glad to say that there is one place where the writer of this complaining letter can get all the information she wants. All she needs to do is to write to William J. Petersen, secretary of the Iowa Historical Society at Iowa City, and she will be loaded down with information. Mr. Petersen is so immersed in early Iowa history that it oozes out of his ears. He has written several books on the subject which are most interesting reading to any who are historically minded.

A little while ago it was up to us to write a paper and we took as our subject, "Things You Don't Know About Iowa." We wrote Mr. Petersen and he supplied us with references. The books were available in the Stewart and the college library. One of his books alone, which we believe was entitled *The Story of Iowa*, was a rich treasure house of information which was all new to us. It read like a novel and when we wrote our paper it was as new to our audience as it had been to us.

Mrs. Molison wrote that she had written to the writer of this letter to the Des Moines paper giving her the name of Mr. Petersen and sent her three copies of *The Palimpsest* and one of the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY, and that should have been all that was necessary.

Just because we live in Iowa is no reason for us to think that all the romance and interest of history centers somewhere else. There is plenty of romance in Iowa history if you take the trouble to look for it and to follow in the footsteps of those daring pioneers who braved the trackless wilderness of what is now our cultivated and smiling state and opened the great Mississippi to navigation. . . .

We thank Mrs. Molison for her letter. It opened up new fields of thought. We Iowans should be thankful for a man like Mr. Petersen, who opened up these treasure troves to those who have a mind to seek them. We heard him speak before the Kiwanis club some time ago and since hearing him we have had a new slant on Iowa history.

It is gratifying to me to learn through such an editorial, written months after my appearance before the Grinnell Kiwanis Club, that my little talk on "Dramatic Episodes in Iowa History" had fallen on such fruitful ground. Our Iowa editor is right — Iowa history is dramatic, and for the most part the materials are fairly accessible to interested Iowans. Naturally there are some fields in which there is still much research to be done. The proper marking of our historic highways, the production of film strips telling the story of Iowa, the inauguration of a Junior Historian movement, the activation of local historical societies — these are all highly desirable. But they cost money — for staff, equipment, and travel expense. Some states have set aside thousands of dollars to achieve these highly desirable objectives. It is hoped that Iowa ultimately will be able to join the more enlightened of her sister states in adequately preserving her heritage.