

# THE WARD-MESQUAKIE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

There are over one hundred photographs of the Mesquakie people and the Settlement in the collection of the State Historical Society. They were obtained by Duren Ward during his 1905 visit. The Ward Photograph Collection is an appealing and informative record of the tribe.

Ward commissioned J. S. Moore, a well-known Toledo, Iowa photographer, to take portraits of several of the tribal leaders on August 14, 1905. Ward also borrowed a number of photographs from Ha-she-tana-kwa-twa (George Morgan), who had been tribal secretary for eighteen years prior to Ward's visit. Other photographs were borrowed from John W. Lamb, the successful Tama attorney who had argued the Mesquakie school case in Federal court. In addition, it is likely that Ward and his assistant, Leroy Elliott, themselves took pictures on the Settlement. Oddly, none of the members of the Historical Society expedition appears in the photographs.

When Ward returned to Iowa City in the fall of 1905, he submitted his report to the Society's Board of Curators and asked that the photographs be preserved. The Board approved funds for this purpose. In order to illustrate the lectures he planned to give on the tribe, Ward had Lucy M. Cavanaugh of Iowa City make one hundred lantern slides from the photographs.

In addition to the slides, the Society turned the negatives of the Moore portraits over to T. W. Townsend, a local photographer, for printing. Townsend printed 11 x 14 inch, mounted versions of the portraits, which were preserved in a large album in the collection of the Society.

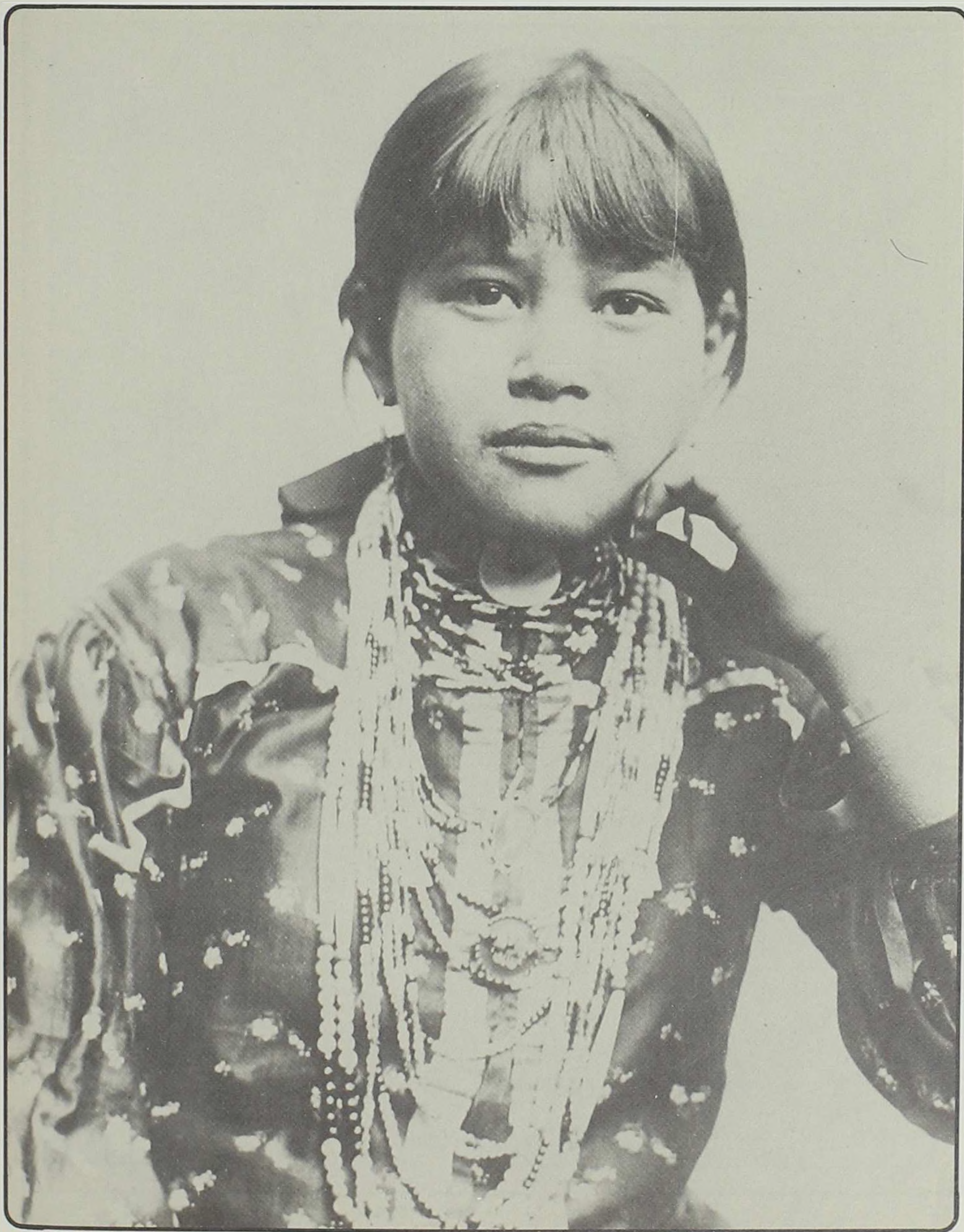
When the lantern slides were uncovered in 1973, the portraits in the album were correlated with the slides. It was evident that the slides had been made from the original portraits. Other prints were discovered in the photographic files of the Society which corresponded to the remainder of the slides. Several pictures which were never copied as slides were also discovered. Thus the Ward collection is made up of several kinds of photographic processes: small paper prints, large portraits, and glass slides.

Henry Winokur, a student at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, undertook the restoration and copying of the slides as part of a college credit course. He copied the slides and then, working with the Society staff, recopied pictures from the original prints where necessary. The result was a collection of exhibit prints. These prints are now available for circulation as a traveling exhibit. The first showing was at the Mesquakie Settlement in January 1974.

Following are a few examples of the Collection.

*L.E.P.*





*Ko-ta-to, born in 1890, the second eldest child of Harry Waseskuk, and possessed of a winsome smile.*





*The James Pa-wa-shi-ka (Poweshiek) Family, who were favorite subjects for the photographer's camera. In 1905, James Poweshiek was the U.S. Policeman. He served on the tribal council for many years and was instrumental in organizing the modern Mesquakie Pow-Wow.*





*Ka-si-no-ska-ka, born in 1894, the son of George Morgan.*





*A Mesquakie baby in a cradle board. Children were placed in cradle boards soon after birth.*





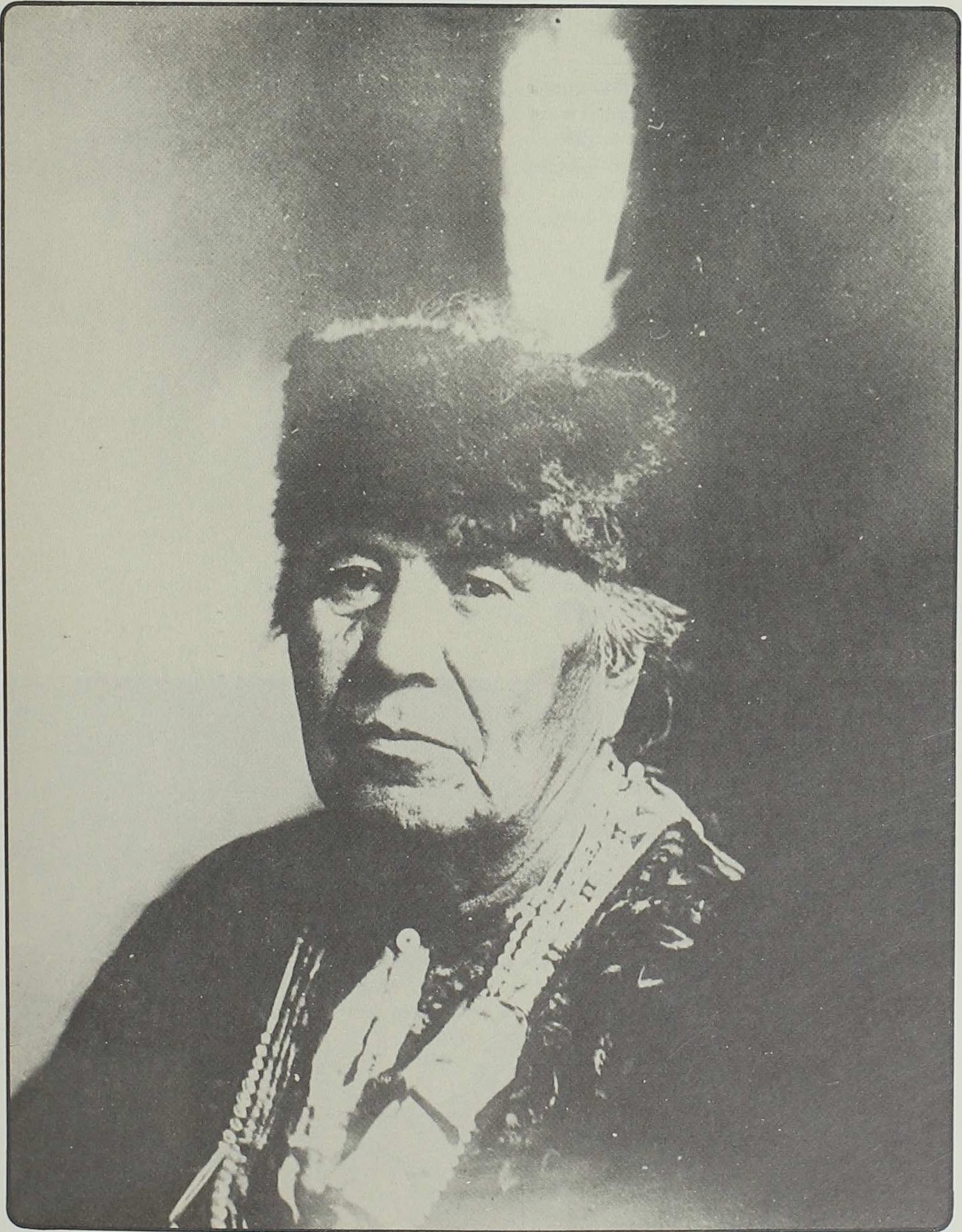
*Ma-ka-ta-wa-kwa-twa (Black Cloud).*





*Ha-she-ta-na-kwa-twa (George Morgan) and family. Morgan had been tribal secretary prior to Ward's visit, and it was from him that Ward borrowed many of the photographs which now form the Ward Collection.*





*Ha-ma-kwa (Beaver).*



L. EDWARD PURCELL is editor of *The Palimpsest*. A native of Bedford, Iowa, he graduated from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa in 1966 and was Director of Alumni Affairs at Simpson from 1966 to 1968. In 1971, he received an M.A. in history from The University of Iowa, where he is now a Ph.D. candidate.

HENRY WINOKUR, shown below copying one of the lantern slides from the Ward Collection, is a student at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. His home is Bethesda, Maryland, but he would like to remain in Iowa, working with historic photographs, after graduation from Cornell this spring.

