

## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA 1955 - 1957

By William J. Petersen\*

The State Historical Society of Iowa achieved new goals during the biennium 1955-1957. It has shown a net membership increase of 350 for the biennium. Its publication program has continued on the traditionally high plane that has become a target at which other societies aim. From a modest beginning nine years ago, its historical tours have expanded to include boat trips on both the Mississippi and Missouri, jointly sponsored railroad trips with the Iowa Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, and well-attended overland tours to the Amana colonies and the Little Brown Church in the Vale that have attracted widespread publicity.

During the biennium we have succeeded in more than matching the \$100,000 goal needed to make us eligible to receive the \$200,000 appropriated by the 56th General Assembly toward the construction of a new State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building. Meanwhile, the 57th General Assembly granted the Society a modest increase in its regular appropriation, although it did not provide for the cost of moving into our new building, the cost of custodial services, and the additional help which will be needed to staff our new and growing library. As we enter our second century of service to the state of Iowa, our future seems bright indeed.

### *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 the membership had risen to 1,560. Ten years ago, in July of 1947, our membership stood at 1,121; of these, 683 were active members and 438 were life members. At that time the five historical societies of the Upper Mississippi Valley ranked as follows in active and life membership: Missouri — 4,312; Wisconsin — 2,343; Illinois — 1,682; Minnesota — 1,674; Iowa — 1,121. In 1947 one-third of our counties had two or less

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members — and six counties actually had no members. At that time it was determined to build up a larger and more evenly distributed membership. The compilation on page 195 reveals the growth our Society has enjoyed over the past five biennia.

Our membership of 5,250 in 1957 still places us second in the United States in total membership. It also represents the greatest percentage of membership increase of any Society in the United States over the past ten years. Only Missouri eclipses the Hawkeye State, but with its \$1.00 membership fee for its quarterly magazine, there is little chance of Iowa's overtaking our neighbor to the south.

During the past eight years our Society registered gains in active as well as life membership. The following figures should be gratifying:

*Iowa's Increase in Active and Life Members*

	1947	1949	1951	1953	1955	1957
Active Members . . . . .	683	1,749	3,095	3,776	4,197	4,539
Life Members . . . . .	438	545	614	676	703	711
Total Members . . . . .	1,121	2,294	3,709	4,452	4,900	5,250
Net Gain . . . . .		1,173	1,415	743	448	350
Total Membership, 30 lowest counties . . . . .	80	146	306	288	328	363
Average Membership, 30 lowest counties . . . . .	2.6	4.9	10.2	9.6	10.7	12.1

The membership growth by counties presents a challenge to all members, particularly in those poorly-represented counties. If our members will only continue their warm support of our program, we should continue to register substantial gains. There is no reason why Monona County, with a population of 16,000, should count only 9 members, while Iowa County with a thousand fewer people should boast 73 members. A further comparison can be made between Linn and Woodbury counties with almost identical populations. Linn registered 326 members in 1957 compared with 42 for Woodbury. Not even the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition could awaken complacent Woodbury County. In contrast, three counties — Polk, Linn, and Johnson — have registered such spectacular gains that they now total almost as many members as did all ninety-nine counties plus out-of-state membership a short decade ago. And yet, curiously enough, the per cent gain of these three counties is not as great as for the entire state and nation.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Membership Growth by County, 1947-1957

County	1947	1949	1951	1953	1955	1957	County	1947	1949	1951	1953	1955	1957
Adair	127	186	315	420	426	434	Floyd	1	7	11	22	26	27
Alk	81	101	204	271	288	326	Jackson	4	5	22	28	25	27
Ann	123	202	285	328	323	321	Sac	3	7	11	11	23	27
Arnold	90	152	197	226	272	267	Van Buren	2	9	14	18	17	26
Ashtabula	48	93	138	160	189	191	Appanoose	8	12	39	25	25	25
Bandera	8	22	71	75	93	101	Dickinson	6	32	28	22	24	25
Barber	25	46	71	75	78	84	Greene	4	11	22	20	28	25
Bartholomew	15	20	57	76	72	82	Warren	3	4	11	13	29	25
Bassett	18	30	64	75	88	81	Calhoun	4	7	12	16	17	24
Beaumont	19	36	56	61	62	79	Buena Vista	0	6	16	14	17	22
Belknap	20	43	58	65	72	79	Wright	5	9	16	16	18	22
Benton	5	14	30	62	72	74	Allamakee	8	10	16	18	20	21
Berkeley	15	38	68	66	74	73	Clay	2	16	21	23	24	21
Birmingham	17	36	71	72	79	70	Sioux	2	9	15	19	21	21
Bloomington	12	20	45	55	59	69	Union	2	6	14	14	14	21
Bolivar	13	23	52	65	62	62	Winnebago	0	4	7	13	16	21
Bourbon	14	18	33	35	59	62	Cherokee	4	12	16	19	19	19
Boyd	10	26	42	55	66	57	Crawford	4	6	12	12	14	19
Boyer	14	44	60	67	69	57	Harrison	2	2	7	18	17	19
Bozeman	6	13	31	33	35	56	Winneshiek	5	7	14	14	16	19
Boyer	7	12	30	38	47	54	Hancock	4	7	12	12	18	18
Boyer	9	11	23	26	39	54	Shelby	4	5	12	11	16	18
Boyer	5	31	39	43	55	54	Palo Alto	4	9	17	19	19	17
Boyer	7	13	27	31	42	49	Franklin	4	7	10	9	15	16
Boyer	8	24	25	46	38	48	Lyon	1	11	14	14	11	16
Boyer	7	10	21	22	35	46	O'Brien	5	18	18	18	18	16
Boyer	5	10	29	48	40	45	Lucas	3	4	9	9	8	15
Boyer	4	6	18	18	43	44	Fremont	2	12	11	8	13	13
Boyer	6	11	25	39	36	44	Guthrie	5	7	9	9	12	13
Boyer	8	17	23	28	39	43	Howard	1	1	8	8	11	13
Boyer	16	23	46	49	41	43	Worth	2	2	8	13	14	13
Boyer	1	15	19	29	37	42	Mitchell	4	6	4	5	8	12
Boyer	12	17	35	40	41	42	Monroe	2	5	10	9	14	12
Boyer	14	21	30	36	42	42	Plymouth	4	10	8	10	8	12
Boyer	6	9	25	28	40	41	Pocahontas	8	9	25	19	17	12
Boyer	5	15	23	25	28	39	Davis	2	2	6	5	6	11
Boyer	4	24	29	37	40	37	Decatur	0	9	9	6	8	11
Boyer	3	15	40	44	33	37	Ringgold	2	5	9	11	8	11
Boyer	3	18	25	28	29	35	Audubon	0	9	10	8	7	10
Boyer	12	23	30	30	42	35	Emmet	1	11	11	10	11	10
Boyer	8	18	28	25	37	35	Ida	5	5	7	7	6	10
Boyer	2	9	19	27	28	33	Madison	0	5	13	9	13	9
Boyer	4	8	15	20	16	32	Monona	5	5	9	13	15	9
Boyer	5	9	18	21	29	32	Taylor	3	6	15	13	11	9
Boyer	9	9	14	15	23	31	Adair	0	4	10	11	10	8
Boyer	8	21	30	27	24	30	Osceola	1	9	16	17	10	8
Boyer	2	4	6	7	29	29	Wayne	4	6	4	5	3	8
Boyer	8	30	34	33	26	28	Adams	3	5	6	8	6	7
Boyer	9	16	19	22	28	28	Clarke	1	10	9	9	7	7
Boyer	8	14	45	30	25	28							

There is plenty of opportunity for membership growth, particularly in the weaker counties in the state. Actually, 64 of our 99 counties gained in membership and 10 others remained the same.

*County Gain in Membership: 1955-1957*

Linn	38	Boone	6	Marshall	3
Page	21	Dubuque	6	Mills	3
Des Moines	17	Grundy	6	Ringgold	3
Hardin	16	Buena Vista	5	Winneshiek	3
Henry	15	Clayton	5	Black Hawk	2
Bremer	11	Crawford	5	Cass	2
Carroll	11	Davis	5	Harrison	2
Cerro Gordo	10	Delaware	5	Howard	2
Louisa	10	Humboldt	5	Jackson	2
Story	10	Lyon	5	Jasper	2
Van Buren	9	Wayne	5	Pottawattamie	2
Marion	8	Winnebago	5	Shelby	2
Muscatine	8	Ida	4	Adams	1
Polk	8	Jones	4	Allamakee	1
Poweshiek	8	Mitchell	4	Butler	1
Buchanan	7	Plymouth	4	Dickinson	1
Calhoun	7	Sac	4	Fayette	1
Hamilton	7	Tama	4	Floyd	1
Lee	7	Wright	4	Franklin	1
Lucas	7	Audubon	3	Guthrie	1
Union	7	Decatur	3	Keokuk	1
		Mahaska	3		

Despite the over-all net gain of 350 for the biennium, one must regret the fact that 25 counties declined in membership, even though 15 of the 25 sustained losses of three or less. Since it is important for our members to watch these trends and endeavor to correct them, the counties are listed herewith, with the number lost — total 97 — at the head of each group.

1 loss	Montgomery	4 losses	7 losses
Emmet	O'Brien	Madison	Jefferson
Iowa	Osceola	Warren	Washington
Webster	Palo Alto		
Worth	Taylor	5 losses	9 losses
2 losses		Pocahontas	Cedar
Adair	3 losses	Scott	Clinton
Johnson	Clay		
Monroe	Greene	6 losses	12 losses
	Kossuth	Monona	Wapello

It would be a real achievement if every county could have at least one member for every 1,000 inhabitants. At the present time our statewide membership is approximately two members for each 1,000 inhabitants, with Iowa County having five for every thousand. Woodbury, on the other hand, needs 104 members instead of its 42. It would seem our real work is to register gains in those counties that lag in membership. Does this wide gap in county membership indicate apathy or a possible lag in cultural interests?

## PUBLICATIONS

During the past two years *The Palimpsest* and the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY have appeared regularly. We print 6,250 copies of our monthly magazine regularly, but frequently receive heavy demands for extra copies so that our total printing of *The Palimpsest* generally runs well over 100,000 copies annually. The use of the monthly by schools and study clubs has grown to such an extent that it frequently serves as the primary source of information on the various topics under discussion. As a result of constant demands we issued a four-page pamphlet entitled *Selected Readings in Iowa History* which has proved invaluable to teachers and chairmen of study club programs. It also has saved our staff a tremendous amount of work in answering correspondence.

The wide variety of subjects treated is indicated by the following:

*The Palimpsest*

1955	Title	Author
July	Iowa in 1954	George S. May
Aug.	The 56th General Assembly of Iowa	Frank T. Nye
Sept.	The Baptists in Iowa	Frederick I. Kuhns
Oct.	Early Iowa in Fiction	John T. Frederick
Nov.	Ralph Budd: Railroad Entrepreneur	Richard C. Overton
Dec.	Butler's Capitol	William J. Petersen
1956	Title	Author
Jan.	Iowa's Consolidated Schools	George S. May
Feb.	Iowans in the State Department and in the Foreign Service	Homer L. Calkin
March	Scandinavian Settlement in Iowa	Leola N. Bergmann
April	A Davenport Boyhood	Harry Hansen
May	Industries of Iowa	George S. May and William J. Petersen

June	Memories of a Promoter	Frank R. Wilson and William J. Petersen
July	Iowa in 1955	George S. May
Aug.	Plowing Matches in Iowa	William J. Petersen, Herb Plambeck, E. K. Shaw, and Keith Kirkpatrick
Sept.	The Centennial of a Farm Paper	Donald R. Murphy
Oct.	Iowa in Biography	John T. Frederick
Nov.	Mormon Trails in Iowa	William J. Petersen
Dec.	Christmas in Iowa	William J. Petersen
1957	<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
Jan.	The Fairfield <i>Ledger</i>	Wallace E. Sherlock
Feb.	Indians of Iowa	C. R. Keyes, F. R. Aumann, H. Wylie, J. E. Briggs, J. A. Swisher, B. E. Mahan, R. A. Gallaher, and William J. Petersen
March	Iowa	B. F. Shambaugh, F. L. Mott, Jacob Van Ek, B. E. Mahan, R. A. Gallaher, and William J. Petersen
April	Daughters of Hawkeyeland	William J. Petersen, Philip D. Jordan, Ruth A. Gallaher, Marie Haefner, and Cornelia M. Barnhart
May	Quarrying in Iowa	Charles S. Gwynne, William J. Petersen
June	The Spirit Lake Massacre	William J. Petersen

*Iowa Journal of History*

During the same period our quarterly magazine has stood at the forefront among the publications issued by state historical societies. It has published a wide variety of scholarly yet readable articles that have attracted widespread interest among our membership as well as among professional historians. The following monographs have appeared during the biennium:

*Iowa Journal of History*

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Author</i>
July, 1955	"The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1955-1957"	William J. Petersen
	"The University as Head of the Iowa Public School System"	Vernon Carstensen
	"The King Road Drag in Iowa, 1905-1920"	George S. May
	"Iowa Republicans and the Railroads, 1856-1860"	David S. Sparks
October, 1955	"The Uses of History"	Waldemar Westergaard
January, 1956	"The Birth of the Republican Party in Iowa, 1854-1856"	David S. Sparks
	"The Mining Camps of Iowa: Faded Sources of Hawkeye History"	Robert Rutland
April, 1956	"The Iowa Judicial System"	Russell M. Ross
	"Politics and Society in Sioux City, 1859"	Robert Edson Lee
July, 1956	"Des Moines University and Dr. T. T. Shields"	George S. May
	"The Governors of Iowa as Educational Leaders, 1838 to 1949"	Irving H. Hart
	"Fort Dodge and the Des Moines Valley Railroad"	Mildred Throne
October, 1956	"Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company v. Iowa"	George H. Miller
	"John Beach and the Removal of the Sauk and Fox from Iowa"	Donald J. Berthrong
January, 1957	"David B. Henderson: Speaker of the House"	Willard L. Hoing
April, 1957	"The Development of the Iowa Constitution of 1857"	Russell M. Ross
	"State Support of Higher Education in Iowa"	Irving H. Hart
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Document</i>	<i>Editor</i>
October, 1955	"Civil War Letters of Abner Dunham, 12th Iowa Infantry"	Mildred Throne
January, 1956	"Iowans in Southern Prisons, 1862"	Mildred Throne

<i>Issue</i>		<i>Author</i>
April, 1956	"The California Journey of George D. Magoon, 1852-1854"	Mildred Throne
January, 1957	"A History of Company D, Eleventh Iowa Infantry, 1861-1865"	Mildred Throne
April, 1957	"The Diary of a Law Student, 1853-1855"	Mildred Throne

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Source Material</i>
October, 1955	"David Brant's Iowa Political Sketches"
January, 1956	"A County Political Convention in 1872"
April, 1956	"The Iowa State Fair of 1856"
October, 1956	"Mahony-Smith Letters on the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad, 1857"
April, 1957	"Contemporary Editorial Opinion of the 1857 Constitution"

#### *Two Books Issued During Biennium*

During the biennium two outstanding books were published by the Society. Leland Sage's *William Boyd Allison*, the biography of one of Iowa's most distinguished citizens, is the eighteenth full-length volume in our Biographical Series. The book fills an important gap in Iowa history during the last half of the nineteenth century, covering the period from Allison's arrival in Dubuque in 1857 to his death there in 1908. Allison represented Iowa for forty-three years in Washington, thirty-five in the United States Senate (1873-1908), one of the longest terms on record. The book has been warmly received by members and the press, and professional reviews have been highly complimentary. Professor George L. Anderson of the University of Kansas wrote: "This study helps to round out the biographical treatment of the outstanding national political figures of the last half of the nineteenth century. Because of its wealth of detail it will be a 'must' for students of the history of Iowa." James L. Sellers of the University of Nebraska wrote: "Professor Sage has produced one of the most elucidating political biographies on an important American nineteenth-century figure." Dr. Jeannette P. Nichols of the University of Pennsylvania writes that Leland Sage has "done a 'bang-up' job of political sequences; it should be a long time before any student of Allison's job-keeping can



hope to do anything better. . . . His book is particularly distinguished for forthrightness, persistent avoidance of hero worship, eschewing of oversimplification of issues, keen awareness of the infinite complexity of political situations, unwillingness to claim that the last word has been said, and some readiness to make positive alternate guesses as to what may have motivated a decision. Surely such qualities are invaluable and far from easy for biographers to maintain."

A second volume, a reprint of John B. Newhall's *A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, is at the printers at the close of the present biennium and will be bound and distributed to members shortly. This volume will join such reprints as *Black Hawk's Autobiography*, A. M. Lea's *Notes on Wisconsin Territory*, John Plumbe, Jr., *Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin*, and *Gal-land's Iowa Emigrant*, all extremely rare volumes that have become highly prized by members of the Society and are of inestimable value to students and scholars. The Newhall book will prove interesting and informative to our members, since it actually contains more solid material than any of the above mentioned reprints. This volume will be followed by other important books, the next of which will be Thomas R. Ross's *Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver*, which will be followed by other full-length biographies and histories.

In addition to the above, the Society has issued regularly its *News for Members*, which continues to alert members on the activities of the Society. *News for Members* has been responsible for bringing many valuable manuscripts, photographs, maps, and books into our possession. It is equally significant in chronicling the history and development of the Society, particularly in these last few years when every effort has been bent toward securing a home of its own in its Centennial Building. Members should continue to respond to our appeal for photographs, manuscripts, diaries, newspaper files, industrial records, catalogs, and house organs, all of which will make us a more effective historical institution.

Another publication, *Iowa History News Flashes*, goes out to over 500 newspaper editors, providing them with feature articles and fillers for their papers. It helps to bring Iowa history down to the very grass roots.

#### THE LIBRARY

During the biennium 1955-1957 the library acquired 1,455 books in addition to numerous maps, pamphlets, pictures, and manuscripts. Most of these latter, in addition to many of the books, have come to us as gifts of

the donors. We still need more city directories and telephone directories, both old and new, to build up our collection in this department. We also want to expand our holdings of plat books and atlases, and we especially would be grateful for some of the more recent ones, say 1920-1957, which have been overlooked while we have sought out the older ones.

College and high school annuals are of inestimable value to us. We hope more families will remember us before destroying them. School superintendents will do the Society a great favor by placing us on their mailing lists to receive their annuals regularly in the future. These annuals are indispensable for telling the history of high schools and recording school activities over the decades. The fine issues of *The Palimpsest* on Girls' Basketball and Boys' Basketball could not have been prepared without the help of such annuals. But there are other areas of school life besides athletics, such as music, theater, debates, that can be studied in these annuals.

#### Postcards

We believe members can do much to improve our publication program by sending us photographs and postcards relating to their home town and community. Life on Main Street, whether in Deep River, What Cheer, Lost Nation, Calliope, or Morning Sun, will become more meaningful if we can secure a rather complete collection of photos of courthouses, libraries, churches, schools, manufacturing plants, swimming pools, golf courses, parks, railroad stations, post offices, and garages that will be useful to us in preparing articles on various subjects.

In addition to commercial photos, the Society would benefit if members sent in more personal photos, both current and old-time pictures. For old-time pictures the following are suggested.

<i>Outdoor Scenes</i>	<i>Indoor Scenes</i>	<i>Holidays</i>
Picnics (church & school)	Church suppers	New Year's
Baseball	PTA meetings	Easter
Football	General stores	Arbor Day
Chautauqua	Blacksmith shops	Memorial Day
Fire departments	Drugstores	Flag Day
Circus	School programs	Fourth of July
Carnivals	Ice cream parlors	Labor Day
County fairs	Barber shops	Armistice
Boat regattas	Photo salons	Thanksgiving
Plowing matches	Groceries	Christmas
Husking contests	Meat markets	

## HISTORICAL TOURS

*A Decade of Steamboat Excursions: 1948-1957*

When our first Mississippi River steamboat excursions were inaugurated in 1948 there was no thought of establishing them as annual events. The wonderful hospitality of Commodore O. D. Collis aboard his *Rob Roy III*, combined with the All-Iowa Menu created by Mrs. William J. Petersen, gained national recognition for the Society in such publications as the *New York Times* and the *Ford Times*. As a result of this publicity we have received requests from people all over the nation asking for permission to make one of these Mississippi cruises. During the seven years the trips were made on the *Rob Roy III*, the Society established an enviable reputation for its unique methods of promoting the cause of state and local history. When it became impossible for Commodore Collis to continue these trips because of his health, we were fortunate in arranging tours on the Missouri River with the United States Army Engineers and on the Mississippi between Keokuk and Nauvoo on Captain H. Andressen's fine boat, the *Addie May*.

*Tracing History up the Big Muddy*

In 1956 the Society ran its third annual cruise on the Missouri River with the United States Army Engineers. The first was made in 1954 aboard the *John Ordway* to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri past the western border of Iowa. The next two trips were made with the *Patrick Gass* as towboat. For these two trips, the United States Engineers provided a barge from which 100 members of the Society could view the work of the Engineers and learn the history of the river. Although the Society had three times the number of applicants for these trips than could be accommodated, it was necessary to limit the number for each trip to one hundred. Since most of our members along the Missouri found it impossible to drive all the way across the state for our Mississippi trips, we reserved two-thirds of the space on our Missouri trips for those living on the Missouri slope, even though it would have been possible to fill the reservations with members living east of Des Moines. We are negotiating for a fourth Missouri River trip, basing our hopes on statements by General William E. Potter and Col. T. J. Hayes that our Society members have made these trips with the avowed purpose of learning Missouri River history and the problems facing the Army Engi-

neers in 1956. During the 1956 trip, for example, Colonel Thomas J. Hayes gave a thirty-five-minute lecture following which a dozen members of the General Assembly who were aboard asked if a special conference could be held with Colonel Hayes. The Colonel was delighted to comply, and an hour's session was held in the galley of the *Patrick Gass* with Colonel Hayes answering questions lying uppermost in the legislators' minds; and he, in turn, receiving valuable information from them. It is hoped that similar trips can be arranged in the future, as they provide members with a richer understanding of the history as well as the complex problems of the stream that forms our western boundary.

*Aboard the Addie May on the Mississippi*

In 1955 we made our first cruise between Keokuk and Nauvoo aboard the *Addie May*. This area, generally known as Lake Keokuk, or Lake Cooper (for the builder of the Keokuk dam), is a beautiful and impressive stretch of the Mississippi containing so much of historical interest that it justly deserves to be called the "Cradle of Iowa History." Not only did all the great explorers, such as Joliet-Marquette, Aco-Hennepin, and Zebulon M. Pike, pass through this area, but it was the scene of many of the first episodes in Iowa history. The Spanish land grant to Louis Honore Tesson in 1799 included the site of present-day Montrose, the picturesque Iowa town that lies directly across the Mississippi from historic Nauvoo. Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny erected Fort Des Moines No. 1 at this same point in 1834, and the town of Montrose was established there following the evacuation of the fort in 1837. The southern half of Lee County was set aside as the Half-breed Tract in 1824 and was settled by whites before the Black Hawk purchase. The relation to this area of such personalities as Zachary Taylor, Dr. Isaac Galland, Dr. Samuel C. Muir and a host of others was explained as the *Addie May* churned along the eastern border of Iowa. Since the inauguration of our Keokuk-Nauvoo trips in 1955, the Nauvoo Historical Society and the Lee County Historical Society have begun historical tours. Members who participated in these trips in 1957 were delighted; Professor G. Arthur Luther of Charles City, a well-traveled educator, declared that his tour of Keokuk was one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences he has had anywhere in this country. As suggested in *News for Members*, the Keokuk tour is likely to develop into one of the most unique in the upper Mississippi Valley.

*Trip to the Little Brown Church in 1955*

One of the largest and most rewarding Society tours was made to the Little Brown Church at Bradford (Nashua) on October 9, 1955. Several hundred members of the Society met with the Chickasaw County Historical Society to observe the centennial of the Little Brown Church. The church and basement were packed, and an overflow crowd listened to the program over the public address system outside. Governor Leo Hoegh attended the services, and Mrs. Hoegh led the congregation in singing "The Little Brown Church in the Vale." The Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa spoke on the significance of religion in Iowa history. It is worth recording that the Chickasaw County Historical Society cleared \$210 on the dinner it served Society members. The money will be used to complete its new museum. After the dinner, and a tour of the museum, an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History was presented to the Chickasaw County Historical Society for its outstanding work in membership, marking historical sites, and establishing a museum.

*Amana Tours Continue Popular*

Two outstanding tours were made to the Amana colonies during the biennium. The William J. Petersens conducted the Legislative Ladies League on a tour of historic Amana in May of 1957. Over forty ladies, including Mrs. Herschel Loveless, made the tour. William Leichsenring, proprietor of the Ox Yoke Inn, tendered the ladies a breakfast, and George Foerstner and Amana Refrigerator, Inc., were hosts to them at a luncheon at the Ox Yoke Inn. Marvin Dickel spoke to the group in the Homestead church.

The Petersens also directed 175 members of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs from all parts of Iowa on a tour of the Amana colonies on June 12, 1957. The group was headed by its state president, Mrs. Clark Mechem of Thompson. Dr. Henry Moershel, a life member of the State Historical Society, spoke to the group in the Homestead church. Several hundred club members had applied for this tour, but only 175 could be accommodated. The mass participation in all these tours — river and overland — attests the continued interest in state and local history. As one grateful member remarked following his trip on the *Addie May*: "The privilege of making that trip was worth much more than my annual dues to the Society."

*Society Should Encourage Other Historical Tours*

The tremendous interest of our citizens in historical tours is highly encouraging, more particularly since Iowa scarcely bears the palm when it comes to preserving or marking its historic sites. Eleven years ago, in 1946, I had the pleasure of speaking in Dubuque on the occasion of the State Centennial. In my speech, I emphasized the tremendous possibilities open to Dubuque in attracting tourists from the Chicago-Milwaukee area to northeast Iowa if adequate opportunities were offered them for travel, recreation, and sports. The mighty Mississippi, the archeology of the area, the scenic beauty of the region, and its rich history — all combine to make this region a tourist's paradise whose possibilities are virtually unlimited. In order to realize this, it would be necessary to have better roads to historic spots, state parks with adequate facilities, first-class motels and hotels with excellent eating places, and ample opportunities for trips of all kinds on the Mississippi.

During our biennium an enterprising Dubuquer, Henry Miller of the Dubuque Boat & Boiler Works, made two boats available for short trips out of Dubuque. While in Chicago last summer I learned from Burlington Railroad officials that the one-day Galena-Dubuque railroad excursion had developed into the most popular one on the Burlington system. But Iowa (except for the Dubuque boat trips) gained little from this excursion, since no stops were made to travel, eat, or sleep in the area. Furthermore, when I discussed the possibilities of running a tour for State Historical Society members on one of the Dubuque boats, I learned that neither boat was capable of making the round-trip from Dubuque to Guttenburg in one day, or indeed, capable of going farther than Guttenburg in a single day. This, of course, defeats the desire of many who would like to take a more extended trip on the Mississippi.

In order to do its part in promoting tours to this scenic and historic region, the State Historical Society will sponsor several pilot trips to northeastern Iowa. In addition it plans, at an early date, to produce an issue of *The Palimpsest* on historic northeast Iowa with a view to encouraging Iowans and tourists from outside the state to come and enjoy our scenic and historic "Switzerland of Iowa." With this in mind, a day was recently spent mapping out a tour of northeastern Iowa for the coming year.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CENTENNIAL BUILDING

Two years ago I described in detail the steps that led the 56th General

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Assembly to appropriate \$200,000 for a State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building contingent on the Society's matching this sum with \$100,000 of its own funds. At our last biennial meeting I was able to report that \$25,000 had already been raised or pledged but that \$100,000 in cash must be on hand in order to entitle the Society to the \$200,000 appropriated by the General Assembly.

Fortunately, the Society had received tremendous support from press and radio throughout our campaign to secure legislative assistance. Many warm friends rallied to our cause, and by letter and spoken word did much to enlist aid for our proposed Centennial Building. Many of the most ardent supporters had had personal experience over the years in climbing the 86 steps that lead to our offices and library. They were quite aware of the crowded conditions in our basement and library, a condition that has led the chairman of the Interim Committee to report that the Society's problem was more acute than any other he had seen during his visit to Iowa City.

Our willingness to raise \$100,000, our cramped quarters in Schaeffer Hall, the need of the University for additional space in this building, the enthusiastic support of the press and radio — all were important in gaining legislative backing and in securing additional contributions from various sources. As a result it was possible for me to report, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Society on February 7, 1957, that the goal of \$100,000 in cash available had been reached. On a more somber note, I also had to report that the cost of building had gone up approximately 10 per cent since we initiated our dream building and that at least another \$125,000 would be required adequately to furnish the new structure with steel shelving and other equipment. At the 1957 biennial meeting I was happy to report that we now had cash available totaling approximately \$118,000 with another \$10,000 in pledges that, with interest, will bring our Centennial Building fund to \$330,000. We must look to the Interim Committee, or the General Assembly, for additional aid in furnishing and equipping the building. Happily, some generous contributions have already been made in this direction, and it is to be devoutly hoped that the legislators will be generous and match our efforts with a substantial contribution.

A feature of our fund-raising campaign has been the efforts of individuals and groups to sponsor separate rooms in the Centennial Building. This was started when the Lee Papers and their families contributed \$7,500 for a microfilm room. Members of the Iowa Daily Press Association are con-

centrating on a room to house the bound volumes of Iowa newspapers. A goal of \$15,000 has been set for this stack room, and almost \$5,000 has already been subscribed by eight dailies. General Hanford MacNider's name will be associated with a room housing material relating to World War I and World War II, in addition to his own personal career. The Women's Relief Corps has undertaken the raising of \$5,000 for a room dealing with the history and literature of the Civil War. The Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs is sponsoring an Iowa Women's Heritage Room and has pledged \$5,000 toward this project. Equally generous contributions have been made by Frank C. Allen of North English and Dorothy Musser of Tucson, Arizona. The Iowa chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has pledged \$1,000 to furnish and equip a Genealogical Room and has urged members to contribute to the same project. Such contributions, combined with those made by various Iowa industries, assure the completion of a Centennial Building. We devoutly hope that contributions like the above will continue to come in, and that we can record the completion of our new home in 1959, with the 51st Biennial Meeting actually held in it.

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