

# Looking Back

Historical Hall, 1899-1904

State Historical, Memorial, and Art Building, 1905-1999

Ola Babcock Miller Building, 1999-Present





This is the former home of Des Moines citizens Harrison and Sarah Lyon. It had been occupied previously by their youngest daughter, Mrs. Margaret Senteny, before being purchased by the state from the Lyons' eldest daughter, Eliza, to make way for the new Historical Building in 1899.



Iowa Hall of History, 1899-1904



This is an early picture of the completed Historical, Memorial, and Art Building. Note that the stairs have not yet been removed from the west wing. *February 1910*

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## Introduction

For more than 80 years, visitors to the Iowa State Historical, Memorial, and Art Building were treated to the state's collection of historic documents, literature, portraits, and historical, geological, and archeological artifacts. Those who visited might have memories of the spectacular sand paintings by Iowan Andrew Clemens, the variety of taxidermy Iowa animals, the pioneer Conestoga wagon in the basement, the biplane hanging from the dome ceiling, the odd display by the medical library of things removed from stomachs, or the Native American display on the third floor.

This booklet is a look back at the origins of the museum. It includes some of the Historical Department reports, legislation passed by the general assembly, newspaper and magazine articles, and photographs pertaining to the museum and library. It is not intended to be an exhaustive review and documentation of displays and exhibits. It is a brief overview of the building's history and some photographs that may bring back memories, for some, of a field trip as a student.

This booklet has been created from a variety of source materials: photographs, newspaper articles, and various reports. The following have contributed: State Library of Iowa, Iowa State Historical Society, the Iowa Judicial Branch, Susan Wallace, Helen Dagley, Barb Corson, Jerome Thompson, Pam Rees, Georgiann Fischer, and Jason Mrachina.

### **The Iowa State Historical, Memorial, and Art Building**

The Ola Babcock Miller Building, formerly known as the Iowa State Historical, Memorial, and Art Building, lies within the Iowa State Capitol Complex, an area of approximately 30 square blocks east of downtown Des Moines. Dominated by the Capitol, the complex now includes several widely separated state government buildings in a somewhat random arrangement. The Miller Building grounds lie northeast of the State Capitol across Grand Avenue, bounded by East Twelfth Street on the east and the Jessie M. Parker Building on the west.

## 2 Looking Back

The Beaux Arts-designed building conforms to the classical configuration of a domed central mass connected by hyphens to end pavilions. It measures approximately 260 feet by 70 feet in plan. A grand stairway leads to the main entrance, which is marked by a pair of two-story Ionic columns and crowned by a sculptured pediment. A light-colored limestone facing covers the outer walls. The interior follows a Greek-cross plan, and includes a central rotunda and grand stairway. Ornamentation is relatively refined, and includes light-colored marble, richly hued art glass, and golden oak trim. *(State Library of Iowa)*

The building construction process spanned 12 years, with excavation for the first wing beginning in September 1898 and the removal of the temporary steps, which signified completion, accomplished before October 1910. The major milestones are outlined through time:

1890 - The State Legislature passes an Act providing for the collection and preservation of historic records and other valuable material pertaining to the history of Iowa and making a \$3,000 appropriation.

1892 - The legislature passes an Act providing for the establishment of a historical department. It provides for a curator and reserves three rooms in the southeast corner of the State Capitol basement for the collection.

1896 - At the urging of Charles Aldrich (curator), the Twenty-sixth General Assembly appropriates \$25,000 to purchase property for a state library and museum and procure a plan for construction in 1898. The legislation states "The executive council shall, after procuring such site for such building, procure suitable plans, detailed drawings, and specifications for the construction of a fire-proof building on such site, and let the contract for the completed erection of such



**Oliver O. Smith**  
**Architect**

building, or such portion thereof as can be completed in the year 1898 with the appropriation. . . . In the adoption of any plan for such building, the executive council shall take into consideration the future needs of the state, and shall adopt a plan which will readily admit of such enlargement as may

be required in the future." After examining designs by "several of the best architects in the west," the Executive Council's nod goes to the scheme drawn by local architect Oliver O. Smith. Smith's classical solution features a five-part façade with a dominant two-story central portico; a large, spreading central dome (possibly covered with glass); and prominent sculpted ornamentation. Retaining walls, a broad stairway, and a sweeping plaza will anchor the building to its slightly elevated site. The construction bids for this design, however, prove unacceptably high.

1897 - Seeking to reconcile their limited funds with the pressing need for a building, the Executive Council instructs Smith to submit plans and specifications for the west wing alone. Eight months later, in July 1897, Smith submits the revised plans, which, in effect, merely isolate the west pavilion of the original plan, and the bidding process is undertaken once more.

1898 - In June the state purchases five lots from Eliza Lyon for \$15,000 for the new building. Excavation for the west pavilion begins in September.

1899 - Cornerstone is laid for the Iowa Historical Hall in May.

1900 -The Historical Hall opens and the legislature appropriates \$21,000 for painting and decorating the building of the historical department, and for providing the same with art room decorations and furnishings, glass cases for museum materials, furniture for two reading rooms, finishing the attic, for aquariums, gas fixtures, curbing, walks, and for the curator's room.

1904 - The legislature authorizes the Executive Council to proceed with the completion of the State Historical, Memorial, and Art Building, and the acquisition of lot No. 6, in block No. 5, in Lyon's addition. There is an appropriation of \$200,000, half of which may be expended in 1904, and half in 1905. Smith's original plans are somewhat modified and used.

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1906 - The legislature appropriates \$50,000 to the Executive Council to proceed with the inside finishing and completion of the Historical, Memorial, and Art Building, including heating, ventilating, plumbing, cement walks and granite curbing, electric fixtures, and steel book stacks.

1907 - The legislature appropriates \$40,000 to the Executive Council to proceed with the inside finishing and completion of the Historical, Memorial, and Art Building, including heating, plumbing and ventilation, as well as electric light fixtures, freight elevators, painting woodwork, and wall and ceiling decorations, granite curbing, steps and cement walks, and grading and seeding grounds.

1909 - The legislature appropriates \$30,000 to the Executive Council to proceed with the inside finishing and completion of the Historical, Memorial, and Art Building, including refinishing, re-illuminating, removal of the original main entrance, and restoration of the walls affected thereby, the inside finishing and decorations, stairways, and other structural details of the corridors and rotunda.

1910 - West steps are removed.

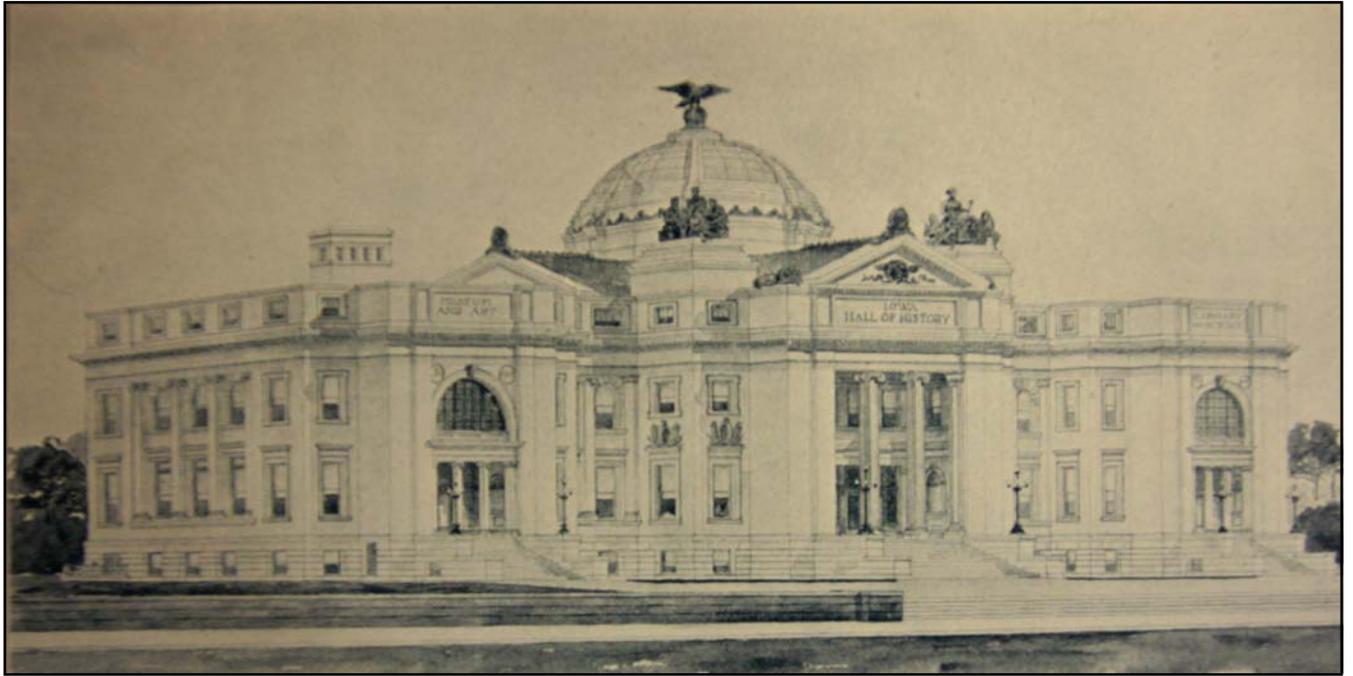
1987 - Until the completion of the new Historical Building in 1987, the museum objects are removed, leaving only the library and a few state offices in the building.

1989 - The west wing undergoes renovation for occupancy by the State Board of Regents, which moves in a year later. *(From the thesis of Susan Wallace, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 1992)*

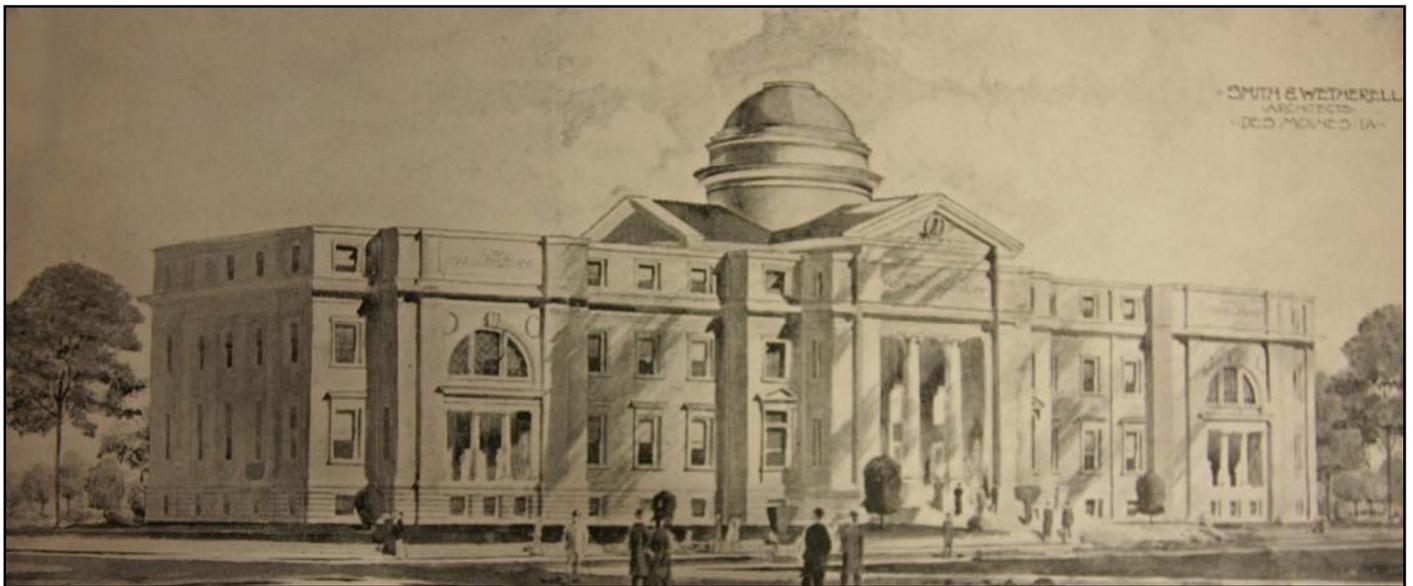
1999 - The legislature, prompted by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, authorizes the renaming of the Historical, Memorial, and Art Building (commonly known as the Old Historical Building) as the Ola Babcock Miller State Office Building.

1999-2002 - A \$20 million renovation of the building is conducted in three phases.

2002 - Dedication of the restored structure is held, and a plaque honoring Ola Babcock Miller is unveiled. *(Iowa Library Services, State Library of Iowa)*



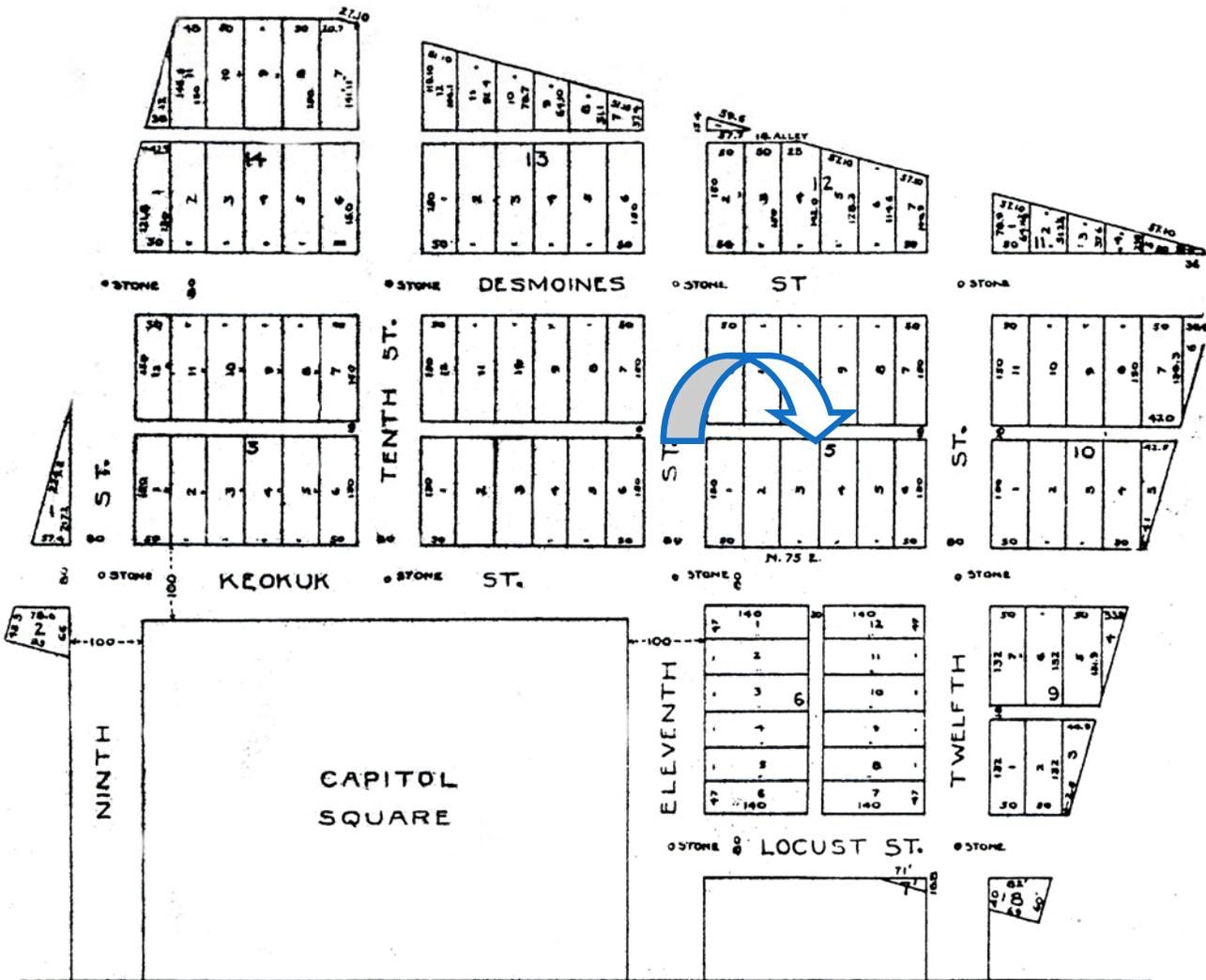
Oliver O. Smith's original drawing of the Historical Building in 1897. Featured are a five-part facade with a dominant two-story center portico; a large, spreading central dome; and prominent sculpted ornamentation. *Smith and Gutterson Architects*



Oliver O. Smith's revised scheme of the Historical Building, circa 1906. Most of the sculpted, elaborate ornamentation is gone from the original design. The wide, shallow dome has become taller, narrower, and apparently covered with tile, as are the gables. In addition, the new design includes steps only to the main entrance, while the original scheme had called for steps to each of the three pavilions. *Smith and Wetherell Architects*

# H. LYON'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF DEMOINE

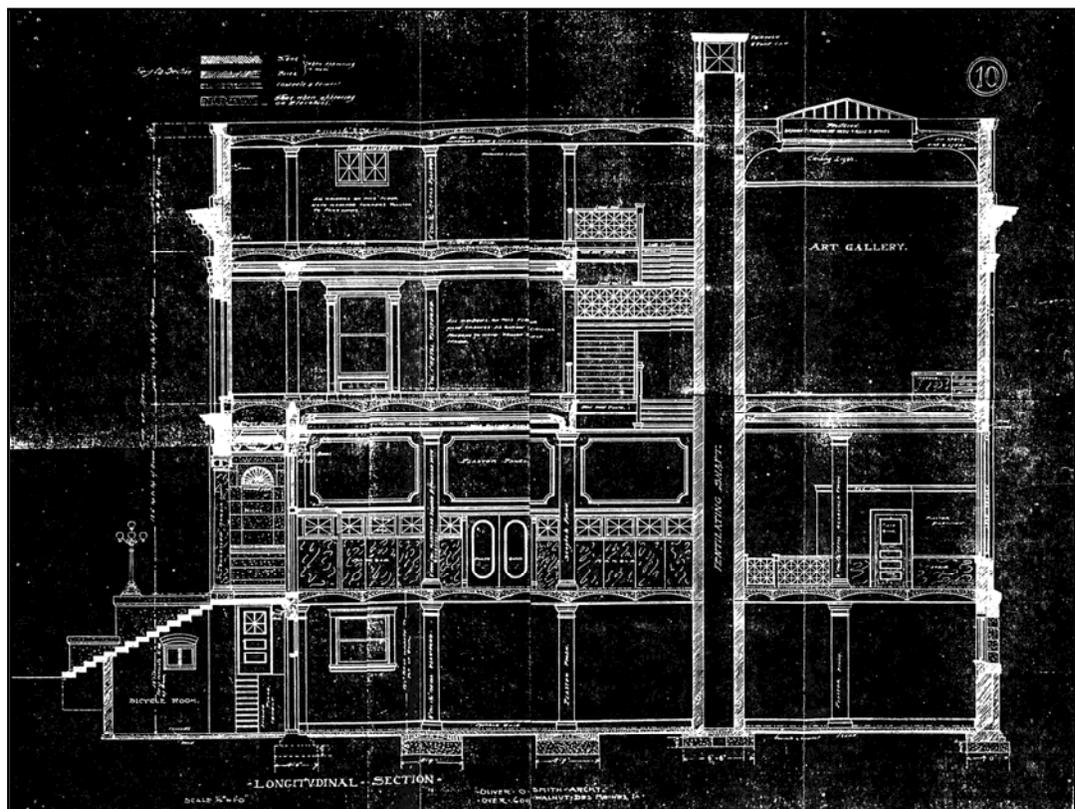
SCALE 100 FEET TO  $\frac{1}{8}$  OF AN INCH



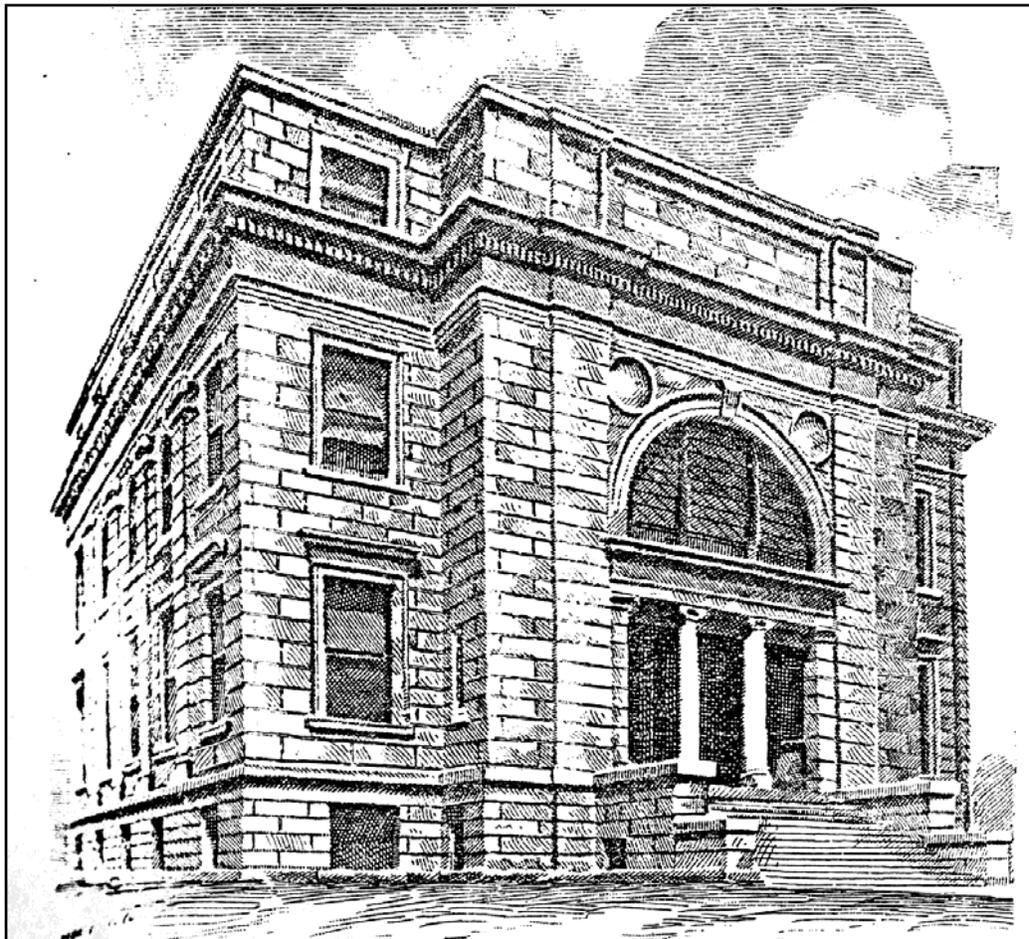
This is an early map showing the lots chosen for the final site of the Historical Building: Block 5, Lots 1-6. This area is located northeast of the Capitol where the former home of Des Moines citizen Harrison Lyon stood.



This is the front "Design Number 1" drawing of the west wing by architect Oliver O. Smith. Circa 1897



This is the longitudinal drawing of the west wing by architect Oliver O. Smith. Circa 1897



Completed west wing of the Historical Building, *circa 1900*



## Charles Aldrich

### The New York Times—December 18, 1885

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### Journal of the Senate—1892

- Resolutions.....*Page 15*

### Iowa Official Register—1892

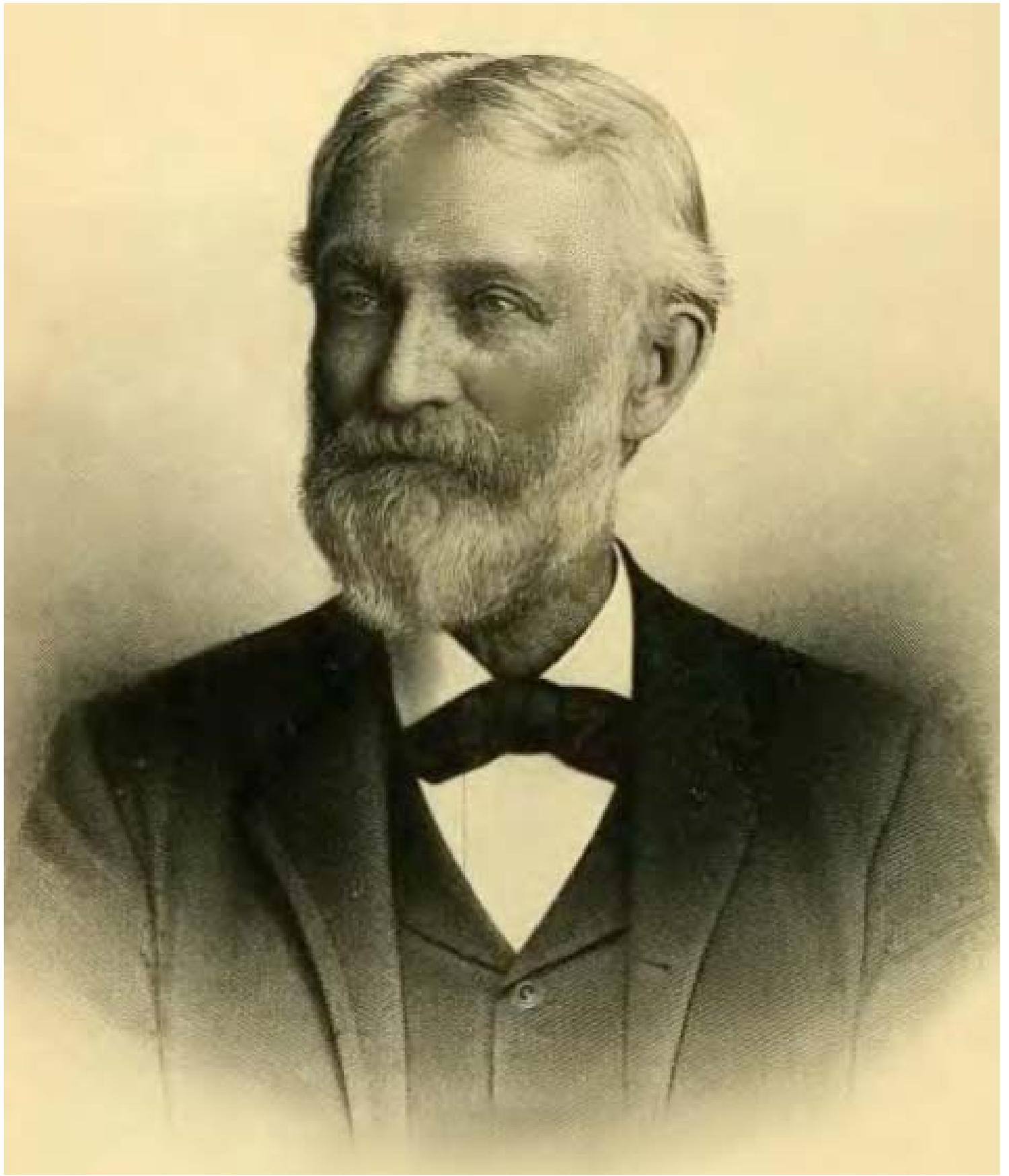
- State Library and Historical Department.....*Page 16*

### The Des Moines Daily News—November 13, 1896

- Home for Relics.....*Page 17*

### Governor Frank Jackson—1894-1896

- Semi-Centennial Anniversary.....*Page 18*



Charles A. Smith.

**THE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF IOWA**

University of Iowa Press Digital Editions

Aldrich, Charles

(October 2, 1828–March 8, 1908)

—journalist and museum curator—was born in Ellington, Chautauqua County, New York, the son of Stephen and Eliza Aldrich. He had a common school education and spent one year in the Jamestown Academy, Jamestown, New York. He began an apprenticeship as a printer in 1846 and established the Cattaraugus Sachem newspaper in New York in 1850. He married Matilda Olivia Williams in 1851. She shared a lifelong interest in the study of birds with her husband until her death in 1892. In 1898 Aldrich married Thirza Louise Briggs.

In 1857 Aldrich moved to Webster City, Iowa, and founded the Hamilton Freeman newspaper. In 1862 Governor Samuel Kirkwood appointed him as first lieutenant and adjutant of the 32nd Iowa Infantry Regiment. On July 3, 1863, he was promoted to captain but refused the promotion. He was discharged for health reasons in 1864.

In 1860 he had begun a long association with Iowa government when he became chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives. He served from 1860 until he joined the Union army in 1862 and again in 1866 and 1870. In 1882-1883 he served in the Iowa House of Representatives. During his time as chief clerk and in his legislative service, Aldrich authored or championed legislation that provided for the preservation of public documents, offered protection for songbirds, prohibited the issuance of railroad passes to public officials, and changed the system of county government by establishing boards of supervisors.

Aldrich had a strong interest in ornithology and was a founding member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883. This interest is apparent in his later museum work.

Aldrich had his most significant impact in the founding and early shaping of the Iowa Historical Department. In 1884 Aldrich presented to the state of Iowa his large and valuable collection of manuscripts, portraits, and autograph letters of famous individuals, which became the core of the Iowa Historical Collection, established by the Iowa legislature in 1892. Aldrich was appointed the first curator of the collection and what would become the Iowa Historical Department in 1893. His association with Iowa Senator William Boyd Allison led to Allison's assistance in securing specimens of birds, American Indian baskets, and an important collection of southwestern American Indian pottery from the Smithsonian Institution and the Bureau of Ethnology for the Iowa museum collections during the 1890s. That same association led to donations of historic military weapons from the Rock Island Arsenal. As a newspaperman, Aldrich began the collection of Iowa newspapers, which continues today.

The legislature provided space in the lower level of the capitol for the museum, but by the mid 1890s there was no space for collection expansion. Property across from the capitol was acquired, funds were appropriated, and a new museum building was completed in 1899. Aldrich recognized the need to preserve the permanent records of government and began the State Archives program in 1906. Aldrich also revived the historical journal, the *Annals of Iowa*, and became its editor in 1893. Under his leadership, some of the first scientific archaeological investigations of prehistoric sites were conducted by museum director Thompson Van Hyning. Aldrich's personal relationships with early Iowa pioneers, lawmakers, veterans, and businessmen resulted in the donation to the department of many artifacts, portraits, artworks, manuscripts, and photographs. His contemporaries credited him as the first "Conservator of Iowa History." Aldrich saw the importance of establishing and supporting a museum for Iowa. In the Historical Department's first annual report in 1893, he wrote, "the State should build up and fairly maintain a great Historical Museum.... Such an institution should be kept growing, for a finished museum is a dead museum." He oversaw the department until his death in 1908.

Sources: The Aldrich collections of correspondence for his years as curator for the Iowa Historical Department are preserved in Special Collections, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. The department's annual reports are also valuable sources, as is *Annals of Iowa* 8 (1908), 563–639, an issue devoted to his memory.

Contributor: Jerome Thompson

Cite as: Thompson, Jerome. "Aldrich, Charles" *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*. University of Iowa Press, 2009. Web. 11 February 2013

# The New York Times

December 18, 1885

## IOWA'S AUTOGRAPHS.

A REMARKABLE COLLECTION PRESENTED BY  
THE HON. CHARLES ALDRICH.

*Correspondence of the Omaha Bee.*

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 6.—A visit to the State Library in the new Capitol is rewarded now with an opportunity to inspect one of the finest collection of autographs in the United States. This collection, known as the "Aldrich collection," is the gift of the Hon. Charles Aldrich, of Webster City, and represents the accumulation of a lifetime. Mr. Aldrich has been very enthusiastic and very assiduous in this chosen work, and has spared neither time nor expense to add to its interest and value. Realizing that comparatively few could enjoy its treasures if kept at his own home, he has presented the entire collection to the State, on the simple condition that a suitable place be prepared and set apart for it, that it shall be always open to visitors, and that he shall have the privilege of making further additions to the collection.

The collection now numbers several thousand autographs and portraits, and some of the specimens are almost priceless in value. The autographs of a large number of prominent people are accompanied by portrait engravings, adding much interest to the collection. In some cases several pictures are exhibited, showing the subject at different ages, and in some instances his birthplace or other places of interest connected with his name. One of the latest additions to the collection is the autograph of the Emperor of Japan—the only one in America. It was procured through the joint services of the Hon. Frank Hatton (at the time Postmaster-General) and Mr. Bingham, the United States Minister to Japan. These gentlemen communicated to the Mikado through various officials of low and high degree the desire of the people of Iowa to have his autograph in their new State House. The Mikado's signature, written on silk, colored with gold and bright red, fastened to a species of cardboard about six inches by eight, now rests peacefully at the top of the collection in the new library. An enterprising firm in Philadelphia wrote Gov. Sherman a few days ago making the modest request for a loan of his Royal Highness' autograph to hang in their shop window a few days to draw attention to their store. But the Mikado will not leave Iowa, and his official signature and compliments are very carefully and jealously guarded.

Another valuable addition to the collection recently received is the gift of Gen. W. T. Sherman. It is the official report of what was known as the Big Black campaign or expedition some 20 miles south of Vicksburg. The report, written in the field, is about 20 pages long, and all in Gen. Sherman's handwriting, and is directed to Gen. Grant through his Adjutant-General. Another letter, which will always be regarded with peculiar interest, is the letter written by Gen. Grant to Gen. Buokner concerning the surrender of Fort Donelson, in which Grant announces "unconditional surrender" as his only terms of peace. Gen. Buckner's portrait and autograph accompany it. The collection is peculiarly rich in the autographs of American poets and scholars. All of the leading poets of America are represented, many of them with steel portraits as well as autographs, and many of them furnish the whole or a part of one of their poems. Longfellow's face appears in half a dozen different portraits, taken at different times, and he has contributed in his own hand a manuscript of the poem, "The Anon and the Song." Oliver Wendell Holmes is represented by portraits and autographs and by a proof sheet of his poem "Ave," written for the *Atlantic Monthly*, marked with the typographical corrections in his own hand. Accompanying the portrait and autograph of James Russell Lowell is the manuscript in his hand of his poem, "The First Snowflake." Thomas Buchanan Read sends the first stanza of his famous lines on "Sheridan's Ride." Bret Harte contributes a stanza of the poem that includes the well-known lines—"For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, the heathen Chinese is peculiar." There are half a dozen portraits of Horace Greeley, taken at different ages, and an interesting letter from him, and a fac simile of the editorial he wrote on "The Arctic Calamity." Ella Wheeler Wilcox sends in her own writing her poem "The Creed," while accompanying the portrait of Mary N. Murfree, the now famous "Charles Egbert Craddock," is a letter from her to her publishers thanking them for a present of a Longfellow calendar. There is an interesting letter from Bayard Taylor, a part of a poem from Edmund Clarence Stedman, a letter from Fitz Greene Halleck, a letter from Nathaniel Hawthorne, one from E. P. Whipple, one from Jean Invelow, one from John G. Saxe, one from Whittier, and one from Charles Dickens. The author of "Proverbial

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Philosophy," Martin Farquhar Tupper, is represented by a part of a poem on "Self Reliance." Grace Greenwood sends a favorite poem. R. H. Stoddard contributes a verse. Anna Dickinson sends with her portrait the sentiment, "The world belongs to those who take it."

There are many letters in the collection which possess far more than mere autographic value. Thus the heroic struggles of Union women during the war are recalled by a letter written by Susan B. Anthony from the office of the anti-slavery society in New-York City in 1863, urging upon a fellow-worker to do all that is possible to uphold the hands of the Government and encourage the soldiers in the field who are fighting for the Union. There is a modest letter from Will Carleton, the poet, to the managing editor of *Harper's Weekly*, asking if there is any place in that paper for one of his ballads, which he incloses. Old John Brown, whose soul goes marching on, is represented in the collection by a large portrait, and a long and interesting letter written during exciting times. There is a proof page from one volume of Bancroft's History of the United States, with the typographical corrections marked in the margin, just as he sent it back to the printers. There is an interesting letter from Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard College, written in 1837. A fine portrait of Victor Hugo, accompanied with his autograph and a few words of compliment, were obtained through the kindness of the Hon. Levi P. Morton, late Minister to France.

The whole field of American literature is most admirably represented. Besides those already mentioned, there are letters or autographs from nearly every prominent poet, novelist, and

magazine writer in the country. American humorists are represented by Mark Twain, B. P. Shillaber, (Mrs. Partington,) Artemus Ward, Nasby, and Burdette. The poets of Europe are represented by Goethe, Schiller, Tennyson, Tom Moore, Campbell, and others, and historians by Edward A. Freeman, Ranke, whose "Popes" are famous the world over; Curtius, of Berlin, whose history of Greece every college boy is supposed to have read; Mommsen, whose "Rome" is equally famous and valuable, and many other popular writers. The scientists include Darwin, Huxley, Spencer, Audubon, Agassiz, Humboldt, and many other names famous in the New World and the old.

There are autographs of a long line of American statesmen, including all the Presidents of the United States and the most prominent politicians of the country. The autographs of Queen Victoria, the Marquis of Lorne, and many other lords and ladies of high degree abroad lie with great democratic familiarity against the names of the untitled lords of America. The Confederacy is represented by letters from Jeff Davis and other prominent rebels. An interesting autograph is that of the great railroad king, Tom Scott. It is signed to an annual pass over the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha to Ogden and return, and bears the signature of Scott as President of the road. It was issued to a former member of Congress from Iowa. This collection, so rich and rare in many lives, is receiving constant additions that add to its value. Mr. Aldrich, who founded it, has just sailed for Europe to obtain several important autographs that he has not yet had.

# Journal of the Senate

1892

## RESOLUTIONS.

*Resolved:* That the Association of Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa, in their third reunion assembled, do most heartily approve of the bill introduced by Senator Gatch “for an act to promote historical collections in the capitol of Iowa.” Especially do we approve of the main features of the bill, which is, “to appoint a curator of historical collections who shall,” in the language of the bill, “proceed to collect and arrange books, maps, charts, public documents, manuscripts and other papers and materials, illustrative of the history of Iowa in particular and of the west generally.

*Resolved further,* That in our judgment there can be no subject of general legislation which should commend itself to more careful and earnest attention than that embodied in this bill, Senate file No. 20, and that we do, therefore, most earnestly ask for its passage.

*Resolved,* That this Association most heartily endorse the noble work of Charles Aldrich in the State library, which has been so largely a gift to the people of Iowa, and warmly commends this work to the attention and fostering care of the Twenty-fourth General Assembly, and the whole people of the State.

*Resolved,* That a copy of these resolutions, attested by the president and secretary of this association, be transmitted to the Senate and House of Representatives of this State.

On motion of Senator McCall, three hundred copies of the foregoing resolutions were ordered printed.

The hour having arrived, the special order was resumed.

## IOWA OFFICIAL REGISTER—1892

### STATE LIBRARY.

During the biennial period ending June 30, 1893, the following additions have been made to the library:

By purchase.....	3,621
By donation and exchange.....	1,939
Total additions.....	5,560

Making a total of 44,813 volumes in the library. The law library is very complete, containing 20,873 volumes.

### HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

This department was established in 1892 for the purpose of promoting the collection and preservation of historical materials relating to Iowa and the territory from which it was established. Three rooms, situated in the southeast basement story of the capitol, were set apart for the purpose; they are absolutely fire proof, thus making a safe depository for the reception of the valuable collection now being made.

It is desired to collect here all written or printed documents relating to early settlers and settlements in Iowa, the organization of new counties, the laying out of towns, the origin of the names of rivers, lakes, townships, counties and cities; early maps of counties and of the Territory or State; county histories and directories of towns and cities; biographies of notable men and women, the personal recollections of pioneer settlers and of the soldiers in any of our wars, together with facts of public interest relating to political parties, conventions and campaigns; brief histories of the founding of academies, colleges, newspapers, agricultural and other industrial schools, railroad enterprises, etc. Special efforts are being made to secure files of early newspapers and other publications, together with all Iowa public documents prior to 1860. Single copies of early Iowa newspapers are solicited and will be carefully preserved, as well as clippings from such papers of articles referring to matters of early Iowa or western history.

Oil portraits, busts, engravings, etchings, photographs, and other works of art, now form interesting features of this widely known and popular collection.

The beautiful picture of Governor Lowe, used as a frontispiece to this volume, is a reduction from a portrait of that distinguished statesman, found in this Historical Department.

Friday Evening, November 13, 1896

## HOME FOR RELICS

### Proposed Plan for the State Historical Building.

#### SITE IS A QUESTION

#### Curator Aldrich May Ask for Additional Appropriations.

In the spring Capitol Hill is to have another magnificent building—historical hall—erected on one of the blocks adjoining the state house grounds. Just which side of the grounds has not yet been fully decided upon, but probably the southwest corner of East Eleventh and Walnut. The building when it is finally completed will be a magnificent structure consisting of a center building about one hundred foot square with two large wings; the whole to be absolutely fire proof.

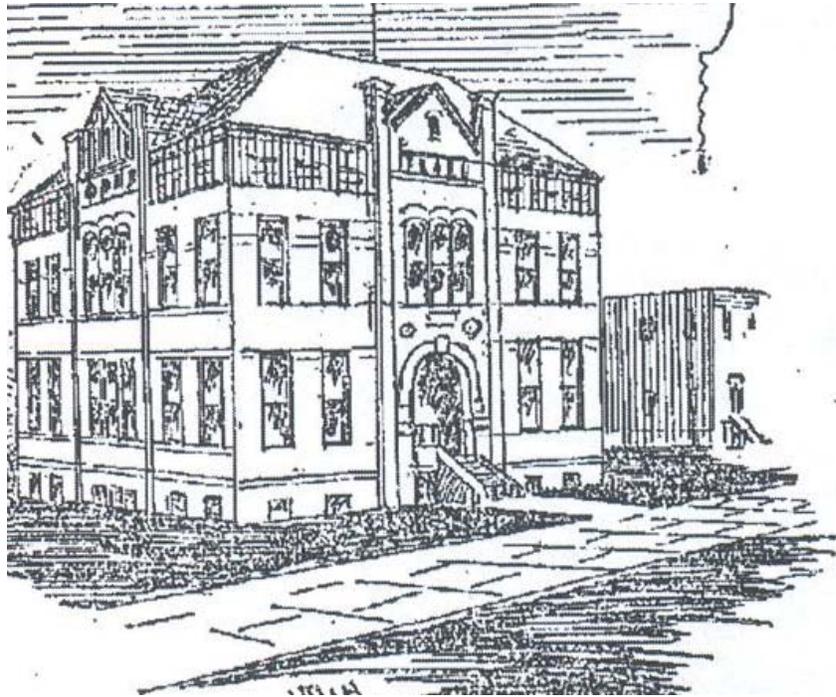
There was a small appropriation of \$25,000 made towards the erection of such a building for the state historical society, by the last legislature, but it is the intention of the extra session this winter to have the bill so amended that the executive council can commence immediately the erection of one of the wings of the building.

#### Several Sites Proposed.

There are several sites that have been offered but as yet, no action has been taken by the council although it is pretty definitely understood it will be in the neighborhood of the soldiers' monument.

The state is in great need of such a building at once as the small quarters they now have in the state house are totally inadequate to accommodate the growing needs of the society and besides more room for the great crowd of people who visit the historical rooms, Curator Aldrich saying that in one week there

### PROPOSED HISTORICAL BUILDING.



One of the wings as it would look on the proposed site, East Eleventh and Walnut.

were 3,000 visitors registered their names. Mr. Aldrich had very little to say about the new building but from other sources it was learned that plans had already been drawn and a start would be made in the new building very soon. The most important feature of the new structure will be a big art gallery which will be opened at all times to visitors and undoubtedly prove one of Des Moines greatest attractions for strangers.

#### Big Prizes to be Secured.

There are already owners of two large museums who stand ready to give their entire collections to the state as soon as they will provide a serviceable place and besides \$75,000 worth of gifts, now begging for admission to the historical department that can not be accepted on account of lack of space, hence the decision which will probably be arrived

at [if] building the wing of the historical building first, that these gifts may be accepted at once.

The Wisconsin historical building cost \$380,000 and in the new capitol building now being erected by Minnesota a most elaborate arrangement is being made for the historical department. The national government at Washington is constantly making large donations to libraries and museums throughout the country and the big guns now on the capitol grounds came from them a number more can be had for the asking and it is the intention to place several of these around about the grounds of the new historical building. One of the largest biographical libraries in the country is to be one of the principle features of the new building, Curator Aldrich already having laid the foundation for it.



Governor Frank Jackson—1894-1896

SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

The year 1896 marks the fiftieth anniversary of our statehood. During the half century of its history as a state, Iowa has made a record unsurpassed in the annals of nations or of peoples, and this general assembly should take measures for a fitting recognition of this important event. In addition to any temporary observance of our semi-centennial which may commend itself to you, it would seem that the most eminently appropriate action would be in the way of some distinctive legislation looking toward the erection and maintenance of a historical museum or memorial hall, which should be not only a perpetual reminder of the greatness of our state, but a permanent repository for the annals of its past and future.

FRANK D. JACKSON.

**Newspaper Articles and Excerpts from Senate Journals, Official Registers, and Governor Speeches**

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# Daily Iowa Capital

Des Moines, Iowa

Thursday, June 17, 1897

To one man more than any other will be given the credit for the erection of this building. For years Curator Aldrich has been looking forward to the time when the historical department would be given suitable accommodations and ample means for taking care of the various gifts presented to the collection. Several valu-

able donations have been promised Mr. Aldrich for the department just as soon as they can be taken care of properly. With the new quarters, he will soon be able to build up a collection far better than the present excellent one, and of immense value to the state.

---

## MADE A GOOD BARGAIN

Thursday, June 17, 1897

### Executive Council Purchases a Site for the Memorial Hall.

**Work on the New Building Will Begin  
Shortly and the Cornerstone May be Laid**

The executive council has finally decided on the location of the memorial hall. The property at the southeast corner of Eleventh street and Capitol avenue has been purchased of Miss Flora Wright, daughter of the late General Ed Wright, for \$4,500.

As soon as it became known to the public that a site for this building would be required property in the immediate neighborhood of the capitol nearly doubled in price and it was thought at one time that the council would be compelled to select a suitable lot and have it condemned. The offer of Miss Wright obviated this necessity. The property has 100 feet frontage and is 140 feet deep. The price, \$4,500, is considered very reasonable and is much lower than most of the available sites were offered for.

Another feature of the agreement which will be of benefit to the state is the clause which provides that the land need not be paid for until January 1, thus leaving the \$5,000 appropri-

ated for this year, available for the beginning of the building. It will be remembered that the council was authorized by the legislature to spend \$5,000 this year and \$20,000 in 1898. It was the original plan to pay for the land this year and not to commence the building until next spring. By this arrangement it is expected that the corner stone will be laid by the 1st of September.

It is the present intention to erect only one wing of the proposed magnificent building which will probably cost \$250,000 when completed. As the business of the state increases, more departments will be created, and additional office room demanded. At the present time the attorney general is endeavoring to have a suitable suite of rooms assigned to him and the council has as yet been unable to accommodate him because of lack of room. The memorial hall will relieve the crowded condition of the state house considerably, as the historical department, and probably the geological survey and the mine inspector's office, will be located in the new structure. There will be no trouble about finding occupants for the various rooms thus vacated as several of the larger offices are already cramped for room.

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# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, August 11, 1897

## JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The executive council of the state is in session today examining the architects plans for the state historical building. The plans will probably be selected this afternoon . There are

five sketches before the council in this competition. They are by Proudfoot & Bird, Geo. E. Hallot, C.E. Eastman, Clinton Nourse and Oliver O. Smith.

# THE GRAPHIC.

VOL. VI. NO. 36

POSTVILLE, IOWA, SEPT. 16, 1897.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

## IOWA NEWS-LETTER.

### THE HISTORICAL BUILDING.

The executive council has excepted the plans of Architect Oliver O. Smith, of Des Moines, for the historical building. The plans are for a four-story building of Doric style, with a wing on either side, corresponding somewhat to the

statehouse, near which it is located. One wing will be built first, and the foundation of that will be put in this fall. Only \$20,000 remains of the appropriation, which the next legislature will be expected to add to.

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# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Friday, September 24, 1897

U.S.

## PLANS OF INTERIOR OF MEMORIAL HALL

Architect Smith Prepares a Cozy Little Home for the Priceless Aldrich Collection.

WILL ASK FOR MORE MONEY

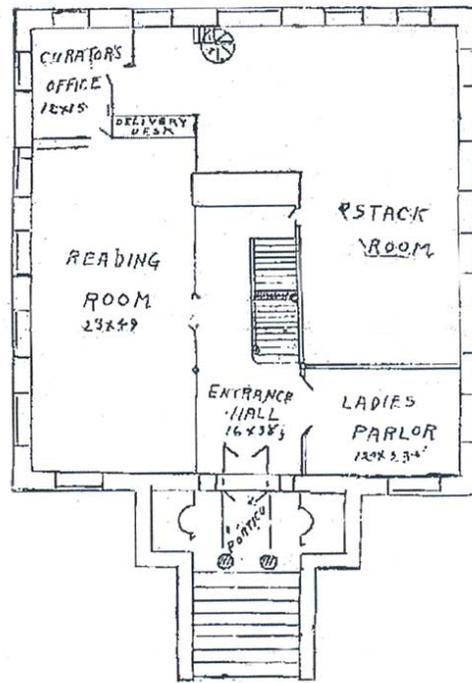
The \$20,000 Appropriated by the Legislature is Not Enough to Finish One Wing of the Big Structure.

Preparations for the work on the state memorial building are fast shaping themselves into definite form. The executive council has passed finally upon both exterior and interior plans for the building of the north wing and the next step contemplated is the letting of contracts for work. It is not thought possible to do more this fall than to complete the work of excavation and to lay the foundation and corner stone.

### CAN'T KEEP WITHIN THE LIMIT.

In figuring on that part of the building which is contemplated for immediate erection, Curator Aldrich and Architect O. O. Smith have both conferred with the executive council upon the matter of expenses. They say that it will be impossible to keep within the limits of the \$20,000 appropriation and put up a building such as will be a credit to the state or compare with the state house which has already been erected at an immense cost. In the first place the building must be fire-proof; that everyone will concede. Then there is the stone facing which is much more desirable than brick and at the same time more expensive. There are finally the many details of furnishings contemplated in decorated cornices, marble columns, marble wainscoting, tile floors, partitions of oak and glass, etc., necessary to make up the harmonious whole. There is but

PLANS FOR FIRST FLOOR.

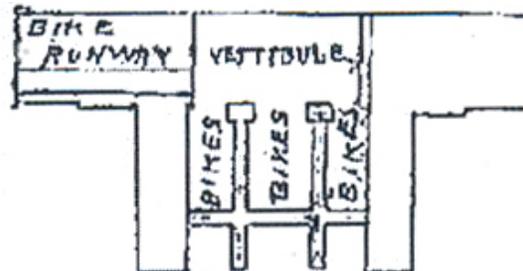


WILL BE COMPLETE IN ITSELF.

\$20,000 to do the work with. It is the plan of the council to go ahead with the plans for the wing under the provisions of the present appropriation. As it is possible to do very little of the work this fall, the council will meantime go before the Twenty-seventh general assembly with a clear statement of matters and ask for an additional appropriation to carry the work forward in the spring. It is hoped by this means to secure the added funds.

### WILL BE COMPLETE IN ITSELF.

The wing which will soon be in process of erection on the lot southeast of the capitol building will form a complete structure in itself



THE BICYCLE LOBBY.

when completed. It will face west and cover an area 68 by 68 feet. The exterior is designed

Continued on next page

*Continued from previous page*

in the Italian Renaissance of the later Roman period. The cornices will be richly decorated in the Ionic order and project 2 1-2 feet. The basement of stone will stand 8 feet above the established grade. The main entrance two stories in height is designed with an immense arch 18 feet in diameter and supported by two marble columns. On either side of the portico are marble niches. Broad stone steps lead to the arch and on either side of the buttresses are candelabra of bronze.

In the center of the building extending through each story is an immense ventilating shaft, 3 1-2 by 14 feet. This is fed by large tiles which enter the building underground. One of the most useful and interesting features of the new building will be the bicycle runway provided for in the space beneath the front steps leading into the building. It will be possible for bicyclers to run into a passage-way below these steps, chain their wheels in the bicycle stalls, enter the building by a basement door, and from thence proceed upstairs to the first floor.

The basement, aside from the entrance hall, is utilized by an apartment for newspaper files, a museum for the heavier articles, such as guns, large specimens, etc., and a lavatory for men. A circular stairway from the file room communicates with the curator's office above and a stairway also leads from the basement entrance to the first floor.

The large entrance hall on the first floor is 16 by 38 feet in dimensions and opens at the left into a commodious reading room 26 by 40 feet and 17 feet high, supplied with light from five large windows. The partition between the hall and reading room will be wainscoted with mar-

ble and have an upper casing of oak and glass.

**CURATOR TO HAVE AN OFFICE.**

At the rear of the reading room and in the extreme northeast corner of the building is the curator's office, his own choice of location. Adjoining the office on the south is his assistant's apartment, with delivery desk, which communicates with the newspaper file room in the basement below, and the stack room to the south. The stack room is an immense apartment, 51 feet in length, 40 1-2 feet in the widest place and 23 1-2 in the narrowest. Here will be kept all the precious historical documents of the state to be handed out by the curator or his assistant for the use of visitors in the reading room.

A ladies' parlor occupies the southeast corner of the building at the right of the entrance hall on the first floor. An eight foot staircase leads from the main hall to a landing from which the stairs communicate both right and left to the floor above. Here occupying the entire east end of second and third stories is the art gallery and auditorium. Its dimensions are 25 feet by 65 feet in height, with coved ceiling and an immense skylight. The auditorium will have a seating capacity of 300 and has two entrances which afford easy access to the double stairways leading to the landing. The fore part of both second and third stories will be reserved for museum purposes, the articles being classified in the two departments in accordance with the ideas of the curator. Everything has been done to make the building as complete as possible and scrupulous care will be taken in carrying details of convenience out to the letter.

# Daily Iowa Capital

Monday, November 8, 1897

## BROAD POLICY IN STATE AFFAIRS

*From the Cedar Rapids Republican.*

We note that the state executive council has indefinitely postponed the erection of the proposed state memorial, historical and art building, for the reason that the fund provided by the last general assembly has been found to be insufficient. The sum appropriated was twenty-five thousand dollars, and the act stated that this sum must cover the cost of purchasing a site adjacent to the state capitol at Des Moines, the drawing of the plans and the complete erection of the building. The council purchased two lots in accordance with this requirement for four thousand three hundred dollars, had plans drawn and accepted, and then asked for bids for the construction of the building. These bids were opened at a recent meeting, and were found to be much higher than the appropriation act would permit, and after discussing the matter it was decided that it would be best to postpone all work until the matter can be laid before the Twenty-seventh General Assembly.

We are not discussing now the advisability of the erection of this building. We may need it, or we may not need it, as we wish. But if we need it we ought to build

one that will be a credit to the state, now and in the future, and this policy ought to govern all expenditures of public money where the appropriation is for permanent improvement. Hitherto, with the exception of the capitol building, it has been the policy of our various general assemblies to consider present needs alone. We have constructed in this state in about the same fashion that a farmer would construct corn cribs that he expects to use for only one season only, and that a dry season. We have built building after building in such a niggardly fashion that when it was completed, it was found to be inadequate for the needs of the hour at the time of its dedication. This is tremendous folly for a great state that expects to grow greater with each passing year. If we construct a building on the university campus at Iowa City, or on the grounds of the penitentiary at Fort Madison or Anamosa, we ought to construct it with this thought in mind, namely, that whereas Iowa has two million inhabitants now, it can very reasonably expect to have three million later on. That is the way every corporation builds. That is the way every individual acts. Why should the state be less wise than the businessmen who make up the state?

# Journal of the Senate

1898

## MEMORIAL AND HISTORICAL BUILDING.

At its regular session the Twenty-sixth General Assembly made a beginning toward the erection of a memorial and historical building, appropriating \$25,000 for the purchase of grounds and the procurement of plans. At the second session of that body provision was made for the construction of a part of the building—the same to be completed, however, including the purchase of the grounds, within the appropriation. After due examination of the proposed sites, selection was made of a tract 100 by 141 feet immediately east of the state house, and it was purchased for the sum of \$4,300, which was considerably less than any tract as large could be obtained anywhere else adjacent to Capitol square, which is where the statute required the site to be.

Several architects submitted plans on invitation. One of these, that of O. O. Smith, of Des Moines, was selected, and he was chosen the architect and instructed to prepare full estimates of the cost of a fire-proof building (and the executive council would have none other), which he accordingly did.

On examination, the council became convinced that such a building of a size that would be satisfactory to the people, or adequate for even a beginning of the contemplated edifice, could not be built for the means available after paying for the site. It was therefore determined by the council to relegate the matter to the general assembly. It is accordingly left for consideration at the session now opening. I deem this subject one of the first importance. Already the collection fills the rooms of the historical department, and it will soon be practically impossible to crowd in any more.

The department is feeling the force of the truth that "to him that hath shall be given." Many people are now found who are anxious to help swell the collection, provided their contributions can be suitably and safely cared for. The fine library of the state and other papers going back to the begin-

ning of the federal government, left by Hon. James F. Wilson, is ready for turning over to the department when proper provision has been made for receiving and caring for it. Other very valuable collections are offered on like conditions.

The opportunity to procure these ought not to be missed. I am indeed persuaded from the extent of the offerings that the new building, when it shall have been completed, will barely hold the treasures, literary, historical, artistic, archæological and curios, that will then be ready for it. I therefore recommend that \$30,000 be added to the balance remaining of the former appropriation, in order that the memorial and historical building may be pushed to completion. The lowest estimate made by the architect for the erection and completion of this building is \$49,000.

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1898.]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

Senator Lewis, from the Committee on Public Buildings, presented the following report:

MR. PRESIDENT—Your Committee on Public Buildings, to whom was referred substitute for House file No. 146, a bill for an act to grant the city of Des Moines lots seven (7) and eight (8), of block thirty-three (33), of the original town of Fort Des Moines, now included in the city of Des Moines, Polk county, Iowa, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and have instructed me to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that the same be amended as follows:

Amend the title by changing the period immediately after the word "Iowa" to a comma, and adding the words "and providing for the purchase of a new site for the Iowa memorial and historical art building."

Strike out of section 2 of the bill all of said section after the figures and parentheses "(15,000)" in the third line, and substitute therefor "which sum, when it shall be needed therefor, shall be used, and is hereby appropriated for the purchase of a new site for the Iowa memorial and historical art building, which shall be paid upon the conveyance of such new site for said building to the state of Iowa by good and sufficient warranty deed and delivery therewith of an abstract of title, showing unencumbered fee simple title to the state. Said new site to be selected and purchased by the executive council and the curator, and payment therefor to be made by a warrant to be drawn by the auditor of state on the

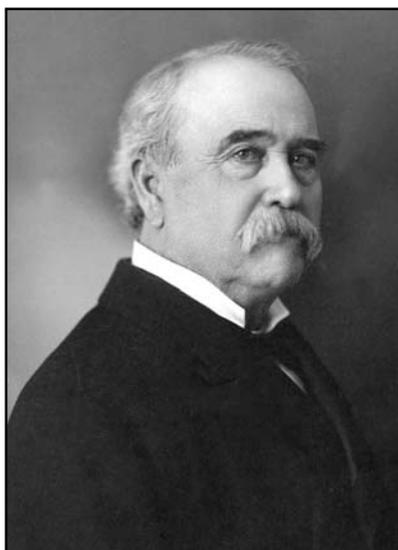
treasurer of state upon a written statement to be signed by the governor, secretary of state and curator, that the requirements of this act as to purchase, conveyance and title thereto have been complied with, and until otherwise provided by law, the old site for the Iowa memorial and historical building shall be held by the state as the site for the arsenal and storage of quartermaster's property."

Strike out of line 6 of section 3, the words "such department" and insert in lieu thereof the words "the state," and strike out of line 7 the words "the property" and insert in lieu thereof the words "said lots seven (7) and eight (8), in block thirty-three (33)."

Also, amend by adding to section 3 the following: "And there is hereby appropriated from any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, such sum as shall be necessary to pay the expenses of the removal of said building and the preservation of the material thereof, which shall be paid on the recommendation of the executive council, by warrant or warrants drawn by the auditor of state upon the treasurer of state, in favor of the persons entitled thereto."

And that the bill, when so amended, do pass.

W. R. LEWIS,  
*Chairman.*



Governor Francis Drake—1896-1898

#### MEMORIAL AND HISTORICAL BUILDING

At its regular session the Twenty-sixth General Assembly made a beginning toward the erection of a memorial and historical building, appropriating \$25,000 for the purchase of grounds and the procurement of plans. At the second session of that body provision was made for the construction of a part of the building—the same to be completed, how-

ever, including the purchase of the grounds, within the appropriation. After due examination of the proposed sites, selection was made of a tract 100 by 141 feet immediately east of the state house, and it was purchased for the sum of \$4,300, which was considerably less than any tract as large could be obtained for anywhere else adjacent to Capitol square, which is where the statute required the site to be.

Several architects submitted plans on invitation. One of these, that of O. O. Smith, of Des Moines, was selected, and he was chosen the architect and instructed to prepare full estimates of the cost of a fire-proof building (and the executive council would have none other), which he accordingly did.

On examination, the council became convinced that such a building of a size that would be satisfactory to the people, or adequate for even a beginning of the contemplated edifice, could not be built for the means available after paying for the site. It was therefore determined by the council to relegate the matter to the general assembly. It is accordingly left for consideration at the session now opening. I deem this subject one of the first importance. Already the collection fills the rooms of the historical department, and it will soon be practically impossible to crowd in any more.

The department is feeling the force of the truth that "to him that hath shall be given." Many people are now found who are anxious to help swell the collection, provided their contributions can be suitably and safely cared for. The fine library of state and other papers going back to the beginning of the federal government, left by Hon. James F. Wilson, is ready for turning over to the department when proper provision has been made for receiving and caring for it. Other very valuable collections are offered on like conditions.

The opportunity to procure these ought not to be missed. I am indeed persuaded from the extent of the offerings that the new building, when it shall have been completed, will barely hold the treasures, literary, historical, artistic, archaeological, and curious, that will then be ready for it. I therefore recommend that \$30,000 be added to the balance remaining of the former appropriation, in order that the memorial and historical building may be pushed to completion. The lowest estimate made by the architect for the erection and completion of this building is \$49,000.

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# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Monday Evening, March 28, 1898

## Amendment to Library Building Site Plan in the Senate Will Not Pass the House.

An interesting legislative situation has developed in which the old arsenal, the new state historical building, and the prospective Des Moines city library site are each contending for superior rights. The trouble arose over the bill which passed the house ten days ago granting the city of Des Moines authority to purchase the site of the old state arsenal for the purpose of erecting a city library building. The bill was introduced by Barr and in its original form provided that the site should be given to the city. The adjutant general's department immediately took a hand in the matter and saw that the bill was amended to require the city to pay for the ground. Fifteen thousand dollars was the price stipulated, the amount to be turned over to the adjutant general's department for the establishment of a new arsenal. The bill went over to the senate and was referred to the committee on appropriations. Here the trouble began. That committee has reported the bill favorably to the senate, but with an amendment providing that the \$15,000 paid by the city shall be turned over to the proper authorities and used for the purchase of a new site for the state historical

building. In return for this sacrifice the adjutant general's department is to be presented with the site already purchased for the historical building. No provision has been made for the rental or building of a new arsenal.

This action of the senate appropriations committee did not meet altogether the approval of the representatives of the I.N.G., and this morning Adjutant General Dyers and Chairman Garst met and declared war. The latter refused to modify the committee recommendations, and the latter proceeded to institute a vigorous lobby against the proposed amendment. If the amendment is adopted and concurred in by the house there will be absolutely no place in which to store the National guard accoutrements, as there are enough of them to fill the adjutant general's room at the state house. The move of the senate committee is made in the interests of a number of persons, among whom is understood to be Governor Shaw, who have serious objections to the site which has been purchased for the new historical building, and who wish in some way to get rid of the present lot immediately behind the capitol building. The National guards were willing if the state allowed them the \$15,000 for the old arsenal to purchase the site of the historical building and remove their old building there. The amendment, it is said, is likely to pass the senate, but will not be concurred in by the house. Some say it is a scheme to let the whole thing drop, as nothing would probably be done with the bill should the two houses disagree over the matter.

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THE DAILY NEWS Circulation a  
Large Paid Circulation Shows that it  
is the most popular newspaper in Iowa.**THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS**

Friday Evening, April 15, 1898

**The Library Site.**

An examination of the law authorizing the purchase of the arsenal site for a city library, passed by the legislature, reveals the interdependence on this site upon the long-pending and much to be desired historical building.

The act authorizes the transfer of the arsenal site by the governor and the secretary of state to the city of Des Moines for the uses and purposes of the free public library for the sum of \$15,000. This sum, says the act, "shall be used, and is hereby appropriated, for the purchase of a new site for the Iowa memorial and historical art building, which shall be paid upon the conveyance of such new site for said building to the state of Iowa by good and sufficient warranty deed."

It will thus appear the erection of the new historical building depends entirely upon the city's purchase of the arsenal site. There may be objection to this proviso of the legislature but there is no appeal from it. The two objects are interwoven. The \$15,000 paid by the city is to be used for the purchasing of a site for the historical building. If the site is not purchased the historical building for which the legislature appropriated \$50,000, will be lost. Mr. Aldrich has labored for years to secure this initial appropriation which will be increased by subsequent appropriations

and when completed according to his plans he believes it will represent an investment of \$250,000. Is the state and the city of Des Moines to lose this splendid memorial hall because of a division of the people of this city over the library site? Is the city of Des Moines, moreover, to lose the present memorial site east of the capitol, on Eleventh street, as a site for a proposed city arsenal? That site is included in the legislative deal, also. As the NEWS insisted yesterday the payment of the \$15,000 is not for the library site alone. We get three tracts for the money—the library site, the historical building site, and the old historical building site for an arsenal.

The NEWS believes that when the people fully understand all the matters involved in the purchase of the library grounds all serious opposition will be withdrawn. As heretofore suggested, the library belong to all the people and its location should be considered with reference to this fact.

The purchase of this site must be settled by July 1st, as that is the date fixed by the legislature as the limit for the transfer. Let the will of the people, after a full understanding of the matter is had, prevail in this as in all other matters affecting their interests.

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# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Monday, April 18, 1898.—LAST EDITION.

## NOW VOTE!

People Given a Chance on Library Site.

### END TO SQUABBLE

The News Proposes to Allow the people to Have an Expression on the Important Question.

### HOW IT WILL WORK

A Brief Review of the Situation so That All May Understand the Facts Before Casting Their Ballots.

Arsenal Site \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In order to crystalize public sentiment as to the site of the city library THE NEWS will institute a popular vote on the matter. A few words are necessary in explanation.

The state legislature passed an act giving the city the arsenal site for \$15,000 and expressly stipulated that this \$15,000 be used to purchase a site for the new state historical building for which that body appropriated altogether \$50,000. By the same act the state gives the old site east of the capitol, which had been first selected for the historical building to the city for a new arsenal. The city thus secures three sites for the \$15,000. If the city does not buy the arsenal site on the west river front, paying \$15,000 therefore it loses the historical building on which \$50,000 is to be expended this year, and also the old historical building site for an arsenal. Many of the people do not know these facts important as they are. The three things are inextricably blended together by the legislature.

Another matter that enters into the location of the library is the proposed improvement of the river front as a down-town

park. The location of the \$100,000 city library will go far toward making this improvement necessary. It should also be remembered that the city library is supported by the people of the East and South Sides as well as the West Side, and patriotic feeling suggests a location that is central to all.

The library board of trustees is anxious to secure an expression of public opinion and their action will largely depend upon the will of the people. The location must be decided soon so that work may be gotten under way with the historical building, upon which Des Moines labor is to be employed. It is hoped the people will give a full expression to their desires.

Fill out the following blank, cut it out and mail or bring it to the NEWS office:

If you favor the arsenal site write the word "yes" opposite "arsenal site;" if you are opposed write the word "no" opposite the same. Sign your name and address and send or bring it to THE NEWS where the vote will be counted and announced. Let the will of the people prevail.

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE

THE DAILY NEWS OWES NO ALLEGIANCE TO ANY CLIQUE, PARTY  
OR COMBINE—IT IS UNDER OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE ONLY

IT REPRESENTS THE MASSES

THE DAILY NEWS Circulation a  
Larger Paper Circulation than that of  
any other two Iowa daily newspapers.**THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS**

Friday, May 6, 1898—LAST EDITION

**SLOW TO MOVE.****The Library Board Has Not Yet Paid the Price.**

Inquiry at the state treasurer's office today at noon brought the information that the city library trustees had not yet paid the \$15,000 purchase money which they voted to pay the state for the arsenal site. The deal is ready and no reason is given for the delay. The beginning of the historical building is postponed by the failure to pay the money. Mr. Aldrich says

the site cannot be selected until the senate gets the money from the city. He is anxious to have the corner stone laid on the Fourth of July and says every day building operations are postponed will run the time a day later in the season. Mr. J. C. Rounds, treasurer of the board, was asked today if he had any reason for the delay and replied that he had none.

Friday, August 12, 1898

**AWARD CONTRACT.****Executive Council Opens Bids on Historical Building.**

The state executive council met today to open bids on the contract for the new state historical building. A short session was held this forenoon, but, as the time for submitting bids did not expire until noon, 3 o'clock this afternoon was set for another meeting when it was expected to open the bids and award the contract. At noon a member of the council said it was expected that from seven to ten bids would be submitted altogether. Among these it was understood that at least two would

be submitted from Des Moines contractors. A member of the council in speaking of the letting of the contract expressed a regret that it could not have been done that spring before iron and glass went up. "It will cost much more now to get the work done than it would have done last spring, and it would have been even better if the contract could have been let a year ago." There is a \$50,000 to put into the wing which is to be erected at this time.

Saturday Evening, November 12, 1898



The metamorphosis of a community is always interesting. The transformation of a town in which one is personally interested is doubly

attractive.

Des Moines has changed. In spirit, in enthusiasm, in energy it is not the city of a year ago. It has emerged from its chrysalis and has assumed wings. Regenerated Des Moines is full of the home missionary spirit and its zeal grows daily.

Beginning its flight in the legislature a

*Continued on next page*

year ago for the location of a state historical building that victory started the city on an onward and united effort which has been constantly accelerated by notable achievements.

Des Moines began to realize its destiny and to believe in it. Capital began to see its opportunity and great business and office buildings were projected. Building activity has known no parallel in any past year of the city's history and the next year promises to double this year's record. A city li-

brary to cost \$125,000 has been allocated and plans called for. An auditorium plan has been taken hold of in earnest and is an assured success. A \$400,000 court house has been voted and the struggle for a site is in itself an evidence of the spirit which characterizes the people.

Des Moines has started to build a great city. Multiply the momentum of its solidity by the velocity of its progress and the product will appear as a striking force.

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## THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

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VOLUME XXVIII

ATLANTIC, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1898.

NUMBER 25

### New Plans Are Now Accepted.

DES MOINES, July 13.—The state executive council examined and accepted the plans of architect Oliver O. Smith for the new state historical building yesterday and the architect is authorized to advertise for bids on the contract at once. Contractors will have 30 days to get bids in, then the

contract will be let and work on the building begin immediately with a view to having the corner stone laid early in October. The wing which is to be erected now will cost \$50,000, the whole building when completed \$300,000.

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**Daily Iowa Capital**

Des Moines, Iowa

Monday, January 30, 1899

## SMITH AND GUTTERSON GET IT.

### Library Trustees Accept Their Design for an Ideal Building.

After a two hours' session on Saturday, a continuation of the afternoon of Friday, when the library trustees found it impossible to come to an agreement, the firm for architecture was awarded Smith & Gutterson and their design was accepted as com-

ing the nearest an ideal library building, by a vote of 5 to 4. Several ballots were found necessary and in the interims were warm word contests. Smith & Gutterson came out ahead solely on the merit of their design, and the building committee especially were

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competent to judge, as they have made a study of the more prominent library buildings east and north. The cash prizes were awarded as follows: Hallett & Rawson, \$100; Clinton Nourse, \$75; Proudfoot & Bird, \$50; Foster & Liebbe, \$25.

In the years to come, Oliver Smith will have two permanent monuments to his architectural genius, the Des Moines public library and the state historical building. He is a Des Moines boy, received his edu-

cation here and here he has striven to make a name for himself. Mr. Gutterson came here from Mason City, where he has done good work, and the union of these two young men in business is thus favorably begun.

The verdict of the trustees was received with eminent satisfaction, even those who favored other contestants accepting the majority vote in good spirits.

# Daily Iowa Capital

Des Moines, Iowa

Friday, March 31, 1899

## CORNER STONE LAYING

**Coming Exercises of the Historical Building Being Considered.**

### **AN IMPOSING EVENT IN IOWA**

**Curator Aldrich Tells of His Experience in Getting the Department**

**Organized.**

General interest throughout the state will center in the historical building which is to be erected on the corner of East Tenth and Grand avenue, near the capitol building. The first service connected with the building will be celebrated by the laying of the corner stone on May 14.

In regard to the historical department, its work, and more particularly the building to be erected, Mr. C. S. Aldrich discoursed at length with a Capital reporter. In commencing the conversation, he said:

"It should be a matter of great pride to every resident of the state that the department is

finally going to have a permanent and adequately commodious home of its own in which to preserve the invaluable material which so pertinently relates to the general history of Iowa. The best history we have is contained in the writings and relics in the possession of the department, and to further its workings and broaden its scope should be a prime duty with all the people.

#### **The Organization.**

"The historical department was founded by an act of legislature in 1892 and I was placed in charge. Previous to that time, in 1884, I had presented to the state a collection of autograph letters which I owned and which was the basis of the present large collection. Since the time of its foundation, \$6,000 a year has been appropriated for its support, with the exception of the first two years, when the amount given was \$7,500. It has grown steadily, and for several years past the three rooms given to its use, here in the basement, have been altogether too small. There has always been the greatest interest throughout the state in the workings

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and collections of the department, and it has been the most attractive feature to visitors in the capitol. The smallness of the quarters have greatly handicapped the work and it [it] has been so felt, pretty generally, for a long time. Acting with the sentiment of the greatest friends of the department, I drafted a bill which was passed by the general assembly in 1896, appropriating \$25,000 for the purpose of erecting a building. A mistake in an amendment made it only possible to have the building cost that amount, and nothing was done until the last assembly appropriated an additional \$30,000. A further enactment of law authorized the sale of the adjutant general's office building for \$15,000, the money to be expended in purchasing suitable grounds. This was done and the present site bought.

"It is not to be supposed that it was altogether easy to get an appropriation. While the general sentiment of the people was all in favor of having a building, still it was no laughing task to convince the members of the legislature that they should vote for one. A great many of the members are always new men, and they come down with the promises of economy given constituents still fresh in their memories, and are radically opposed to all not absolutely necessary expenditure. This was the case in regard to my bill, and it was bitterly opposed at the outset of the session. But, before the close a big majority was favorably inclined towards it and the appropriation was made. I remember having a very hard fight for it, and used to overrule all objections by saying that there were only two nations on earth, the Iowans and the Digger Indians, who did not preserve their history.

#### **Those Who Helped.**

"I was greatly assisted in the work by many friends among all classes of people in the state, and particularly by the newspapers. Hardly an unkind word was said and they urged the appropriation from the start. No few particular persons assisted in the work, nor at no particular time was the sentiment in favor of the

building strongly awakened, but interest was gradually evolved among the farmers and merchants and professional men until the time became ripe to urge that the department should be put on a proper footing. Then everybody took a hand in it, and it only remains to say that out of the 750 votes that have been cast in the legislature in voting on different acts in regard to it, hardly fifty have been in opposition, proving how strong and general was the sympathy for the movement.

The result of the work is that now we will have a fine building that, when completed eventually, will cost somewhere between \$300,000 and \$500,000. Only one wing is being erected now, and the plans which have been adopted provide for a main building with two wings. The next legislature will have to make an appropriation for furniture and fixtures and when the department is installed in the one wing of the building it will have a fine home, where the fine collections already belonging to it may be properly exhibited. The boom that will be given the department and the rapid development which would naturally follow, may result in the necessity for early completion of the entire building.

#### **The Organization.**

"The organization of the historical department was the natural result of the growth in public sentiment toward endeavoring to save such historical material as recorded the early endeavors of the pioneers in settling the state. The natural pride of the people lent a great influence to the work. Practically nothing was being done in the state to preserve its early history and it seemed as though the memory of the early settlers would decay into dust when they were entitled to such hearty recognition and deserved to be enshrined forever in the annals of the state where their early struggles would be a lasting lesson to successive generations. Wisconsin had been doing a great work with her department and had more books regarding Iowa than were in the ownership of our own state. When we wanted to know

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anything about Iowa we had to investigate the Wisconsin historical department. At this time public sentiment arose against the thought of not having the work properly cared for and, from a united effort and a hard one, the department was organized with a fair start, and the history of our state was rescued from the oblivion into which it was rapidly fading. The matter of saving the history of the people of the state had been ignored for a long time but when we got organized we soon found that our efforts towards obtaining material bearing upon it were very successful."

"There had been a State Historical society in operation for a long time at Iowa City and the men at its head have done all that they could without help. The society is run in connection with the State University. The members of the legislature down there have always been after money for the university and consequently have never been able to do anything for the society and it has never had more than \$500 to \$1,000 a year for its support. The state is greatly indebted to the society, nevertheless, for the work that it has done through long years under adverse circumstances.

"The chief aim of the department is towards building up a good library of state and national publications, also historical and biographical works of all kinds and publications of any nature by natives of the state. The Iowa newspapers are the chief source for the formation of our history and I am making an especial effort to form a large collection. The department owns at present about 1,000 volumes of the papers of the state and I am constantly endeavoring to add to it. The Kansas historical department has a collection of about 13,000 volumes of newspapers published within her borders and we ought to have the same. We keep files of the New York papers and one of the best things we have is a complete file of the New York Herald during the war. Besides the library, we have the autograph collection which was started by myself originally and is known as the "Aldrich Collection." It has

grown to surprising proportions. The museum has grown up alongside of the historical collection and is an interesting collection of Indian and war relics. There is also a very fine natural history collection which is not surpassed by any in the nation in the excellence and quality of materials exhibited. It was started by a donation from W. T. Hornaday. A feature of the collection that I am trying to make a prominent one, is a collection of oil paintings of the prominent men of the state. I have already secured over 50 fine paintings. The Annals of Iowa is a publication of the department that has aided greatly in awakening interest in the work. It is published quarterly and contains matter of general historical interest.

#### **Those Who Helped.**

"The department has had many friends who have aided it greatly in the past. Among them are Gov. Sherman, Gov. Larrabee, Gov. Jackson, Gov. Boies, Gov. Drake, Gov. Shaw, Senator William B. Allison, Representative J. A. T. Hull, Hon. Theo. S. Parvin of Cedar Rapids, Late Judge Geo. D. Wright, Late Ex-Governor Carpenter, Late Gen. Ed. Wright, Hon. Irving B. Richmond of Muscatine, Major Fleming, Senators Garst and Funk, Ex-Lieut. Gov. Dungan, Hon. John A. Kesson, Dr. Elliott Cowes of Washington, D. C., Rr. Charles A. White of Washington, D.C., Hon. Hugh Belknap, Hon. Dan Lamont, Hon. H. A. Herbert, Prof. Robert Ridgeway, Late Senator James F. Wilson and all the members of the board of trustees which includes Gov. Shaw, Chief Justice Granger, Judges Given, Ladd, Waterman and Deemer and Hon. Geo. L. Dobson and R. C. Barrett.

There is great interest in the work among collectors of all kinds. We are continually having collections of all sorts offered for sale and if the state wanted to spend much money it would not take long to have a splendid exhibit. But the department is growing fast and in fact has been greatly impeded in its growth by the lack of room. We have a great many collections offered us as gifts or merely as loan collections if we will care for them properly and in the past

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have been forced to refuse many such offers. The owners are glad to have them under the care of the state and kept in a fire proof building. They often like to have the collections exhibited with their names attached and in many instances have got tired of their collections or from age or change of circumstances are desirous of getting rid of them. Most of the things in the collections I have to seek after and endeavor to secure by solicitation but I find that a good many people have the department constantly in their minds and make good donations of valuable materials. Recently a friend of mine offered me a very fine archeo-

logical collection containing stone implements and prehistoric relics but I was forced to refuse to accept it, at present, by reason of lack of space in which to exhibit it.

“A branch of the work that is very interesting, and which I am now endeavoring to establish, is a department of genealogy. It is very costly getting the department organized, as it necessitates the purchase of many old publications and quite a complete library of its own, but once it gets well started, it will be very much easier for it to grow and it will soon become very valuable.”

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE      THE DAILY NEWS OWES NO ALLEGIANCE TO ANY CLIQUE, PARTY OR COMBINE—IT IS UNDER OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE ONLY      IT REPRESENTS THE MASSES

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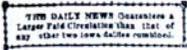
# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Saturday Evening, April 22, 1899—LAST EDITION

## Preparations Are Nearing Completion for Ceremonies at Laying the Corner Stone of the New State Historical Building

The state executive council will hold a meeting on Monday to complete preparations for the ceremonies which are to mark the laying of the corner-stone of the new state historical building on May 17. These ceremonies will be graced by as venerable an assemblage of Iowa statesmen as probably ever gathered together in the history of the state. Foremost among the white-haired pioneers of the state who will occupy conspicuous places upon the platform on that day will be Hon. John A. Kasson, ex-Senator James Harlan, Dr. William M. Salier of Burlington, Hon. A. U. F. Hildreth of Charles City, and Hon. Charles Aldrich. Mr. Kasson, as has been previously announced, will deliver the dedicatory address. His magnificent public record as an Iowa statesman is too well known to Iowans to need repetition. Ex-Senator Harlan will preside at the ceremonies. His connection with the history of the state and his long career as a statesman, is also well known, not only in Iowa, but outside its borders. Hon. A. B. F. Hildreth has consented to call the assemblage

to order at 8 o'clock. Mr. Hildreth is the oldest journalist in northern Iowa and besides being a veteran newspaper man, has been connected with public affairs at different times in his career. He was at one time a member of the state legislature and as a member of the board of education back in the "fifties" was the author of the movement which made co-education a feature of the State University. Dr. Salier, for fifty years pastor of the First Congregational church at Burlington, author of the "Life of Governor Grimes," a man 77 years of age, known and respected throughout many parts of the state, will offer the invocation. And upon the assembled company will beam the countenance of the Hon. Charles Aldrich, whose life ambition is being realized in the erection of a historical building where the treasures of Iowa can be preserved, and the nature of whose labors in this direction are well known in all parts of the state. A quintet of more distinguished and historical characters could not be found in Iowa to grace such an occasion.



# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Saturday Evening, May 18, 1899

## THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM

**Four Ex-Governors Occupy  
Seats With Governor Shaw  
at Corner Stone Laying.**

### CONCLUSION OF THE CEREMONIES

**Curator Aldrich is Called Upon  
For a Speech And Responds  
Very Happily.**

Four distinguished men who have presided over the state of Iowa as governor occupied seats on the speakers' stand at the exercises of the laying of the corner stone of the Historical building yesterday. They were Ex-Governors Gear, William Larrabee, Frank D. Jackson, F. M. Drake and Governor Shaw. It was the first time in history that five governors found seats on the speakers' platform in the capitol building. Other noted Iowans who were seated on the platform were Senator Wm. B. Allison, James A. Harlan, John A. Kasson, Charles Aldrich, Rev. William Sulter, Rev. B. C. Lenchan and Azro B. F. Hildreth.

Notwithstanding the disagreeable weather fully 10,000 people were present to witness the ceremonies. A large number who found it impossible to leave home for the day came in on the early trains and attended Governor and Mrs. Shaw's reception at the Savery last evening.

The occasion of yesterday will long be remembered by the rising generation. It was perhaps the last meeting that will ever be held in Iowa in which so many of her men who have been identified with the early history of the state will participate. The early settler, the

old pioneer who came to the state driving a team of oxen, the men who have watched every rise of progress in the state were here to do honor to the occasion, and freely expressed themselves as well satisfied that the state of Iowa now has a history to preserve.

Curator Aldrich, to whom the state is indebted for this beautiful building, was not on the program for any remarks, and people wondered why. They did not understand why Mr. Aldrich, whose labors have been the result of the historical building, was not among the number of old pioneers who should be heard on this memorable occasion. But Mr. Aldrich himself had made out the program, which was approved by the executive council. After the speech of Mr. Kasson there were repeated cries for Mr. Aldrich, and Mr. Harlan introduced him and he responded in part as follows: "Among the states of the middle west, Iowa up to the year 1892 had pursued an altogether anomalous course in the matter of preserving the materials for her history. True, we had a state historical society, existing, as the state declared, "under the auspices of the State University," at Iowa City. But this society, while composed of gentlemen most competent for the performance of a great work, had only the most meager pecuniary support. From 1884 to 1892 I had been working in the capitol upon a collection which I had given to the state. During this time I came to keenly realize that our state was almost wholly neglecting its proper historical work. Had there existed a determination to wipe out all the remembrance of record of the

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Indians who once occupied our territory, as well as of the pioneer settler and our peerless soldiers, we could hardly have proceeded more systematically.

“We already possess a large collection of the works on the North American Indian, the best in Iowa, and doubtless equaled in few western states. Of four of the most comprehensible publications we have sumptuous editions, aside from cheaper copies for ordinary use, with many miscellaneous works, books of travel and official reports. We have the histories of ninety-nine counties in the state, and aim to secure a copy of every book issued in the state.”

Mr. Aldrich spoke at length on the work of the collections for the historical department—the work of the past, and also of what will be done in the future.

Some of the distinguished guests who were not on the speakers' platform but were seen in the nearby seats were: Maj. William Fleming, Maj. R. D. Kellogg, Lieutenant Governor J. C. Milliman, Judge P. M. Casady, Judge Josiah Given, L. F. Andrews, Gen. Remley, J. M. Davis, Judge Robinson, Judge Ladd, S. M. Tuttle, George L. Dobson, John Herriott, Congressmen Henderson, Lacey, Dolliver, Lane, Elder D. R. Lucas of Indiana, Julian Phelps, Henry Sabin, Isaac Brandt, Senator Erickson, Judge Woolson and R. S. Finkbine.

Street car traffic on Capitol hill was suspended, the crowd extending across the street. Immediately after Gov. Shaw pronounced the words which ended the laying of the corner stone he informed the gathering that the remainder of the program would be carried out in the capitol building then there was a mad rush for seats, but Adjutant Gen-

eral Byers as marshall of the day handled the crowd well and not a single accident was reported.

The ceremonies of the day began with the formation of a line of carriages at the Savery hotel, carrying to the site of the proposed historical hall the participants in the day's exercises, together with many distinguished guests. The arrangement of this party was managed by Col. E. G. Pratt, Major W. H. Fleming and Mr. W. S. Richards. The party was escorted by Troop A, I. N. G., of this city, in uniform, commanded by Mr. Harry Polk. The carriages in order conveyed the following people:

No. 1—John A. Kasson, James Harlan, Gov. I. M. Shaw, Mrs. Shaw.

No. 2—Azro B. F. Hildreth, Mrs. Hildreth, Secretary of State George L. Dobson.

No. 3—Ex-Governor F. M. Drake, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. Carpenter, Miss Eva Shontz.

No. 4—Theodore S. Parvin, Treasurer of State John Herriott, Mrs. Herriott, Miss Herriott.

No. 5—Congressman and Mrs. D. B. Henderson, Congressman and Mrs. Lot Thomas.

No. 6—Senator W. B. Allison, Congressman J. F. Lacey, Congressman Thomas Hedge, Lieutenant Governor J. C. Milliman.

No. 7—Supreme Judges H. E. Deemer, C. M. Waterman, C. S. Robinson and Attorney General Milton Remley.

No. 8—Supreme Judge and Mrs. S. M. Ladd, Supreme Judge Josiah Given, Congressman Joe Lane.

No. 9—Senator and Mrs. John H. Gear, Ex-Governor and Mrs. William Larrabee.

No. 10—Chairman C. T. Hancock, Hon. and Mrs. J. O. Crosby.

# Laying of a Corner Stone

With Appropriate Ceremonies the Corner Stone of the Iowa Historical Building Is Laid for the New Building at East Eleventh and Grand.

Hon. John A. Kasson Delivers  
Leading Address of the Day

Principal Exercises Take Place in the Rotunda of the State House Owing to the Threatening Weather  
—Occasion Very Largely Attended.



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The laying of the corner stone for the historical building this afternoon was one of the events in the history of the state. The attendance of the prominent men of the state was unusually large. The leading address was delivered by the Hon. John A. Kasson, who dwelt interestingly upon the history of the state and its future. His speech was listened to by the large throng with close attention, and it was frequently punctuated with applause. The act of laying the stone was performed by Governor Shaw, who used the silver trowel used at the laying of the corner stone of the state house.

A dreary day with overhanging clouds did not present as pleasant an aspect for the laying of the corner stone of the Iowa historical building as had been hoped for by the promoters of the project. The heavy fall of rain in the morning and a low thermometer for May caused many a person who had counted on taking part to remain at home and secure his impressions of the event from his daily newspaper.

Owing to threatening weather the original plans were changed to the extent that the exercises were held in the corridors of the capitol building. Seats were arranged throughout and the large crowd more than filled the spare room at the disposal of the spectators. It was a source of disappointment that the ceremonies could not take place in the open air but the enthusiasm of the multitude was all the more satisfied by being able to listen to the addresses as they were presented. The platform for the speakers and those taking part in the program was arranged near the large steps leading to the second floor.

The corridors of the hotels were full of visitors who had come to attend the ceremonies, and it was a noticeable fact that the visitor was more or less bent with age, while his gray hairs betokened a pioneer. In his conversation he re-

called the days when Iowa was an open prairie and the thought of a historical building was as foreign to his ideas as the capture of the Philippine islands. On the whole the day had its advantages for everyone remained in the house until the time came for the ceremonies at the building on the corner of East Eleventh and Grand, putting in the time of recalling the pleasant memories of 40 years or more.

#### **GOV. SHAW'S REMARKS.**

Lays the Corner Stone in Behalf of the State of Iowa.

It was just at 2 o'clock that Gov. Leslie M. Shaw marched over from the state house in company with a number of noted guests of the state and climbing up on the foundation of the building he picked up, the silver trowel which was located handily and in these few words pronounced the corner stone well set: "In the name of the state of Iowa I pronounce the corner stone of the Iowa historical building well set." This was followed by the song "America" rendered by the choir.

#### **THE OPENING.**

Hon. Azro B. F. Hildreth Calls the Assemblage to Order.

Promptly at 2 o'clock Hon. Azro B. F. Hildreth of Charles City called the assemblage to order and in a few short remarks stated the occasion for the assemblage. He then introduced Rev. William Salter, D. D. of Burlington, who thanked Almighty God for the blessings which He had bestowed upon the good people of the state of Iowa.

The opening remarks were next made by Hon. James Harlan of Mount Pleasant, the president of the day. Iowa people are always ready and anxious to hear this distinguished gentleman on any and all occasions. Before he attained his majority his voice echoed and re-echoed through the school houses of Iowa, speaking words of praise for the republican party, of which he was one of the

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founders, and few are the political battles that have been fought in the state since that Mr. Harlan has not taken an active part. Notwithstanding his advanced age he demands the closest of attention and can truly be placed as one of Iowa's polished speakers. Mr. Harlan has been a great factor in gathering together and assisting in securing valuable records for the historical department, and to witness the ceremonies of the laying of a corner stone for this kind of a building was indeed a happy moment of his life, and the citizens of Des Moines were pleased that they were privileged to entertain him.

**HARLAN'S ADDRESS.**

Clear, Precise and Thoughtful Presentation.

Hon. James Harlan on taking the chair is president of the day, said, Fellow Citizens: the general assembly of the state of Iowa, in whom is vested its supreme power, has directed that an edifice shall be erected here to become a receptacle for mementos which shall, serve as the elementary history of civilization within its boundaries, reaching backward to the date of our first legal settlements, in 1833, and forward to the present time, and onward, it is hoped, through the coming centuries. And we have convened to witness the first official act of the governor of our beloved state, in executing this command. This is not a trivial event. It will mark an epoch in the development of our civilization as a commonwealth.

Of course I use the word "history" in its broadest sense, so as to include more than a record of the activities needful in procuring food, raiment, and shelter for ourselves and families, more than is needed in the establishment and maintenance of schools, colleges, and churches for the mental and moral culture of our children, and the youths of the coming generation; and for the support of elementary institutions; more than is needful in maintaining peace and order, and for the protection of our natural rights of person and property; more than is demanded in the perfor-

rmance of our part as a state of the union for the national defense and the general welfare, more than is required in overcoming and applying the natural forces and the great industrial pursuits, including agriculture, the mechanical arts, mining, manufactures, transportation on land and sea, trade and commerce—domestic and foreign; more than is needed to secure eminence in the learned professions and effective practical statesmanship.

In all of these respects the people of Iowa have, and little more than half of a century, achieved gratifying success,—ranking in excellence, with the people of the other 44 states constituting "The United States of America," which has, in a century and a quarter, become the equal of any one of the other great nations, and in some respects, surpasses each of all of them. In agriculture, manufactures, inventions, and in commerce—domestic, and foreign, "the United States," with Iowa's help, leads them all. And in the acquisition of the good things of this life is without arrival; our accumulated wealth now being equal, as statisticians tell us, to the one-fourth part of all the existing wealth of the whole world. Our success in this respect is so brilliant as to lead hundreds of the business men of Europe to come here for investments; and not a few of their princes and nobles are shrewd enough to come here for wives; possibly with the expectation of using the "pin money" thus acquired to resuscitate broken down fortunes, and to rebuild decaying old castles.

We do not care for the "pin money," but we do regret to part with our girls. And I now give these robbers fair notice that if they continue to come to Iowa for wives, our girls will, in God's own good time, Americanize Europe! So we say, I am sure, all of us!

And, I am rejoiced in being able to add, these enormous accumulations are not, in any sense, the fruitage of either private or national robbery, conquest, or usurpation—

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but of enlightened industry and frugality on the part of the masses of the people. The vast territories acquired by us since our national birth in 1776, “for the expansion of the area of human freedom,” or for the national defense and public convenience, including the Philippian archipelago, (with two exceptions, in which the inhabitants voluntarily brought their countries to us in pursuit of their own interests.) have been purchased in fair contracts made between us and their former owners, and have been paid for out of the public treasury, in honest American dollars; thus presenting a continuous record of public probity throughout our entire national existence, which the other nations would do well to follow. Even the possessory right of the Indians to land acquired for white settlements, has been paid for at its full commercial value to a nomadic race, although we were the legal owners to every acre of it by virtue of a previous purchase from its former national owners. Our government has never robbed them of anything. Nor will it ever rob the Cubans of Philippines of anything that is theirs. Everybody may rest easy on that point.

And we merit congratulation for being the first nation, ancient or modern, to prosecute a great war, at our own expense, avowedly and in fact, “for the benefit of humanity,” without a desire or expectation of aggrandizement!

Certainly in all that relates to domestic comfort, mental and moral culture, stern honesty, and unbending probity, public and private honor, and unyielding courage coupled with ample generosity, the people of the United States have achieved marvelous results, and established a glorious record; in all of which the people of Iowa have contributed their full promotion. There is, I think, no other community of two and a quarter millions of people anywhere on earth, whose masses are as well provided with physical comforts, or possessing more ample opportunities for intellectual, moral, and social culture, coupled with the conveniences and even luxuries, which make this epoch a marvel in

the world’s history, than the people of Iowa. But in the collection and preservation of emblems and memorials of our own activities in the settlement and development of our own beloved state—in the erection of monuments allegorically representing our own achievements, and in the creation of specimens of what is sometimes styled the “fine arts,” arising from a clear perception of the beautiful, we Iowans have less cause for congratulation. In this respect we fall behind some of our sister states even in the northwest. Our curator, who was happily inaugurated this work, and pushed it forward with a bigger and success that has created a necessity for more ample repositories, informs us that he has found at the capitol of Wisconsin a much better collection of memorials of Iowa, than we have at the capitol of our own state. And we cannot easily forget that at the Columbian exposition, in the city of Chicago, six years ago, the Iowa people failed to produce a single specimen of art work deemed, by the art commission, worthy of a place in the great art galleries, by the side of exhibits from our sister states, and from the old nations of Europe.

Up to the date of the inception of the edifice order to arise here, the state of Iowa has not been the patron of artists. The architecture of its public buildings is very good, but with one or two somewhat trivial exceptions, the state of Iowa has ordered no other art work, and has given no encouragement to Iowa artists. The few paintings, now in the capitol building, are mostly portraits donated to the state, in pursuance of solicitations by the curator of the historical department, painted, in most cases, I believe, elsewhere.

And, as far as I know, the state of Iowa does not own a single piece of statuary except those placed on “The Iowa Soldiers’ and Sailors’ monument,” its first and only specimen of art work of that character, which has been severely, and, I think, to some extent, justly criticized, on account of the absence of repose in the poise of the figure standing on its summit,

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the inaptness of the allegorical figure called "Iowa," reposing in its front, and the misconception, called "History," standing in the rear. It is due, however, to the truth of history to say that these three features of that, which would otherwise be a gem of resplendent beauty, are departures from the design presented by the Iowa artist, the late Harriet A. Ketcham, and accepted by the commission; and these deformities, as I regard them, are due in design and execution to an artist born and educated in the north of Europe.

But it must not be inferred from this tardiness of the state, that its people are destitute of the spiritual and celestial faculties which have crowned all other enlightened and refined peoples, ancient and modern, with artistic glory. Their perceptions of the beautiful are as clear, and there craving for its manifestation is as imperative as found in any other community. And if so, proper means and stimulus for artistic culture should be provided. This defect in our educational system should be speedily cured.

With this view, no doubt, the legislature has ordered the erection of what is styled in the statute, "A Memorial, Historical and Art Building." And surely it is meet and proper that Iowa's chief executive, His Excellency, Leslie M. Shaw, shall commence officially the execution of this mandate, by laying its chief "corner stone;" which he will now proceed to do in his own method.

Byers' "Iowa" was rendered by a double quartet, after which John A. Kasson began the address of the day. Upon his stepping to the platform he was greeted with a hearty applause. It was his first visit from Washington to this state for two years, and to know that he feels at home while addressing an Iowa audience one but has to be present and listen to his

remarks. It was the second occasion of the kind in which he had taken an active part in the city of Des Moines—being one of the speakers at the laying of the corner stone for the capital building in 1872. The address of Mr. Kasson being finished the choir sang Hussey's "Iowa, Beautiful Land." Theodore S. Parvin of Cedar Rapids, representing the first Iowa administration, and who is the pioneer in historical collection work, made a short address.

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**KASSON'S SPEECH**  
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**Recall Much of the Early History of Iowa.**

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens: It is a welcome duty on this occasion to salute the governor, the executive and judicial officers and the citizens of Iowa here assembled, and to congratulate them upon this official inauguration of an enterprise so full of promise for the honor and progress of our state. To the general assembly we offer our thanks for its wise liberality. As a citizen, and in behalf of all our citizens, I also beg to publicly acknowledge the unwearied labor and patriotic perseverance of Charles Aldrich, the founder, promoter and curator of this enterprise, which is more far-reaching in its future development and educational benefits than perhaps any of us distinctly foresee today. In recent years the importance of historical collections has been more and more appreciated as aids to education, and it marks an epoch of our local history when the state supplements the general educational advantages of our State university and colleges and schools with the foundation of a historical museum freely accessible to all its people. We may confidently hope that citizens of the state will actively co-operate in its development here, as elsewhere in the union, by liberal contributions to its enlargement.

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The historical department for which the state is providing a home will be an important auxiliary in the development of the higher education of our future citizens. Older and more populous states have established the precedence for it. Our united republic has also given in its historic Museum at Washington a brilliant example of its popular advantages. Throngs of citizens from all parts of our country wandered through its galleries with wonder, and the light, and improvement. Vast additional collection await another building for their exhibition. It is acknowledged to be one of the best methods "for the diffusion of knowledge among men." This was the avowed purpose of John Smithson in his donation to the United States upon which the Smithsonian institution was founded. The government, being finally awakened to its importance, contributed to its development and is now committed to its maintenance and wider extension. From the surplus of its collections it also contributes to the growth of similar enterprises in the states where the authorities show a lively interest in the encouragement of like institutions. It is a center of scientific interest and of men of science, who there pursue their studies in the light of nature and of history. It was in the first building there erected that Henry developed the possibility of telegraphic communication, a discovery which has wrought more changes in the relation of man to man and of nation to nation than any other in the world's history. Colleges and universities, whenever enabled to do so by benefactions of private wealth, have found it similar collections for the enlightenment of their students. No college or university is now considered complete in its educational equipment without access by its professors and students to museums and libraries illustrating the progressive evolution of man and of nature. For these are perpetual sources of human wisdom.

Educational undertakings of this nature do not spring up spontaneously, nor do they grow to full perfection without constant interest and nourishment. But the spirit which gives them vitality and maintains them is remarkably illustrated in the

history of the American people. Our pioneer ancestors, in their early experience, while the wilderness was still unsubdued, and the struggle for life was hard and bitter, out of their poverty found means to lay the foundation of two colleges which have since grown into great universities, with great museums of science and history. Their motives were both educational and religious. Religion and education were handmaidens, advancing side by side, and leading the march of American civilization. Religion without intellectual enlightenment, in their opinion, tended to superstition and education without religion tended to selfishness and loss of virtue. These principles have continued to guide the destiny of the American republic. May the day of their abandonment be forever postponed, for it would be the presage of its ruin. The descendants of such forefathers have carried this condition of a true civilization with them as they hewed their way through forests and across mountains and later dotted the prairies with their homes. All along their route they erected colleges and schools which were associated with their respective religious faiths. Schools and churches were the mile-stones left in the march of our migration westward all the way to the shores of the Pacific.

The modern increase of the wealth of the nation, extraordinary as it is, has been accompanied by equally extraordinary contributions of private wealth to educational and charitable establishments. This accumulation of great individual fortunes in the United States has occurred chiefly during the period since our civil war. Before that epoch they were rare. During these last 30 years of wonderful private prosperity there has been an epidemic of private generosity for the noble purposes I have mentioned. From individual purses have been poured out thousands of dollars, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, in some single cases even millions of dollars, to found and endow these splendid enterprises of our advancing civilization. They have become so frequent that they have ceased to excite our astonishment, though they still awaken

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our fervent admiration. The brilliant history of these American benefactions to the men, the women, the youth of our country remains to be written, and will present the most glorious pages in the annals of the republic. It will illustrate and glorify the beneficent and public spirit of a free and enlightened people. The role of honor begins two centuries back, on the rough and sterile shores of New England, when hundreds of dollars represented as great a liberality as a hundred thousand now. As this admirable record is unfolded with the advancing time and movement of our people westward, there will be a pause in every state to celebrate the monuments of private liberality. The continuous role will only end in California, where the single gift of one man for better public education surpassed all the benefactions of a great and wealthy state for the like object. His generous gift was never equaled by prince or potentate of Europe.

As we celebrate and commemorate the deeds of our patriotic heroes in war, so let us commemorate the generous deeds of our patriotic citizens and peace, for they also are laying deep the foundations of true American manhood and of an ideal republican citizenship.

The names of Girard at Philadelphia, Smithson, the English admirer of our republic, of Lenox, Astor, the Vanderbilts, Carnel land Jesup in New York, of Marsh at New Haven, of Rockefeller at Chicago, of Johns Hopkins at Baltimore, of Carnegie and Phoebe Hearst of Stanford in California, and of many, many others only less distinguished, form a galaxy of glorious stars in the firmament of our American history.

In Iowa, we have no colossal fortunes, nor can we expect them. They are only gathered in the great centers of business enterprise. Still, from their more modest accumulations, Iowans have contributed in the aggregate perhaps as generous a percentage of their earnings to promote the great purposes of our civilization as have the people of the wealthier states. Our denominational colleges, our churches, our local charities, our contributions

to libraries, our self-taxation for advanced schools represent their spirit and their acts of liberality. They have had their source in the same high sense of duty to God and man which has been the mainspring of all the glories recorded in the history of our republic.

Some of the more prosperous men of Iowa, in the same spirit, will yet associate their names with the library, the historical collections and the works of art of this institution whose cornerstone we establish in the last year of this great century.

On such an occasion as this it appears to me there is no topic to which I can more suitably invite your attention than

#### **THE FUTURE OF IOWA.**

We owe a double allegiance to the state and to the nation. It is our happy fortune to find these double duties absolutely harmonious in their obligations. Devotion to the interests of our state is also devotion to the national interests. As our educational and material interests prosper, so are the security and prosperity of the whole country augmented. In working for the one, we bring blessing to the other. Our patriotism has no limitations and no cross-purposes. It will be a proud memory for us that Iowa has never clamored for the advance of her soldiers while the battle of the nation was waging and the national flag was flying in front of the enemy!

Among the nations of the world, each separate state has had its distinct law of life, its separate evolutionary development. The Chinese and the Tartar, the Turk, the Russian, has developed a state under his own proper laws of evolution. The Greek and the Roman, under like conditions of nature, developed a radically distinct history and different ideals of civilization. The Anglo-Saxon and the Latin nations of Europe have followed divergent paths, not only in Europe, but on the two continents of America. Notwithstanding our own national union, the evolution of Mississippi is in some respects quite distinct from that of Minnesota; of Pennsylvania from that of South Carolina; of Louisiana from that of

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Maine. Without criticizing the differing development of other states, or its causes, let us inquire what is Iowa's law of life; what must be the evolution of this state, which is the center alike of our interests and of our affection. It is upon this theme I have especially desired to address my old neighbors and fellow citizens, for I am convinced that if the state shall faithfully follow the appropriate laws of her evolution she has before her a distinguished and prosperous career, which will bring honor and enduring happiness to her people.

Iowa is not and cannot be a mining or a manufacturing state. Her mining is chiefly for her own fuel. Without large water powers, without minerals in her soil or other exceptional advantages for manufacturers she cannot enter into profitable competition with other states which possess them. Her interior position forbids her the hope of becoming the center for wide commercial distribution. No great commercial city will ever spring up within her borders. East and south, north and west of her, local conditions and commercial relations are more favorable to the growth of cities. Iowa must recognize these facts and direct her energies within the laws of her own legitimate evolution.

These limitations, however, upon her lines of development are not adverse to prosperity, but form a part of the happy fortune which awaits her. If we possessed great resources of mining or manufacture, or great commercial marts, our native population would be flooded with alien and discordant elements, refusing our own high standards of citizenship and uninfluenced by our hereditary sense of public and private duty. Our own citizens would be caught in the hurried scramble for wealth and would forget in the selfish struggle for fortune the grander motives of our private and public life. The demoralization characteristic of crowded and unassimilated populations, having no common ideal of civilization, would inevitably follow, with its usual increase of crime. Moral and intellectual progress would be checked. The intelligent and patriotic vote would be overbalanced by selfish and reckless political forces. Political "bosses" then take the place of political leaders, and true greatness disappears

from public life. Unhappily, the lowering of the tone of the masses by some unwritten law has for its consequence a corresponding degradation in the tone of their representatives in public office. The history of some American municipalities and states proves the truth of these conclusions.

Take the history of the two most populous and wealthy states for example and illustrate. At the time of the revolution and of the formation of our constitution they were chiefly agricultural states. They had no great cities and not many notable villages. Their people chiefly lived in their own houses and staked their fortunes in the soil. Great private wealth was unknown. Few possessed the higher liberal education; but these few were appreciated and honored. It was under these modest conditions of a scattered population, of a limited wealth, of a prevalent ownership in the soil and of the dominance of agriculture that each of these states contributed to the public service the great historic names which have come down to us decorated with the halo of patriotism, of wisdom, and of historic glory. The names of Franklin, Wilson, Morris, Hamilton, Jay Clinton, Livingston and their peers are among the precious heritage of the nation.

The conditions in these states have in more modern times radically changed even within the lifetime of men still living. The pure air of heaven is become darkened from the chimneys of their countless factories. Many of their population spend their lives in subterranean employments, away from the light of the sun. The people more and more thronged together in their great cities. They are discontented with country life. Their homogeneity is lost in the swarms gathered from the various races of the earth. The old standards of simple probity and honor which prevailed in the year of agriculture are obscured and even lost in the turmoil of unassimilated millions struggling everywhere and by contradictory methods for personal success. Great individual fortunes have appeared; but what has become now of their men once intelligently great, of their former political leadership, of their great statesmen? Who can name in public office today from those states one

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man comparable in ability, in wisdom, and in lofty patriotism to the great citizens who came to the front of history in the simpler days of their devotion to agriculture, and who then lay the imperishable cornerstones of our republic?

If a dense population, if vast mechanical industries, if enormous accumulations of wealth tend to produce greatness in the intellectual and moral development of a state, or to promote eminent ability in statesmanship, surely we should find evidence of it in comparing the present with the past history of these states. The single city of New York today has a population surpassing that of the state of Iowa. Its wealth surpasses ours by unmeasured millions. The city has a larger representation in congress than that of all Iowa. Yet, who among you can recall one of that city's representatives now in congress, or what affects the word of "statesman" to his name? I do not imply that statesmen do not or cannot exist in any great city or thickly populated state. But it is evident that great cities do not admire them, do not want them even if they produce them, and will not advance them into the public service. There is something in the conditions surrounding a dense and mixed population, something involved also in the maddening effort for the rapid acquisition of wealth, which is intrinsically hostile to that even balance of mental and moral powers required to constitute a statesman. The social excitement and the feverish temperament created by the constant struggles of a crowded competition are adverse to reflection and to wisdom.

In respect to our own state, on the contrary, so exclusively devoted to agriculture, whose farmers still own the soil and aspire to no great inequalities of wealth, I venture to quote a remark recently made to me by an observing southern member of congress respecting the men are farmers have chosen to represent them in national affairs. "Taking the delegation together," said he, "Iowa has the ablest delegation in congress of any state in the union." This would indicate that our agriculturists still, as of old, admire intellectual ability and love to contribute of

their best to the public service.

Let us glance over a broader field of our national history. Washington was a farmer. The other three famous presidents from Virginia were countrymen and farmers. The two Adamses came from country homes. Jackson and Polk were raised and lived in agricultural states. Lincoln and Grant had their origin on rural soil and were surrounded by agricultural interests. Our president of today was a country boy, also developed under agricultural influences which gave him that admirable temper and tranquil wisdom which have enabled him to guide the republic through the storms of recent war into the haven of a victorious peace. It would seem to be an instinct of the average American to select for exalted public position to men who are reared under the patient, persevering, well-balanced influences of the agricultural life. Even Bismarck, the foremost statesmen of modern Europe, sprang from country soil and farming forefathers. Surrounded by the great diplomats of all nations, I have heard him talk of the yield of his turnip fields and of his forest lands with pride. The president of France, Loubet, was reared on a farm which his peasant mother still cultivates. It is not from the bosom of inherited wealth, nor from the commercial counting room, nor from the noisy factory where the fiery furnace and rolling mill, that wise and broad statesmanship, equal to the grandeur of the nation to be served, can be expected to spring. Characters destined to such service require the educational environment of the country, the influences of tranquil nature, the stimulus of the clear country son, the restfulness of the evening sky, the lessons of patience and foresight taught by the revolving seasons and the patient preparation of the fruitful ground. For the majority of men the community of a dense population serves to dissipate the deeper thought, the more serious ambitions and higher aspirations of generous manhood. Most denizens of the great city, take opinions from the caucus or the secret committee. The farmer mediates. He deliberates while the crops are ripening. He observes that nature does not jump from the seed time to the harvest, but advances slowly

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by regular stages to its final ripening. He knows that it is by the same steady advances that men become fitted for public life and that states road to greatness. He sees nature moving by fixed principles of progress, and not surprising him by new theories or miraculous events. He never tries the experiment of making sixteen kernels of corn always equal to one grain of wheat in the market. He grows wise, as we all can, by the observation of natural laws. It is therefore to be expected that Iowa, in her city evolution, prepares herself to become the mother of statesman.

The production of high political character and qualification for office is a legitimate aspiration for a state which desires honor and fame in the sisterhood of state. Yet there is a better and happier object which lies within the lines of Iowa's evolution. This ideal is the wide diffusion of comfort and contentment among her people.

The proper conditions for this object did not and could not exist in the earlier years of the settlement of the state. It was then a question of a merely tolerable shelter and needful food. Comfort, as we now understand it, was not then attainable. Discontent was natural and led to an effort for better conditions. Then came schools for the diffusion of knowledge, and churches for the diffusion of the principles of morality and religion, and colleges to satisfy the higher aspirations of our ambitious youth, and great asylums were established to relieve the private family from the burdens of insanity and misfortune, and railroads for the cheaper transportation of products and quick movement of men. Then, at last, the state itself set the example of seeking greater comfort and more contentment by abandoning its old capitol building and directing a larger and more fitting home for its government.

With the same earnestness with which through five laborious years we urge this action on the part of the state, I now urge similar action on the part of the farmer in respect to his own house and its environment. This movement on his part is required in order to secure for the state the splendid results promised in its regular order of development. The state no longer depends for its prosperity on foreign immigration. There is only sufficient room

left for the occupation of her own children if they will continue to make their homes around the homes of their fathers. The disposition of our young men is to leave the farm for other scenes of activity. It is the chief misfortune that threatens our state. They go for education to the college or university, or stop with the common school and then turn with the inquiry on their lips into what other state or into what city they shall go for their career and life. It is a misfortune for any progressive state to lose its own native life-blood and substitute for it that of aliens and strangers. It is a check upon the natural order of its evolution, for it is the educated children, "to the manner born," who best advance the development initiated by their fathers. Why this desire to migrate from the scenes of their childhood? Why ignore the home farm? To love the land and even the locality of one's birth is an instinct of humanity. There must be some reason strong enough to overcome this instinct.

This migratory desire and the abandonment of the agricultural life demand some inquiry into the causes. The farm life is neglected because it is not made attractive. Its labor and its earnings are not applied to make it attractive. A mere shelter for the family and for the animals belonging to it, out on the open prairie, though the soil be as rich as that of Eden, does not attract the love and interest of an intelligent boy. Life is made too hard for him. There is not joy enough in the household. The conditions are too rigid and somber. But beautify the same prairie scene with comfortable homes, each with its veranda for the summer evening's talk and the moonlight companionship of the young; surrounded with a garden of well-kept flowers and flourishing vines and the delightful verdure of a lawn with its blooming shrubbery; environ it with fruit trees and with scattered shade trees selected for their enduring growth; supply the parlor shelves with some books of science, history, travels in general literature, and with one or two monthly magazines, all of which are now so cheap as to be within the reach of every farmer; let some pet animals be found on the grounds to attract the love of the children—do this, make this the continuous object of the family life,

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and Iowa would become a paradise in comparison with which Eden itself might appear uninteresting. The Iowa boy would only leave it with sorrow and return to it with joy. The value of the farm would increase to a fortune, and the son would stay by it and care for the grave of the father. The mountain mine and the new land obtained from a dwindling Indian tribe would have an attraction for him. He would become a loyal hereditary citizen, co-operating in the upbuilding of a noble and happy state.

We Americans do not sufficiently love and honor the land. We do not appreciate the dignity that belongs to its ownership and cultivation, although the historical aristocracy of England and of nearly all Europe is founded upon it. The country residence and gentry are there the backbone of the state. The life and position of a gentleman are considered incomplete without a country home. Their very names have come from the family lands. Hard necessity alone can make them part with their hereditary acres. But our lands have been so abundant that we have treated them like common merchandise. For a few dollars per acre of advanced value we have been ready to bargain away all landed property.

Rev. B. C. Lenehan of Boone, who has lived in Iowa over 50 years, pronounced the benediction which completed the program.

The early excursion trains into Des Moines this morning did not carry a very large attendance. The rain of last night was no doubt the cause for a good number remaining at home, but Des Moines today entertained one of the largest gatherings of Iowa pioneers that she has for many a day. Some of them had not met for years and as they clasped each other by the hand the greeting was long and

cordial. Senator Gear, who is here from Burlington, met a large number of friends in the rotunda of the Savery last evening, where he held an informal reception.

Adjutant General H. M. Buyers, as marshal of the day, made a good and efficient officer and handled the crowd well. Troop A. Lincoln Hussars, were out in full uniform, and added a military touch to the occasion.

Gov. and Mrs. Shaw will hold a reception at the Savery parlors tonight, to which a large number of invitations have been issued.

To Hon. Charles Aldrich, the curator and secretary of the historical collection, it is been the happiest day of his life. He wasn't exactly satisfied with the weather, but everything else was lovely. It was a matter of great pride to Mr. Aldrich, as well as to every other person in the state, that the historical department was going to have a permanent and adequately commodious home of its own in which to preserve the invaluable material which so pertinently relates to the general history of the state. It was Mr. Aldrich who first presented to the state, before the historical department was founded, a collection of autographed letters, which was the basis of the present large collection, and to see the corner stone laid today for a building in which he was the chief promoter was indeed a pleasant, happy and memorable occasion to him.

#### **CORNER STONE.**

Iowa furnishes the piece from the Marshalltown quarries.

Very properly Iowa furnishes the corner stone from the quarries of Marshalltown. It is one and one-half feet by three feet and four inches, and bears the simple lettering, "Iowa 1899." The present building is but a wing of the entire structure to be eventually built. Fifty thousand dollars

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have been appropriated for the present wing, but the building proper will probably cost, when completed, in the neighborhood of \$250,000. The present wing is 68 x 68 feet in proportions. The exterior is to be designed in Italian renaissance of the later Roman period. The cornices will be richly decorated in the Ionic order and project two and one-half feet. The basement, of stone of a whitish tint, stands eight feet above the established grade. The main entrance, two stories in height, is designed with an immense arch eighteen feet in diameter, supported by two marble columns. On either side of the portico are marble niches. Broad stone steps lead to the arch, and on either side of the buttresses will be candelabra of bronze. There will be a bicycle runway to the basement. In the basement that will be an apartment for newspaper files and a museum for heavier articles. The curator's office will be in the northwest corner of the first floor, just back of the reading room. It will communicate with a newspaper file room to the east. An art gallery and auditorium, together with a museum, will occupy the second story.

The historical department was founded by an act of the legislature in 1892 and curator Aldrich placed in charge. The first two years \$7,500 was given for its support, since that time \$6,000 a year has been appropriated. It has grown steadily and occupies three rooms on the basement floor of the capitol building, which have lately been altogether too small for the large amount of collections that have arrived at the building. It is one of the most interesting rooms in the capitol, one that always demands and attracts the attention of every visitor, and of late years the smallness of the quarters has made it necessary to store away from sight some of the valuable documents.

A bill was passed by the general assembly in 1896 appropriating \$25,000 for the purpose of erecting a historical building. A mistake in the amendment made it pos-

sible to only have the building cost that amount, and nothing was done until the last assembly appropriated an additional \$30,000. A further inaction of the law authorized the sale of the adjutant general's office building for \$15,000, the money to be expended in purchasing suitable grounds. This was done in the present site was bought.

#### **THE SITE.**

Its Transfer From the Government Down to the Present Owner.

The site of the new historical building was included in the Des Moines river land grant from the government to the territory for the improvement of the river on August 8, 1846. This vicinity has been the home of the Indian tribes and several treaties had been made by the national government with the tribes, new homes being provided for them farther west, scarcely a year having elapsed since the Indians had retired from the occupancy of the lands now covered by the city of Des Moines. October 11, 1845, was the date fixed when the Indian rights to occupy these lands expired, and on this date the civil life of Pope county commenced. The act of the territorial legislature creating Pope county and fixing boundaries was approved January 17, 1846, and on April 6, 1846, the first election was held and the commissioners chosen, of whom so much has been heard recently by the voters of the county, as they were the officers who located the present courthouse. From this time there was a great rush for land in this part of the country, and on March 4, 1850, Benjamin Coffeen acquired title from the state to the northeast quarter of section 3, Township eight, range 24, embracing the ground upon which the capitol is located and the site of the historical building. This tract was conveyed October 30, 1852, to Harrison Lyon, and was platted by Harrison Lyon and Sarah N. Lyon, his wife, on May 22, 1856, the addition including thirty acres in the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of the section. This plat

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was approved by County Judge T. H. Napier and the addition was known from that time as Lyons' addition to the city of Des Moines. On March 14, 1885, Harrison Lyon deeded to his daughter, Eliza J. Lyon, the five lots which were purchased by the state June 13, 1898, the consideration being \$15,000.

The old homestead of the Lyon family was the first dwelling erected on Capitol Hill and has been removed since the sale of the lots to the state, and is now facing East Twelfth street south of the Christian church. It has been occupied almost continuously since it was built by some member of the family. When this house was erected the brush adjacent was so dense that it was almost impossible to penetrate it. Three members of the Lyon family still reside on the East Side. Thomas B., Mrs. H. C. Senteny and Ms. Eliza J., Franklin and John having joined their parents in the future world. When the capitol was located Harrison Lyon presented to the state one-half of the ground which comprises capitol square and upon which the state building rests.

**CONTENTS OF THE BOX.**

The Various Articles in the Corner Stone Box.

The number of articles packed away in the corner stone this afternoon when it was laid by the governor would furnish a first class library for an ordinary man. The box is of steel and was soldered with its precious contents this morning at 9 o'clock. The contents are as follows

**ARTICLES TO BE PLACED IN  
THE CORNERSTONE OF  
THE IOWA HISTORICAL  
BUILDING MAY**

17, 1899.

1. The Holy Bible.
2. The constitution of Iowa of 1846.
3. The Code of Iowa, addition of 1897, which includes in addition to the laws, the Declaration of Independence, articles of confederation and perpetual union between the states, the Constitution of United States, the ordinance of 1787, the organic laws of Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, an act for the admission of the

states of Iowa, Florida, and the constitution of Iowa.

4. The first, second and third biennial reports of the historical department of Iowa.
5. Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the annals of Iowa; third series.
6. Thirteen volumes of the official register of Iowa — 1886-88, contributed by W. S. Richards.
7. Iowa official register for 1899.
8. The census of Dubuque and Des Moines counties (Wisconsin territory) in 1898 — two pamphlets, published by the historical department.
9. The historical and comparative census of Iowa, 1835-80.
10. The census of Iowa, 1885.
11. The census of Iowa, 1895.
12. Dr. J.L. Pickard's history of the State University of Iowa, with portraits of all its presidents and three views of the buildings.
13. Proceedings of the laying of the corner stone of the new Iowa capitol, November 23, 1871.
14. Address of Hon. John A. Cason at the inauguration of the capitol, January 17, 1884.
15. Message of Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood to the extra war session of the general assembly, May 16, 1867.
16. Biennial messages of governors Merrill, Carpenter, Gear, Sherman, Larrabee, Boies, Jackson, and Drake.
17. Inaugural address of Governor Leslie M. Shaw.
18. Reports of the commissioners in charge of the construction of the capitol building, 1870-86.
19. Iowa city, a contribution to the early history of Iowa, by B.F. Shambaugh.
20. Constitution and records of the Claim association of Johnson county, with introduction and notes, edited by B.F. Shambaugh.
21. The Midland monthly, vol. 1, no. 5, containing an article relating to the historical collections of Iowa, by F.W. Bicknell.
22. Map of Iowa by Willard Barrows, 1845.
23. Iowa Railroad map, edition of 1899.

*Continued on next page*

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24. Bulletin of State Institutions, no. 1, by the Iowa board of control.
25. "Iowa at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893."
26. The life of James W. Grimes by Dr. William Salter.
27. "John Brown Among the Quakers and Other Sketches," by Hon. Irving B. Richman. (Contributions to early Iowa history)
28. "Iowa in War Times," by S.H.M. Byers.
29. Roster of the 49<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> regiments of Iowa infantry and the 5th and 6th Iowa batteries, organized in 1898.
30. Roster of the Spirit Lake expedition, 1857.
31. Iowa Agricultural college — illustrated compendium, 1899.
32. Rules of the twenty-seventh general assembly of Iowa.
33. Reports of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th reunion of the Tri-State Old Settlers' Association of Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, held at Keokuk in 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887.
34. "Higher Education and Iowa," by Prof. Leonard S. Parker, Washington, 1893.
35. Biennial reports of the superintendents of public instruction, November, 1895, by Hon. Henry Savin.
36. Reports of reunions of the Pioneer Law Makers' association of Iowa, 1886-1898 — five pamphlets.
37. Copies of the daily newspapers of Des Moines, May 17, 1889.

Associated Press Wire Service.  
Daily Courier Established 1890.  
Weekly Courier Established 1858.

# Waterloo Daily Courier.

NINTH YEAR.

WATERLOO, IOWA, WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 17 1899

WEATHER PREDICTIONS.

Chicago, May 17.—Iowa: Generally fair tonight and Thursday; cooler in extreme southeast tonight; probably warmer in west Thursday; northwest winds.

WHOLE NO. 2639

## Corner Stone Laid Iowa Historical Building

### Address by Senator Harlan and John A. Kasson. Gov. Shaw lays the stone.

DES MOINES, May 17. — Owing to rain, the exercises of laying the cornerstone of the Iowa Historical building was held in the state house. The building of one wing, which will be erected this year, will cost a quarter of a million to complete. Governor Shaw laid the cornerstone with a silver trowel, used in 1871 in laying the corner stone of the state capitol. Addresses were delivered by Hon. John A. Kasson and Hon. James Harlan. Many noted Iowans were present.

When completed the historical building will occupy a frontage of about 250 feet, and will be composed of a central main building with a large wing at either side. It will cost about \$375,000. The present appropriation of \$75,000 will be devoted to the completion of the right wing. It will stand at the corner of East Eleventh and Grand avenue, diagonally opposite the state house grounds. The foundation is now completed and work on the superstructure is in progress.

### THE CORNER STONE.

The cornerstone, which is one and a half feet by three feet and 4 inches in dimensions, was laid on the southwest corner, with the face bearing the words "Iowa, 1899" to the south. The stone was filled with historical documents and records, including a copy of the Bible, a complete edition of the annals, the Iowa official record, current newspaper files

and a list of the names of the soldiers who enlisted in the Spanish-American war.

This evening Governor and Mrs. Shaw will give an elaborate reception at the Savory house. Invitations have been issued to the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh general assemblies, the supreme judges, the district court judges, Iowa Congressman, and they have also been distributed to a large number of local people.

The following is the history of the trowel with which the corner stone of the Memorial building was laid: it is made of silver. The handle is ebony. With it Governor Samuel Merrill laid the corner stone of our new capitol in 1871. It has an engraved inscription setting forth the fact of its use on that occasion, with an engraving of the capitol itself. Governor Merrill carried it to California with his personal belongings. But Hon. Charles Aldrich begged so vigorously for its return that finally the good governor yielded and sent it to the historical department. It needed some repairs and was placed in the hands of one of our expert Des Moines silver-smiths for that purpose. It was made as good as new and Governor Shaw, after using it in spreading the mortar whereon rests the corner stone of the historical building, Senate back to the jeweler. It will receive another inscription and go back into the glass case where it will be deemed a precious curio for many generations.

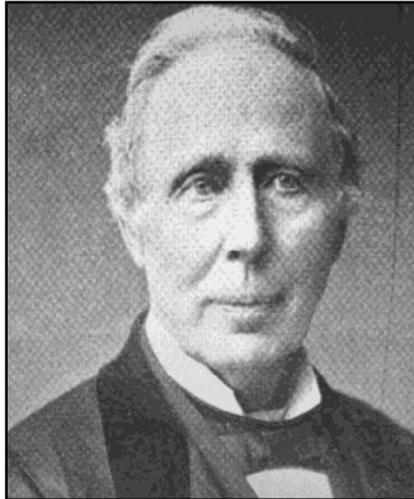
# The Des Moines Gazette

May 18, 1899

## IOWA HISTORICAL BUILDING

One of the most notable events in the history of the State was the laying of the corner stone of the new historical building yesterday afternoon. Governor Shaw performed

the final act of laying the stone with the silver trowel which was used



Azro Benjamin Franklin Hildreth

when the corner stone of the state house was laid.

Hon. Azro B. F. Hildreth, of Charles City, called the meeting to order, in the rotunda of the Capitol, where the principal exercises were held. Hon. James F. Harlan presided and delivered an able address. The oration was delivered by Hon. John A. Kasson, and it was a stately address,

but a man of wonderful vigor and force. He gave an eloquent and pathetic narrative of the organization of the first territorial government of Iowa—more than sixty years ago. Of all who were present on that memorable occasion Mr. Parvin is the sole survivor.

Hon. Charles Aldrich, secretary of the Historical Society, also delivered a fine address. To Mr. Aldrich more than to any other man is due the superb results of which yesterday's proceedings were the crowning episode. His unflinching enthusiasm and his selfless devotion to the work of preserving the historical records of the State has earned for him the gratitude of every citizen, and when the great historical building is completed a noble statue of Mr. Aldrich should have a conspicuous place within its walls.

It was a great day for Iowa, and the large assemblage of citizens from all parts of the State who attended the ceremonies of yesterday is a compliment to the intelligence and culture of one of the noblest commonwealths in the world.

**Daily****Iowa****Capital**

Des Moines, Iowa

Friday, June 2, 1899

## WAS CRUSHED TO DEATH

**Joseph Mitchell, Aged Thirteen,  
Loses His Life at the  
Historical Building.**

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**FELL UNDER A BLOCK  
OF STONE**

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**He Died as He Was Being Carried  
Into the Home of His  
Uncle, James Kenney.**

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A frightful and fatal accident took place at the state historical building this morning at 1—o'clock. Joseph Mitchell, the 13-year-old nephew of James Kenney, who acted as water carrier for the workmen engaged upon the building, was crushed by a huge block of stone falling upon his head. He lived but an hour, dying as the ambulance reached the home of his uncle at 501 East Ninth street.

The lad had just returned from bringing a pail of water from a neighboring hydrant when the accident occurred. He was of a lively disposition—usually so. Frequently he would spend his time jumping from pile to pile of stone on the ground surrounding the basement of the historical building now in course of construction at Eleventh and East Grand avenue. The workmen were engaged upon the south side of the building today when the accident occurred, placing in position the large blocks of stone which furnish the base for the first story wall. Back of the building near the alley was a huge pile of stone containing many block for use in the first story. They were of narrow

width, but two or three feet in height. Some of them were placed on top of the other and formed a sort of teeter. The lad had discovered this peculiar feature and would jump from block to block with considerable glee. This morning, after bringing the pail of water, started to have his sport jumping from block to block. The workmen engaged on the building were a considerable distance from the pile and one of them happened to look up just in time to observe the lad falling and one of the large block following him. A rush was made to the spot, only to find the lad unconscious, his head crushed and his shoulder badly damaged. He was bleeding profusely.

The workman proceeded to remove the little sufferer as soon as possible, but it was evident that he could not live. Dr. Lena L Means of 506 East Locust street, who happened to be passing at the time in her carriage, was called and assisted in dressing the wounds. The ambulance was ordered and the child taken to the home of his uncle, James Kenney, at 501 East Ninth street, dying just as he was being carried into the bereft home.

The rock which fell must have weighed 500 pounds and the distance could not have been over three feet. The workmen speak of the boy as being especially full of fun and of a joyous disposition. He was always capering around in his endeavors to create a little fun for himself and others, and was constantly playing jokes upon the workmen. By his pert ways he had endeared himself to his fellow workers and his death was spoken of with sincere

*Continued on next page*

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sorrow by all workers on the building.

The young lad would have been 14 years old next May. He was an adopted child, having been adopted by Mrs. Mary Mitchell, a widow, living with her brother, James Keeney, 12 years ago. He was brought to this city with a large number of orphans from the St. Joseph's orphan asylum of

New York city, to this place. Mrs. Mitchell knew nothing of his true parentage but felt the loss as keenly as if it has been her own child. The funeral will take place on Sunday Afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Church of Visitation. He is spoken of as a boy of excellent disposition and good manners.

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## SOME FUN IN SIGHT

Wednesday, September 13, 1899

### **BOARD OF CONTROL NEEDS MORE FLOOR SPACE**

**Some Talk of Giving the Board the**

**Second Floor of the Historical**

**Building—It Is Believed**

It appears that the state executive council instead of settling the question of quarters for the board of control by the adoption of a resolution ordering Curator Aldrich to get out and allow the board of control to move in, have simply made a beginning of a job that promises to give all kinds of trouble before it is ended. Curator Aldrich will get his collection out of the old quarters and into the new, there is no question as to that, but the board of control can no more get its effects into the rooms vacated by Mr. Aldrich than could Hon. John Cownie or Judge Kinne get his 225 pounds of solid avoirdupois into one of the sample suits for the boys at the industrial home, which now fill the sample room in the board of control's office. The board of control now occupies five large rooms and a few small ones on the second floor of the capitol and even this amount of space is not adequate to their needs. The samples of men's and boy's clothing, hats, caps, boots and shoes, groceries, meats and other things, used by the 13 state institutions fill many of these

rooms to the very doors. All the concerns that make a bid to furnish these supplies are compelled to send a sample of the product in order that the board may know the quality, and today, when several contracts were to be let, the rooms of the board of control resembled those of a wholesale house. And besides the room required for goods the board must have a place for its clerical force. The bookkeeping and correspondence and examination of reports and what not constitute a great volume of business and a peep into the offices of the board will convince one that while many persons are employed there the place provides no soft snaps. Everybody has plenty of work to do and everybody is expected to keep a-workin'. It is certain that the board must vacate its present quarters, but how to squeeze into the small hole to be left by Curator Aldrich is the question. The present historical rooms are poorly lighted, have low ceilings and the floor space is not enough by half for the board's use.

The whole question has resolved itself into an issue at the state house. It was suggested today, and there were many who favored the suggestion that the board of control be given one floor of the new historical building. It was claimed that there were no suitable rooms in the capitol and that the historical building offered the only solution of the problem. Those who had well defined notions that the new art building should be used solely as a storehouse

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*Continued from previous page*

for the state's historical treasures contended that the top notch of the unfitness of things would be reached by mingling samples of mess pork and bologna and cheese and the other supplies for state institutions with the sacred relics contained in the historical collection. They said that in that case the inscription that appears on the face of the new historical building should be erased and one substituted which would read, "Relics and other things kept here." But the other faction contends that the samples of dead pork to be kept in stock by

the board of control will be no deader than the stuffed elk and other animals which appear in Mr. Aldrich's menagerie. But aside from these ridiculous claims it is evident that some other plan must be followed than the one suggested by the executive council. The state board of control must reduce itself, or it must have more room than is afforded by the present historical rooms. It is suggested seriously that the next legislature be asked to build the second wing to the historical building for the use of the board of control.

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE

THE DAILY NEWS OWES NO ALLEGIANCE TO ANY CLIQUE, PARTY  
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THE DAILY NEWS possesses a  
Larger Paid Circulation than that of  
any other two Iowa dailies combined.

# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Saturday Evening, September 16, 1899

## MANY DES MOINES IMPROVEMENTS

### Mr. John McGorrick of the Capital City Brick and Pipe Company Interviewed.

"In the buildings going up today, you will notice that proportion, harmony and symmetry are the chief qualities in the general disposition of their parts. More attention is also being paid to the elements which in combination form the architectural perfections of a building, it being considered that stability, utility, ornament and beauty are Indispensable qualities of a fine

up-to-date structure. The historical building which we are constructing will have all these elements. It will not be so rigorously symmetrical as to appear cold and tasteless, nor so ornamental as to produce a gaudy effect. The new library building will be of graceful and elegant outline and yet be simple and harmonious in form."

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Larger Full Circulation than that of  
any other two Iowa dailies combined.

# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Friday Evening, November 10, 1899

## ARE UP IN THE AIR

**Executive Council in a  
Quandary Over Offices.**

### HISTORICAL BUILDING DELAYED

**Will Not be Ready for Occupancy  
Until January First Which  
Mixes Things Badly.**

The state executive council held a meeting this morning and tried to untangle the question of readjusting the occupants of certain state offices before the legislature opens. The question has been brought up before, but is becoming a more serious problem as the first of January approaches. The state historical department has been ordered by the council to move into the new building as soon as completed, and the state board of control, which is now located in legislative committee rooms, to occupy the vacant offices. But the superintendent of the new historical building was before the council this

morning and stated that the building could not possibly be made ready for occupancy until January 1. That means that the historical department cannot get into it in time to permit the board of control to get out of the way of the legislature, and matters are thus complicated. One thing is certain, the executive council will hold the contractors for the new historical building responsible under their bond of \$20,000 for not having the building ready by the first of October, the contract time. In spite of the fact that the delay has been caused by the slowness in securing materials. But this will not help the present dilemma. The building cannot be completed, and the board of control must be placed elsewhere. It is rumored that they may be put into some other office about the state house temporarily, but the very mention of this will precipitate a whirlwind of protests, and so it is understood the council is trying to figure out some other way. It was still wrestling with the question at a late hour this afternoon.

Daily

Iowa

Capital

Des Moines, Iowa

Saturday November 11, 1899

### Still Unsettled.

The question of quarters for the state board of control is still unsettled. It was reported at the state house this morning that the executive council would try to secure rooms in some part of the building and not compel Curator Aldrich to move his historical collection before the new historical building is made ready to receive it. Mr. Aldrich says he makes it a business to obey the orders of his superiors in good nature and with good grace, and will do whatever is de-

manded of him. But he has hopes that some plan will be reached whereby his collection will not be disturbed until it can be placed permanently in the new quarters. Otherwise the department would have to be closed to the public for some time and much extra labor would be entailed. Mr. Aldrich has secured a fine collection of shells and prehistoric stones and implements, but these will remain in Washington, D.C., until the new building is ready for occupancy.

**Daily****Iowa****Capital**

Des Moines, Iowa

Wednesday, January 24, 1900

## AN IMPORTANT LIBRARY BILL

### TWO BRANCHES TO BE CONSOLIDATED

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**State Library and Historical Department  
To Be Made One and the  
Former Moved Into the  
New Building.**

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The state historical department has been removed into the historical building, one wing of which is completed.

It is stated that a bill is to be introduced in the general assembly consolidating the state library with the historical department, making the state librarian responsible for all, his title to be "State Librarian and Curator of the Historical Department." It is also contemplated to remove all the historical and miscellaneous books of the state library to the history building, leaving the law books, reports and documents in the capitol where the library now is. At the present time the lawyers consult the state library more than any or all other people and it often happens that the lawyers are unable to find a place at the tables to do their work. Therefore it is felt that it will be best for all to make the changes suggested in the proposed bill. The bill will also contemplate that Hon. Charles Aldrich shall hold his place until he shall fix his own date for retirement, and it is understood that all these changes have his endorsement and are in accordance with his wishes. He has created the historical department and has served for a nominal salary. The whole

state loves him and the historical department will be his monument.

It is understood to be the wish of Mr. Aldrich to remain until he shall issue another volume of the Annals, making four historic volumes whose value can not be estimated in dollars and cents.

The work of the state librarian is growing in magnitude and the labor connected with the traveling libraries is yet in its infancy. If the library commission shall be created and the usefulness of the traveling libraries multiplied, the state librarian will have all he can do in the management and general direction of affairs. Of course he ought to have more salary, and doubtless the present general assembly contemplates that matter also. In the course of time the whole state library will be removed to the historical building when that shall have been completed, thus leaving room in the capitol building for proper offices for the board of control, state horticultural society, etc.

The bill reorganizing the library, it is stated, will be introduced by Senator Mullan of Black Hawk, and the bill is now in the hands of Judge Doemer of the board of trustees of the state library.

A bill has been prepared asking for \$30,000 with which to complete the present historical building, and the money ought to be appropriated as soon as possible. Every dollar is needed.

Iowa is a growing state, and every good work is demanding more room and more labor.

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Larger Paid Circulation than that of  
any other Iowa daily combined.**THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS**

Monday, April 23, 1900

**LEGAL NOTICES.****NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS:**

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the secretary of the executive council until 10 a.m. of April 30th, 1900, for the finishing of the third story of the west wing of the Iowa State Historical, Memorial and Art Building and also for the gas fixtures, cement walks and granite curbing. Plans may be seen at the offices of Smith & Gutterson, Architects. Each bid must contain a certified check of 5 per cent of the amount of the bid, made payable to the secretary of the executive council, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into contract if given the work; the council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

SMITH & GUTTERSON, Architects.

By Order of the Council.

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Larger Paid Circulation than that of  
any other newspaper published in  
this city.**THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS**

Tuesday Evening, October 9, 1900

**NO CHANGE UNTIL SPRING****REMOVAL OF PORTION OF  
STATE LIBRARY DEFERRED.**

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**Library Board Votes and Important  
Acquisition to Historical**

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The consolidation of the historical and miscellaneous departments of the state library, arranged by the legislature last winter to take place as soon after January 1, 1901, as the library board decreed will not be effected until next spring. At the last meeting of the board action on the matter was deferred until the January meeting, and the state librarian says this means the actual removal cannot take place until several months later.

The removal of the miscellaneous portion of the library to the historical building will cause a number of changes in the library work. The librarian will have an office at both the historical building and in the capitol as business will be transacted from both places. The traveling library will operate from its present quarters.

As Mr. Brigham will be required to spend considerable time at the historical building Mr. A. J. Small, who at the meeting of the board Saturday was elected assistant librarian for a term of six years, was assigned to the law and

enforcement department.

The library board has ordered the purchase of the Victorian history of the countries of England, which will constitute the most costly work in the library, and in fact is said to be the largest, most comprehensive and costliest work ever printed. There are 160 volumes, and their cost is \$12,000. The books will continue to come for the next ten years as many of them are yet far from completed. It is regarded as the most valuable addition that could be made to the historical department of the library. It is called the Victorian history because it is under the special patronage of the queen. It is magnificently illustrated with copies from steel engravings of the castles and cathedrals of England.

The library board has also ordered the completion of fourteen sets of periodicals and the addition of several magazines to the periodical department. A large list of books for the miscellaneous library was acted upon favorably Saturday.

Miss Alice Taylor, secretary of the state library commission, addressed the teachers of Lucas county, Saturday. Today Miss Margaret Brown, librarian at Chariton, gives a reception for Miss Tyler. Next week Miss Taylor will read a paper on the library commission before the state library conference at Sioux City, and then she will spend a week at Eldora in cataloging the library.

# Journal of the Senate

1900

## HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

The executive council and the curator of the historical department of the state, in obedience to provision made therefor by the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies, purchased, during the period, a site and have erected thereon a memorial, historical and art building. The lots selected are directly northeast of the capitol square. The building is fireproof, constructed of limestone from the quarries of this state, with a base course at the frost line of Iowa granite, and finished and ornamented with Iowa marble. It is so built that it can be readily enlarged whenever required to meet the growing demands of the department. The contracts were conservative, and it was confidently expected the building could be completed within the appropriation, but unexpected delays necessitated the continued employment of the superintendent beyond the period at first contemplated. This increase, together with the expenses of laying the corner-stone and some other minor matters and slight internal changes, will call for an expenditure exceeding the appropriation by from \$200 to \$500. In addition, it has been recommended that a portion of the rooms be painted and decorated, which will cost \$1,000 or \$1,500. I recommend an appropriation of \$2,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary to complete the structure in a desirable and presentable manner. The building will be ready for occupation within a very brief time, when the curator will vacate the rooms he now occupies in the base-

ment of the capitol, and take possession of this new structure, where he will be able to display his interesting collection in such manner as to be of service to the public, and where it will invite valuable donations from both public and private sources. It is probable that some furniture, cases, etc., will be needed, for which, and to cover the cost of removing the collection, I recommend a small appropriation. There should also be a limited addition to the annual allowance for help in the department.

#### PURCHASE OF MORE GROUND FOR THE STATE

When the present capitol was built, it was believed to be as commodious as the needs of the state would ever require. It has now been occupied sixteen years, and several of the departments are seriously congested. An arsenal is needed for the accommodation of the adjutant-general's department. Storage of quartermaster supplies is now provided in a building rented for the purpose. It was found necessary to locate the board of control in committee rooms back of the senate chamber, which cannot well be spared from their designed use during the session of the general assembly. A warehouse, for the storage and proper distribution and reshipment of supplies for the various institutions under the management of the board of control, is much needed, and should be provided at an early date. A new building for the memorial, historical, and art department has been erected, and partitions and changes in various offices have been found imperative to make room for the several departments connected with the state government. Evidently additional buildings will be needed in the near future, and these, when erected, should be fireproof, and of substantial

and presentable architecture, and should be so located as to improve and add dignity to the present capitol.

## IOWA OFFICIAL REGISTER—1900

The last General Assembly consolidated the miscellaneous portion of the State Library with the Historical department, the transfer of books to be made on the 1st day of January, 1901, "or at such later date as the trustees may direct." The consolidation law merged the library board and that of the historical department, the personnel of the two boards being in fact identical. The new law provides an annual appropriation of \$2,500 for the law department and \$10,000 for both the miscellaneous department of the State Library and the Historical department, the Board to determine the relative needs of the two departments.

The Traveling Library department, having an annual appropriation of \$2,000, now has ninety libraries, of fifty books each, and over 1,000 volumes for special use. The special loan branch of the department, created about two years ago, has been found to meet the wants of clubs, scholars, and students, and has been adopted as a part of Iowa's traveling library system.

### HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

*Board of Trustees.*—Gov. L. M. SHAW.

Chief Justice JOSIAH GIVEN.

Judge SCOTT M. LADD.

Judge H. E. DEEMER.

Hon. W. B. MARTIN, Secretary of State.

Hon. R. C. BARRETT, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

CHARLES ALDRICH, A. M., *Curator and Secretary.*

Judge C. M. WATERMAN.

Judge JOHN C. SHERWIN.

Judge EMLIN McCLAIN.

As now organized, this department dates from the first day of July, 1892. Its chief purpose is the collection of historical data relating to our own state and the territory of the middle west of which it originally formed a part. So far as literature is concerned special efforts are made to collect Iowa newspapers from the earliest dates to the present time; works of state and general western and national history and genealogy; works on the slavery question and

the war for the union; histories of all our wars from the earliest times; reports upon the census of both state and nation; works relating to the North American Indians; county histories; earlier and later maps; Iowa pamphlets; biographies of our notable men and women, printed or in manuscript; written or printed documents relating to early settlers and settlements; reports, catalogues and broadsides relating to the churches, educational and benevolent institutions of the state; in short, every species of data which can throw light upon local, state or western history.

### Iowa Official Register.

The department publishes *The Annals of Iowa*, an illustrated quarterly historical magazine of eighty pages, which will enter upon its ninth year with the number for April, 1901. This is made up of original contributions in history and biography. By direction of the trustees it is sent free to every organized library in our state. Its price to subscribers is \$1 per year.

In addition to *The Annals*, the Historical Department is to be credited with the following publications, viz.: Four biennial reports; "John Brown and Other Sketches," by Hon. Irving B. Richman, late United States Consul-General to Switzerland; The First Census (two pamphlets) of the counties of Dubuque and De Moine, taken in July, 1836,—edited by Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, of the State University of Iowa, and "The Laws of Iowa, 1838-9." The last work (634 pp. octavo) is a verbatim reprint of the original publication. It is expected that the department will publish during the year 1901 "A History of the Iowa Constitution," by Dr. Shambaugh; the "Proceedings of the Fort Dodge Iowa Claim Club," and the hitherto unpublished Journals of the Council and House of Representatives of the extra session of 1840.

The department has secured forty-four fine oil portraits of distinguished Iowans, the most of which are now on exhibition in the art gallery of the new historical building. As works of art many of these possess high value. Several more are promised in the near future.

The historical department has been supported by a permanent appropriation of \$6,000 per annum. To this an addition of \$4,000

was made by the legislature, for the current biennial period.

Up to November 1, 1900, the collections of the department included the following.

Bound volumes of newspapers.....	2,271
Newspapers and periodicals coming to the department.....	366
Total number of miscellaneous books in the library .....	5,221
Total number of pamphlets in the library.....	4,464

Also a large collection of autograph letters, manuscripts and portraits of notable people in all parts of the world.

An act of the Twenty-sixth General Assembly authorized the Executive Council to procure a site for and proceed to the erection of a State Historical Building for these rapidly accumulating collections. That body, however, appropriated only \$25,000, stipulating that this sum should complete the structure. The Executive Council, deeming the appropriation inadequate for the purpose, procured a site but proceeded no further, referring the matter to the Twenty-seventh General Assembly (1898). This latter body increased the appropriation \$30,000. It also provided that the site, which had cost \$4,300, should be held as the site for the arsenal, and that the sum of \$15,000, to be realized from the sale to the city of the old arsenal property, should be devoted to the purchase of a new site for the Historical Building. The Executive Council, as a commission, to which Mr. Charles Aldrich had been added by the General Assembly, proceeded to purchase a site on the northeast corner of Eleventh street and Grand avenue, and let the contract for the erection of the west wing of the proposed structure.

The corner-stone of the new building was laid by Governor Shaw, with appropriate ceremonies, May 17, 1899, and thereafter the work of construction was pushed as rapidly as possible to completion. All the collections of the Historical Department—including the Museum—previously located in the southeast corner of the capitol building, in three of the basement rooms, were transferred to their new quarters in January, 1900. The work of permanently arranging these collections has since been proceeding as rapidly as the conditions of the building and the reception of furniture would permit. The edifice is a fine and commodious one, and thoroughly equipped with modern appliances.

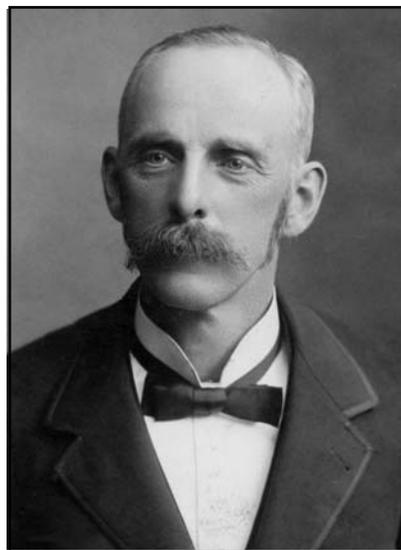
# Journal of the Senate

1900

## HISTORICAL BUILDING.

I had occasion two years ago, in my inaugural address, to make some comment with respect to the importance of completing the historical building. Close observation, and a somewhat intimate connection with the subject since that time have strengthened my conviction that we ought to at once begin the construction of the central part and east wing of this building.

Remembering, as I constantly do, other imperative demands upon the treasury, I think the work ought to be continued during three or four years. I find, upon examination, that contracts can be let for the erection of the remaining parts, payable as I have suggested, without loss to the State, and it can be so arranged that the central portion can be occupied as soon as complete.



Governor Leslie Shaw—1898-1902

## HISTORICAL AND ART MUSEUM

Iowa has a history. There is much associated with her territorial existence, as well as her subsequent statehood, of which our people may well be proud. There are two ways of perpetuating this record. One, and the least interesting, is to have it printed, bound in volumes, and placed on

shelves. This is being done as a private enterprise, and the state can safely expect that the ambition of authors, and the promised gain therefrom to publishers, will do all that is needed in this direction. The second, the most interesting, and at the same the most expensive and most permanent method is the preservation of historical relics, state papers, interstate and national correspondence, geological, zoological, mineralogical, art, and other collections.

This work has already assumed no mean proportions. It was commenced originally as a labor of love, and has been lately prosecuted with the aid of a nominal appropriation from the state. Very much of intrinsic and of far greater historic value has been secured, and is now the property of the state. For the want of any suitable place it is now literally packed away in quarters entirely inadequate in the basement of the capitol. Assurances are not wanting that several private collections of great value, and of greater interest can be secured without expense, conditioned only that the state arrange for their protection and exhibition where the public can be benefited thereby. If it be true that we are proud of our state and of its history; if the names of the pioneers who have builded cities, defended the honor of the flag, or occupied conspicuous positions in the councils of the nation are dear to us, should not the preservation of all that pertains thereto be a matter of public solicitude?

The last general assembly appropriated \$25,000 with which to purchase grounds and erect an historical and art museum. An adjoining state, with less population, with \$400,000,000 less taxable property, and with a state debt five times ours, has appropriated \$450,000 for a like purpose. To pay this a special levy of one-tenth of a mill for seven years has been provided.

There are many things which the state, in view of its existing debt and insufficient revenues, cannot afford to do, and some others notwithstanding conditions which it cannot afford to omit. The son who has inherited a fortune is in-

excusable if he neglect to erect a monument to his parents, even though he transcend for the time his current income. Will this generation be able to excuse itself to the next if it shall ignore its opportunity and permit to be turned into other channels the historic papers and relics now in the possession of men whose years give notice that they are not to remain long with us, or in the hands of the immediate descendants of those who have recently departed?

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Remembering, as I constantly do, other imperative demands upon the treasury, I think the work ought to be continued during three or four years. I find, upon examination, that contracts can be let for the erection of the remaining parts, payable as I have suggested, without loss to the State, and it can be so arranged that the central portion can be occupied as soon as complete. —Governor Leslie Shaw

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE

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OR COMBINE—IT IS UNDER OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE ONLY

IT REPRESENTS THE MASSES

THE DAILY NEWS Circulation a  
Larger Paid Circulation than that of  
any other newspaper published in Iowa.

# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Friday Evening, October 30, 1901

## MR. ALDRICH'S "OPEN HOUSE"

Historical Building Will Be Open to

Visitors From 7 to 9 Tonight—

Visitors will be welcomed this evening from 7 to 9 o'clock in the state historical building. Curator Aldrich has inaugurated a series of "open house" evenings and it is hoped the

people of Des Moines will take advantage of them to see the excellent collection of curios, of documents and many other valuable exhibits.

Friday Evening, November 1, 1901

## REMOVAL ABOUT TO BEGIN

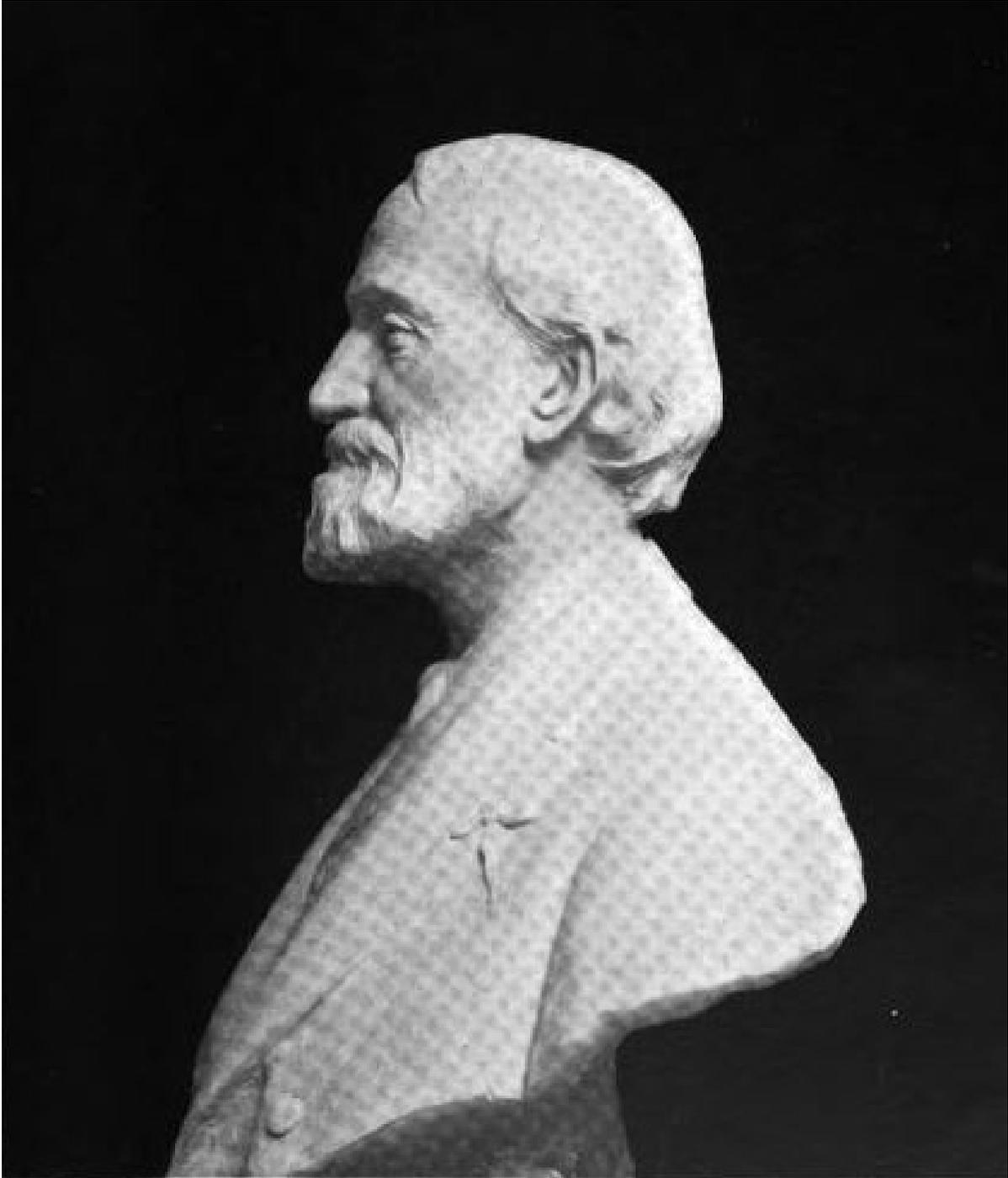
**Thousands of Books Being Taken to  
The Historical Building.**

The employees of the state library are very busy complying with the decrees of the library board, made at the last session. The most important matter was the consolidation of the miscellaneous departments and the state historical department. The consolidation means the removal of a great many volumes to the historical building. Among the first collection to be moved is that known as the sheep bound set of governmental documents. This collection alone consists of 3,122 volumes. Then there are over a thousand volumes of war records that will follow. There are over a hundred volumes of

the collection of historical reports of the civil war.

The removal of the historical books will give much needed space to the state library in the capitol building. A place will be found for the traveling library on the second floor in one of the corner rooms. Although the legislature named the state library as the home of this department, it has never had its own particular abiding place.

Mrs. Margaret Brown of Chariton, who is to have charge of the department, will begin her duties March 1, and then it is expected that many additions will be made. There are now about 1,500 volumes on call in the traveling library.



Marble bust of Charles Aldrich, currently on loan to the Boone County Historical Center.

# **1901 Iowa State Librarian's Report**

BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE LIBRARIAN  
TO THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA

July 1, 1901

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JOHNSON BRIGHAM  
STATE LIBRARIAN

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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DES MOINES:  
BERNARD MURPHY, STATE PRINTER  
1902

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# 1901 Iowa State Librarian's Report

## Librarian's Report.

OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN, }  
DES MOINES, June 30, 1901. }

*To the Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, Governor of Iowa:*

SIR—I have the honor to submit for your consideration the Twenty-eighth Biennial Report of the Iowa State Library, covering the period from July 1, 1899, to June 30, 1901, inclusive.

At the close of the last preceding biennial period there were 65,093 volumes in the library—3,650 of which belonged to the traveling library department, and 61,443 to the State Library proper.

### Books Added Since Last Report.

To this number have been added during the biennial period now closed 10,632 volumes, as follows:

Miscellaneous department, acquired by purchase.....	4,502
Miscellaneous department, acquired by exchange and gift....	2,129— 6,631
Law department, acquired by purchase.....	1,291
Law department, acquired by exchange and gift.....	516— 1,807
Traveling library department, acquired by purchase.....	2,125
Traveling library department, acquired by exchange and gift	69— 2,194
Total.....	10,632
These, added to the number of books in the State Library two years ago, make a total of.....	75,725
But of this number 4,115 have been transferred to the Historical Department, reducing the total of books in the State Library proper to.....	71,610
The books so transferred added to the number of volumes reported by the Curator of the Historical Department (namely 9,707), swell the total of the books in the department to.....	13,822
The grand total of books in the miscellaneous, law, traveling library and historical departments of the State Library is therefore.....	89,547

The transfer of books from the miscellaneous department to the historical department, above referred to, was made by order

of the Library Board in execution—so far as was found to be practicable—of chapter 114, Laws of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, "An act consolidating the miscellaneous portion of the State Library with the Historical Department." By this act the State Librarian was given "general charge of the Historical Department and of the consolidated and law libraries." The "Curator of the Museum and Art Gallery" was given "charge of the museum, the Art Gallery, the newspapers and historical periodicals" and the "assistant to librarian" was placed in "charge of the law library, under the direction of the State Librarian."

The most important change made in the legal status of the State Library, and the actual status as well, since my last report, is this act of consolidation.

#### Purposes Served by the Consolidation.

The general purpose of the framers of the law was declared to be to place these library interests of the State which center at the State Capital, in line with the spirit of the time, and with the best interests of the State, uniting them under one board management and under one general superintendency. The immediate incentives to the passage of this law were as follows:

1. The rapid growth of the miscellaneous department of the State Library and the consequent encroachments of that department on space required for the equally rapid expansion of the law, document and traveling library departments.

2. The almost unavoidable duplication of the books—especially in the historical department and the historical section of the miscellaneous library—and the consequent desirability of placing the purchasing, classifying and cataloguing under one general head—both as a matter of economy and for convenience as well

3. As a preparatory step toward the fulfillment of Curator Aldrich's plan and purpose, namely: the completion of the Historical Building, the west wing of which is now occupied by the historical department, the east wing of the completed building to be devoted to the uses of the Library, the main, or central portion to be used principally as an auditorium and for the further extension of the Art Gallery, and for the creation of a hall of archives, leaving the entire west wing, as it is now in part, for the uses of the Museum, the Art Gallery and the files of Iowa and general newspapers.

## 1902] REPORT OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN.

**More Room Necessary to Complete the Transfer of Books.**

So far as has been found to be practicable, the consolidation directed by the last General Assembly has already been carried into effect. After a personal inspection of the west wing of the new building, the members of the Library Board became satisfied that the consolidation ordered by the last General Assembly could not be fully carried out until the completion of the Historical Building, and consequently, at a meeting held on the 6th of February, 1901, the Board, exercising its judgment as directed by the law, instructed the State Librarian and the Curator of the Historical Museum, etc., "to remove from the State Library proper to the Historical Building the following books, periodicals and papers to-wit:

- "All genealogical works.
- "All historical and kindred publications.
- "All state histories.
- "All books known as 'the Iowa Collection.'
- "All books and documents relating to the Civil War.
- "The sheep-bound set of public documents."

To have gone further before the completion of the building would have compelled a division of the Library force and would have seriously inconvenienced the Curator of the historical department and weakened the State Library proper.

The Librarian was directed to retain at the State Library proper, for use in the State Library or in the special loan branch of the traveling library department, all duplicates of works found in the Library of the historical department.

This instruction has been carried out, and I have to report that the estimate of the members of the Board as to shelf room in the new building, has been found to be correct, for an inspection of the historical department after the transfer of the books above named reveals the fact that, with the books, pamphlets and newspaper files already accumulated in the historical department, (9,707 as reported by the Curator) and the books transferred from the State Library (4,115), there remains insufficient space on the shelves to warrant a further transfer of books from the State Library to the Historical Building; in fact, the large accessions continually being made to the Library of the historical department, chiefly in supplying that department with complete sets of the historical collections of the several states, and in adding to the department's collection of state, county and town histories,

## REPORT OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN. [No. 11]

and genealogy, point with certainty to the early necessity for more shelf room for the uses of that department and to the unwisdom of transferring any more books from the State Library to that department until the building is completed. These conditions are augmented by the present lack of space in the newspaper stack room for the fast growing library of Iowa publications.

Supreme Necessity of Completing the Historical Building.

This condition with which we are confronted emphasizes the supreme necessity of speedily completing the Historical Building, that the miscellaneous portion of the State Library, now temporarily occupying space needed by, and by law accorded to, the law, document and traveling library departments, may be wholly removed to the Historical Building as directed by the last General Assembly, and that the already congested newspaper section of the historical department may be speedily relieved.

A strong argument for an early completion of the new building is the overcrowded condition of the vaults of the several departments of state, rendering impossible that thorough classification and filing of State papers which their growing importance suggests. Perhaps the most serious need of the proposed Hall of Archives is the extremely precarious and almost totally inaccessible condition in which the increasingly valuable state papers of the first two decades of Iowa's career are reported to be found. The present unsatisfactory condition of these invaluable papers indicates also the condition in which the papers of the present time will be found a quarter or half century hence, unless provision is now made for their preservation as proposed.

In this connection I would call attention to the recommendation of the Curator of the historical department that the sum of \$300,000 be appropriated for the completion of the Historical Building, the appropriation to be used in warrants of \$75,000 to be issued in four consecutive years. Wholly agreeing with Curator Aldrich as to the amount necessary to complete the building in conformity to the original design—that design modified somewhat by conclusions drawn from subsequent experience and from recent study of library architecture—permit me to urge the desirability of expediting the completion of the building by a division of the amount asked for into three annual warrants of \$100,000 each.

Respectfully,

JOHNSON BRIGHAM,  
*State Librarian.*



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any other two Iowa dailies combined.

# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Friday Evening, November 1, 1901

## CURATOR C. ALDRICH ASKS COMPLETION OF HISTORICAL BUILDING

### IN BIENNIAL REPORT URGES LEGISLATURE TO ACT.

### ONE WING IS NOW CROWDED

**Work of the Curator Needs More  
Room—Work Commanded by All  
Who View the Building.**

The biennial report of the state historical department will be filed late this afternoon by Curator Charles Aldrich. The report goes to Governor Shaw and the recommendations will in turn be transmitted to the state legislature.

Most important of the features of the report is the recommendation for the completion of the historical building. An appropriation will be

asked of the legislature and that body urged to finish the structure as rapidly as possible.

The historical department is most progressive and its work in preserving state history is commended on every side. It would be impossible not to become interested in the work after a trip through the one wing of the building, already crowded almost to capacity.

#### **Mrs. Kirkwood a Guest.**

There was a large crowd of visitors at the historical building last evening. The Thursday night receptions are proving popular and such succeeding evening open shows and impressive number of visitors. Last night Mrs. Samuel J. Kirkwood of Iowa City, wife of Iowa's war governor, was the guest of honor. She is visiting at the home of Major and Mrs. S. H. M. Byers while in the city.

# The Des Moines Daily Capital

Thursday, April 14, 1904

## ALDRICH IS BACK AND VERY HAPPY

### CURATOR OF HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT RECOVERS.

**He Is Overjoyed at the Knowledge  
That the Completion of the  
Historical Building Is at  
Last Assured.**

Hon. Charles Aldrich, curator of the state historical department, was again at his desk in the historical building yesterday. He has apparently completely recovered from the illness that has kept him confined to his residence at Boone for the greater part of the past six weeks. He is overjoyed at the knowledge that the legislature has appropriated the \$300,000 that was needed to complete the building in which his collec-

tion, the accumulation of a life time, is stored. To many who saw Mr. Aldrich today, the thought occurred that perhaps his illness might have had a different termination had not the legislature acted favorably upon the \$300,000 appropriation in which he was so vitally interested. To one of his advanced years and feeble vitality, who is witnessing the fruition of his life's ambition or its overthrow, the outcome must mean much. Those who saw him during the days that the appropriation was hanging in the balance, said he was hovering between life and death and that the news of the victory immediately had a wonderful effect, serving to rally him from his illness. He arrived from Boone last night and was at his desk bright and early this morning.

# Daily Iowa Capital

Des Moines Daily Capitol July 27, 1904

## BUILDING STONES OF IOWA EXCEL IN NUMBER AND KIND

By HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,

Curator of the State Historical Department of Iowa.

It has always seemed strange to me that when a public building of any kind is to be erected in Iowa, we send abroad for our building stone, though we have as good or better material here at home. I believe in Sidney Foster's maxim – "in all that is good Iowa affords the best." I had for many years believed the Le Grand (Marshall County) stone to be one of the best in the United States, though I could not in till recently did any good reason for this belief. But when the stone was to be selected for the west wing of the Iowa Historical building in Des Moines the subject came quite distinctly to my notice. At this time I happened to meet Dr. Charles R. Keyes, who was then our assistant state geologist, but now president of the New Mexico School of Mines, and I asked him if he was acquainted with the Le Grand stone, and whether it was good for anything.

He assured me that he was familiar with the material furnished by those in this country. In the course of our conversation he stated that Major General Q. A. Gillmore, the great engineer of the old regular army, had given it a scientific examination and that he had a copy of the general's report. I invited him to appear before the executive council on the following day and bring this report. He was accordingly present at the hour indicated and read to the counsel General Gillmore's scientific conclusions upon the value of the Le Grand stone. This settled the question at once. Said Auditor C. G. McCarthy, "I came here to vote for Indiana stone, but I now vote for Le Grand stone." The other members of the council voted with

him, and the question was therefore settled by the selection of Le Grand stone for that State Historical building.

Columns and pages can be written upon the subject and made formidable, like a weather report or a disquisition on the tariff by great tables of figures and statistics, but the simplest and best way of getting at the matter is by comparison. Several of the popular outside quarries are amply represented in Des Moines, but I am quite certain that the material in the State Historical building is superior to any of them. Of this, however, those who are interested can readily satisfy themselves. I do know, however, that many who felt doubtful about the Le Grand stone when it was first selected now speak of it in terms of the heartiest approval. The result has been most amply justified by the beauty of the material in this edifice; as well as by its marvelous capacity for resisting moisture and discoloration and keeping itself clean and free from the effects of dust and smoke. Even the steps over which so many feet are constantly passing, continue equally white and clean, showing very little wear. Every person I have heard speak of our building praises its great beauty, referring both to the plan of the elevation and the Iowa material of which it was constructed. The question is often asked, "With such beautiful and apparently durable material within our own borders, why send to Indiana or Minnesota for building stone!" W. E. Curtis, the world-famous newspaper correspondent, characterized our historical building as the most beautiful he had seen

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

in this section. While its material is unsurpassed in beauty, the testimony of General Gillmore shows that its durability brings it within the scope of Sidney Foster's characterization.

While I make no pretension to the possession of accurate scientific information, I have no doubt whatever that building stone of a high quality can be found in several of the counties of this state and in localities convenient to the main lines of transportation. Take the counties of Clayton and Allamakee are well supplied with superior stone no one who travels through that region and keeps his eyes open can for a moment doubt. The stone bridge over the Turkey river at Elkader is a work of marvelous beauty, and it promises to last a thousand years. In fact, it looks like many of the grand old

structures that one sees in lands beyond the sea.

I am told that below the softer material at the surface a beautiful and durable building stone exists in large quantities in Jones county. A like claim is made for the undeveloped quarries of Van Buren county. And there are many river and other counties to hear from. I have no other interest in the subject than my desire to see the resources of our magnificent state not ignored, but awarded their due degree of credit. I have no sympathy whatever with the fact which seems to possess so many people of going abroad for building stone when excellent and possibly far better material can be had at home.

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# Journal of the Senate

1906

## HISTORICAL BUILDING.

In pursuance of an act of the Thirtieth General Assembly, the Executive Council acquired the remaining lot in the half block upon which the building is situated, paying therefore \$6,000.00. The house on the lot sold for \$501.00, making the real cost \$5,499.00. The excavation for that part of the building now under construction cost \$6,981.59, and the contract was awarded, after competitive bids, to Henry W. Schleuter, of Chicago, for the construction of so much of the building as I shall describe, for \$167,086.00. By the terms of the contract, the basement and the first and second floors of the east wing of the building, which are to be occupied mainly by the State Library and the Library Commission, were to be entirely finished, except the interior door and window casings of the library, which the Executive Council believe should be of steel and of the same style as the book stacks. The central part of the building was to be complete, as to its exterior. The contract did not include plumbing, heating and ventilating. The Council found it impossible to economically construct the east wing of the building alone, and therefore included the central part to the extent above described. The contractor agreed to complete the building, in so far as it was embraced in the agreement, by the first of January, 1906. We have, however, experienced the common fate of delay, and it is not probable that he will finish his work before March first. In order to make the building habitable for the State Library, it will be necessary to install the plumbing, heating and ventilating plant, purchase book stacks, and put on door and window casing, either of steel or wood. The Council has expended of the appropriation as follows:

For real estate and excavation.....	\$12,480.59
For architect, superintendent, sewer, etc .....	8,662.62
For Henry W. Schlueter.....	132,012.58
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	153,155.80

## HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (EX OFFICIO).

BERYL F. CARROLL, Governor.

WILLIAM C. HAYWARD, Secretary of State.

JOHN F. RIGGS, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM D. EVANS

JUDGE HORACE E. DEEMER

JUDGE JOHN C. SHERWIN

JUDGE EMLIN McCLAIN

JUDGE SILAS M. WEAVER

JUDGE SCOTT M. LADD

Judges of the Supreme Court.

*Curator elected by Board of Trustees for a term of six years. Term expires April 30, 1914. Salary \$1,600.*

Office	Name	Legal Residence	Birthplace	Compensation
Curator				\$ 1,600
*Assistant to curator	Edgar R. Harlan	Keosauqua	Indiana	\$ 1,200
Assistant curator				1,200
Assistant	Alice M. Steele	Coon Rapids	Iowa	1,000
Museum assistant	T. Van Hyning	Des Moines	Iowa	1,000
Janitor	Joseph B. Copper	Des Moines	Ohio	780
Janitor	Luther M. Randles	Des Moines	Indiana	780
Nightwatch	Selden H. Stacy	Medora	Ohio	840

As now organized this department dates from the first day of July, 1892. Its chief purpose is the collection of historical data relating to our own state and the territory of the middle west of which it originally formed a part. Special efforts are made to collect Iowa newspapers from the earliest dates to the present time; works of state and general western history, biography and genealogy; works on the histories of all our wars from the earliest times; works relating to the North American Indians; county histories, maps, Iowa pamphlets, biographies of our noted men and women, printed or in manuscript; written or printed documents relating to early settlers and settlements; reports, catalogues and broadsides relating to the churches, educational, and benevolent institutions of the state; in short, every species of data which can throw light upon local, state or western history. Two hundred eighty-six Iowa newspapers are currently received, and twenty-nine from other states, making a total of three hundred fifteen. The library is especially strong in genealogy, local history and the history of the civil war.

\*This office will be abolished after July 1, 1909.

## STATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The department publishes *The Annals of Iowa*, an illustrated quarterly historical magazine of eighty pages, which has now completed its eighth volume. This is made up of original contributions in history and biography. By direction of the trustees it is sent free to every organized library in our state. Its price to subscribers is \$1 per year.

In addition to *The Annals*, the historical department is to be credited with the following publications, viz., eight biennial reports: "John Brown Among the Quakers and Other Sketches," by Hon. Irving B. Richman; "First Census of the Original Counties of Dubuque and Des Moines," edited by Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh; "History of the Constitution of Iowa," by Dr. Shambaugh; reprints of the laws of Iowa, 1838-39 and of 1839-40, and the hitherto unpublished journals of the council and house of representatives of the extra session of 1840; "Early Settlement and Growth of Western Iowa," by Rev. John Todd.

The department has secured over one hundred fine oil portraits of distinguished Iowans, which are now on exhibition in the art gallery of the historical building. More are promised in the near future.

The library of the historical department on January 1, 1909, consisted of the following:

Bound volumes of newspapers.....	5,266
Books and pamphlets in the library.....	16,363

The museum includes seven large cases for autograph letters, manuscripts and portraits; a collection of recent, aboriginal and prehistoric pottery—some of the most interesting specimens of which were found in our own state; a large collection of stone implements, among which is an Iowa axe weighing 31¼ pounds—one of the largest ever discovered—with hundreds of flints; many teeth, tusks, and other bones of the mammoth and mastodon, all of which were found in Iowa; two large cases of birds—mostly specimens found within our state; many Iowa mammals; four large aquariums stocked with a collection of Iowa fishes; a case of Indian baskets, bead work, implements and weapons, the most of which were manufactured by the Musquakie Indians of Tama county; a collection of arms—cannon, mortars, swivel guns, rifles, muskets, carbines, swords and pistols, in use during the Civil, Spanish and Philippine wars; and duplicates in bronze of most of the historic medals issued by the United States government.

Besides the historical department and hall of archives, the state library and the Iowa library commission are accommodated in the magnificent historical building which is now nearly completed.



# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Friday, March 29, 1907

## HALL OF HISTORY GETS ONLY \$40,000

### Appropriation Committee Reports On Sum for Completion.

#### BUT MORE WILL BE NEEDED

The senate appropriations committee reported out today the bill for further work on the state library and historical building, giving \$40,000. The bill as introduced called for \$100,000, but this would include the completion of staircases and decoration. The plan is to have the building made temporarily available for use by putting in the fittings and all that is absolutely necessary. The final completion will be left to the

future.

The informal committee named by Lieut. Gov. Garst to consider the proposal of a direct inheritance tax law went to work last evening and is gathering rather hurriedly a great deal of information as to what other states are doing. It is certain a bill will be introduced very soon and that something will be done along this line.

Thus far the legislature is doing very well without a sifting committee and there is expectation that this will be put off until very late. So long as the houses work along smoothly no sifting committee will be needed.

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Friday, July 19, 1907

### INTERESTING COMMENT ON CAPITOL EVENTS

The east wing of the new historical building above the basement floor will be occupied some time next fall. The work of moving the miscellaneous section of the state library over to the building may be commenced before that time. All of the steel casings and shelving for the first floor of the library is in place now. It will make an excellent library room. The first and second floors in the east wing will be occupied by the state library miscellaneous collection. The second floor is now temporarily occupied by the archives department though the cement floors and window casings and other interior finishing has not been done.

The first floor which is in readiness for the library is all fireproof. Even the window casings are steel. There is a gallery about the entire room which is made of glass and steel. The third floor in the east wing is to be occupied

by the museum and the archives department is to go to the third floor in the west wing. Very little work has been done on the archive department thus far that will make a showing. A vast amount of material has been removed from the offices in the state house and dumped in a chaotic mess in the historical building. The work of assorting the correspondence is being done by one clerk at this time and will take several years according to the rate of progress.

The last legislature left the matter of appointing someone to take charge of the archives department to the executive council. It is understood that Dan Ultis, deputy secretary of the state under W. B. Martin is a candidate for the position. No one has been selected as yet.

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE

THE DAILY NEWS OWES NO ALLEGIANCE TO ANY CLIQUE, PARTY  
OR COMBINE—IT IS UNDER OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE ONLY

IT REPRESENTS THE MASSES

THE DAILY NEWS Obedience to  
Lafayette Park Cleveland Ohio 12th of  
and 12th Iowa State Building

# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Thursday, January 23, 1908

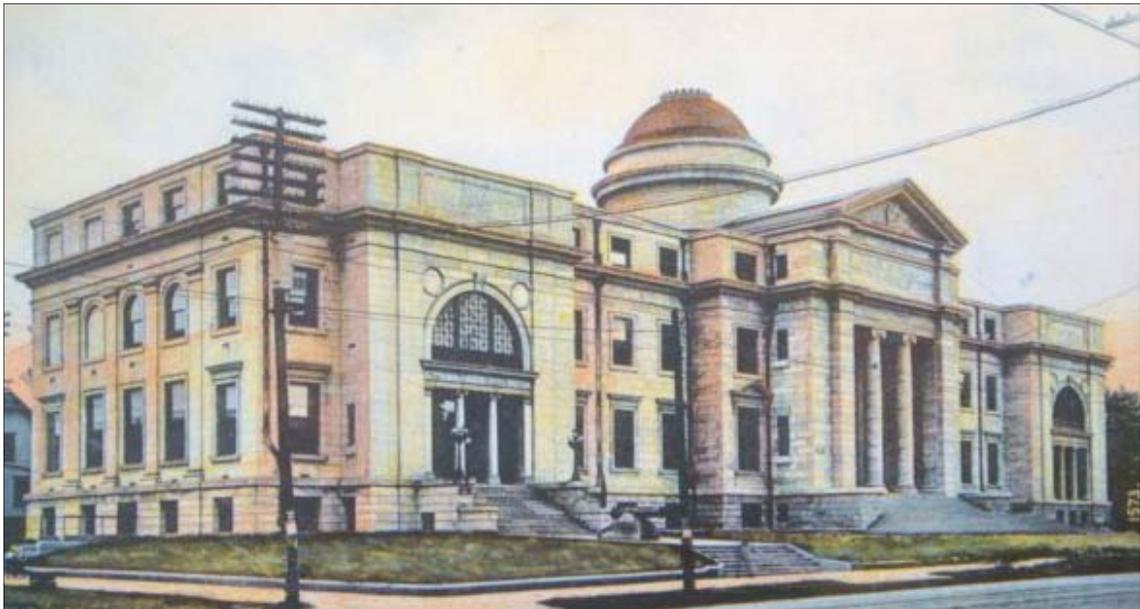
## Side Lights. . . .

With the final completion of the state historical building, many interesting relics are coming to light which have hitherto been stored away from the public gaze for lack of space. With the additional room they will now be placed on exhibit. One exhibit will contain nothing but relics of Iowa generals. One case contains the swords and sabres of Iowa generals. There are twenty-two of them and no two are alike.

From the basement have been brought a number of hitherto unexhibited war relics, among them a lot of dangerous looking lot of projectiles which were used in the civil war. Many of them have never been classi-

fied and it is estimated that it will take about a month's work to classify and label the various missiles. Several of the dangerous projectiles had failed to go off when fired for some reason and were still intact. The dangerous contents was carefully removed by employees of the historical building.

Albert McCarthy, a former Des Moines boy, who was in the battle of Santiago, has sent a number of curious looking projectiles picked up from the battlefield. Several old soldiers who have dropped in while the collection is being classified, have taken a great interest in it. Some of the death dealing missiles are so constructed that they will go off at a certain time.

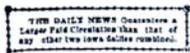


From an old postcard

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE

THE DAILY NEWS OWES NO ALLEGIANCE TO ANY CLIQUE, PARTY  
OR COMBINE—IT IS UNDER OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE ONLY

IT REPRESENTS THE MASSES



# THE DES MOINES DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, March 11, 1908

## ALL IOWA PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO CURATOR ALDRICH

Prominent statesmen and citizens from all over Iowa are here today to attend the funeral of Charles Aldrich, curator of the Iowa historical department. Mr. Aldrich's long residence in the state and the public positions which he held made him one of the best known men in Iowa.

The remains were brought to Des Moines Tuesday night and this morning hundreds of people viewed the remains as they lay in state in the corridor of the state historical building.

### Funeral at 1:30.

The funeral services were held at 1:30 in the historical building. Judge Scott M. Ladd of the Iowa supreme court presided, and a number of Iowa's most prominent men told of the life and works of Mr. Aldrich. Rev. A. L. Frisbe opened the services with a prayer.

The addresses were short and all paid sincere tribute to the life of the dead curator. Hon. Lafe Young spoke of Mr. Aldrich as a newspaper man. Hon. Warren Dungan of Chariton spoke of his work in the legislature. Colonel Crossley told of his life as a soldier and patriot. "Mr. Aldrich as a Man of Culture," was the subject of Hon. John A. McCall's address.

His work for the Historical society was praised by Judge Horace E. Deemer. Governor Cummins told of the value and benefit to the state of the man as a citizen.

### Pallbearers.

The honorary pallbearers were: Governor Larrabee of Clermont, Lieutenant-Governor Warren Garst, Secretary of State W. C. Hayward, Auditor of the State. B. F. Carroll, Treasurer of the State W. W. Morrow, Attorney-General H. W. Byers, State Superintendent John F. Riggs, Supreme Judge S. M. Weaver, State Librarian Johnson Brigham, the Hon. Isaac Brandt, the Hon. L. F. Andrews, and Librarian John M. Brainard of Boone.

Captain V. P. Twombly, Major S. H. M. Byers, Colonel George L. Godfrey, Lieutenant J. P. Patrick, Colonel Charles A. Clark and General J. B. Weaver were the active pallbearers.

All the employees at the state house met in the corridor of the capitol and marched to the historical building in body.

This evening the remains will be taken to Webster City. At 1:30 Thursday a short public service will be held in the city library at Webster City. Following this there will be military services at the cemetery, under charge of Colonel Crossley.

# The Des Moines News

IOWA'S HOME NEWSPAPER

Saturday, September 4, 1909

## HISTORICAL BUILDING WILL BE COMPLETED

### Nearly \$30,000 Appropriated For Interior Furnishings.

The contracts for the completion of the work on the state historical building will be

let next Tuesday at the meeting of the state executive council.

A sum of \$30,000 was appropriated by the last general assembly to carry out the original plans for the building. A large amount of interior work of the structure is still unfinished.

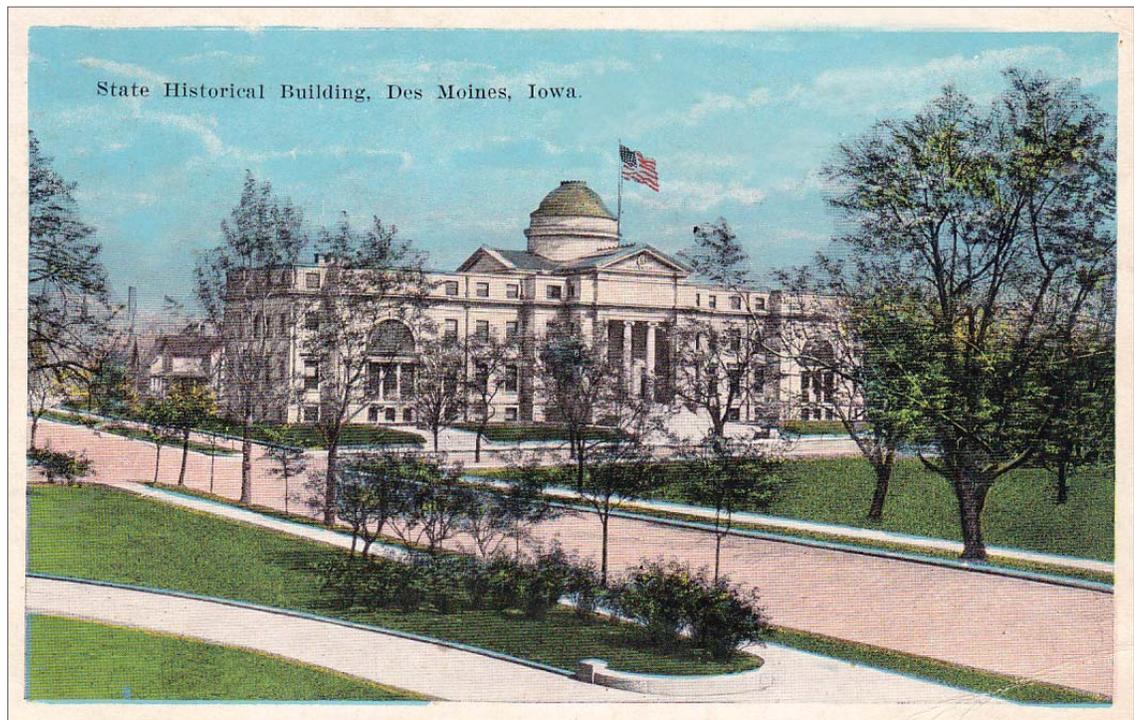
Thursday, November 11, 1909

## HISTORICAL BUILDING GETS TWO ELEVATORS

### Executive Council Tightening Purse Strings.

Contracts will be let for but two elevators in the Historical building. The architect left places for four. The executive council

thinks that four are not needed and two of the openings will be closed up. The contract for two wainscoting in the corridor of the building will be let soon and the council has appointed a committee consisting of Gov. Carroll and Secretary Hayward to confer with the contractor.



From an old postcard

# THE MIDWESTERN

VOLUME IV

FEBRUARY, 1910

NUMBER 6



The State Historical, Memorial and Art Building, Des Moines, Iowa

## VISITING THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Edgar R. Harlan, Curator

I WISH the graver duties permitted me to go with each visitor through the Historical building. I benefit thereby so much and witness such surprise. But of the more than fifty thousand who have made use of the Historical department the past year. I have been able to accompany less than five hundred. These have included every type of citizen. On the same day I accompanied the president of the American Bar Association and a man who shovels coal at the Des Moines Gas Works. A savant from Massachusetts consulting our John Brown objects was one day jostled by an Italian-American flagman. This reminds me that the Italian visits the collections more frequently than any other distinguishable foreigner.

Comparatively few visitors fully understand their opportunities for our purposes. Those who do fire and sustain enthusiasm of department workers, and carry to their own work aids and advantages they would not be without. Publication, library, archive

and museum sources all are worthy more intimate knowledge than average citizens possess.

Entering the building through the beautiful portal of the main facade one will have passed on the right the entrance to the headquarters of the Iowa Library Commission, the Traveling Library. While he is in the building the visitor should see that institution and Miss Alice S. Tyler, its secretary and chief source of strength. She is carrying into remote localities full benefits of the metropolitan library. After entering the building the office of Hon. Johnson Brigham is found on the right, and still further, also to the right, the magnificent interior of the institution whose head he is, The Iowa State Library.

The activities of the Traveling Library, operated by the Library Commission, and those of the Iowa State Library are separate and distinct, and separate also from those of the Historical Department of Iowa, of whose building they occupy the first three floors of the east wing. A visitor



Iowa State Library

is commended to Mr. Brigham, his assistants and their apartments for a view, and for the advantages of a library that is ideal in equipment and administration.

It is not, however, with the merit, splendid as it surely is, of Miss Tyler and Mr. Brigham or that of their institutions that I am principally, or at all officially, concerned.

On the left after entering the building is the office of the Curator. This title for the head of the Historical Department was assumed by Charles Aldrich when he founded the work, and it was carried into the statute devised by him which vitalized his dream. Within the office a welcome beams from the fine face of the founder, a portrait in oil by Charles Atherton Cumming, his friend.

Beyond the office of the Curator is the reading room. On its walls are the restored frescoes once delighting visitors to the Iowa Supreme Court room. Here are seven cabinets (The Aldrich collection) with a hundred and ninety-two drawers each, containing autographic gems. You are free to draw into sight the contents of each

drawer. Here is something more than a mere signature of some judge or governor, or even of some poet or potentate. For instance in the Whittier drawer not only a letter, a poem and his portrait, but copy for a revised edition of one of his poems. The text as originally printed has been interlined, erased and substituted in the quaint hand and violet ink familiar to the eye which has met Whittier script. It is like touching the palm of Whittier to touch his script. One's mind meets that of Whittier in its movement back to the fine and simple in the last line of

"I know He is, and what He is  
Whose one great purpose is the good  
Of all. I rest my soul on His  
Immortal Love and Fatherhood  
*And trust His wise infinitude*"  
As he revised it, it stands  
*"And trust Him as His children  
should."*

Passing down the aisle one enjoys similar contact with the mind of Darwin in a page of his "Origin of Species;" of Macaulay in a chapter of his "History of England;" of Burns in



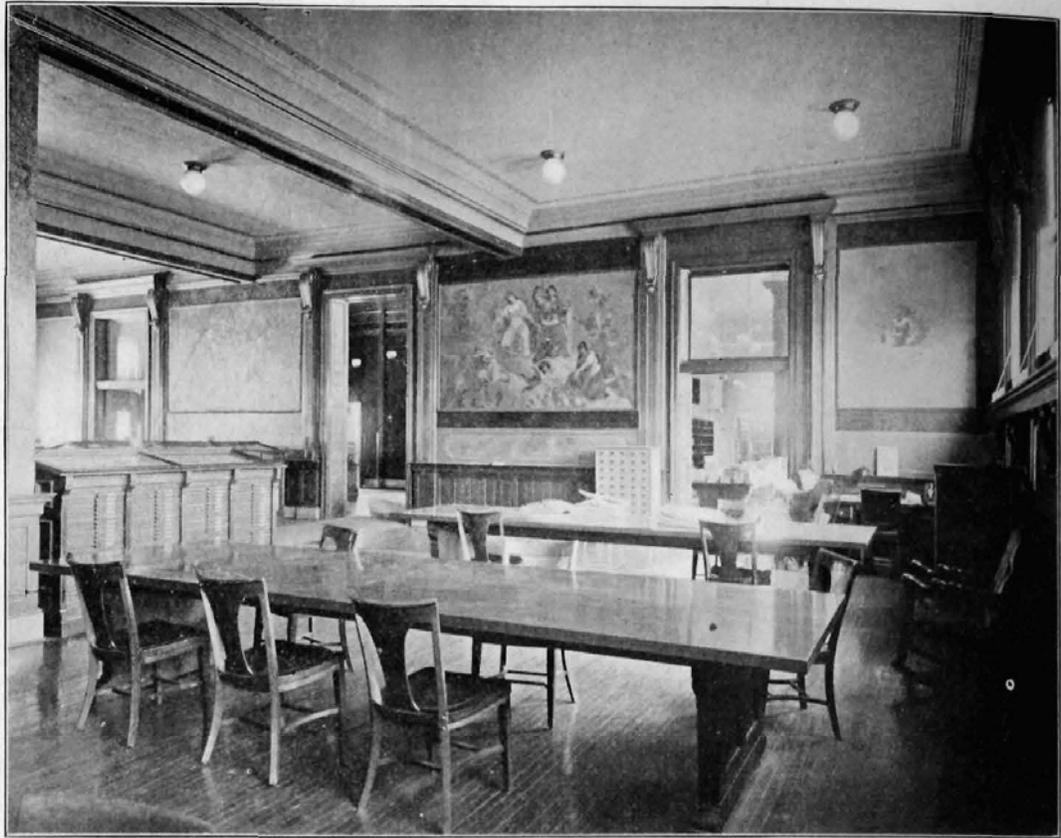
Office of the Curator, State Historical Department of Iowa

a letter from Mauchline; of Whitman in "Leaves of Grass;" of a thousand Iowa men and women noted in earlier days; of hundreds of Americans of fame; of scores of foreign masters in the arts and sciences and of at least a dozen minds of royalty.

Beyond the reading room, is the stackroom of the department library, and the desk of the assistant Curator, Miss Alice M. Steele who is in charge. From the beginning the department has thought best to specialize its book collections on county histories from Iowa and the states from which Iowa drew most heavily for her population; on slavery; Civil War; Indian and western history; genealogy and books produced by Iowa authors. More students and writers than others call for the use of these, except in the instance of genealogy, when we provide genealogists and the membership of the patriotic societies aids in tracing their descent. Of the books embraced above we have some twenty thousand volumes. Added to this are our collections of maps and manuscripts and the magnificent collection of bound newspapers, all invariably a surprise to visitors. Amongst the original literary manuscript may be seen Audubon's chapter on "The American Wild Turkey;" T.

B. Aldrich's "Two Bites at a Cherry;" a sermon by Henry Ward Beecher; an essay by Max Mueller and a speech by Grover Cleveland. Of a higher value and more intense interest are the collections of personal archives of eminent Iowa men. A single run of the personal letters and documents of a Senator in congress from Iowa, covers a space of seventy years and includes many letters of Presidents and other leaders during and before the Civil War. There are groups of fifty personal letters to Major S. H. M. Byers from General W. T. Sherman and more than a hundred from Henry Clay, James Monroe and the public men of their generation to W. B. Street, the Indian agent. The original receipt for the expenses of burial of Chief Wapello is here. These documents in finely bound volumes are always in view, but their perusal is restricted to those in company of the Curator or his assistant, or to those whose character and purposes are beyond doubt.

In the same room and adjacent to the collection of manuscripts is to be seen in a glass case the collection of four beautifully wrought scrolls from the brush of Tsi Ann, the late Empress Dowager of China. These are typical Chinese writing, illuminated in water



Section of Historical Department Reading Room

color painting on silk, and mounted on exquisitely colored porcelain or antique carved ivory rolls. They are encased in an ancient, teak wood casket, hand carved in high relief with the five toed dragon, ensignia of the royal personage. These, sent to Iowa through Minister Conger were, I believe, the first of the tokens of fiendship from the Forbidden City to any foreign land; their intrinsic and historical value are beyond appraisal.

Passing through a hall from which opens a parlor furnished for the comfort and convenience of women visitors, the ground floor museum is reached, in which we have the more cumbersome objects of the collection. Acquaria of Iowa fish; mounted mammals of the larger species; trophy artillery pieces from the walls of Vicksburg, Havana and Pekin; coach number 202 of the old Western Stage Company and a prairie schooner built in Virginia in 1824 which the railroads drove ahead of them across Iowa, overtook and put out of business on the western plains.

Returning to the hall and ascending a beautiful white marble stair, you

proceed through the museum apartments. Visitors ever seek with profit the cases showing water fowl, game and song birds of Iowa. Many of these have been collected and presented by other visitors. Of the smaller mammals the most attractive is a group of beaver with the logs from their dam secured in early days from streams within the present limits of the city of Des Moines. The room contains a fine display of firearms, many from the homes and hands of Iowa pioneers themselves. Nearby is a case of swords, pistols, canteens, flags and relics of officers and men who went from Iowa to the south. The name plate from the Almirante Oquendo and the blackened silver service from the Cristobal Colon are the best mementos of our war with Spain.

An arch-way leads to the collections of materials illustrative of Iowa civil history. Four large and handsome cases are filled with tools and utensils, fiber and fabric common in the frontier factory, the settler's home. Here and throughout the museum, labels identify the objects with their place,



The Aldrich Collection of Autographs

method of acquisition and history. Nearly every object is identified with some well known Iowa family. Nothing here or anywhere of the merely curious, morbid or doubtful in purpose or identity. Genuine, used objects such as looms, wheels, reels, hatchels and even flax and finished linen; carpet bags, saddle bags, knap sacks and pill bags; frows, hoes and sickles, hand made and heavy; flails, cradles and even the first horsepower hay fork known to have been used in Iowa. Beyond the Iowa collection is the office of the assistant in charge of the museum. He is a man whose patience, ingenuity and persistence are entitled to the credit of designing cases, arranging the display and much of the collecting. His hand and even name has lain almost obscured these years of struggle of the foundation period. He has labored in season and out of season, under applause and discouragement alike, and taken pleasure only in seeing a great popular museum for his state draw daily nearer. Visitors have not seen the most interesting factor of the museum until they

have met stern, brusque, studious, ingenious Tom Van Hynning.

Proceeding through to the rotunda and to the floor above, one finds the entire east half of the building a continuation of the museum. This is the most beautiful museum room to be found in the west. It is devoted mainly to objects derived from Indians of recent and prehistoric times. An entire case is devoted to objects from the great Boone mound. The largest stone axe "in captivity," as Mr. Aldrich was wont to say, is here; remains of the buffalo recovered from the marshes of the state, one with flint arrow head impaling its frontal bone; fossil plants and animals; bead work and implements for peace and war from the Musquakie, Sioux, Ojibway and other tribes now or anciently inhabiting our state, and objects and utensils made from our clays and derived from various sources embracing those of prehistoric mounds and the great clay and gypsum factories of the north central counties of today.

Adjoining the last apartment is a newly furnished parlor for women vis-



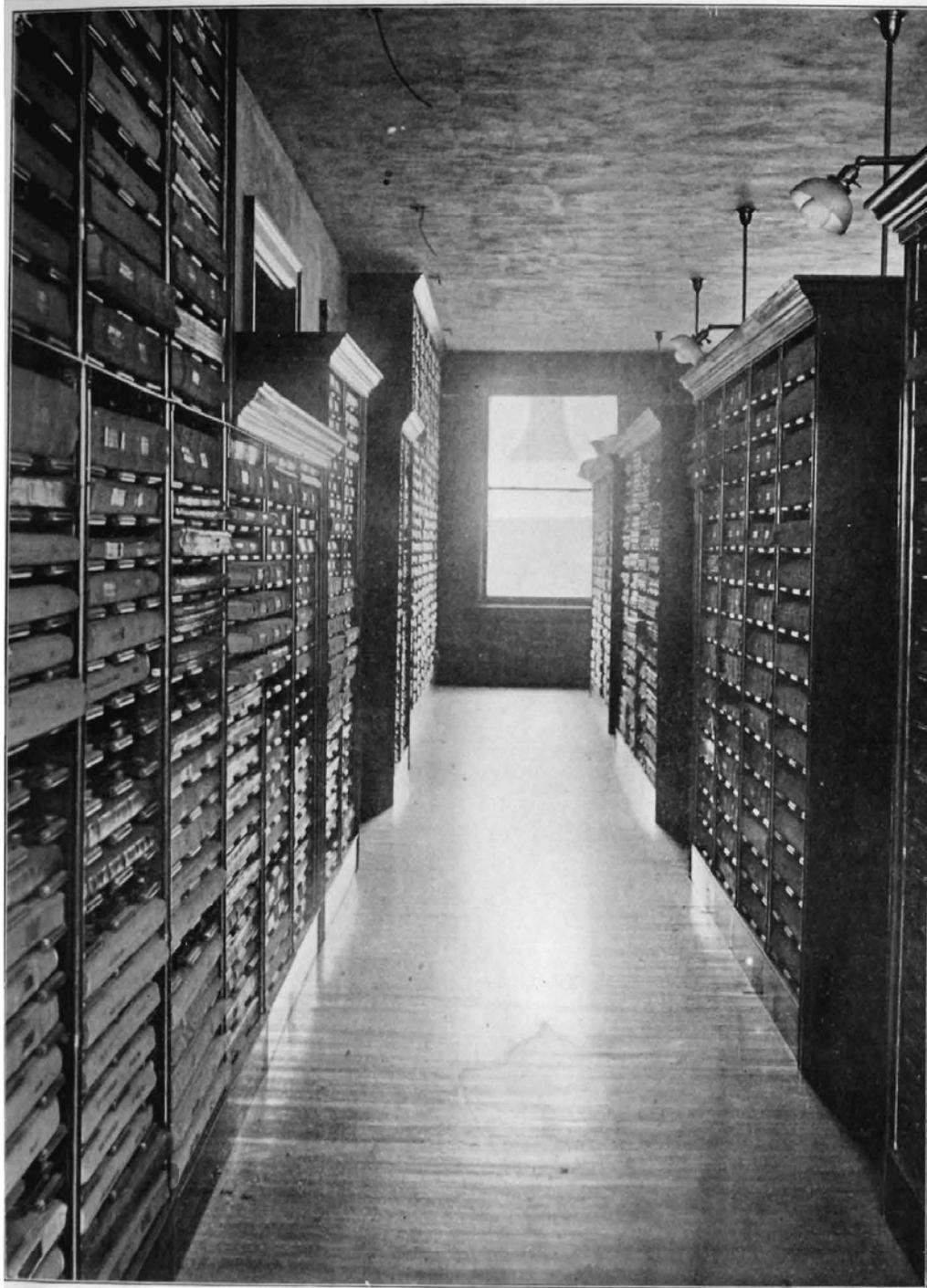
Aldrich Collection of Autographs, the Whittier Drawer

itors, and across the corridor one for men. Crossing the rotunda one finds the department of Archives. Dissociated from the Historical department in administrative relation, its finished work is made by law a part of our collections. Here are received all documentary materials ten years old from the various officials of the state government. After the documents are cleansed, pressed, indexed, classified and encased in improved filing receptacles, they are deposited in specially designed steel cases easily accessible to the student, lawyer and deliver into things historical. Of the highest value are these as source materials for study of the state's development. Records of all state officials from the foundation of society within our borders, they are the most priceless treasures of archive character belonging to the people.

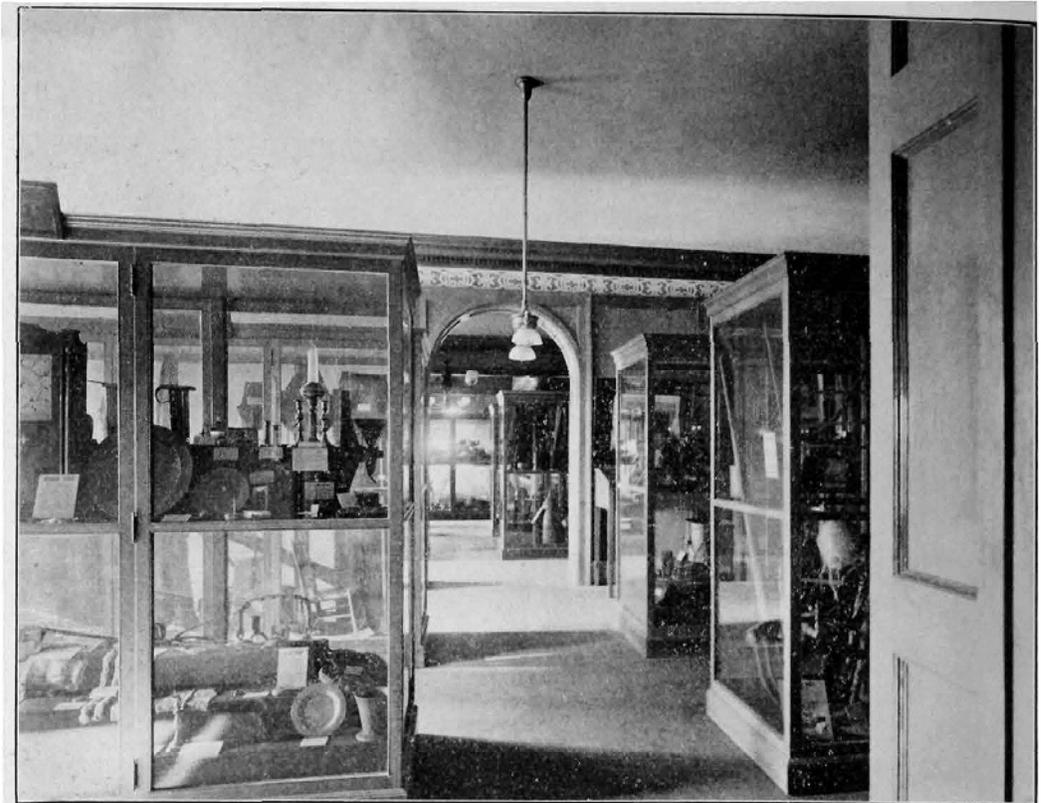
One department remains to be described. When a man has given a portion of his life for the good of his community, and has been strong enough to write his name legibly and often in the records of its creditable achieve-

ment, it is believed his memory is entitled to protection from oblivion. Where the indexes of legislative journals, congressional records, judicial, military, or other public or great private institutions bear and multiply the name of an Iowa citizen, posterity will never be appeased with the mere record of his achievement. It will demand of our own and earlier generations that they shall have made record of such men's forms and faces. Therefore there is being saved the best available likeness of all such men. Photograph, engraving, pastel, oil, marble and bronze have all been used in every country and all have been sought for in our collections. On the highest floor of our building such likenesses as are not in color are assembled in what is termed the Black and White collection.

Here are thousands of camera records of the faces of men who have served our state as legislators. The photograph, at least, should be here of every man who ever served in that or an equally responsible position, and that of each soldier in any of our wars.



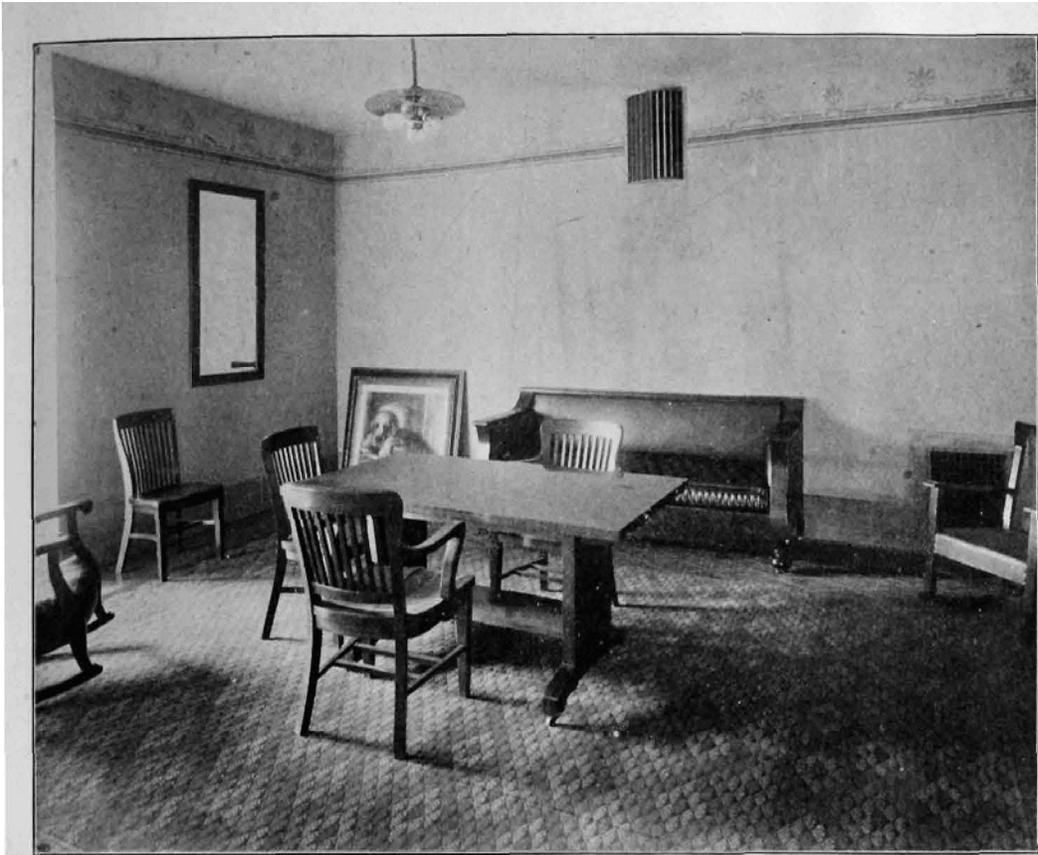
One of Six Aisles in Newspaper Collection Stack Room  
In the collection are many files of Iowa papers of the Civil War period



Museum of Iowa Civil History



Museum of Iowa Indian and Prehistoric Objects



Women's Parlor, State Historical Department

Immediately underneath the Black and White collection on the second floor will be assembled, when the corridors are finished, the group of marbles and bronzes that we have. At present no collection equals in interest and value the galleries of oil portraits. No state has provided better. None in the west possesses a larger collection of oil portraits. A few, as in all such collections, are of indifferent artistic yet of high historic value; a few are of very high artistic value. Practically all are gifts to the state and the total of these benefactions runs far into the thousands of dollars. But it is neither with the ideas of the connoisseur nor of the historian that the average visitor concerns himself. He has read of Kirkwood and is delighted here to encounter his rugged face from the brush of George H. Yewell. He is pleased with the fine copy of G. P. A. Healy's Judge George Green and the splendid groups of Governors and Judges by first rate artists; With Marshall's Allison; Brumedi's James Harlan; Mueller-Ury's C. E.

Perkins; Gue's Bishop Lee, Cumming's Finkbine, Cassidy, and his twenty other splendid portraits and with all the hundred other canvasses. His sole disappointment is from the absence of our recent Governors, federal and state judges, cabinet and diplomatic servants of the United States who have distinguished Iowa.

Back of this enterprise since near its beginning has been a force not always seen and seldom appreciated by the public. This is the Board of trustees. Its every act is one of love. Its service is entirely gratis. Its membership is least subject to passing excitement of any group of public officers. Its majority, with a six year tenure, is well nigh permanent. Its members are the Chief Executive, the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Governor Carroll, first of our twenty governors to be a native of the state, was born in Davis County. He is of, as well as aware of, every phase of our history; he is aware of the hunger of



Work Room of the Archives Department  
From the left, Mr. J. H. Kelley, C. C. Stiles, Maj. A. S. Carper



and White Collection of Portraits

## HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA



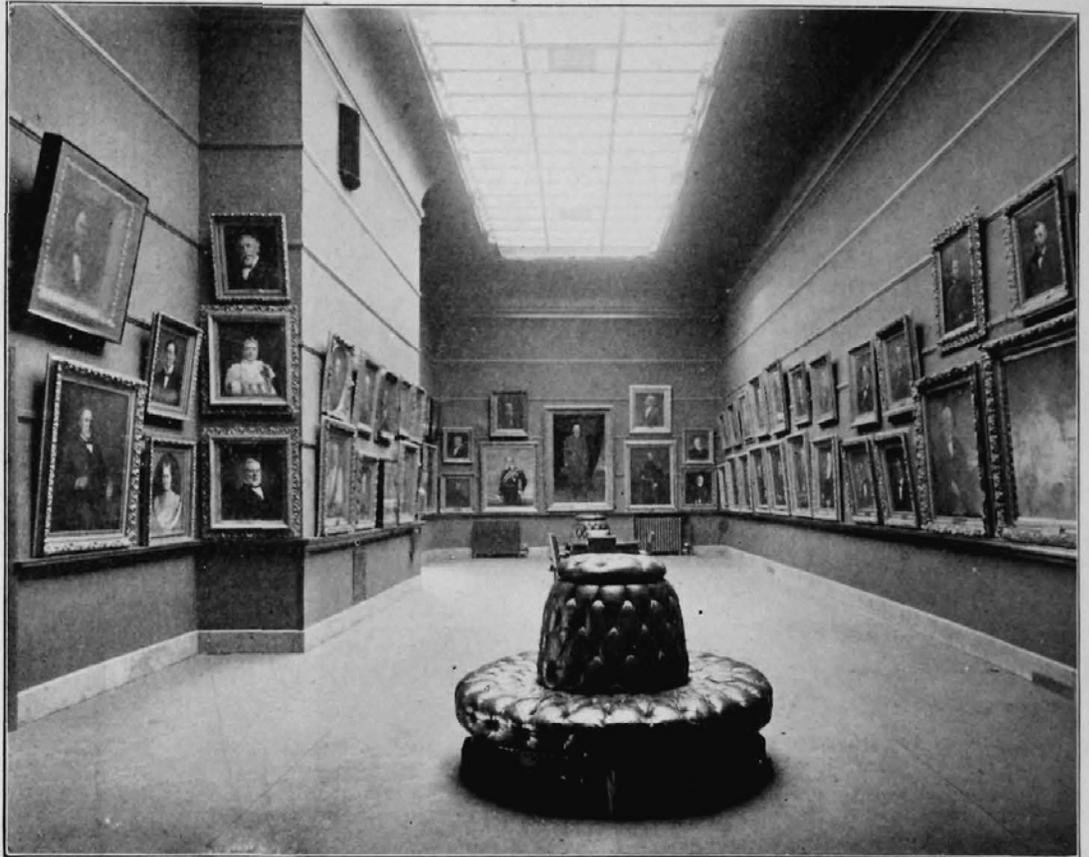
EDGAR R. HARLAN

Curator of the State Historical Department of Iowa

the average Iowa man and woman for aids to culture. Members of the Supreme Court never lack the attainment that best fits men for administering their trust; attainment for which are noted the men who have built or are building the great libraries, galleries and museums of the older communities. Secretary Hayward has been devoted to the enterprise of education all his life, and for the most part in the city of Davenport, where culture is part of the atmosphere, and where the atmosphere is surcharged with history. Superintendent Riggs has freely given of his fine scholarship for a longer period

than any others of the Board except certain of the Court, of whom Chief Justice Deemer and Justice Ladd have served longest and have given most heavily of their time and talent. Justices Weaver and McClain, Sherwin and Evans have each given vital aid on the Board and particularly on the most important committees.

The institution is arresting waste of materials that evidence our state's development. It stimulates, through the museum method of education, the public taste for culture. By the celebration of accomplishment it is inspiring the present generation to emulate that



Section of Oil Portrait Gallery

nobility of character which so strongly marked the early men of Iowa.

Another of the forces not always recognized or understood by the public, and whose favor toward the needs of the Department and of the people who appreciate and make use of it has counted for so much is The Executive Council of the state. Of its membership also are the Governor and Sec-

retary of State with the Auditor and State Treasurer. The Council controls and administers the funds for physical equipment. Department needs represented to them results in the supply of cases, furniture, betterments to the building and attention to the details of safety to the property and adequacy of means for its best use.



**Harlan, Edgar Rubey**

(February 28, 1869–July 13, 1941)

—attorney and museum curator—was born in Spartansburg, Indiana, the son of Samuel Alexander Harlan and Marinda Ellen (Rubey) Harlan. At a young age Harlan moved with his parents to Van Buren County, Iowa. He graduated from Keosauqua High School in 1889 and received his law degree from Drake University Law School in 1896. He married Minnie C. Duffield in 1897 and was elected Van Buren County Attorney in 1898.

In the early 1900s Harlan helped his father-in-law, George Duffield, prepare his reminiscences of early pioneer life in Van Buren County for publication in the *Annals of Iowa*. Thus began his relationship with Charles Aldrich, the first curator and director of the Iowa Historical Department. Aldrich convinced Harlan to give up his law practice and brought him to Des Moines to serve as his assistant in 1907. Upon Aldrich's death in 1908, Harlan served as acting curator until he was appointed curator in 1909. He oversaw the development and expansion of the department's museum, library, and archival collections for the next 28 years until his retirement in 1937. He also served as editor of the *Annals of Iowa*, a publication of the department.

Harlan had special interests in early pioneer history and the Mormon Trail, but he was especially interested in the Indians of Iowa, particularly the Meskwaki. Harlan was adopted as a member of the tribe in the early 1920s. Besides expanding the Meskwaki collections, he conducted and transcribed interviews with tribal elders. On his farm near Altoona in 1927, he brought in Meskwaki elders to build a village for use in an educational program for Des Moines teachers. Following the program, later published in the *Annals of Iowa* as the "Indian Life School," tribal members held a first annual powwow for the public. Harlan was responsible for significant acquisitions of the museum's American Indian collections, especially materials from the northern plains tribes.

Harlan championed the continued development of the natural history collections by supporting the work of Thompson Van Hyning, later the first director of the Florida Museum of Natural History, and by bringing on staff the accomplished taxidermist Joseph Steppan. Steppan mounted specimens of animals native to Iowa that remain as important elements of the museum's collection.

In the 1920s and 1930s Harlan used the press to give the museum a presence all over the state. He featured particular artifacts from the museum collections in stories that were carried by newspapers throughout Iowa. He created traveling trunk exhibits that were borrowed by teachers and shipped to their schools by rail.

During and following World War I, Harlan initiated efforts to document Iowans' service in the war. He championed plans for an addition to the museum building to function as a veterans' memorial and exhibit wing. The stock market crash of 1929 and the following [economic] depression killed those plans.

As secretary of the Iowa State Board of Conservation, he was critically involved in establishing Backbone State Park, Iowa's first state park, in 1920, followed closely in 1921 by Lacey-Keosauqua State Park near his boyhood home in Van Buren County. Harlan served state government in other roles, including service on the William Boyd Allison Memorial Commission, Grenville M. Dodge Memorial Commission, and the Revolutionary Soldiers Grave Commission. He served as a technical adviser to the Iowa State Planning Board in the creation of its 1935 report.

Sources: The Edgar R. Harlan Papers are held by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. A small collection of his personal papers, six scrapbooks, and photo albums are in Special Collections, Drake University Library, Des Moines. See also *Annals of Iowa* 19 (1933–1935), 115–25, 221–34, 352–62; *Annals of Iowa* 20 (1935–1937), 123–39, 510–26; and *Annals of Iowa* 23 (1941–1942), 150–52, 156–57, 253, 277–86, 316.

Contributor: Jerome Thompson

Cite as: Thompson, Jerome. "Harlan, Edgar Rubey" *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*. University of Iowa Press, 2009. Web. 30 April 2013

## A WELL KNOWN ARCHITECT



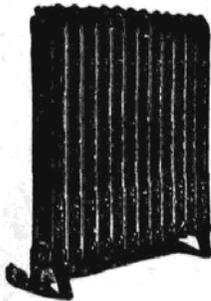
OLIVER O. SMITH

Oliver O. Smith, the well known architect, is a native of Des Moines and received his education in the public schools of the city. Since 1891 Mr. Smith has

been a successful architect in Iowa and has stood in the front rank in his profession. His energy, united to the highest gifts for his work, have enabled him to accomplish what few men of his age have done, and have caused his name to be known far and wide. His work is evidence of his splendid ability, and the poetic and artistic faculty is evidenced in everything from the simplest cottage to the grandest public building. Mr. Smith was a member of the firm of Smith, Wetherell & Gage until recently and at one time was associated with F. A. Guttererson, which was considered to be the best architectural firm in Iowa.

Mr. Smith's work has been chiefly public buildings, libraries, school houses, court houses, fine churches, etc. All of the buildings on the state fair grounds were planned by him. His residence work has ranged from the most splendid houses to the simplest bungalows. Many of the finest homes in Des Moines and many Iowa towns are evidence of his ability in that line.

Mr. Smith is of the progressive and enthusiastic type of architect with whom it is a delight to work, and his associates in all of his enterprises have only good words for him. As one of the men whose fine ability has helped to make Des Moines in an architectural way, **The Midwestern** is proud to present this little sketch of him. His offices are Suite 300, Youngerman building.



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Des Moines, Iowa



THE IOWA HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL AND ART BUILDING AT  
DES MOINES—FIRE PROOF

## Quick Way Through the Historical Building

To Top Floor by Elevator or Stairs  
War Exhibit—Indian Relics—Daniel Boone Rifle

### DOWN TO SECOND FLOOR

Mounted Animals—Portraits

### DOWN TO GROUND FLOOR

Prairie Schooner—Artillery—Stage Coach

### UP TO MAIN FLOOR

Letters of George Washington and Other Noted Men  
Painting of General Dodge on Horseback

### East Wing—Main Floor

Iowa State Library, 75,000 Books  
Johnson Brigham, State Librarian

### Ground Floor

Iowa Library Commission, Traveling Library  
Miss Julia Robinson, Secretary

### West Wing—All Floors

Historical Department of Iowa  
E. R. Harlan, Curator

### OUTSIDE DOOR

# The Des Moines News

IOWA'S HOME NEWSPAPER

Monday, November 6, 1911

## STATE MEDICAL LIBRARY IS ASKED BY LIBRARIAN HERE

A state medical library, available to every physician in the state, will be established by the next general assembly. If the recommendation of the state librarian, Johnson Brigham, is followed.

A large room in the historical building has already been set apart, steel bookcases installed and 140 medical books belonging to the Drake Medical school, which recently closed, turned over to the library board.

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February 8, 1919

## *Law Librarian Has Best Collection In U. S.*

Twenty-three may be a hoodoo number for some people, but not for Arthur J. Small, state law librarian.

The proof of this is the fact that after serving 23 years as head of this branch of the state library, he was recently re-elected for another six-year term, and as heretofore, without a dissenting vote of the members of the Board of Trustees.

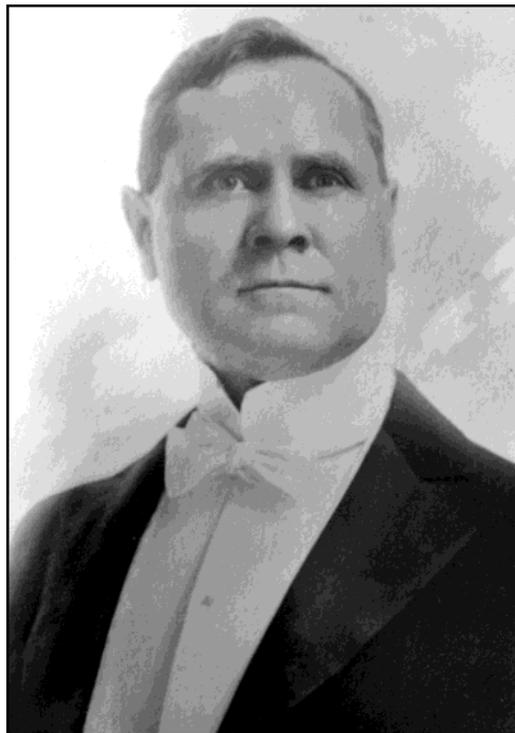
Small started his connection with the library when it was but a fragment of the present splendid collection and his biography since then is closely woven with the history of Iowa's law and legislative reference department.

### **Honored Three Times**

The law librarian has been president of three national organizations and presided over five national meetings, these conventions being held at points ranging from Naragansett Pier, R. I., to Pasadena, Cal.

He was first president and founder of the National Law Librarians' Association and has been president of the National State Librarians' Association, and at the present time is president of the Smalls of America.

The Small family is of Puritan stock and



**A. J. Small**

their forefather landed at Cape Cod in 1625. They are numerous in New England. One of Librarian Small's grandfathers once owned a tract of land 20 miles square in Maine, a tract that now contains four villages. His grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War and his

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father in the Civil War.

### **Collector of Antiques**

With an ancestry he can trace back for hundreds of years, it is not surprising that the librarian should have a particular interest in things of the past and that his hobby should be collecting antiques.

In his personal collection of curios, he has many dishes of several famous patterns, some 250 years old. Some silver spoons belonging to his great-grandmother are in his collection and a spoon mold for making pewter spoons, which dates back to the 16th century. Tho he has visited many museums, Small has seen but one other such mold.

Bullet molds, old candlesticks and a spinning wheel are among his possessions, as well as some ancient chairs that would fill a collector with envy.

Small came to Iowa from Maine in 1884, removing to Des Moines in 1889, where he has since resided. He was appointed assistant state librarian by Governor Drake, May 1, 1896, and served as such until the library consolidation act of 1900, when he was elected to the position he holds now.

### **One-Third Present Size**

The state library was but one-third its present size in 1896, and the historical building but a visionary dream of the late Charles Aldrich.

Now the law library alone has nearly 100,000 volumes and is acknowledged to be one of the best in the whole country.

Some idea of the scope of this library can be gained from the fact that it contains laws from far-off India, South Africa, South Australia,

Japan, and the islands of the sea.

### **Old Law Books**

Coming nearer home, the collection contains the laws of Canada, dating back to the 16th century—the time of the French occupation; the statutes of the Irish Parliament dating back to the 17th century, and the laws of Scotland, going back several centuries before Queen Mary was executed by Queen Elizabeth.

Naturally, there is much English law to be found in the library, dating from the time of the Magna Charta to modern times, and including the work of such master minds as Bracton, Blackstone and Lord Coke.

Here, also, will be found the debates of the English Parliament as far back as 1066. One of the rarest sets are four large folios known as the “Dooms Day Book,” in which are the first accounts of recorded transfers of property in the British Empire.

Some of the old volumes were printed in old black letter type of wood upon hand presses and before the English language became general. The earliest are in Latin and later in Norman French.

### **Our Early Laws**

Many have pigskin covers, sewed with rawhide, and, most remarkable of all, they are printed on paper which far surpasses the paper made today and with ink of a superior quality.

The books of greatest interest to the average person, however, will be the early laws of this country, including the “Blue Laws” of Connecticut in 1650, when it was a crime to kiss your wife on Sunday, and a capital offense to steal a neighbor’s sheep.

# IOWA

A GUIDE TO THE HAWKEYE STATE



*Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the  
Works Progress Administration for the State of Iowa*

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

ILLUSTRATED



*Sponsored by The State Historical Society of Iowa  
to Commemorate  
The Centenary of the Organization of Iowa Territory*

THE VIKING PRESS · NEW YORK

MCMXXXVIII

# ***Iowa: A Guide to the Hawkeye State***

To commemorate  
The Centenary of the Organization of Iowa Territory

*The Viking Press, New York*

MCMXXXVIII

*First Published in August 1938*

*Copyright 1938 by the State Historical Society of Iowa Legislature Printed in the  
U.S.A. by the Stratford Press*

STATE HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL, AND ART BUILDING, NW corner E. 12th St. and Grand Avenue, houses some of the state's most valuable collections. The Historical, Memorial, and Art Department of Iowa was founded by Charles Aldrich, the first curator, who presented a collection of autographs to the trustees of the State Library in 1884. The department was originally quartered in the State Capitol. Later, the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly arranged for the purchase of a site and the erection of a building, and Governor Leslie M. Shaw laid the cornerstone May 17, 1899.

The edifice, completed in 1900, is constructed of stone from Le Grand Township in Marshall County. Four Ionic columns surmounted by an eagle with wings outspread adorn the entrance, which is Italian Renaissance in style. The central structure, topped with a stone dome, is flanked by east and west wings, their cornices bearing, respectively, the legends, "Library" and "Museum." The building is 260 feet by 110 feet, and 96 feet in height, including the dome. After Aldrich's death, his assistant, Edgar Rubey Harlan of Keosauqua, was appointed curator.

In the Historical Department, left wing, main floor is the ALDRICH AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION, which includes a manuscript page from Darwin's *The Origin of Species*; a chapter from Macaulay's *The History of England*; and, among famous signatures, those of John Quincy Adams, Napoleon Bonaparte, Edgar Allan Poe, and John Greenleaf Whittier.

The HISTORICAL LIBRARY room, adjoining, contains about 38,000 volumes, including 3,513 works of Iowa authors, among them two novels dealing with phases of life in *Des Moines State Fair* by Phil Stong and *Capitol City* by Ruth Stewart. Among the valuable references are: *Annals of Iowa* collection; complete histories of each of the 99 counties; a section devoted to works on primitive tribes; and biographies of men associated with the state: John Brown, William F. Cody, and others. *The North American Crinoidea Camerata*, a monumental three-volume work by Charles Wachsmuth and Frank Springer, contains references to

fossils found at Keokuk, Burlington, Le Grand, and Pleasant Grove, Iowa. GRENVILLE M. DODGE MEMORIAL ROOM, west wing, main floor, contains papers and photographs that belonged to General Dodge, as well as maps and blue-prints used in building the Union Pacific Railroad. Just beyond, at the extreme west, is the EMERSON HOUGH MEMORIAL ROOM, containing correspondence of the author and pages from original manuscripts.

Maps, manuscripts, and a large collection of bound newspapers are housed in the basement of the building. The oldest paper on file is an issue of the *Boston Chronicle*, dated January 4, 1768. A file of the *Du Buque Visitor*, the first newspaper published on Iowa soil, is also in the collection. An INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT of carriages and automobiles in the basement represents early modes and methods of transportation. Pioneer implements of trade and manufacture in Iowa are likewise displayed.

THE GENERAL DIVISION of the Iowa State Library, east wing of the main floor, mezzanine and second floors, includes all classes of books. There is a Medical Department, a large file of leading American publications, outstanding English, Irish, and Scotch reviews, and also some in French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The Norse collection of Oriental literature consists of texts and translations from Arabic, Persian, Chinese, and Sanskrit.

Portraits of 134 Iowa territorial and state governors and of other prominent citizens hang in the second floor PORTRAIT GALLERY. In the MUSEUM opening from the portrait gallery, swords and pistols, canteens, flags, and relics, recall Iowans who fought in the Civil War. Looms, wheels, frows, hoes, sickles, flails, and cradles perpetuate the memory of early settlers, and there is also a varied collection of mounted animals. The third floor MUSEUM, a continuation of the Historical Department, is devoted to prehistoric and early Indian objects. A wikiup, or native hut, is an interesting item. Documentary material from the various state departments are in the ARCHIVES DIVISION, in the west wing of the third floor. The WORLD WAR ROOM, also on the third floor, has a collection of portraits, said to include the photograph of every Iowan who took part in the World War. Guns, helmets, posters, and autographs of statesmen and generals of the war period form the bulk of the display.

IOWA TRAVELING LIBRARY, managed by the Iowa Library Commission, has its offices in the east wing, ground floor, of the Historical Building.

The Capitol grounds, more than 93 landscaped acres, extend from East Grand Avenue to the railroad tracks, between East Ninth and East 13<sup>th</sup> streets. The hilltop is landscaped with formal gardens, with sloping lawns broken here and there by patches of shrubbery, groups of trees, and paths and roadways extending west and south.

# The Oelwein Daily Register.

Full Leased Wire Report of TODAY'S Important Events of the World by Automatic Printer Service.

Oelwein, Iowa

Tuesday, March 12, 1940

## HISTORICAL GOVERNMENT AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Des Moines, Ia., March 12.—(IDPA)—Collection, preservation and exhibition of Iowa's natural and recorded history, research work, and publication of a quarterly magazine are among the duties of the Iowa historical department.

The historical department was founded in 1892 and in 1924 the name was changed to the historical, memorial and art department and it was placed under a board of trustees. The 1939 legislature again changed the name to the state department of history and archives and created a board of trustees composed of the governor, the superintendent of public instruction and one member of the supreme court, to be designated by the court. The court has designated its chief justice.

The trustees are empowered to make and enforce rules for keeping records, manage and care for property in the department, and supervise expenditures. They have control of the historical building and must assign space in it to be occupied by the department and libraries. They meet at least three times during each year at the call of the chairman.

Present trustees are Gov. George A. Wilson, Des Moines republican, Supt. of Public Instruction Jessie M. Parker, Lake Mills republican, and Chief Justice W. H. Hamilton, Sigourney democrat.

Actual supervision of the museum and the divisions of the department is delegated to the curator who is appointed by the trustees for a term of six years. He may be removed only for cause by a two-thirds vote of the trustees, and is appointed solely upon merit with no consideration for political affiliation, under the Iowa law. Present curator is Ora Williams, Des

Moines republican, whose term expires June 30, 1945. His salary is \$2,400 annually.

Under the direction and approval of the trustees, the curator is the custodian of the historical building and its collections. It is his duty to collect, preserve, organize, arrange and classify the works of art, books, maps, charts, public documents, manuscripts, newspapers, and all other objects and materials illustrative of the natural and political history of Iowa.

The curator is also the custodian of the archives of Iowa and of all county and municipal archives which are voluntarily deposited. All manuscripts and materials originating under or passing through the hands of public officials in the regular course of their duties, over 10 years old and not in use, are classed as state archives. The executive council has the power to transfer any such material at any time it thinks fit.

Principal divisions of the department:

**STATE ARCHIVES:** Official papers are made public documents after 10 years have elapsed. Records now date from 1838, including the papers of Iowa's three territorial governors. Less than one-third of the archives, at present, are immediately accessible, with the rest stored in vaults and tunnels. Lack of space and funds has prohibited classification of archives for the last 10 years.

**PUBLIC MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS:** More than 300 collections, mostly relating to Iowa's territorial days. Included are those of Grenville M. Dodge, building of the Union Pacific railway, and Senator William B. Allison, early congressional leader.

**HISTORICAL LIBRARY:** Contains more than 45,000 volumes. It is becoming noted

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for its complete genealogical collections and data.

**NEWSPAPERS:** One basement wing of the historical building is devoted to the 19,000 volumes of newspapers in the collection, of which more than 14,000 are strictly Iowa newspapers.

**HISTORICAL ART GALLERY:** Consists mainly of portraits of distinguished Iowa statesmen and public leaders.

**AUTOGRAPHS:** The autographs of all the presidents of the United States are collected in this section, as well as autographs of other famous men and women of Iowa and the world.

**ANNALS OF IOWA:** A quarterly publication started in 1893. It is more or less devoted to early Iowa history. It contains research and contributed articles. Its 1,000 circulation goes to newspapers, schools, colleges, libraries and to private subscribers.

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM:** This is confined chiefly to materials illustrative of Iowa's history. It is heavily used by schools in the vicinity of the capital for educational purposes. Distinct divisions in the museum include: Indian relics and exhibits of the Sac, Fox and Sioux tribes; development of natural history museum—12 different cases of exhibits are available for schools and clubs; transportation and agriculture exhibits, containing one of the finest examples of Conestoga or "covered" wagons in the United States, and what was supposedly the first automobile in the state, a steam locomobile made about 1894; and pioneer and war period exhibits.

Appropriations to the department by the 1939 legislature totaled \$27,000 for each year of the biennium.

Permanent headquarters are located in the historical building directly northeast of the capitol. Cornerstone of the \$375,000 building was laid in 1899. It was completed in 1910, and contains 51,000 square-feet of floor space.

The department employs 17 persons. Monthly payroll totals approximately \$1,997.30.

Purposes of the state historical society are to preserve the history of Iowa and further its dissemination among the people of the state. It is maintained under the auspices of the University of Iowa and in close cooperation with it.

Organized in 1857, the society serves as a quasi-public body. Membership dues are \$3 annually or \$50 for life. There now are 1,100 active members and 27 auxiliary members.

Affairs of the society are managed by a board of curators consisting of 18 persons, nine of whom are elected by the members and nine appointed by the governor. The term of office is two years and there is no compensation connected with the positions.

Curators appointed by the governor, with the exception of one vacancy which has not been filled, include: E. P. Chase, Atlantic; W. W. Waymack, Des Moines; H. O. Bernbrock, Waterloo; T. Henry Foster, Ottumwa; Mrs. H. E. Jarey, Spirit Lake; Mrs. Ralph Henderson, Sioux City; Granger P. Mitchell, Fort Dodge, and Mrs. H. C. Houghton, Jr., Red Oak. All terms of the governor-appointed curators expire June 26, 1940.

Curators elected by the society, whose terms expire June 23, 1941, include Marvin H. Dey, Thomas Farrell, R. H. Volland, Merritt C. Spiedel, R. G. Popham, William R. Hart, R. A. Fenton, Burton V. Bridenstine, and Harry R. Jenkinson, all of Iowa City.

Officers of the society are Marvin H. Dey, president; Lee Nagle, Iowa City, treasurer, and Prof. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Iowa City, superintendent and editor; and Ethyl E. Martin, Iowa City, assistant superintendent.

Professor Shambaugh receives \$3,000 annual salary as superintendent in addition to his salary as a university professor which is approximately \$4,370 a-year.

The board of curators is the executive board of the society. Five members constitute a quorum, and a majority of the members must live in the vicinity of the university. It must keep a full account of all its doing and the

*Continued on next page*

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receipts and expenditures of all funds, and must make a biennial report to the governor.

The permanent program of activities developed includes: (1) discovery, collection and preservation of materials relating to Iowa history; (2) carrying out historical studies and research; (3) publication of the materials and results of the research, and maintenance of a library and collections, and (4) dissemination of the materials through public depositories and members.

The society publishes the monthly pamphlet, "The Palimpsest," the quarterly magazine, "The Iowa Journal of History and Politics," and numerous other volumes of biographical and

historical work.

The society maintains no museum, and its work is mainly research. It has valuable collections of manuscripts and newspapers. Its library now contains about 87,000 titles, and there are 190 official depositories within the state. These depositories consist of specially designated college and public libraries which receive the society's publications free and in turn make them available to the public.

The society's appropriation for each year of the 1939-41 biennium by the 1939 legislature was \$36,000. Headquarters are located on the fourth floor of Schaeffer hall at the University of Iowa. The society has seven employees.

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# The Des Moines Register

February 14, 1972

## Browse Into Iowa's Past At Museum

By Christine Hansen

From the prehistoric mastodon tusk on the third floor to the more modern 1905 Cadillac in the basement, the Iowa State Historical Museum has fascinated young and old for years.

Now the only building in the statehouse complex open on weekends, the museum is a popular spot for anyone wanting to browse into the Iowa past.

More out-of-town persons come on Sunday to peer through the glass cases and stop a hand in mid-touch when they see the "do not touch" signs, according to a security guard at the building.

While school groups often jam the building during the week, the weekend pace usually is more leisurely with families and groups of teenagers pointing and dreaming as they wander through the rooms of displays.

Several generations of families often come together and grandparents can't resist pointing out the things commonplace in their childhood that now are considered relics.

Mrs. Margaret Felt of 2620 Fortieth Place was there Sunday with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Eldridge of 2008 Seventy-fourth St., and grandchildren and said she is a regular visitor to the museum.

Mrs. Felt said she has been coming the State Historical Department since she was a child—"and that's some time ago."

She used to bring her daughter to see the wagons, fossils, stuffed animals and Indian relics and now she brings the grandchildren.

"There are things here that are exactly the same way they were when I was a little girl, but I never get tired of looking at them," Mrs. Felt



### Sunday Museum Visitor

Amy Newell, 2 & 1/2, points out her favorite antique china doll to her father, Mike Newell, during their trip to the Iowa State Historical Museum Sunday.

(Photo by Des Moines Register ©Copyright 1972)

added.

Due to a limited staff, one first-floor section of the museum must be closed on weekends. It contains many of the smaller and more exclusive items in the state collection, such as the pipe once owned by George Washington.

However, the remainder of the museum is more than enough to fill a day of adventuring.

One group enjoying the state's collection of ancient, old and unusual on Sunday was from Gladbrook. Rita Connell said she and her friends, now all high school juniors, came to the historical museum once before on a sixth grade school trip.

"We just decided to see all the things we saw before but didn't really get to look at very long," Rita said. "We're studying American history now in school and so these things mean more to us now."

The displays call back memories and give opportunities for story telling to older visitors.

"I bet that wouldn't do over 20 miles an hour," a teen-age boy remarked to his father as they surveyed the "Milburn Electric" car used by former Iowa Gov. George W. Clarke between 1919 and 1940.

The father acknowledged that the black car with inside curtains and wide running boards probably would win no speed contests, but launched into a "I remember when . . ." story relating an experience with a similar car when both car and man were young.

The museum building at E. Twelfth Street and Grand Avenue is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and also houses the State Historical Library, Iowa Medical Library and the offices of the Annals of Iowa, the State Traveling Library, census records and newspaper files.

# Des Moines Sunday Register

## Why Jack Musgrove is tired and angry

By JOHN PIAZZA/Photos by DAVID FINCH

**A**fter 40 years as the keeper of the "great albatross," Jack Musgrove is tired. He's fed up, disgusted. But nobody seems to care. Musgrove spends his days poring over records, combing the great halls of the Iowa State Historical Museum in search of empty spaces — but to his dismay, there are none.

Beneath an ancient Conestoga wagon, a vehicle which once transported a pioneer family from the eastern seaboard across the great prairies, sits a mighty fine ox yoke. But nobody sees it.

Behind a venerable Maytag automobile are hundreds of one-of-a-kind farm implements from days gone by. But nobody sees them, either.

And in a four-foot-high sub-basement, is a line of crumbling spinning wheels. They are packed between rotting cardboard boxes and lodged under a rusting steam pipe. They, too remain unseen.

In the quiet stately halls above, Iowa's own Civil War general, Grenville M. Dodge, seems almost ready to weep as the edges of his once proud portrait wither away.

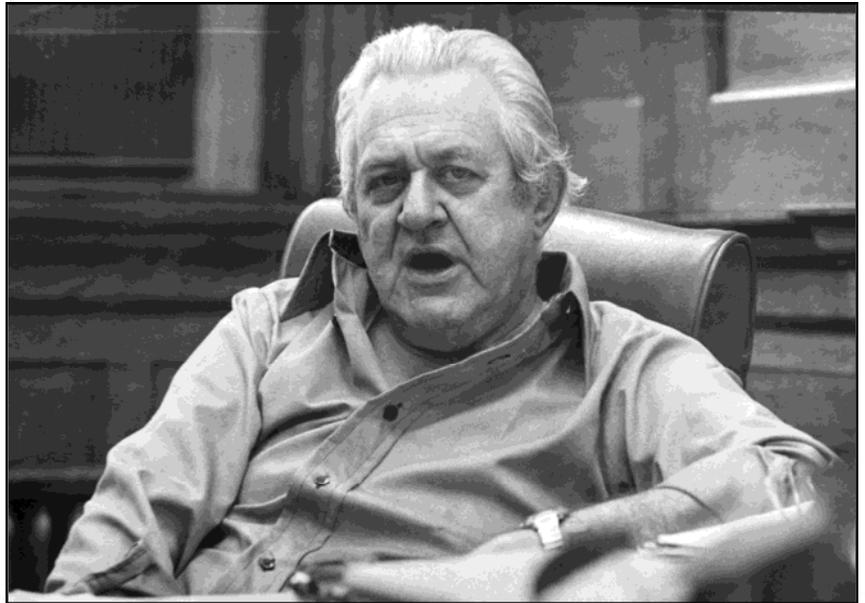
Musgrove also is very angry. As curator of the museum for the last 40 years, Musgrove's job has been to play nursemaid to the forgotten pieces of Iowa's past. His is a world of antiquity, where life is measured by the number of rotting newspapers from tiny Iowa hamlets — newspapers that can be reproduced on microfilm before they totally disintegrate.

They say at night the building talks to you. As the visitor creeps down a corridor lined with portraits of Iowa's governors, the great debates of the past come alive. But something else is happening here. The past is dying. And it is dying fast.

The germ killing it is money — a lack of it, Musgrove says.

The museum was filled to capacity 40-years ago when he took over, Musgrove says, and since then the collection of remnants of the state's history has doubled. Some smaller exhibits are hung behind larger ones — invisible to the eye of the youngster on a field trip.

Even worse, other exhibits are slowly being destroyed by nature. Because the building, completed in 1908, has no climate or humidity



Above: Jack Musgrove

(Photo by David Finch, ©Copyright Des Moines Register 1977)

control — as do modern museums — paintings, soldiers' uniforms, and countless other exhibits slowly rot away.

On the third floor, where light streams in through large windows, more problems develop. Natural light, needed by house plants and growing children, can ring the death knell to many of the museum's artifacts. Modern museums, Musgrove says, have covered their windows or done away with them completely.

Then there is Musgrove's greatest nightmare, which he hopes never becomes reality:

*It's 2 p.m. A young schoolteacher has just walked up to the third floor of the building with 20 members of her third-grade class.*

*She is pointing out this and that when all of a sudden she smells a whiff of smoke.*

*In the basement, the great stacks of newspapers which date back into the 1800s have somehow caught fire. The blaze spreads quickly, and then, somehow, the fiber-winged aircraft suspended between the floors begins to burn. The wooden floors ignite, as do the walls that have been covered with countless layers of paint.*

*There are flames in the stairwell. Smoke gushes into the hallways — the books stored in the medical library on the top floor begin to burn.*

*There is screaming — pandemonium.*

*The teacher herds her charges*

*away from the open stairwell and searches for the nearest fire escape.*

But there are no fire escapes. Only the open stairwell.

So, a building owned and operated by the state of Iowa is, without question, a firetrap.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Reynold Hentges puts it this way:

"From a fire safety point of view, the building is lousy."

Hentges said when he personally inspected the museum 12 years ago, he warned state officials the building violated state fire codes because of the lack of fire escapes; the lack of any type of sprinkler system, and the inability of firefighters to quell a blaze effectively if one ever broke out.

Who is responsible and what should be done?

"It isn't mine to question," Hentges says, "all we can do is show them where the problems are and suggest ways to clear them up."

Imagine another scene:

*Some malicious prankster, or perhaps a thief, decides to embark on an adventure. He creeps through the night to the front of the*

museum, and just about on ground level, he spies a window. Soon he is inside. Alone. Except for one unarmed guard who dutifully patrols the hallowed halls.

The damage someone like that could do in a very short amount of time is just amazing, Musgrove says.

But the problems don't stop there. Say, for example, some benevolent soul decides to give the museum an antique automobile.

"Forget it," Musgrove warns, "We have no place to put it." A few years back, Musgrove accepted the gift of a rare Maytag automobile that was manufactured in Iowa.

"Come hell or high water, >>>



This lady has a look inside of a vintage car.

there's no way you ever could turn down something like that. So you stay awake at night and pace the floor trying to figure out something to do with it and how in God's name you can ever even get it inside the building," Musgrove says.

That problem was solved, but not without more than a little effort and ingenuity. The Maytag made it through the doors of the museum with less than one-eighth of an inch clearance, Musgrove reported. Other exhibits had to be stored away to make room for the car. Those displaced items remain far from the public view.

Then there's the Dunlap Room. In a family of museum stepchildren, the Dunlap Room fares no better than a third cousin twice removed.

The visitor is ushered down a narrow, creaking stairway that leads downward from the museum's basement. Stooping at the waist and eyeing every step, the visitor clanks his head against a light fixture and a steam pipe.

The brick and stone floor is damp, a remembrance of a spring rain when wayward water found its way down here.

A row of ancient spinning wheels, once prized above all by turn-of-the-century farm wives, sit shakily. Their ornately carved legs have begun to rot from April rains which have soaked them to the bone.

Off to the side are World War I relics rusting into nothingness. Cardboard boxes which fill the dark room stink from years of dampness.

But the Dunlap Room holds a more frightening potential.

"Suppose a fire broke out down there or spread down there," says Hentges. "There is absolutely no way a fireman could even get there to put it out. It would be disaster not only because of the valuable items that would be destroyed, but also because of the obvious possibility of injury or loss of life."

Musgrove and the State Historical Board have been trying to find a remedy. But their efforts have borne little fruit.

They have proposed a study be conducted to plan a new museum. Musgrove estimates the cost of such a study could run more than \$40,000. Unless the Iowa Legislature appropriates that kind of money, things will stay the way they are. So far, no such appropriation has been made.

"History is the stepchild of government," Musgrove says. "It becomes easy to forget where we came from when all people think about is where we're going."

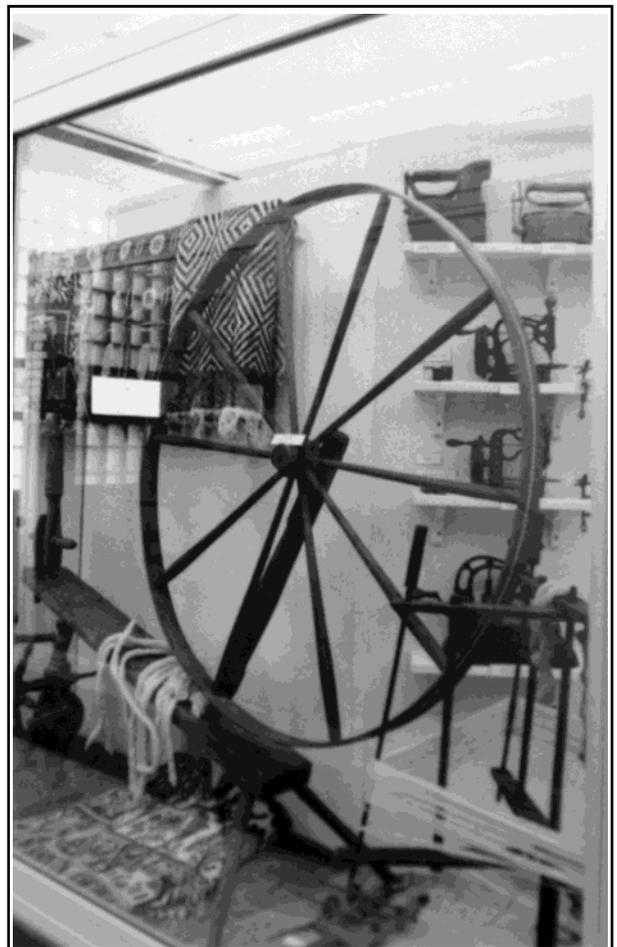
"Sometimes I get so frustrated with this place that I feel like I've spent the last 40 years trying to bail out a sinking battleship with a teaspoon," he says. □



John Phipps inspects military gear and arms in the basement. There's no room to display it in the museum.



Above: Children love the covered wagons.  
Right: A spinning wheel is one of the several pioneer household items on display.



# The Des Moines Register

Wednesday, September 28, 1977

## Museum chief criticizes Capitol complex addition

By BONNIE WITTENBURG

Register Staff Writer

Plans to expand a state building near the State Historical Building will destroy the "imposing appearance" of the museum, Museum Director Jack Musgrove charged Tuesday.

State officials learned Monday that Iowa has been awarded a \$2.6 million federal public works grant for an addition to the Vocational Rehabilitation Center, but only if construction begins within 90 days.

Musgrove believes state officials are more concerned about getting the federal money than they are about the appearance of the Capitol complex. "Federal grants and federal money make people greedy," Musgrove said.

As planned, the addition to the Vocational Rehabilitation Center in the 1000 block of Des Moines Street would be constructed on an open, grassy area surrounding the Historical Building, north of the Capitol on Grand Avenue. The existing Vocational Rehabilitation Center, a long, rectangular building running parallel to Grand Avenue, is behind the Historical Building.

"The Historical Building is an imposing, dignified looking structure," said Musgrove. "Iowans can ill afford to lose some of the little

bit of green that remains around state buildings."

### "Hastily Drawn"

Musgrove said it appears the plans were hastily drawn. He said he didn't learn of intentions to build the wing next to his building until he saw workers marking the area with stakes Friday.

He said he began asking questions and was invited to a "hurried-up meeting" of the Capitol Planning Commission Tuesday morning. The meeting had been called to approve or disapprove the building plans.

After visiting the site, commission members voted to approve the plans.

An addition to the vocational-rehabilitation center has been talked

about for three years, McCausland said.

But where and if that addition would be built and how close it would come to the Historical Building was not worked out until recent weeks when it became apparent federal money would be available to pay for it.

McCausland said there is need to move quickly because the state will not receive the \$2.6 million federal grant awarded Monday for the building unless ground is broken within 90 days.

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McCausland said. Also during that time, he said, an old power plant — which now stands on a spot to be partially used by the addition — will be torn down.

"If we don't break ground in 90 days," McCausland said, "they'll say, 'General Services, who?' and we'll have to pay for it ourselves."

McCausland said he knew Iowa had a good chance to receive the money when he applied to the U. S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration in mid-August.

### Emergency Powers

And, he said, he knew the state would have to move quickly if work was to be started within the 90-day deadline. Consequently, he said, he also used his "emergency" powers to hire the architect of the Wallace Building — Durrant Group, Inc., of

Dubuque — to begin working on plans before the federal money was awarded.

McCausland said the \$138,500 contract contained an escape clause calling for the state to pay only \$17,000 for preliminary plans had the grant not been awarded.

McCausland said he is especially happy about the \$2.6 million grant because of limited state funds. He said a request for \$2 million for the addition was denied by legislators last year.

"We're not a bottomless pit," he said of state money.

Commission members present at Tuesday's meeting were McCausland, James Hubbell of Des Moines, State Senator Bass Van Gilst (Dem., Oskaloosa), State Representative Glenn Brockett of Marshalltown (Rep., Marshalltown) and Harold McCormick of Manchester.

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## The Des Moines Register

Friday, October 21, 1977

# MUSEUM STUDY FUNDS ASKED

By **BONNIE WITTENBERG**

Register Staff Writer

The state Capitol Planning Commission will seek \$50,000 from the Iowa Legislature to finance planning for a new state historical building, State Representative Glenn Brockett (Rep., Marshalltown) said Thursday.

He said the request will be made to Gov. Robert Ray, who will decide whether to include the request in the

budget he presents to the Iowa Legislature.

Jack Musgrove, museum director, long has sought a new building. The present facility is overcrowded and has no humidity controls. It also has inadequate fire exits.

If money is appropriated next year to plan a new structure, the commission will ask for more money the following year to build it, Brockett

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said. The architect hired with the \$50,000 would provide estimates on how much a new structure would cost, he added.

The commission has discussed a new historical building other years, but this is the first time the group has decided to ask Ray to include the asking in his budget recommendations, Brockett said.

Brockett said the feasibility study for a new historical building is the only new construction project being requested for next year by the commission.

Musgrove recently tangled with the

commission over its plans to build an addition onto the Vocational-Rehabilitation Center that will take away some of the grassy area around the present Historical Building. The Vocational-Rehabilitation Center is north of the Historical Building.

Commission members unanimously approving the request for a feasibility study were: Brockett, State Senator Bass Van Gilst (Dem., Oskaloosa), Harold McCormick of Manchester, James Hubbell of Des Moines, and State General Services Director Stanley McCausland.

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# Excerpts from Historical Department Biennial Reports and Legislation 1890-1908

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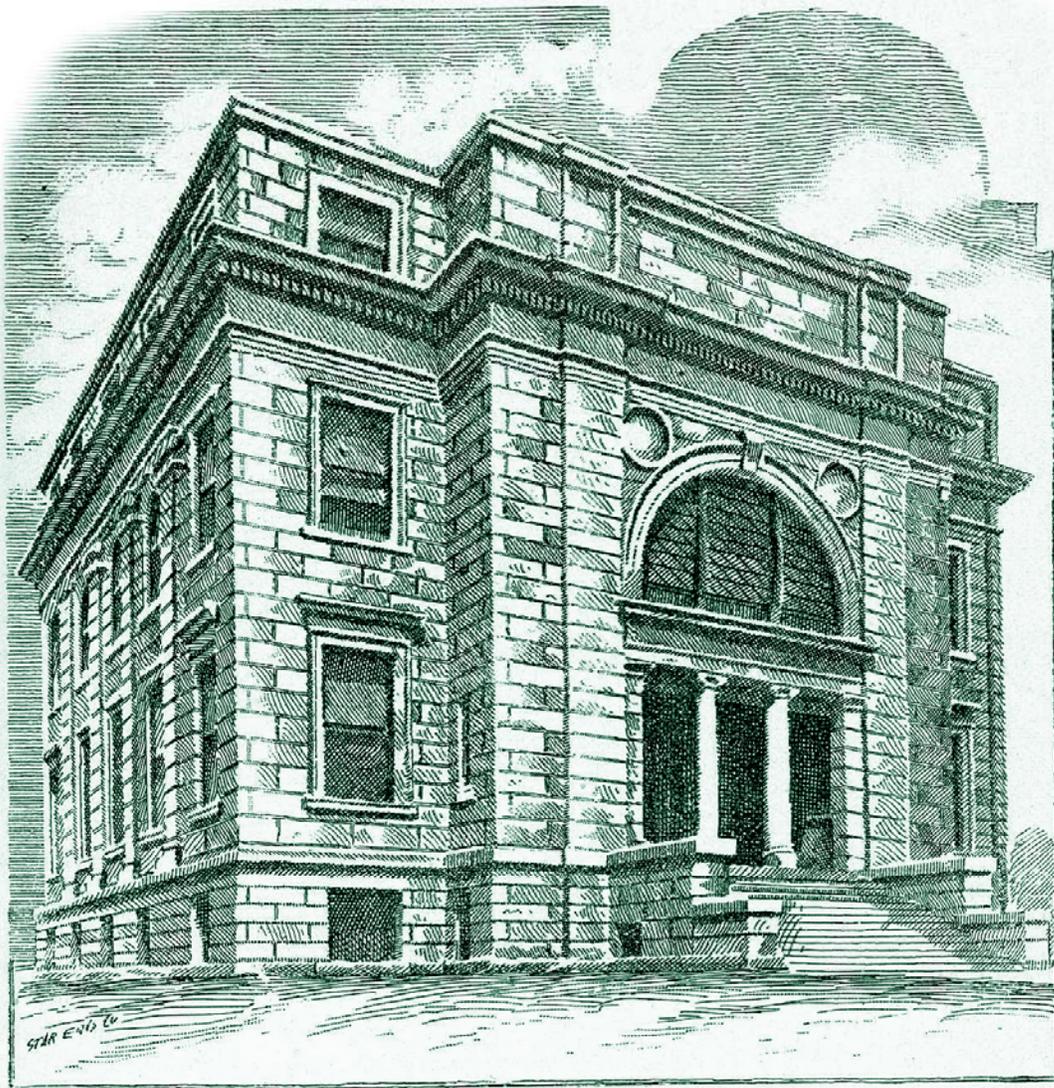
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THE STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING.

THE WEST WING, THE ONLY PORTION COMPLETED AT THE DATE OF THIS REPORT  
(NOVEMBER 1, 1901).

FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Historical Department  
OF IOWA.

Made to the Trustees of the State Library,  
NOVEMBER 23, 1893.

BY CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Curator of Historical Collections.

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF IOWA.

Made to the Trustees of the State Library,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1895.

BY CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Curator and Secretary.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF IOWA.

Made to the Trustees of the State Library,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1897.

BY CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Curator and Secretary.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF IOWA.

Made to the Trustees of the State Library,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1899.

BY CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Curator and Secretary.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF IOWA.

Made to the Trustees of the State Library,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1901.

BY CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Curator.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SIXTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Historical Department of Iowa

MADE TO THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
State Library and Historical Department  
OCTOBER 31, 1903

BY CHARLES ALDRICH, CURATOR

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Historical Department of Iowa  
MADE TO THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
State Library and Historical Department  
OCTOBER 31, 1905

By CHARLES ALDRICH, CURATOR

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EIGHTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Historical Department of Iowa  
MADE TO THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
State Library and Historical Department

OCTOBER 31, 1906  
By CHARLES ALDRICH, CURATOR

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NINTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Historical Department of Iowa  
MADE TO THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
State Library and Historical Department

OCTOBER 31, 1908  
By EDGAR R. HARLAN, ASSISTANT AND ACTING CURATOR

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## First Biennial Report—1893

Reports Number One Through Eight

By Charles Aldrich, CURATOR

### THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

In submitting the First Biennial Report of the work of this new Department, some account of its origin and progress will not, I trust, be deemed inappropriate. At the capitals of most states, collections of the data for their own history, and that of surrounding regions, have been in progress for many years—in some from their first organization. Wisconsin, the model western state in this regard, has been engaged in this work fifty years. Kansas for nearly half that period. Possibly a like effort might have been instituted at the capital of Iowa, but the founding of the State Historical Society at Iowa City, in the year 1857, had the effect to inspire a belief that that organization was taking adequate care of this important interest. Such a result, however, was an impossibility, for the society was destitute of the necessary funds. True, the organization has been kept up until now. The members, individually, have done everything in their power to increase the collections. A quarterly magazine, *The Annals of Iowa*, was started in 1863 and continued until 1874. After a discontinuance of eight years it was revived by Rev. S. S. Howe, who continued the publication three years longer. In 1885 the society commenced the publication of *The Iowa Historical Record*, under the able editorship of Dr. Frederick Lloyd. This work is still issued regularly. But the support of the State Historical Society has been meager. Existing “under the auspices of the University,” it was not so connected with it as to share in its support by the State. At least no appropriations adequate to the accomplishment of its purposes were ever secured. All that the members could do was done, but no such institution, thus meagerly supported, can attain the ends sought.

Meantime, the years were rolling by. The early settlers of the State were rapidly disappearing, either by death or removal to other regions, and all their recollections of pioneer times were fading away.

Their places were occupied by new comers, who could not reasonably be expected to take much interest or pride in the Iowa of early days, for the reason that they knew little about it, and little of its history had been preserved. No complete collection of our early public documents was in existence, and but few of the pioneer newspapers had been preserved. Precious books, which will one of these days be worth their weight in gold, were so fading from public knowledge as in many cases to have become almost wholly forgotten. Our prehistoric pottery and stone implements were being gathered up and largely sent abroad to enrich the museums and collections of other states. Even the fossils secured by one of our geological surveys, and costly engraved plates for their illustration—paid for by

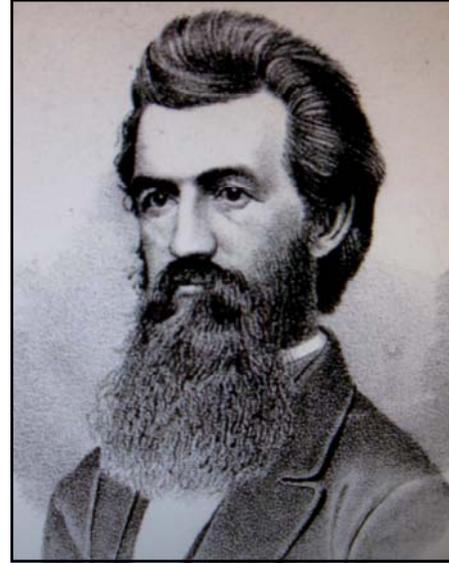
the State—met the same fate. To see and study these fossils at this time necessitates a journey to an eastern city. They would to-day form a most valuable addition—these “type specimens”—to a collection in our own capitol; but no effort was ever made to keep them here or at any other place in Iowa. If Iowa owned them now, no proposition to part with them would be entertained by anybody. While our statesmen upon the rostrum boasted the absence of illiteracy in Iowa, and pointed with pride to the magnificent record of Iowa soldiers during the great civil war, it was continually pleaded that this State, free from debt, could not afford to collect the necessary data for her own history, nor preserve from waste the archaeological treasures yielded by her own soil, or even mementos of our early settlers and soldiers. It is a fact not to be proud of—a strange anomaly—that so many of the public documents published by State authority prior to 1860 are not now in the capitol nor represented in any collection. Of many, not a single copy is known to be in existence, nor were the originals preserved in the offices whence they emanated. It is to stop this waste—to repair, as far as practicable, the losses which have already occurred, to build up collections incidental to such work, and contributing greatly to its usefulness and to the everyday instruction and enjoyment of the people, to save up precious materials which shall illustrate to future times the history of our own, that the efforts of the Historical Department have been devoted during the year and a half of its existence. That these are worthy ends no one, I believe, will at this day question.

The history of the origin of this effort may be briefly summarized as follows: In the year 1884, Mrs. Aldrich and I presented to the State through the Trustees of the State Library, a simple Autograph Collection, proposing if it should be placed in cases in the Library, and properly cared for, to make further additions to its contents, as well as to illustrate it with portraits of the celebrities represented, adding biographical data. This offer was accepted. In due time a case was made, and later on another, from funds appropriated to furnishing the edifice. But no one else was willing to undertake to arrange the materials in the cases. I was therefore compelled to come to Des Moines and do this work, or let the enterprise fail. We also continued to make additions to the Collection, both by purchase and solicitation. In 1888 the two cases were filled to overflowing, and two more were needed. The legislature that session put an item in the general appropriation bill, allowing \$1,000 to be expended for the care and preservation of objects in literature, art and science, which should be presented to the State. Of this the sum of \$900 was used in building two more cases. But when the Pioneer Law Makers' Association held their second reunion, in the winter of 1890, the Collection was made the subject of commendatory resolutions, in which the legislature, then in session, was earnestly requested to sustain the work. A committee from that body visited the two houses and presented the resolutions. As a result of this action a bill was passed by the unanimous vote of both branches of the General



Assembly, appropriating \$3,000 for this purpose, with a provision directing the collection of documents, papers, etc., "relating to the earlier days of our Territory and State." Upon its approval I was appointed by the trustees of the State Library to prosecute the work, with an allowance of \$100 per month during the years 1890 and '91. I continued, therefore, to increase and strengthen the original collection, as well as to collect data for State history. I had no rooms at the time, and the accumulations were simply piled up in a corner.

At the next meeting of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association this work was made the subject of a further appeal to the legislature. Many of the leading newspapers of the State had commended it, urging the founding of a permanent Historical Department in the State House. Governor Larrabee spoke of our work very kindly in his



**B.F. Gue**

biennial message of 1890, as also did Governor Boies in 1892. As a result of this agitation a bill was introduced in the Senate by Col. C. H. Gatch of Polk county, providing for the establishment of a Historical Department, and making the original "Aldrich Collection" a part of the work. This bill passed the Senate by a unanimous vote, and the House by 67 yeas to 14 nays. It also provided for the appointment of a curator, who should hold his office six years. The three lower southeast rooms in the capitol, originally designed for the State Historical Society, were set apart for this purpose. The work is placed under the authority of the eight Trustees of the Iowa State Library. At a meeting held for the purpose of organizing the Department, I was appointed curator, and with the approval of the Trustees I appointed Hon. B. F. Gue as my assistant. The new rooms were opened on the first day of July, 1892.

While there have been detentions and delays, arising from the finishing of the new rooms and the building of the necessary furniture, the business of collecting has steadily progressed, and with results which have seemed wholly satisfactory to the public, as well as to those set in authority over the work. It was predicated upon a small collection which we began more than forty years ago, and continued here six years at our own private expense, with the exception of some slight allowances by the executive council for printing, etc. It has grown in importance and increased in interest and value, apparently meeting public expectation, as well as needs which have hitherto been to large extent ignored.

That the State should build up and fairly maintain a great Historical Museum, wherein should be secured as large collections as practicable in State and National

See page  
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history, literature art, military relics and mementos, natural history, geology, archaeology, numismatics, etc., as it is practicable to bring together, would seem to have become the settled belief of the people. Such an institution should be kept growing, for "a finished museum is a dead museum." *There is apparently no end to the amount of materials which may be readily obtained for this purpose. The great need is a place in which they can be safely kept and conveniently exhibited.*

A Memorial Hall would seem to be a great public necessity, if the State is to make any provision to do honor to the memory of her peerless soldiers, or the hardy pioneers who opened up her magnificent domain to settlement and civilization. If such an edifice were erected it would afford ample space for the historical collections, as well as those in the other directions enumerated above. No other work at the capital would furnish more of the means of instruction to the people or be more cordially welcomed by them.

## Second Biennial Report—1895

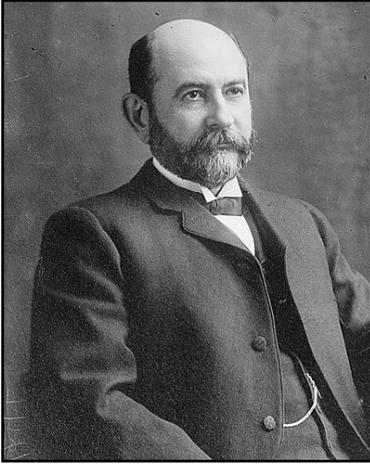
### THE MUSEUM.

In the original apportionment of space to the different parts of the work of the Historical Department, the north room was set apart for the Museum. It contains the collections of birds, mammals and insects, aboriginal pottery, small arms, shot and shell from the Rock Island arsenal, map models from the U. S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Ethnology, and many miscellaneous objects. It has been found necessary, however, owing to the constant increase of our collections, to place two large bookcases upon the walls of this room. The cases for the Indian collection, prehistoric stone implements, minerals, corals, etc., for the same reason, have been placed in the east room, which had been devoted to the collection of autograph letters, manuscripts and portraits. This mixing of the collections has been unavoidable, owing to the fact that it has been necessary to utilize every foot of our very limited space.

### THE NEED OF MORE SPACE.

The act of 1892 founding the Historical Department, assigned to its use the three southeast rooms in the lower story of the capitol. These rooms are now not only insufficient to contain the constantly increasing collections, but the lack of space greatly interferes with further work in every direction. It has for some time been necessary to find storage for books, documents, newspapers, portraits, and other valuable property, coming to the department. It would seem to have been amply demonstrated that the state of Iowa may easily come into possession of historical, art and museum collections quite equal to those of neighboring states, if this one deficiency can be supplied. There are doubtless in every county collectors in various directions, many of whom would be glad to freely give their treasures to the state, upon the simple conditions that they shall be placed upon free public

exhibition and preserved from waste. Such has been the experience of other states, and to this abundant resource is largely due the wonderful success of the most famous collections and museums throughout the world. Our state university possesses one of the finest natural history museums in the west—surpassed in



**W.T. Hornaday**

fact, by none in the nation in the excellent quality of its materials—the foundation of which was a collection freely given by an Iowa boy—W. T. Hornaday—whose fame is now world-wide. There is no doubt that the Department has lost during the past year fully \$25,000 worth of historical and museum property, the owners of which would have hailed with gladness the opportunity to thus place it in the care of the state. Probably the average annual loss in the future will not be less, and some of these losses will involve historical materials the value of which is beyond estimate. With the increase of

knowledge and wealth in our state we may anticipate quite as much generosity in these directions as has so spontaneously benefitted other communities.

In the introduction to the first biennial report from this Department occurred the following paragraphs, which are even more pertinent at this time:

That the State should build up and fairly maintain a great Historical Museum, wherein should be secured as large collections as practicable in State and National history, literature art, military relics and mementos, natural history, geology, archaeology, numismatics, etc., as it is practicable to bring together, would seem to have become the settled belief of the people. Such an institution should be kept growing, for "a finished museum is a dead museum." *There is apparently no end to the amount of materials which may be readily obtained for this purpose. The great need is a place in which they can be safely kept and conveniently exhibited.*

A Memorial Hall would seem to be a great public necessity, if the State is to make any provision to do honor to the memory of her peerless soldiers, or the hardy pioneers who opened up her magnificent domain to settlement and civilization. If such an edifice were erected it would afford ample space for the historical collections, as well as those in the other directions enumerated above. No other work at the capital would furnish more of the means of instruction to the people or be more cordially welcomed by them.

## Third Biennial Report—1897

### **HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

The last legislature appropriated for the erection of this proposed edifice the sum of \$25,000, placing the work under the direction of the Executive Council.

Propositions for the sale of the necessary real estate were solicited from parties owning lots fronting on the capitol grounds, resulting in the purchase of a tract at the northwest corner of Eleventh street and Capitol Avenue, 100 x 140 feet, more

described as "Lots one (1) and two (2) in block seven (7) of Scott's Addition to the town of Des Moines, now a part of the city of Des Moines." These lots are so situated that the building can be heated at slight expense by an extension of the system of pipes now in the capitol. They are especially adapted to the purpose for which they were purchased, and were secured at a price far below that of any other desirable property offered. Plans by Mr. O. O. Smith, architect, of Des Moines, were selected from several which were offered in competition. Upon advertising for bids for the construction of the edifice, it was found that with two exceptions, they were largely in excess of the amount of money available for the work. The two bids which came within the limit prescribed were for a style of work so inferior to the general expectation that it was wisely determined by the Council to refer the whole matter again to the legislature, in the hope that sufficient means may be provided for a creditable fireproof edifice. There is no doubt that, with proper space for its growth, the gifts to the Department will every year exceed the cost of the building. A further word may be permissible in regard to the income of the Department. For its efficient administration the annual appropriation ought, in my judgment, to be increased \$4,000. This will provide for the necessary furniture, salaries of the curator and assistants, and the purchase of such works as may be authorized by the board of trustees. Its justification, judging from the past, rests upon the fact that the Department should, and undoubtedly will, be able to secure gifts worth many times that amount, saying nothing of their ever-increasing historical value.



**The house on the lot where the Historical Building will be located.**

## Fourth Biennial Report—1899

### THE NEW HISTORICAL BUILDING.

It is a matter of public knowledge that the west wing of this edifice was to be completed on the first of October, but the contractors were unable to finish it at that date. In the meantime, I was directed by the executive council "to vacate the rooms now occupied in the state house on or before December 1, 1899, said rooms having been assigned to the board of control." At the date of this report the building is far from completion, though work upon it is rapidly progressing. It is probable, however, that the property of the Historical Department will be transferred to the new building during November and December, 1899, to await the action of the legislature in providing necessary furniture and fixtures for which estimates will be



*See page 163* **A SUGGESTED CONSOLIDATION.**

submitted. A proposition for the division of the State Library has been discussed to a limited extent during the past three or four years, but more especially since the west wing of the Historical Building has been in course of construction. This plan contemplates the uniting of the miscellaneous books in the State Library with the library of the Historical Department, leaving the law library in its present quarters. This course has been adopted in many—probably in most—capitals throughout the northern states. Originally the state and territorial libraries included both law and miscellaneous literature, but as these collections increased their management became complicated and cumbersome and a division naturally followed. The great library of Wisconsin was so divided in 1872. A large portion of the miscellaneous books in our State Library are to a great extent historical—using the term in its broadest sense—and might well form a part of the future Historical Library of Iowa. This proposed change would leave the law library under its present management composed as it is of the governor, the six supreme judges, the secretary of the state and the superintendent of public instruction, and would relieve the room to a great extent of the crowd of visitors who now interfere with the quiet necessary for close study. It is believed that the separate management of the law library as herein suggested would be more satisfactory to the supreme court and the bar of the state than the present mode. By this division, Iowa would at once possess two of the strongest working libraries in the west. The crowded condition of the capitol only sixteen years after its first occupation by the legislative and executive departments of the state government is everywhere well understood. At the present rate of growth more space will soon be required for the law library, and the only means by which it can be secured is by some such arrangement as I have suggested. The coming winter is believed to be the opportune time in which to consider this important subject and settle the policy of the state in regard to these libraries. Their growth during the past year is quite unprecedented in the history of Iowa, in both the magnitude and the quality of the collections. Some definite legislative action for their further development and care cannot be long delayed. So far as the proposition has been discussed, opinion seems to be almost unanimously in its favor.

#### **THE WORK BEFORE US.**

While it would appear that the work thus far performed by the Historical Department—the collections made—have been reasonably satisfactory to the people of Iowa, this enterprise has scarcely advanced beyond the first step in its proper career of usefulness. There is no direction in which more than a beginning has been accomplished. It may, however, be regarded as fairly demonstrated that Iowa can do as much in this direction as any sister commonwealth, once the start is fairly made. It can also be accepted as a fact which cannot be gainsaid, that the

people and the press of Iowa will rejoice to see this work carried forward upon such a scale of wise liberality as shall place our state among the first in the direction of historical, art and museum collections. While liberal gifts may be confidently anticipated, there is much to be done that will require a judicious expenditure of money. But while this is true, it should be borne in mind that expenditures are only incurred with the approval of the board of trustees. The annual support of the Department should be increased to secure results which cannot longer be postponed. In the following directions it is respectfully suggested that additional expense may properly be incurred:

Some of the early laws and legislative journals should be republished, especially the former. Of these documents, in our early territorial and state days, only very limited editions were published, and these for the most part were printed from old type, upon poor paper, and issued in paper binding. The laws should be carefully compared with the originals on file in the office of the secretary of state, and well printed and bound. They embody much of our early history.

I respectfully ask consideration of the project of placing in the basement of the new Historical Building a few tanks or aquariums for a collection of Iowa fishes. These tanks can be built, as I am informed by the United States fish commissioner, for about \$11 each. While our streams, lakes and ponds have been drying up at an alarming rate, we can yet make a collection which will become a pleasing and instructive feature of that edifice. Those who saw the fish exhibits at Chicago in 1893, and at Omaha in 1898, need not be told how attractive such a collection becomes.

## Fifth Biennial Report—1901

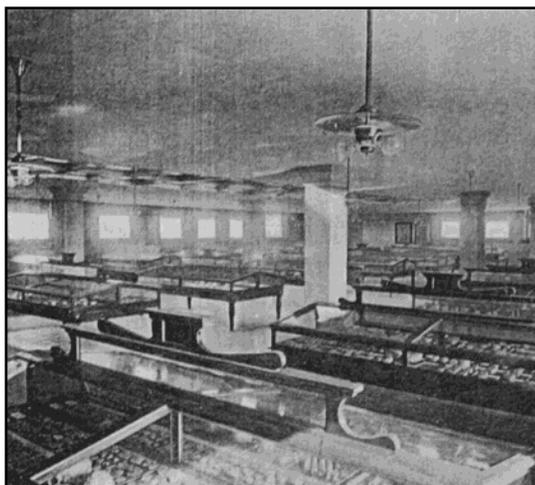
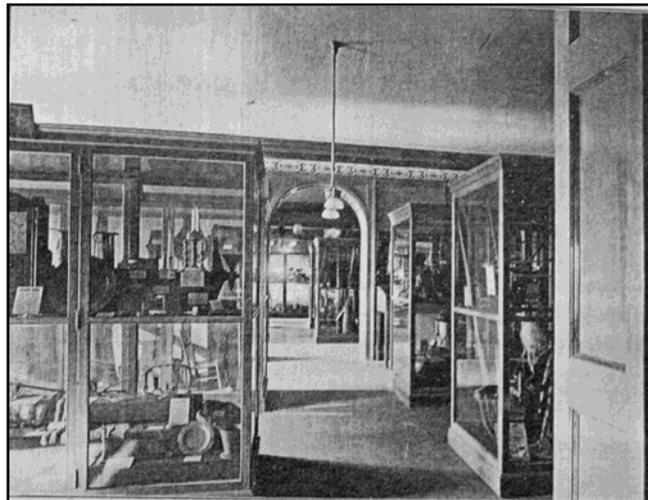
### INTRODUCTORY.

The operations of the Historical Department of Iowa during the past two years present some features which I believe are quite out of the common, but still unavoidable necessities arising from its rapid growth and development. Upon the meeting of the legislature of 1900—the twenty-eighth general assembly—there was an immediate and peremptory demand for the rooms hitherto occupied by the lieutenant governor and sundry committees of the senate, but which had been temporarily assigned to the board of control. The historical building was nearing completion, though the work of the carpenters and plasterers was still in progress. But I was ordered to transfer the collections at once to the new edifice and so make room for the board of control in the rooms to be vacated. The task seemed a stupendous one, endangering the safety of a large and precious property, but it was promptly begun, and the best made of a far from agreeable but no doubt unavoidable situation. Books, museum materials and furniture had to be rushed over despite the cold weather, as rapidly as men could carry them, and piled up in a very promiscuous manner in the unfinished rooms, to be repeatedly moved about on the floors so that work on the building need not be interrupted. Even

after our collections had been to some extent arranged, much work was required to give them protection while the work of painting and decorating the rooms was in progress. It is but a few months since the last work was done in finishing the art room. All possible care was taken, and I believe that slight losses and but trifling damage occurred. I deem it but justice to myself and my faithful assistants to state these facts, not, however, in any spirit of complaint, but to give some idea of the great amount of work that was necessary to recover our collections from the dust heaps into which they were piled, and as far as possible to bring order out of chaos.

### THE MUSEUM.

Up to this time every effort consistent with the limits of the appropriations set apart by the legislature has been put forth to increase the attractions of the museum. The collections now include seven large autograph cases, which will be filled as soon as the accumulations can be placed in the drawers; a collection of recent, aboriginal, and prehistoric pottery—some of the most interesting specimens of which were found in our own state; a large collection of stone implements, among which is an Iowa axe weighing 31 3/4 pounds—one of the largest ever discovered—with hundreds of flints; two large cases of birds—mostly species found within our state; many Iowa mammals; four large aquariums stocked with a collection of Iowa fishes; a case of



Indian baskets, bead work, implements and weapons, most of which were manufactured by the Meskwaki Indians of Tama county; a collection of arms—rifles, muskets, swivel guns, carbines, swords, and pistols—in use during the Civil, Spanish and Philippine wars; the Larrabee case with its highly interesting and historically valuable contents; with single items of more or less importance, together with many of which mention is made elsewhere. A large portion of the articles in this museum possess historic value aside

from their popular interest. That they attract ever-increasing throngs of visitors is known throughout the state. In this way the people are realizing a return for the taxes they pay for the support of the department which would seem to be very satisfactory. Not the least gratifying result of the years of work devoted to this

department is the great measure of appreciation which has been accorded to it by people in every part of Iowa.

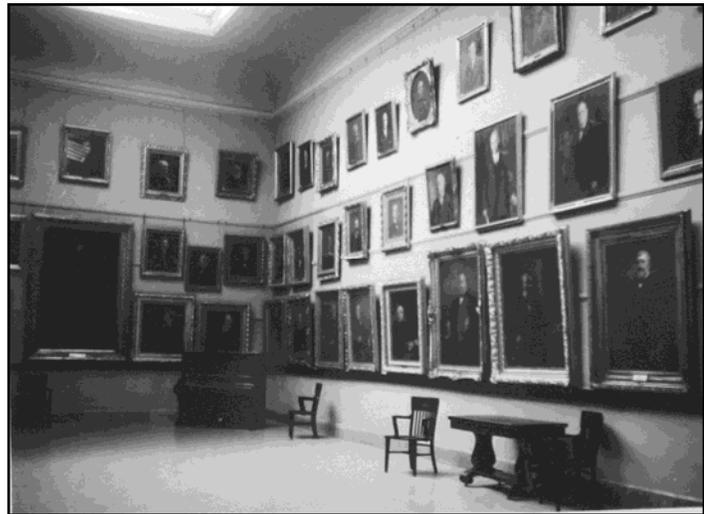
### **THE AQUARIUMS.**

Four large aquariums were included with the fixtures in the Historical building. A stream of city water runs through each one, and they have been fairly supplied with Iowa fishes—the principal varieties being the different species of bass, catfish, perch, and wall-eyed pike, for which the department has been indebted to the kindness of Mr. W. B. Bush of Des Moines. A collection of speckled trout has been furnished by the United States fish commission, from the government hatchery at Manchester, Iowa. This collection of living fishes is one of the most interesting objects in the lower museum room.

### **THE ART GALLERY.**

This room is sixty-four feet long by twenty-eight feet in width. It is lighted from the roof, the skylight being over fifty feet in length by sixteen feet in width. A substantial shade near the glass is readily adjustable to secure the proper amount of light. A system of electric lights was added, by which the room can be beautifully lighted. It is also provided with chairs, and may be used as an auditorium or lecture-room. The first meeting in which it was so used was by the Iowa Pioneer Law Makers' Association in February, 1900. At a late meeting of the executive committee of that organization, it was ordered that the meeting in February, 1902, be held in the same place.

Several additions have been made to the art collections during the past biennial period, which will be found listed elsewhere. A number of historical portraits will be added during the coming year.



### **THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATE AND HISTORICAL LIBRARIES.**

The Historical Department has experienced an important change since my last report. It had been under my charge, as an independent organization, with its associated undertakings, the Art Gallery, Museum of Natural History and Archaeology, and Miscellaneous collections, from July, 1892, to January 1, 1901. Its work had been peculiar to itself, unlike that of any other institution in the state. The General Assembly however, in 1900, passed an act (chapter 114, laws, 1900) providing for the consolidation of the State and Historical Libraries. This consolidation affected the general management very materially as the two

libraries were brought under one board of trustees and one directing head, the State Librarian. Under the new order the Historical Department with its various branches has been made a division of the State Library. It now bears the same relation to the State Library that the Law, Traveling, and General Reading and Reference libraries bear to each other and to the State Library.

#### **EXTENSION OF THE HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

Under the provisions of section 2, chapter 12, laws of the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, it was enacted that "the Executive Council, in letting the contract for the erection of the Historical Building, shall take into consideration the future needs of the state, and shall adopt a plan which will readily admit of such enlargement as may be required in the future." In pursuance of this requirement, the Council selected a plan which has become familiar to the people of the state through the engravings which have been published from time to time since its adoption. Under the authority thus given, the west wing of the proposed structure was erected, and the historical collections and museum properties were transferred to it. Owing to the rapid growth of the work, some of the rooms are already filled to overflowing, especially those devoted to the newspaper files and the museum. There is even now an urgent need for more space. The work has reached that point in the public confidence in which it is attracting valuable loans and gifts, and its growth in the future bids fair to exceed that of the past. The pressing needs of the department in properly housing the historical collections, and the universal appreciation and approval of the art and museum features by the people, have created in the public mind an expectation that the completion of the edifice will not be delayed. Its cost will manifestly depend upon the manner in which it is finished, decorated and provided with furniture and fixtures. It is believed that seventy-five thousand dollars per year for the next four years will be necessary to fitly complete the structure. Adequate provision to prevent the further waste of precious historical materials should be made the coming winter.

#### **A HALL OF ARCHIVES.**

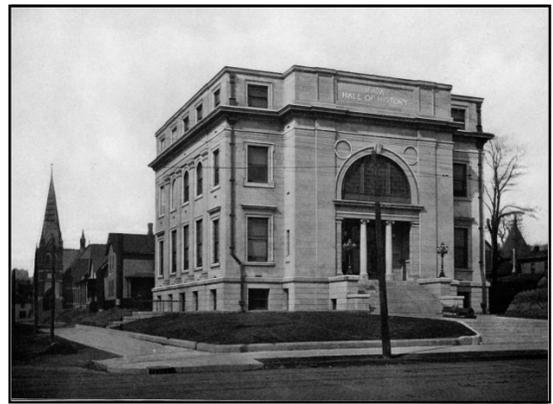
In addition to the requirements of the State Library, there is an acknowledged need of a Hall of Archives, in which to properly catalogue, index, and systematically preserve original state documents and papers, for which up to this time no provision has ever been made. Very few papers of this class can be found today, and they are among the most valuable materials of history. They have simply been wiped out of existence. Then, it would seem that the printed state documents which remain after the distribution fixed by law should come under some systematic care in the Historical Building. These suggestions carried out in the completed edifice will of themselves justify the expenditure required. They are in exact accord with what is being done in several of the states distinguished by the high character of their historical work.

## Sixth Biennial Report—1903

### EXTENSION OF THE HISTORICAL BUILDING.

More space is imperatively needed for large portions of this work, especially for the newspaper collection and the museum. At the present time precious volumes are piled upon the floors, where it is simply impossible to preserve them from dampness and injury arising from repeatedly handling them over. It frequently occurs that a bound volume is needed from the bottom of a pile several feet high. In such cases the heavy volumes are worn by removing them from place to place, as well as from the pressure that rests upon them. With the present limitations of space this result cannot be avoided. Our growing collection of Iowa newspapers is so valuable—at present and prospectively—that neither pains nor expense should be spared in its preservation.

The Museum and Art Room of the Historical Department attract visitors from all portions of the state. Especially is the building thronged upon the occasions of state fairs and other gatherings at the capital. The state has arrived at that stage in its history in which it will receive valuable



gifts from its prosperous citizens, if proper attention is given to their care. I now have the offer of a large and most interesting Indian collection, valued at several thousands of dollars. It will come as a free gift if the state will provide space and cases for its proper exhibition. Otherwise, it will remain in private hands or go elsewhere. If the state encourages those who are disposed to contribute to the treasures of its Historical Building, it may rapidly acquire collections of inestimable value. Outside of large cities, where money and the peculiar ability required are abundant, there is not a more promising locality in which to build up a great Historical Museum than this at the capital of Iowa—an institution which shall carefully collect and guard for future use the materials of Iowa history, and develop a large, varied and permanent exhibition for the instruction and entertainment of our people. I speak thus freely after more than twenty years' experience in this work, and for the further reason that I am admonished that I can remain with it but a short time. Aside from its legitimate success upon its own merits, for the benefit of all Iowa, I have no other ambition. In view of the above suggestions I earnestly urge the appropriation of \$100,000 in each of the years 1904, 1905 and 1906, for the completion of the Historical Building. It has also for some time been in

contemplation to transfer the State Library to the east wing of the Historical Building, leaving its present quarters to the exclusive use of the Law Library, for which all its space has long been needed.

Every consideration of the needs of our state in these various directions leads to the conclusion that the Historical Building should be completed at the earliest possible day.

During the past forty-five years I have often been pained to learn that unique and valuable collections made in Iowa, from materials existing on our own soil, and which should have been retained here for the edification and instruction of our own people, have been sold to go to distant localities. In fact, Iowa has long been a favorite field from which to build up museums for other communities. The materials which have thus been depleted have been varied, as animals, birds, stone implements, and fossils, and perhaps others of less importance. Such a state of things is keenly aggravating to an Iowan who is striving in these directions, with but limited means, for the benefit of our own people. My attention has just been called afresh to this matter by the fact that a large collection of rare Iowa fossils, which had been offered to the state for a reasonable price, and which is not likely ever to be duplicated, has been sold to a museum out of the state.

#### **APPROPRIATION NEEDED.**

In my judgment there should be appropriated as a working fund for the Historical Department, the sum of \$10,000 per year above the present allowance of \$5,000. This to be used in defraying the cost of printing, binding, historic paintings, museum materials, in acquiring historical data, and for incidental expenses for the benefit of the Historical Department, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.



*See page 169*

## **Seventh Biennial Report—1905**

#### **THE HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

A contract for the completion of this structure—known in the law approved April 2, 1904, as “the Historical, Memorial and Art Building”—was entered into by Henry M. Schleuter, of Chicago, Ill., and the State of Iowa (by the Executive Council), on the 27th day of July following. Soon after that date the contractor began his work, which, with some interruptions on account of the inclemency of the weather and unavoidable delays in procuring materials, has continued to this time. The work seems to have been well done. The materials, as the law stipulated, were from this State, so far as they could be procured, “quality and price being considered.” The central portion and the east wing were the parts included in this contract.

The work (Oct. 31, 1905) is progressing steadily and should be completed during the coming session of the State legislature.

The stone work is completed on the north side and practically so on the south side, excepting the heavy columns at the front entrance, the material for which has been delivered in Des Moines. This will complete the stone work, except the pediments and the dome, the material for which has been received.

The steel work is also finished, excepting the parts entering into the construction



of the pediments and the dome. The same is true of the fire-proofing, there being needed only the completion of the pediments and dome to finish this part of the contract.

The roof should be completed over the east wing during the next two weeks and then the plastering of this portion will be begun.

The cost of finishing the building, including the heating and plumbing, according to designs and estimates of the architect, is \$150,000.00.

### **HALL OF ARCHIVES.**

In *The Annals of Iowa* and elsewhere the writer has for some years advocated the establishment of a bureau or department for the preservation of papers and documents which originate in the various executive offices in the capitol, but for the adequate care of which our statutes contain no provision. Our State officers have in recent years made the best possible use of the meager facilities at their command; but the small rooms adjoining the executive offices which were provided when the capitol was built are not only ill-contrived for this important purpose, but long since were filled to overflowing. No one who will step into these mere "cubby-holes" will need any argument to convince him of their inadequacy. For business purposes the documents which occupy the shelves and pigeon-holes have for the most part become "dead papers," but as the data for State history they possess a value which is inestimable. These, so far as they go, are by far the most valuable sources of our State history, for the facts which they contain are based upon, or are themselves, the records of official transactions. We may

therefore place the fullest confidence upon what they set forth. How very important then their careful and conscientious preservation! Instead of the waste of these precious materials, they should have been from the organization of Iowa territory, until the present time the objects of unceasing watchfulness and solicitude. Now that the State Historical Building is nearing completion, it is most earnestly to be hoped that the legislature will take the subject into consideration and pass a law which will initiate this needed reform.

## Eighth Biennial Report—1907

### THE ART GALLERY.

The increase of the number of oil portraits has been gradual, until at the present time we have secured close upon one hundred more than can be exhibited to advantage in the present room. In the new building there is to be an increase of space, with better light, so that the facilities for exhibiting the portraits will be greatly improved. We have now secured portraits of all our Governors with but two exceptions. Many of these have been secured without expense to the State, but I

earnestly recommend that a reasonable amount be appropriated by the Legislature to complete the list. Thus far our art collections consist mostly of portraits of Iowa pioneers. The most notable of our recent additions are fine portraits of Mrs. Mary Newberry Adams, late of Dubuque, Mrs. Albert G. Swalm,



Rear Admiral John Grimes Walker, Hon. P. M. Casady, and Maj. S. H. M. Byers. We have in this collection, portraits by that illustrious American artists, George P. A. Healy, and William E. Marshall, the distinguished painter-engraver of the world famous large steel portraits of Washington, Lincoln and Grant, and by Ernest C. Peixotto, the famous artist and illustrator, with several from the easels of George H. Yewell and Charles A. Cumming, our well-known Iowa artists. A number of others have been promised in response to invitations from the Department. Among so many, there must of necessity be some of inferior quality, but the general average as works of art is, I believe, very good. The portraits have been provided with name plates, and copper wires have replaced those of steel, which are very liable to breakage on account of rust.

### THE MUSEUM.

Under the management of Mr. Van Hying the Museum is being systematically

rearranged. The best systems of classification are followed; the material exhibited in its natural order and form, and intelligently labeled. Preference is given to Iowa material, but much accrues from time to time from outside the State and forms a popular feature. A catalogue of the Museum should be published as a convenience to the public.

Since the last report the most notable accessions have been the following:

Sioux Indians: A collection of about one hundred pieces, among them a fine buckskin coat and trousers; a number of moccasins, blankets, pouches, etc., all heavily embroidered with beads; one blanket covered with picture-writing; several arrows, pipes and war clubs. This is a very complete representation of the Sioux handiwork and material much needed for the Museum. All tribes known to have inhabited Iowa should have a representation in the Museum, but up to this time the Sioux had been but inadequately represented.

Prehistoric Implements: Another desirable collection of several hundred stone implements, consisting of flints, that were collected in Iowa. While the list contains but few forms not already in the Museum, yet the perfection of the specimens and the material of which a number of them are composed, make the addition a valuable one.

Philippine Collection: The most valuable recent accession to the Museum is the exceedingly fine lot collected by Capt. Frank Tompkins and wife of Fort Des Moines. This collection was accumulated principally by Mrs. Tompkins during their service in the Philippines. It is a very complete collection of the apparel, war implements and necessary domestic utensils of the different tribes of that country. Among the lot may be mentioned two dozen hats of as many different patterns, and many forms of spears and bolos. A number of varieties of basketry are represented. The headhunters are represented by the spear for killing men, the axe for taking off the head and the basket for carrying it. The Iggorote kettle for cooking dog and rice, with bowls and spoons for serving it, are among the lot.

### **THE HALL OF PUBLIC ARCHIVES.**

Doubtless the most important undertaking of the Historical Department the past year is the initial work in the establishment of a Hall of Public Archives. Those who are familiar with our Biennial Reports and with *The Annals of Iowa* are aware that this has been one of the works that we have been urging upon public attention. Soon after I came to Iowa in 1857, I saw with deep regret that little had been done by the Territory and State for the preservation of the materials of their history. There seemed to be no sentiment looking in that direction. I made an attempt in the year 1858 to secure a file of the printed State documents, applying for them to Hon. Elijah Sells, Secretary of State, who would have had them in his custody had they been in existence. "I am sorry to say," he replied, "that this is impossible, for the State of Iowa does not possess even a single file of her own public documents." I therefore gave up the idea altogether. I have regretted many a time since that I did not secure such as were still in existence, the most of which



See page  
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cannot now be had. Not only were the manuscripts, as letters and other official papers, treated with neglect, but the printed documents were deemed so much useless lumber doomed to destruction. In one noted instance, a man was even employed to destroy most of the printed documents, and he did the work most effectually. It was reported that he was directed to save 100 copies of such documents as he deemed valuable. He has been dead many years, but I am of the impression that he was handsomely paid for the effort. It has been stated that he hired a car and loaded the precious documents into it and sent them to Chicago, where they were sold to paper makers. Now and then some men tried to stem this tide of destruction, but the results of their efforts were very meager.

Discussion of this general subject has gone on here and there for many years, but the first determined effort was the introduction of a bill in the Thirty-first General Assembly, which became a law and is known as Chapter 142, Laws of the Thirty-first General Assembly. Under this law the Board of Trustees were authorized to take the preliminary steps for the foundation of a Hall of Archives. The first move in this direction was the employment of Prof. B. F. Shambaugh, of the State Historical Society at Iowa City, to visit the leading States and Canada, in which this subject of preserving the archives has been agitated and under consideration, and investigate the work done. He was peculiarly fitted for this work for the reason that he had been for some time a member of the Archives Commission of the American Historical Association. His report was submitted to the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting on September 22, 1906. That report is to appear in *The Annals of Iowa* for January 1907, and there has been authorized the printing of an extra edition of 500 copies, for the purpose of making the subject as widely understood as possible. This report is a very comprehensive survey of the whole subject of the preservation of public archives, together with a summary of what has been done in this direction by Canada and the States, with a plan for the work in Iowa. It should be read and carefully considered, not only by the press of Iowa, but by the members of the coming Legislature. The subject is one which would seem to need little or no argument. The needs of the State should be apparent to every intelligent person.

At this writing, October 30th, the work of investigating, arranging and classifying the manuscripts and other documents in the office of the Governor is proceeding under the direction of Mr. John C. Parish, of Iowa City, assisted by Mrs. Clara A. Neidig, of Des Moines. They have made many rare finds of historical value, aside from general investigation and classification of materials.

Professor Shambaugh recommends an appropriation of \$6,000 annually to foster and forward this work. Upon the completion of the Historical Building quarters will be provided for the Hall of Archives, at least until this division of labor requires more space and a settled policy is formulated.

**THE NEW BUILDING.**

Inquiries are so frequently made in regard to the uses of the different floors and rooms of the new building that I am prompted to make the following statements:

The front entrance of the west wing will be removed and the one entrance for the entire structure will be in the center of the building fronting on Grand Avenue. The basement under the east wing has been assigned to the Iowa Library Commission and is ready for occupancy. The second and third floors of the east wing will be occupied by the Iowa State Library. The main building is being finished also for the uses of the State Library to the center of that structure. The remainder of the building is to be occupied by the Historical Department. This will give to the Department rooms for the offices and collections, including newspaper, library and art rooms and museum. The whole of the third floor is to be occupied by the Museum. This arrangement is of course subject to such modification as the Executive Council may deem best adapted to subserve the purpose for which the building was projected. The Hall of Archives will probably occupy space on the second floor now devoted to the Museum, but will be temporarily located on the second floor of the east wing. The lower or basement floor will be given up to the newspaper collections, as soon as more space is required. For the present the newspaper space will be enlarged by the addition of one room 24 x 36 feet. At some future time the Museum materials on the lower (S. E.) floor will be removed for the further accommodation of the rapidly growing collection of newspapers. The main (first) floor in the west half of the building will be occupied as now by the Historical Library, reading room, ladies' reading room and rest room, offices and work rooms. The reading and ladies' rooms will be somewhat larger and more commodious than those now in use in the west wing.

The present art gallery (second floor) will be enlarged at once by the addition of another well lighted room, which will nearly double its present capacity and render still more convenient the exhibition of pictures.

A suitable room will be provided for the meetings of the Board of Trustees, with facilities for keeping their records. There has existed a need for this improvement and I believe it will be greatly appreciated by the Board.

**WORK ON THE HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

The contracts which are now being carried out include finishing of the plastering, all the wood floors, the concealed conduits, wires for lighting, all interior wood work. The plumbing will be completed, together with the heating of the first floor and basement of the east wing. The roughing in and direct radiation will be put in the remainder of the building, leaving only the indirect ventilation to be put in the central portion and the second and third stories of the east wing. The contracts also include steel book stacks for the State Library, Library Commission, and the

See page  
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newspaper department of the Historical Department. At the last session of the legislature the sum of \$150,000 was suggested as necessary to complete the Historical Building, of which \$50,000 was provided for. With this sum, to which \$20,000 was added from the previous appropriation, the work above mentioned is now in progress. The architect, Mr. O. O. Smith, submits the following estimates in response to my request:

Main Stairs (cast bronze finish) .....\$ 5,000.00  
 Two Rotunda Balustrades (cast bronze).....2,500.00  
 Eight Elevator Enclosures..... 1,500.00  
 TOTAL.....\$ 9,000.00

Marble Wainscoting (rotunda, stairs, corridors, reading room and two offices), Marble Columns (rotunda), Marble Stair Treads and Risers; Marble Base (all rooms except Library Commission rooms), Vitreous Tile Floors (basement, rotunda and corridors), Marble Mosaic Floors (1st, 2d and 3d stories, rotundas and corridors)  
 TOTAL .....\$32,000.00

(If Vitreous tile floors are used in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2d, and 3d floors, deduct \$2,800 from above.)

Granite Curbing and Cement Walks.....\$7,516.00  
 Grading and Seeding..... \$300.00  
 TOTAL..... \$7,816.00

Sub-basement Floors.....\$1,300.00  
 Balance Painting (wood work).....\$2,000.00  
 Walls and Ceilings, Three Coats.....\$2,500.00  
 TOTAL.....\$4,500.00

The above includes only plain painted walls; if wall decorations are considered, any amount from \$5,000.00 up may be considered; \$10,000.00 would be a reasonable sum for the entire building.

Electric Light Fixtures.....\$6,000.00  
 Freight Elevators.....\$3,000.00  
 Balance Heating and Plumbing.....\$7,743.00  
 Incidentals, 10 per cent.....\$7,135.00

GRAND TOTAL .....\$78,494.00

Passenger elevators are not included in the above estimate. If of bronze metal finish \$10,000 should be allowed to install them.

**DECORATION OF HISTORICAL BUILDING.**

I wish to make a suggestion in regard to the interior decoration of the Historical Building. In my judgment, when this is undertaken, it should be done on a scale of equal magnitude and artistic skill with that which has become so acceptable in the State Capitol.

A NEWSPAPER OF PRINCIPLE

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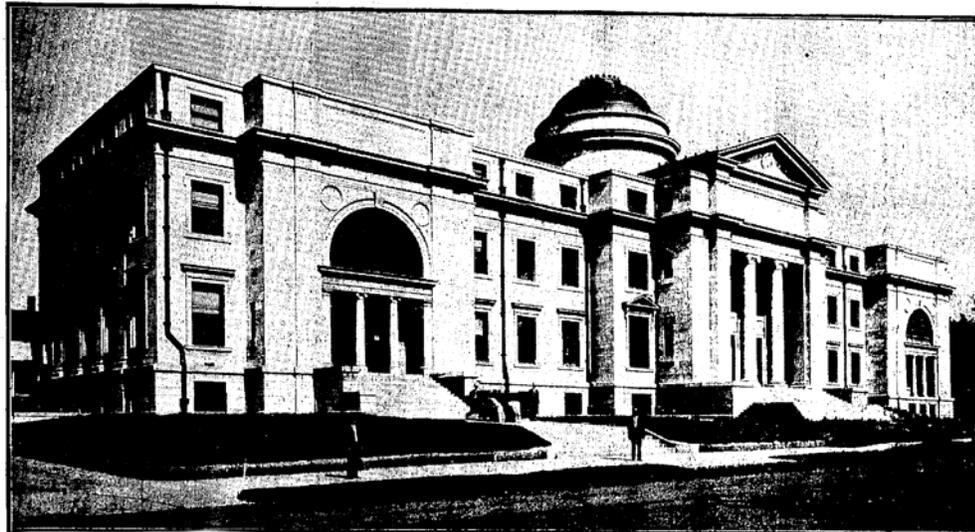
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St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Vincent's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Mary's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Mary's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.  
St. Mary's Hospital, St. Paul, Minn.

The Brick In This Building Was Furnished by The Barber Asphalt Paving Co. Des Moines, Ia.



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St. College of Osteopathy, The Union Bldg.,  
St. Joseph Academy, and hundreds of other business buildings, schools and colleges, asylums and hospitals in Des Moines and this and other western states.

**THE UNIFORM CONTRACT.**

FORM OF CONTRACT

ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL USE  
BY THE  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
AND THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS.

REVISED 1909.

This Agreement, made the second day of July  
in the year one thousand nine hundred and six by and between

*J E Lovejoy*

*Des Moines Ia*

party of the first part (hereinafter designated the Contractor ), and *the State of Iowa*

*By the Executive Council*

party of the second part (hereinafter designated the Owner ),

Witnesseth that the Contractor , in consideration of the agreements herein made by the Owner ,  
agree with the said Owner as follows :

ARTICLE I. The Contractor shall and will provide all the materials and perform all the work for the

*Historical Memorial & Art Building  
located at Des Moines Iowa - as per  
proposal submitted June 30 1906 - including  
all granite curbing and outside cement-  
walks*

as shown on the drawings and described in the specifications prepared by *O. O. Smith*

Contract signed by architect O.O. Smith to install granite curbing and cement walks for the Historical Building. July 2, 1906

## Ninth Biennial Report—1909

By Edgar A. Harlan, ASSISTANT AND ACTING CURATOR

### MUSEUM.

While this term may technically include the art, autograph, manuscript and some other collections, we restrict it to the objects illustrating natural and political history, prehistoric and recent. Objects acquired bear authentic history and tend to demonstrate some fact or process in the development of life in Iowa and the west or some enterprise in which Iowa or its citizens have been directly interested. No abnormalities nor freaks are received. Every object is placed where it may be easily seen and to it is attached a label exactly setting forth its identity and history. Thus an object or a series is a lesson silently, persistently impressing itself upon the mind of the visitor, regardless of his degree of intelligence. The educational influence on the fifty thousand who annually visit the collections must be incalculable. Claim is laid to the best modern methods of administration. Notwithstanding paucity of help, lack of contingent funds, remarkable expansion and inevitable embarrassment from the loss of the curator's controlling influence, the Museum is surely entitled to favorable comment. Acquisitions continue to be made of the most valuable character. They come almost entirely by the free gift of the people. With those most desired often come some of less importance which we might dispose of by way of exchange had we authority to do so. The receipt of loan items is not encouraged except where such will fill a gap in a series or where there is some equivalent consideration. Limited case room and the expense of labels weigh against objects which are not the absolute property of the State. Such method must eventually provide a most useful and valuable institution.

In the spring of 1908, the Department explored a mound in Boone county, Iowa. It was 90 x 110 feet in extreme dimensions and 14 feet high. Every precaution was taken to accurately record its original appearance and its every disclosure. Prehistoric stone works and other marks of the intelligence of the unknown race



This is the library staff of the Historical Building. Curator Edgar Harlan is circled. 1920

were of great interest. A detailed report is in course of preparation by Mr. Thompson Van Hying, who had immediate charge of the work. We wish to publish this as soon as the time can be spared from the pressing duties of installing the new museum. The



Thompson Van Hying's Boone County excavation site.

Historical

Department should have authority to acquire and hold in trust for the people of the State options on the right of exploring, if not the title to, all such works. Prompt survey of them should be made. Such works are being leveled rapidly and the expense of thoroughly exploring them is so great that science must certainly lose a vast opportunity.

Already a number of burial grounds and town sites of the prehistoric inhabitants of the State of Iowa which are known to have been situated in the rich alluvial plains of our streams have been obliterated by the processes of agriculture. Those on the hills will not much longer remain.

Notwithstanding the increase of 3,700 feet of floor space and 1,200 feet of display cases, the remarkable volume of collections of real value even now exceeds our ability to fully display. There is ample room for and great need of no less than 11 cases such as have been provided at an expenditure of \$130.00 each.

Mr. R. D. Hoyt, of Seven Oaks, Florida, was employed for a period of seven weeks during the summer of 1908, and remounted in a splendid manner 159 birds then owned by and in storage of the Department, adding, during the time, those of 53 birds and 8 mammals collected by the Department.

#### **ART COLLECTIONS.**

There were 87 portraits in oil in the collection at the last detailed report, to which there have been added 22 within the last three years. This total of 109 portraits in oil of Iowa citizens who have distinguished themselves in behalf of better things

for the State and the Union was visited by more than 10,000 persons in the ninety days following August 20, 1908. A small catalog or guide of the collection was issued in August, 1908. There should be, by way of ornamentation and protection to the very valuable collection, a slightly bronze railing about the room and there should be a complete restoration of the wall coverings and improvement of the lighting system as later herein detailed.

In the month of August, 1908, there was installed and opened to the public what we have denominated the Black and White collection, consisting of such portraits as are not listed as oils and as are not displayed in the drawers of the Aldrich Collection of autograph letters and portraits. This Black and White collection forms one of the most beautiful apartments in the building and is so lighted and arranged as to permit close inspection of its contents. Here for the first time has been displayed in a single collection photographs or other good likenesses of nearly two thousand legislators and other eminent Iowa men.

A number of portrait busts and statues await the completion of the corridors and rotunda to be assembled in what we have denominated the Statuary Hall. Here should be assembled replicas of all Iowa public sculpture.

The Department petitioned the Executive Council to place on the handsome new reading room walls the canvasses once forming frescoes on the Supreme Court Room ceiling. This they did and restored a work that was once, and again becomes, very popular.

General Ed Wright described these paintings as by Fritz Melzer\* consisting of six small subjects and four large allegorical canvasses some ten by fourteen feet in size. The four large ones being as follows:

*Columbia reigning on her throne.* Above the globe in unity with the Goddess of Justice, the patrons of the States come to pay them their homage, bringing with them little children, which represent the territories. Iowa, who is a special favorite in Columbia's household, is seen sitting on the steps of the throne with a club and a coat of arms, ever ready to defend her friend (Columbia) in case of need. In front of the throne is chiseled in everlasting rock the memorable date 1776, the foundation of the Republic. The American Eagle is proudly soaring over all, holding in his beak the historical emblem "E Pluribus Unum."

*Justice and peace represented as ruling over the land.* Bringing prosperity and plenty, culture and happiness, while rebellion is restrained and, smitten down by Justice's strong right arm.

*Justice on her throne.* To her left stands Columbia, ever ready to sustain her decisions by word or deed. The figure to the right of Justice rejoices that the decision is in her favor. The sitting figure on the right denotes sorrow as the decision is rendered against her, but is content when she finds by examining the law that the decision is according to law. To her left a mother is explaining to her son the laws.

*Ceres, the Goddess of Agriculture.*

*\*August Knorr, a Des Moines decorator, was placed in charge of all the decorative paintings and sculptures for the new Iowa State Capitol. His designs for the ceiling of the Supreme Court consisted of four large panels and six small medallions. They were sent to Berlin, Germany, to be painted on canvas by artist Fritz Melzer, one of the most well-known decorative painters of the era. The total cost for all of the paintings was less than \$1,000.*



The canvas panels from the Supreme Court in the Capitol are glued to the walls.



***Columbia***



***Justice and Peace***



The canvas panels on first floor



*Ceres*



*Justice*

The canvas panels all now reside in the Judicial Branch Building.

**ARCHIVES.**

The care and collection of archives, especially of public archives, was a subject that early received the interest of those who founded and furthered historical collections in this State. The purpose took form some two years ago as touching the documentary accumulations of the various Iowa territorial and State officers in Chapter 142, Acts of the Thirty-first General Assembly which authorized and empowered the Board of Trustees of the Historical Department and State Library to provide a scheme and proceed with the work of so handling these collections that they would be safe from loss and readily available to the public. Such scheme to arrange and deposit these with the Historical Department was adopted but its execution was transferred by Chapter 157, Acts of the Thirty-second General Assembly to the Executive Council which now has the selection, classification, indexing, and arrangement of materials and all the work appertaining thereto. The Historical Department remains the repository of the archives after they are so treated.

**LABELS, SIGNS, ETC.**

Time and trouble of the visiting public should be saved by adequate directories, apartment signs and door labels so designed as to take nothing from the beauty of the interior. Drinking fountains of a sightly and sanitary character should be available on each floor.

A space on the second floor denominated in the original plans as a hall is admirably suited for the display of plastic objects. I have denominated this as Statuary Hall and I recommend its special equipment for this purpose. Most admirably adapted for portrait statuary are 16 niches in the corridors that vary in size, and are in series of four on the separate floors. I trust the whole interior may be so embellished as to make of these an appropriate setting for as many such portraits of eminent Iowa or other American citizens. There are niches and seats for medallions and busts in the loggias and on exterior walls of the building designed to receive 12 such objects in addition to those already enumerated.

**NEEDED CHANGES IN LIGHTING.**

Some alterations should be made in the lighting system. The educational value throughout the museum and art gallery depends on adequate light. Therefore, this should be calculated from the points and planes to be illuminated. Both the old and new art galleries should be equipped with the best method of artificial lighting.

**STORAGE SPACE.**

Enclosed shelving and all sub-basement space possible should be provided for storage purposes. Heads of similar institutions have calculated that storage space should bear a relation in cubic capacity to exhibition space of at least 1 to 3.

At present we have no more than a cubic storage capacity of 1 unit to 20 of show room. The plans for the building embrace two passenger and two freight elevators. The shafts for these are 10 feet square and 90 feet high. Only one passenger elevator will be needed for years to come and the other should be fitted with temporary floors and otherwise finished for storage purposes. This inexpensive improvement would not materially interfere with their intended use whenever that becomes desirable.

#### **SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION.**

Economy of time and increase of resources would more than compensate the expense of subscription to both instead of to a single Des Moines telephone system. A severe tax on the time of our little force and upon the patience of the visiting public is the absence of some system of intercommunication throughout the building.

#### **ACCOUNTING FOR MECHANICAL REPAIR WORK.**

Much shifting of fixtures and other mechanical work must be accomplished before the building is exactly suited to our work. Some system of formal requisition, showing, order and report should be adopted where attention to physical equipment of this building is requested. This would facilitate business, fix responsibility, eliminate incongruous plans and injurious alterations, and promote efficiency, economy and the best interests of all officially concerned.

#### **STRUCTURAL NEEDS.**

The rotunda and corridors remain to be finished. Great satisfaction is expressed by the public with the exterior of the building and the interiors of the various apartments. The corridors and rotunda should be finished with a richness of effect corresponding with, if not exceeding, that of our famous Capitol building. No public structure in the State, and possibly none in the country, could be made more beautiful. An estimate submitted by the architect of the building, Mr. O. O. Smith, embracing the work in marble and bronze, the only materials appropriate for the remaining details, is \$50,000.

#### **PHYSICAL MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING.**

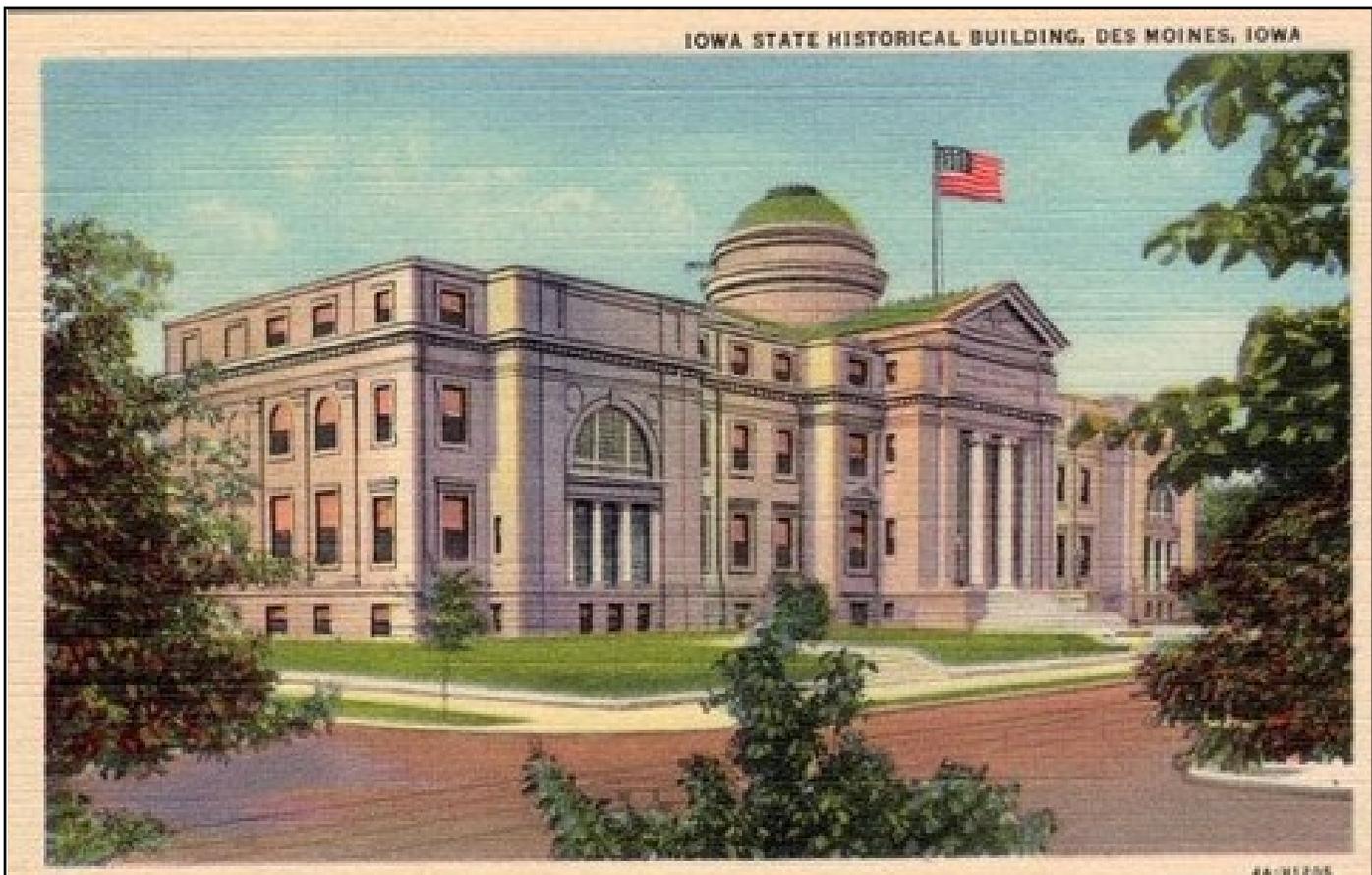
The ventilating, lighting, heating and elevator service of this building calls for constant expert mechanical attention. In addition to the ordinary janitor force there should be provided for the head of the Department an employee whose duty it would be to manage these and assume responsibility for care taking of the entire building. The greatest amount of service from the whole equipment with the least risk and expenditure requires this.

**FLAG STAFF.**

There is no provision for displaying on the Historical Building the emblem of our country. The matter should receive attention and a flag staff be provided.

**DEDICATION.**

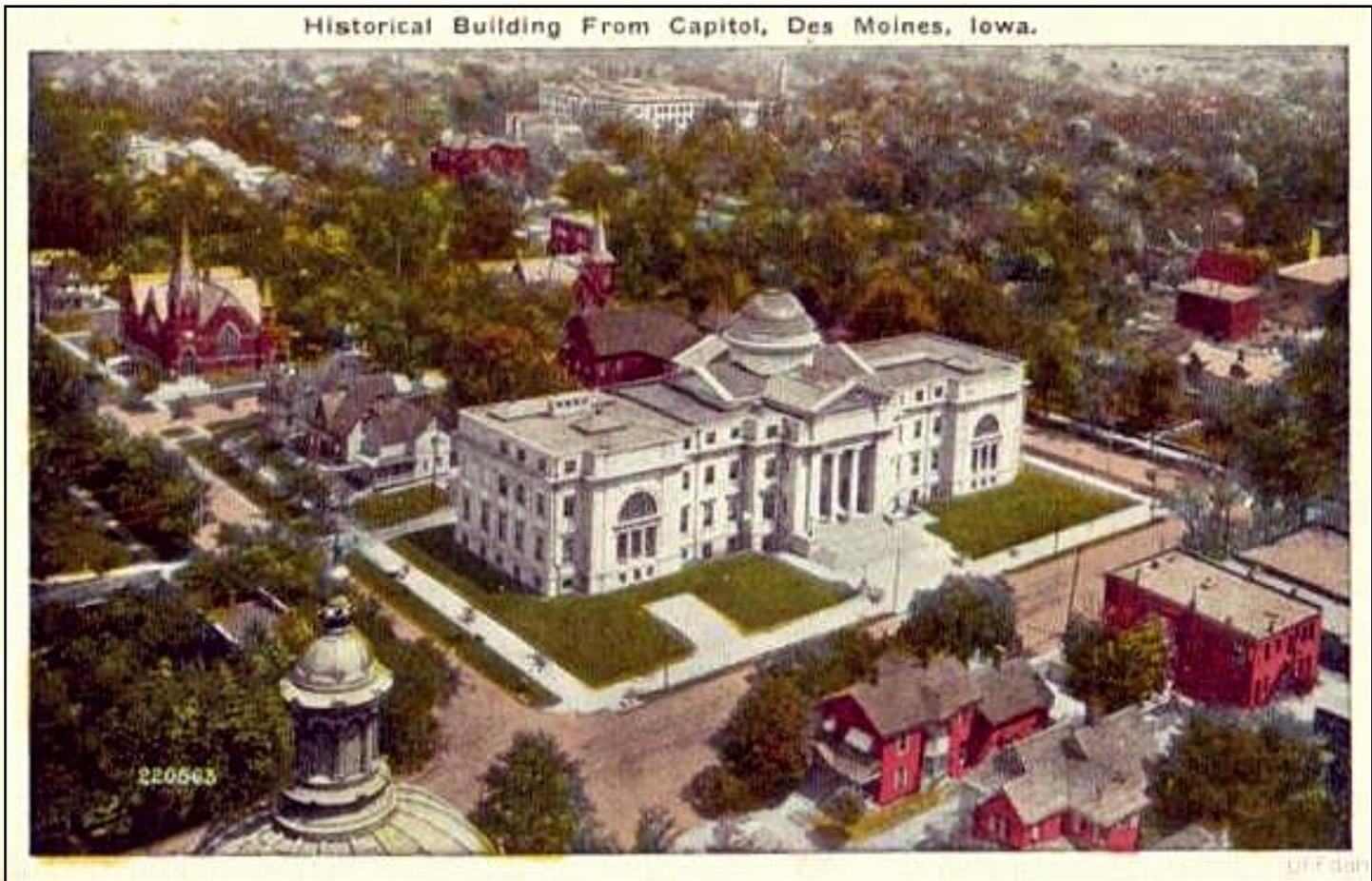
When the corridors are completed and the old entrance steps are removed the Historical, Memorial and Art Building of the State of Iowa will have been completed. I earnestly recommend that upon such completion there be held an adequate dedicatory ceremony. It would not only fitly mark the date of the complete structure but that of the first quarter century of Department activity if occurring within the next year.



This postcard shows the Historical Building with the west wing steps removed and the flag staff in place.



Old postcards depicting the Historical Building.



## Panoramic Views



View of the Historical Building east of the Capitol along East 11th Street.



View of the Historical Building north of the Capitol with the heating plant smokestack shown behind the paper warehouse.



**Corresponding Session Laws  
23rd, 24th, 28th, 30th, 31st, and 32nd  
Iowa General Assemblies**

LAWS  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA.



## CHAPTER 64.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS.

AN ACT providing for the collection and preservation of historic records and other valuable material pertaining to the history of Iowa and making an appropriation therefor. S. F. 303.

Whereas, The Aldrich Collection of autograph letters, manuscripts and portraits, now in the State Library, is of great value to the State, and it is important that it shall be increased— Aldrich collection in-  
creased.

And Whereas, The time, labor and money, necessary to this work are more than any individual can afford to give without compensation—

And Whereas, Also, it is believed that many valuable documents, relating to the earlier days of our territory and state have been destroyed, mislaid or misplaced, or are in danger of destruction or loss—Now therefor— Early records.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. That there be and is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of three thousand dollars, to be expened under the direction of the trustees of the state library, for the accomplishment of the work of adding to said Aldrich Collection, and that of searching for, restoring and safely preserving the papers and documents aforesaid. Said trustees of the Iowa state library shall solicit contributions to said collection, receive and properly acknowledge the receipt of the same and they shall have the power to appoint and employ all persons necessary for the work aforesaid, to fix their compensation, and do all other things necessary to the accomplishment of the purposes of this act. All accounts and expenditures under this act shall be audited by the executive council and warrants therefor drawn by the Auditor of State: Provided, that not to exceed one half the sum hereby appropriated shall be drawn during the year 1890; and that in no event shall there be more expended under this act, for the year 1890 and 1891 than the said sum of three thousand dollars. \$3,000 appro-  
priated.  
  
Contri-  
butions solli-  
cited.  
  
One-half  
drawn in 1890.

SEC. 2. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader, newspapers published at Des Moines Iowa. Publication.

Approved April 10, 1890.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Iowa State Register* April 16 and the *Des Moines Leader* April 17 1890.

FRANK D. JACKSON, *Secretary of State.*

## CHAPTER 56.

## TO PROMOTE A HISTORICAL COLLECTION.

S. F. 20. AN ACT to promote historical collections in the capitol of the state.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Rooms set  
apart.

SECTION 1. That the three southeast rooms in the basement story of the Capitol building be and they are hereby set apart for the purpose of containing the historical collections specified in this act.

1892.] LAWS OF TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SEC. 2. The trustees of the Iowa state library are hereby authorized and directed to appoint one person to be designated and known as curator of historical collections, who shall hold his office for six years and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, whose duty it shall be, under and by the direction and authority of said board of trustees, to collect and arrange books, maps, charts, public documents, manuscripts and other papers and materials, illustrative of the history of Iowa in particular and of the west generally; to procure from early pioneer settlers narratives of their experiences, exploits, perils and adventures; to procure facts and statements relative to the history, progress and decay of the Indian tribes, so as to exhibit faithfully and as far as practicable, the antiquities of the past; to procure books relating to the history and natural history of this state and of the central region of the continent of which it forms a part; to subscribe for and preserve files of at least two papers in each county of this state containing the official publications, and cause the same to be bound at the end of every four years; to thoroughly catalogue all such collections for convenient reference, and biennially to prepare for publication a report of all collections made under authority of this act.

Curator appointed by library trustees

Duty of curator

Material to be collected.

Newspaper files.

Report.

SEC. 3. It shall further be the duty of the curator, with the approval of the said trustees, to collect memorials and mementos of the pioneers of Iowa and the soldiers of all our wars, including portraits, specimens of arms, clothing, army letters, commissions of officers, and other military papers and documents.

Additional material collected

SEC. 4. It shall also be the duty of the said curator to receive and arrange in cases to be provided for that purpose, objects illustrative of the ethnology and prehistoric archæology of this and surrounding states. All duplicate specimens to be divided as equally as possible between the Iowa State University, Iowa Agricultural College and State Normal School.

Duplicate specimens to be divided with I. S. U. and normal school.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the custodian of the Capitol building to proceed, under the direction of the trustees of the state library, to prepare and furnish the rooms named in section one, for the purpose herein set forth, and then to remove to said rooms the cases and materials known as the "Aldrich Collection" which, together with such additions as may be made to it, shall thenceforth form a part of the collections herein contemplated.

Custodian to furnish rooms for collection.

"Aldrich collection."

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of said curator to keep said rooms, with the collections herein specified, open to the free inspection of the people during such hours every day—excepting legal holidays and Sundays—as the trustees of the state library may order and direct, provided nothing in this act shall be so construed as to exclude visitors to said rooms on Sunday afternoons during the sessions of the Legislature.

Curator to keep rooms open.

Sunday opening.

LAWS OF TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. [CH. 56,

\$7,500 annually appropriated.

SEC. 7. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there be and is hereby appropriated from any funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars annually for the present biennial period and thereafter annually the sum of six thousand dollars, out of which annual appropriations shall be paid all of the expenditures contemplated by section eight hereof. All accounts shall be audited by the executive council after being approved by the trustees of the state library.

\$6,000 appropriated for section eight.

Accounts audited.

Salary of curator.

SEC. 8. The curator shall be paid the annual salary of twelve hundred dollars and allowed such assistance, postage, stationery and incidental expenses as the trustees may authorize and approve, as provided in the preceding section.

Publication clause.

SEC. 9. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the *Des Moines Leader* and the *Iowa State Register*, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved April 8, 1892.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Iowa State Register* April 16, and the *Des Moines Leader* April 15, 1892.  
W. M. McFARLAND, *Secretary of State*.

CH. 114. LAWS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.



CHAPTER 114.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE MISCELLANEOUS PORTION OF STATE LIBRARY WITH THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

S. F. 218.

AN ACT for the consolidation of the miscellaneous portion of the state library with the historical department, and defining the duties and fixing the salaries of the librarian, assistant, and the curator, and making an appropriation for the support of the state library. [Amendatory of chapter 17, title XIII, of the code, relating to the state library and historical collections.]

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. Consolidation—board of trustees. That the board of trustees of the Iowa state library and the board of trustees of the Iowa historical department be, and the same are hereby, empowered and directed to consolidate the miscellaneous portion of the Iowa state library (exclusive of the law section), or so much thereof as shall be regarded by said board as advisable, with the historical department; the aforesaid consolidation to take effect on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and one, or at any such later date as said trustees may direct; and that on and after January first, nineteen hundred and one, the board of trustees of the Iowa state library and the board of trustees of the Iowa state historical department shall cease to exist as such, and the aforesaid boards shall by this act become the board of trustees of the state library and the historical department of Iowa, and the newly constituted board shall thereafter be charged with all the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the boards afore mentioned and possess all the powers thereof.

**SEC. 2. State librarian—curator—assistant librarian—reports.** That after such consolidation the state librarian shall have general charge of the historical department and of the consolidated and law libraries. The curator of the museum and art gallery shall have charge of the museum, the art gallery, the newspapers, and historical periodicals. The assistant to librarian shall have charge of the law library, under the direction of the state librarian. The above officers shall serve out the terms for which they shall have been appointed, at the expiration of which their successors shall be appointed by the board of trustees, and shall hold their respective offices for the term of six (6) years. The state librarian shall submit to the governor biennially a report giving the history of said consolidated libraries for the preceding two years, accompanied by a like report by the curator of the museum and art gallery.

**SEC. 3. Furniture and fixtures.** The executive council is authorized to procure the furniture and fixtures made necessary by such consolidation and pay for the same out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 4. Assignment of rooms.** The board of trustees shall have the control of the respective departments above named, and shall assign rooms to be occupied by each of said officers.

**SEC. 5. Appropriations.** There shall be annually appropriated, from any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ten thousand dollars for the use of the state library and historical department and museum, and the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars for the separate use of the law department, the money to be expended under the direction of the board of trustees of the state library and historical department; and the existing appropriations of five thousand dollars for the state library and six thousand dollars for the historical department shall be discontinued upon the consolidation aforesaid.

**SEC. 6. Salaries—bonds.** From and after the taking effect of this act, the salary of the state librarian shall be the sum of two thousand (2000) dollars per annum; the salary of the curator of the historical department

LAWS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CH. 116.

shall be the sum of sixteen hundred (1600) dollars per annum, and the salary of the assistant librarian shall be the sum of twelve hundred (1200) dollars per annum. After the consolidation provided for in this act becomes effective, the state librarian shall give bond in the sum of five thousand dollars, and the curator of the museum and art gallery, and the first assistant librarian, each in the sum of one thousand dollars, conditioned upon the faithful performance of their respective duties, to be approved by the board of trustees. The aforesaid salaries to be paid monthly out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 7. In effect.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved March 12, 1900.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader March 13, 1900.

G. L. DOBSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

CHAPTER 115.

COMPENSATION OF STATE LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANTS.

S. F. 318.

AN ACT to amend section twenty-eight hundred and eighty-one (2881) of the code, relating to the compensation of the state librarian and his assistants.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Compensation of assistant librarians.** That section twenty-eight hundred and eighty-one (2881) of the code be amended as follows: By striking from the third line of said section the words "six hundred," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "one thousand." By

striking from the fourth line of said section the words "five hundred," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "eight hundred." By striking from the fifth line of said section the words "four hundred," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "seven hundred."

**SEC. 2. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and Des Moines Leader, papers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved April 6, 1900.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa State Register and Des Moines Leader, April 7, 1900.

G. L. DOBSON,  
Secretary of State.

#### CHAPTER 116.

##### LIBRARY COMMISSION AND FREE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES;

S. F. 32.

AN ACT to create a library commission and promote the establishment and efficiency of free public libraries and public school libraries in the state of Iowa, and to appropriate money therefor. [Additional to title XIII, of the code, relating to education.]

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. State library commission—term—chairman.** The governor shall appoint four persons, at least two of whom shall be women, who, with the state librarian and superintendent of public instruction and president of the state university, shall constitute a state library commission. The first members appointed by the governor shall be appointed for terms of two, three, four and five years from the first day of July, 1900, and all subsequent appointments shall be for terms of five years, except appointments to fill vacancies. The commission shall annually elect a chairman.

#### LAWS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CH. 156.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Amount appropriated.** That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of two thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the completion of the work of classifying and cataloguing, according to the modern scientific methods, all books now in or that may hereafter be added to the state library, the money to be expended under the direction of the board of trustees.

**SEC. 2. In effect.** This act shall take effect from and after its publication in the Des Moines Daily Register and the Des Moines Daily Leader.

Approved April 5, 1900.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Des Moines Daily Register and the Des Moines Daily Leader April 6, 1900.

G. L. DOBSON,  
Secretary of State.

#### CHAPTER 155.

##### STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

S. F. 292.

AN ACT to increase the support of the state historical department.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Amount appropriated—how expended.** That there be and is hereby appropriated for the biennial period out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) in addition to the sum now provided by law for the support of the historical department, for the purpose of printing and binding, for the purchase of books and periodicals, and for additional assistance and incidental expenses. Said money shall be expended under the direction and with the

approval of the board of trustees.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its publication according to law.

Approved April 7, 1900.

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CHAPTER 156.

HISTORICAL BUILDING.

S. F. 47.

AN ACT to provide for the finishing and furnishing of the historical building.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. **Amount appropriated—how drawn and expended.** That there be and is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000), for the purpose of finishing and furnishing, painting, and decorating the building of the historical department, and for providing the same with art room decorations and furnishings, glass cases for museum materials, furniture for two reading rooms, finishing the attic, for aquariums, gas fixtures, curbing, and walks, and furniture for curator's room. Said appropriation shall be expended by and under the direction of the executive council for the above-named purposes, and the auditor of state shall issue warrants on the treasurer of state upon the certificate of the said council.

SEC. 2. **In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader, newspapers published in the city of Des Moines.

Approved April 6, 1900.

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CH. 114. LAWS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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CHAPTER 114.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE MISCELLANEOUS PORTION OF STATE LIBRARY  
WITH THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

S. F. 218.

AN ACT for the consolidation of the miscellaneous portion of the state library with the historical department, and defining the duties and fixing the salaries of the librarian, assistant, and the curator, and making an appropriation for the support of the state library. [Amendatory of chapter 17, title XIII, of the code, relating to the state library and historical collections.]

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. **Consolidation—board of trustees.** That the board of trustees of the Iowa state library and the board of trustees of the Iowa historical department be, and the same are hereby, empowered and directed to consolidate the miscellaneous portion of the Iowa state library (exclusive of the law section), or so much thereof as shall be regarded by said board as advisable, with the historical department; the aforesaid consolidation to take effect on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and one, or at any such later date as said trustees may direct; and that on and after January first, nineteen hundred and one, the board of trustees of the Iowa state library and the board of trustees of the Iowa state historical department shall cease to exist as such, and the aforesaid boards shall by this act become the board of trustees of the state library and the historical department of Iowa, and the newly constituted board shall thereafter be charged with all the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the boards afore mentioned and possess all the powers thereof.

SEC. 2. **State librarian—curator—assistant librarian—reports.** That after such consolidation the state librarian shall have general charge of the historical department and of the consolidated and law libraries. The curator of the museum and art gallery shall have charge of the museum, the art gallery, the newspapers, and historical periodicals. The assistant to librarian shall have charge of the law library, under the direction of the state librarian. The above officers shall serve out the terms for which they shall have been appointed, at the expiration of which

their successors shall be appointed by the board of trustees, and shall hold their respective offices for the term of six (6) years. The state librarian shall submit to the governor biennially a report giving the history of said consolidated libraries for the preceding two years, accompanied by a like report by the curator of the museum and art gallery.

**SEC. 8. Furniture and fixtures.** The executive council is authorized to procure the furniture and fixtures made necessary by such consolidation and pay for the same out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 4. Assignment of rooms.** The board of trustees shall have the control of the respective departments above named, and shall assign rooms to be occupied by each of said officers.

**SEC. 5. Appropriations.** There shall be annually appropriated, from any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ten thousand dollars for the use of the state library and historical department and museum, and the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars for the separate use of the law department, the money to be expended under the direction of the board of trustees of the state library and historical department; and the existing appropriations of five thousand dollars for the state library and six thousand dollars for the historical department shall be discontinued upon the consolidation aforesaid.

**SEC. 6. Salaries—bonds.** From and after the taking effect of this act, the salary of the state librarian shall be the sum of two thousand (2000) dollars per annum; the salary of the curator of the historical department

LAWS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CH. 116.

shall be the sum of sixteen hundred (1600) dollars per annum, and the salary of the assistant librarian shall be the sum of twelve hundred (1200) dollars per annum. After the consolidation provided for in this act becomes effective, the state librarian shall give bond in the sum of five thousand dollars, and the curator of the museum and art gallery, and the first assistant librarian, each in the sum of one thousand dollars, conditioned upon the faithful performance of their respective duties, to be approved by the board of trustees. The aforesaid salaries to be paid monthly out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 7. In effect.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved March 12, 1900.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader March 13, 1900.

G. L. DOBSON,  
Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 115.

COMPENSATION OF STATE LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANTS.

S. F. 318.

AN ACT to amend section twenty-eight hundred and eighty-one (2881) of the code, relating to the compensation of the state librarian and his assistants.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Compensation of assistant librarians.** That section twenty-eight hundred and eighty-one (2881) of the code be amended as follows: By striking from the third line of said section the words "six hundred," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "one thousand." By striking from the fourth line of said section the words "five hundred," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "eight hundred." By striking from the fifth line of said section the words "four hundred," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "seven hundred."

**SEC. 2. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and Des Moines Leader, papers published at Des Moines.

Iowa.

Approved April 6, 1900.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Iowa State Register and Des Moines Leader, April 7, 1900.

G. L. DOBSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

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CHAPTER 116.

LIBRARY COMMISSION AND FREE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

S. F. 33.

AN ACT to create a library commission and promote the establishment and efficiency of free public libraries and public school libraries in the state of Iowa, and to appropriate money therefor. [Additional to title XIII, of the code, relating to education.]

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. **State library commission—term—chairman.** The governor shall appoint four persons, at least two of whom shall be women, who, with the state librarian and superintendent of public instruction and president of the state university, shall constitute a state library commission. The first members appointed by the governor shall be appointed for terms of two, three, four and five years from the first day of July, 1900, and all subsequent appointments shall be for terms of five years, except appointments to fill vacancies. The commission shall annually elect a chairman.

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LAWS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CH. 156.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. **Amount appropriated.** That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of two thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the completion of the work of classifying and cataloguing, according to the modern scientific methods, all books now in or that may hereafter be added to the state library, the money to be expended under the direction of the board of trustees.

SEC. 2. **In effect.** This act shall take effect from and after its publication in the Des Moines Daily Register and the Des Moines Daily Leader.

Approved April 5, 1900.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Des Moines Daily Register and the Des Moines Daily Leader April 6, 1900.

G. L. DOBSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

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CHAPTER 155.

STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT.

S. F. 292.

AN ACT to increase the support of the state historical department.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. **Amount appropriated—how expended.** That there be and is hereby appropriated for the biennial period out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) in addition to the sum now provided by law for the support of the historical department, for the purpose of printing and binding, for the purchase of books and periodicals, and for additional assistance and incidental expenses. Said money shall be expended under the direction and with the approval of the board of trustees.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its publication according to law.

Approved April 7, 1900.

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## CHAPTER 156.

## HISTORICAL BUILDING.

S. F. 47.

AN ACT to provide for the finishing and furnishing of the historical building.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Amount appropriated—how drawn and expended.** That there be and is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000), for the purpose of finishing and furnishing, painting, and decorating the building of the historical department, and for providing the same with art room decorations and furnishings, glass cases for museum materials, furniture for two reading rooms, finishing the attic, for aquariums, gas fixtures, curbing, and walks, and furniture for curator's room. Said appropriation shall be expended by and under the direction of the executive council for the above-named purposes, and the auditor of state shall issue warrants on the treasurer of state upon the certificates of the said council.

**SEC. 2. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Des Moines Leader, newspapers published in the city of Des Moines.

Approved April 6, 1900.

## LAW OF THE THIRTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. [Ch. 163.]

**SEC. 3. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect from and after its publication in the Register and Leader and the Des Moines Daily Capital, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved March 31, A. D. 1904.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Des Moines Daily Capital, April 1, 1904, and the Register and Leader, April 2, 1904.

W. B. MARTIN,  
*Secretary of State.*



## CHAPTER 163.

## HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL AND ART BUILDING.

H. F. 211.

AN ACT providing for the completion of the historical, memorial and art building, and the acquisition of the real estate hereinafter described and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Appropriation—when available.** The executive council is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to proceed with the completion of the state historical, memorial and art building, and the acquisition of the real property hereinafter described, in accordance with the provisions of this act. For these purposes there is hereby appropriated the sum of two hun-

## CH. 164.] LAWS OF THE THIRTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

dred thousand dollars to be paid out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, one half of which may be expended in the year 1904, and one half in the year 1905.

**SEC. 2. Plans and specifications—letting of contracts—furnishings.** The executive council is hereby authorized to take such steps as to it shall seem proper and necessary to secure plans for the completion of said building. As soon as satisfactory plans and specifications are secured, the executive council shall proceed to let the necessary contracts to the lowest responsible bidder or bidders, (reserving the right to accept or reject any or all bids), who shall execute such bonds as the executive council may deem necessary for the faithful performance of said work. All payments shall be approved by the executive council. The executive council may set aside so much of said appropriation as they shall deem necessary for the purchase of furnishings for the east wing of the said building during the next biennial period.

**SEC. 3. Purchase of additional land.** The executive council is further authorized to secure either by purchase or condemnation lot No. 6, in block No. 5, in Lyon's addition to the city of Des Moines, the same being necessary for the purposes of this act.

**SEC. 4. Iowa materials.** Iowa materials shall be used in the construction of this edifice, quality and price being considered.

**SEC. 5. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Daily Register and Leader, and the Daily Iowa Capital, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved April 2, A. D. 1904.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Daily Register and Leader and the Daily Iowa Capital, April 5, 1904.

W. B. MARTIN,  
*Secretary of State.*

## CHAPTER 163.

## HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL AND ART BUILDING.

H. F. 211.

AN ACT providing for the completion of the historical, memorial and art building, and the acquisition of the real estate hereinafter described and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Appropriation—when available.** The executive council is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to proceed with the completion of the state historical, memorial and art building, and the acquisition of the real property hereinafter described, in accordance with the provisions of this act. For these purposes there is hereby appropriated the sum of two hun-

## CH. 164.] LAWS OF THE THIRTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

dred thousand dollars to be paid out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, one half of which may be expended in the year 1904, and one half in the year 1905.

**SEC. 2. Plans and specifications—letting of contracts—furnishings.** The executive council is hereby authorized to take such steps as to it shall seem proper and necessary to secure plans for the completion of said building. As soon as satisfactory plans and specifications are secured, the executive council shall proceed to let the necessary contracts to the lowest responsible bidder or bidders, (reserving the right to accept or reject any or all bids), who shall execute such bonds as the executive council may deem necessary for the faithful performance of said work. All payments shall be approved by the executive council. The executive council may set aside so much of said appropriation as they shall deem necessary for the purchase of furnishings for the east wing of the said building during the next biennial period.

**SEC. 3. Purchase of additional land.** The executive council is further authorized to secure either by purchase or condemnation lot No. 6, in block No. 5, in Lyon's addition to the city of Des Moines, the same being necessary for the purposes of this act.

**SEC. 4. Iowa materials.** Iowa materials shall be used in the construction of this edifice, quality and price being considered.

**SEC. 5. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Daily Register and Leader, and the Daily Iowa Capital, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved April 2, A. D. 1904.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Daily Register and Leader and the Daily Iowa Capital, April 5, 1904.

W. B. MARTIN,  
*Secretary of State.*

## LAWS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

[CH. 142

## CHAPTER 142.

## PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ARCHIVES.

H. F. 129.

AN ACT providing for the care and permanent preservation of the public archives, and making an appropriation therefor. [Additional to chapter seventeen (17) of title thirteen (XIII) of the code and chapter seventeen-A (17-A) of the supplement to the code, relating to state library and historical collections.]

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Custody of public archives.** That for the care and preservation of the public archives the state library and historical department of Iowa are hereby given the custody of all the original public documents, papers, letters, records and other official manuscripts of the state executive and administrative departments, offices or officers, councils, boards, bureaus and commissions, ten years after the date or current use of such public documents, papers, letters, records or other official manuscripts. Provided, that the executive council shall have the power and authority to order the transfer of such records or any part thereof at any time prior to the expiration of the limit of ten years hereinbefore provided or to retain the same in the respective offices beyond such limit according as in the judgment of the council the public interest or convenience may require.

**SEC. 2. Transfer to state library and historical department.** That the several state executive and administrative departments, officers or offices, councils, boards, bureaus and commissioners, are hereby authorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the state library and historical department such of the public archives as are designated in section one (1) of this act, except such as in the judgment of the executive council should be longer retained in the respective offices.

**SEC. 3. Archives to be classified, labeled and calendered.** That the state library and historical department is hereby authorized and directed to receive such of the public archives and records as are designated in section (1) of this act and provide that the same be properly arranged, classified, labeled, filed and calendered.

**SEC. 4. Hall of public archives.** That for the care and permanent preservation by the state library and historical department of the public archives hereinbefore designated, the executive council is hereby authorized and directed to provide, furnish and equip such room or rooms in the historical memorial and art building (now in process of erection) as may be deemed necessary for the purposes of this act, and the room or rooms thus provided for shall be known as the hall of public archives.

**SEC. 5. Appropriation.** That for carrying out the purposes of this act there is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per annum for three years to be expended under the direction of the board of trustees of the state library and historical department.

Approved April 10, A. D. 1906.

CH. 188]

LAWS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

## CHAPTER 187.

### COMPLETION OF HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL AND ART BUILDING.

a. s. 161.

AN ACT providing for the inside finishing and completion of the historical, memorial and art building. Also for the purchase of steel book stacks, and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Appropriation.** The executive council is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to proceed with the inside finishing and completion of the historical, memorial and art building, including heating, ventilating, plumbing, cement walks and granite curbing. Also electric fixtures and steel book stacks in accordance with the provisions of this act. For these purposes there is hereby appropriated the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be paid out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 2. Contracts let by executive council.** The executive council shall proceed to let the necessary contracts to the lowest responsible bidder, (reserving the right to accept or reject any or all bids), who shall execute such bonds as the executive council may deem necessary for the faithful performance of said work. All payment shall be approved by the executive council.

**SEC. 3. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Register and Leader and the Des Moines Daily Capital, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved April 9, A. D. 1906.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Des Moines Daily Capital, April 14, 1906 and the Register and Leader, April 18, 1906.

W. B. MARTIN,  
*Secretary of State.*



## CHAPTER 219.

## HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL AND ART BUILDING.

S. F. 182.

AN ACT providing for the inside finishing and completion of the historical, memorial and art building, and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Inside finishing and completion—appropriation.** The executive council is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to proceed with the inside finishing and completion of the historical, memorial and art building, including heating, plumbing and ventilation, also electric light fixtures, freight elevators, painting balance woodwork and wall and ceiling decorations, granite curbing, steps and cement walks, grading and seeding grounds, in accordance with specifications of the architect, also to purchase such furniture as shall be needed in said building, for these purposes there is hereby appropriated the sum of forty thousand (\$40,000) dollars to be paid out of any money in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 2. Letting of contracts.** The executive council shall proceed to let the necessary contracts to the lowest responsible bidder, (reserving the right to accept or reject any or all bids), who shall execute such bonds as the executive council may deem necessary for the faithful performance of said work. All payment shall be approved by the executive council.

**SEC. 3. In effect.** This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Register and Leader and the Des Moines Capital, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.  
Approved April 10, A. D. 1907.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Register and Leader, and the Des Moines Capital, April 13, 1907.

W. C. HAYWARD,  
Secretary of State.

## CHAPTER 220.

## STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

H. F. 228.

AN ACT making appropriations to the state historical society of Iowa.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Appropriation for additional support.** That there be and is hereby appropriated to the state historical society of Iowa, out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) annually hereafter as additional permanent support.

**SEC. 2. How paid.** That the said sum shall be paid in quarterly installments on the order of the board of curators of the said state historical society of Iowa, the first installment to be July 4, 1907.

Approved April 1, A. D. 1907.

## CHAPTER 247.

## HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL AND ART BUILDING.

S. F. 404.

AN ACT providing for the inside finishing and completion of the historical, memorial and art building, and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**SECTION 1. Appropriation—purposes.** The executive council is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to proceed with the inside finishing and completion of the historical, memorial and art building, including the refinishing, reilluminating, removal of the original main entrance, and restoration of the walls affected thereby, the inside finishing and decorations, stairways, and other structural details of the corridors and rotunda, in accordance with the specifications of the architect, also for the purchase of furniture and equipment for the collections of the historical department in said building. For these purposes there is hereby appropriated the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be paid out of the moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**SEC. 2. Letting contracts.** The executive council shall proceed to let the necessary contracts to the lowest responsible bidder in open competition after being duly advertised, (reserving the right to reject any, or all bids). The person or firm receiving the contract shall execute such bonds as the executive council may deem necessary for the faithful performance of said work. All payments shall be approved by the executive council.

**SEC. 3. In effect.** This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Register and Leader and in the Des Moines Capital, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

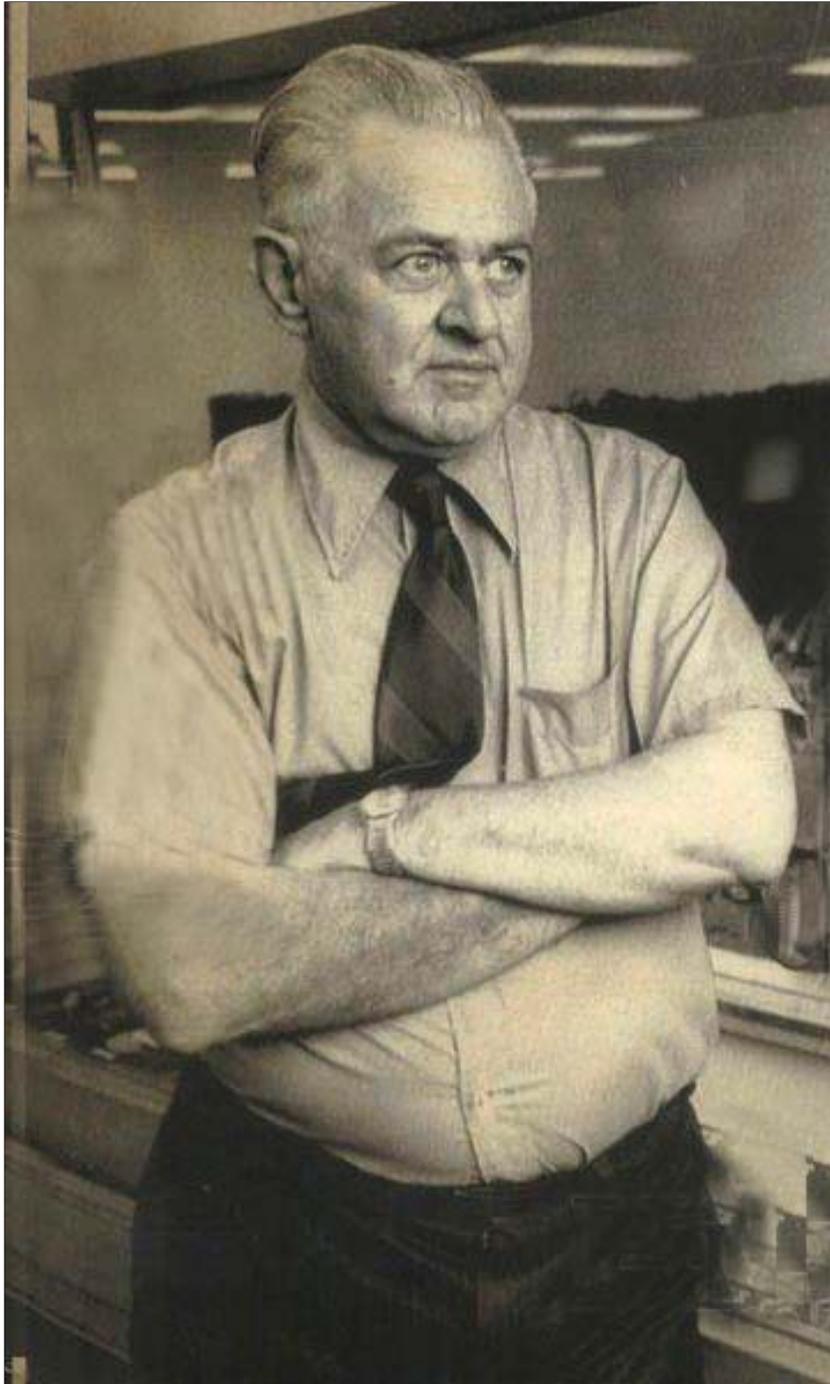
Approved April 13, A. D. 1909.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Register and Leader and Des Moines Capital April 15, A. D. 1909.

W. C. HAYWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

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**State Librarians of Iowa—1837-Present**  
**Iowa Historical Building Museum Curators—1882-1995**



Museum Curator Jack Musgrove, 1972

## Miller Building Occupants: State Library of Iowa Iowa Department of History and Archives

The State Historical Department was established by law in 1892. In 1899, the Cornerstone of the State Historical Building was laid. In 1910, the Historical Building was completed. In 1923, the State Historical Department was reorganized as the Historical, Memorial, and Art Department of Iowa. In 1939, it was reorganized as the Iowa State Department of History and Archives.—in the Twenty-fifth Biennial Report of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, 1940. (Chronology) F616. B54 1940/66

1974—The Department of History and Archives in Des Moines was changed to the Division of Historical Museum and Archives under the new Iowa State Historical Department as a result of legislation passed by the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.—State Historical Society of Iowa NEWS FOR MEMBERS—1974, F616.N49, 1974. This department was placed under the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in July 1986. That agency was created as a result of a state government reorganization bill. In 1987, the State Historical Staff moved from the Miller Building to the new State Historical Building. Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Annual Report 1987 —F 616 .C85 1986/1987

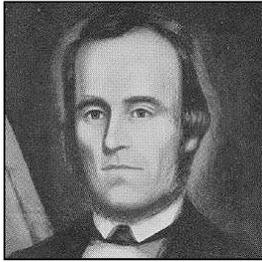
“The State Library, located in the State House in 1848, specialized in law books. In 1900, the Law Library was established. In 1911, the Legislative Reference Department was organized for the specific purpose of helping legislators. When the Historical Building was finished in 1908, the General Department of the State Library took up residence in the east wing of the building. The Medical Library was organized in 1919 and housed on the second floor of the building. Both the Law and Medical libraries remained divisions of the State Library until the reorganization in 1939 when they were made separate libraries, responsible directly to the State Board. Under the same reorganization, the General Department of the State Library, the Library Commission and the Economics-Sociology Division of the Law Library (a new name for the Legislative Reference Department) were combined to form the State Traveling Library. The chosen name was believed suggestive of the functions of this library—to carry on the work of the Library Commission in advising and strengthening the libraries of the state.”—Twenty-third Report of the Iowa State Traveling Library, Biennial Period July 1, 1944 to June 30, 1946. Z 732 .I8 A56 1944/1946

"The 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly reorganized the state library facilities by combining the State Library, which had been a reference library, with the Library Commission. Thus the resources and functions of the two libraries were united. The Library Commission had long been charged with the responsibility of looking after the general library welfare of the state, a responsibility in a state where so many small public libraries and library organizations exist. Many of these libraries are too small to have adequate means of existence and must depend on the resources of the State Traveling Library to supply books for which a demand has been created." Iowa State Traveling Library Biennial Report, 1944, P. 7, Z732.I8 A56, 1942/1944 1973 - S.F. 196 – This bill, which provided for the creation of a State Library Department headed by the State Librarian who is appointed by a five-member Library Commission, passed both the Senate and House. A State Library Commission was created. The Law Library, the Medical Library, and the Iowa State Traveling Library were combined into one department – The State Library under the State Library Commission. (Aardvark, v. 4#3, May-June 1973) Z7321.I8 F65 1973

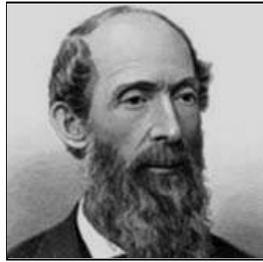
The State Library became part of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in July 1986. That agency was created as a result of a state government reorganization bill. The State Historical Society of Iowa was also placed under this Department. In 1992 the Legislature voted to move the State Library to the Department of Education. On July 27, 2011, the governor signed into law the library services reorganization legislation, which created one new agency, Iowa Library Services, by combining the Library Service Areas and the State Library. It remains under the Iowa Department of Education Footnotes, V. 16 #6, June 1992 (Z 732 .I6 F65 1992) and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Annual Report 1987 – F 616 .C85 1986/1987, Footnotes – March 2012, page 4. (*Iowa Library Services, State Library of Iowa*)

# State Librarians of Iowa—1837-Present

Not pictured: Samuel Reno (1840-1845) and Martin Morris (1852-1855)



James Clark (1837)  
Wisconsin Territory



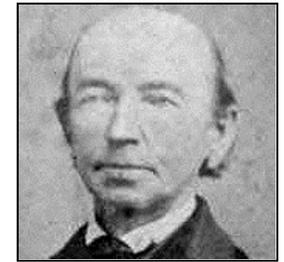
Theodore Parvin  
(1838-1839)  
Iowa Territory



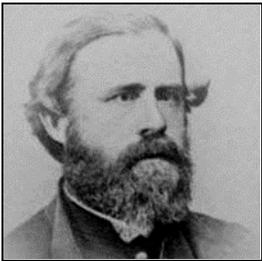
Charles Weston  
(1839-1840)



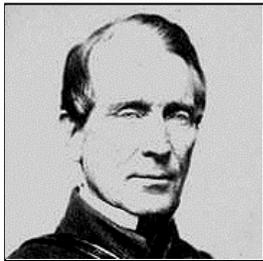
Lemuel Patterson  
(1846-1851)  
State of Iowa



Israel Kister  
(1851-1852)



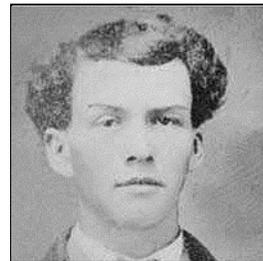
John Pattee  
(1855-1858)



John Coulter  
(1858-1860)



Lewis Coulter  
(1860-1868)



John Merrill  
(1869-1871)



Ada North  
(1872-1877)



Sara Maxwell  
(1878-1888)



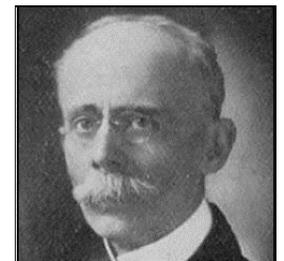
Mary Miller  
(1888-1894)



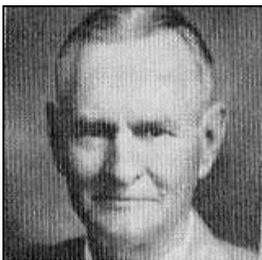
Laura Creighton  
(1894-1896)



Lana Cope  
(1896-1898)



Johnson Brigham  
(1898-1936)



John Denison  
(1936-1938)



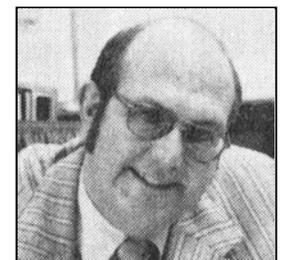
Blanche Smith  
(1939-1956)



Ernestine Grafton  
(1957-1970)



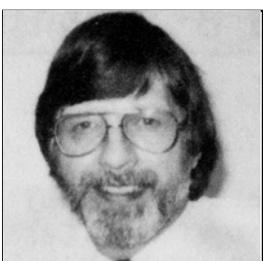
J. Maurice Travillian  
(1971-1972)



Barry Porter  
(1973-1982)



Claudya Muller  
(1983-1986)



John Montag  
(1986-1988)



Shirley George  
(1988-1991)

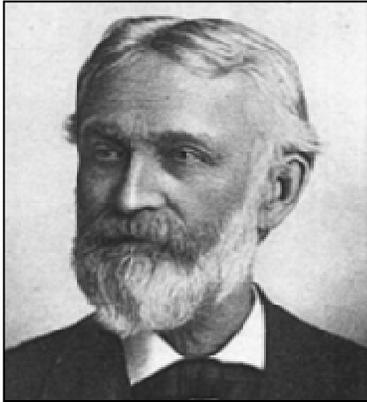


Sharman Smith  
(1992-2000)



Mary Wegner  
(2001-Present)

## Iowa Historical Building Museum Curators—1882-1995



**Charles Aldrich**  
1882-1908



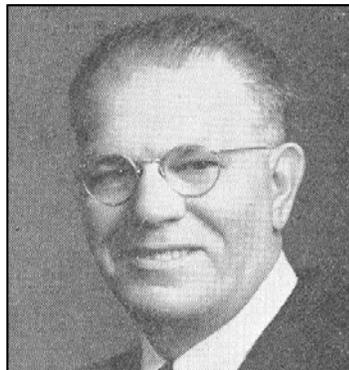
**Edgar Harlan**  
1908-1937



**Orie E. Klingaman**  
1937-1943



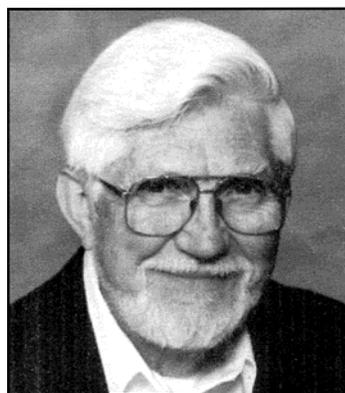
**Ora Williams**  
1943-1947



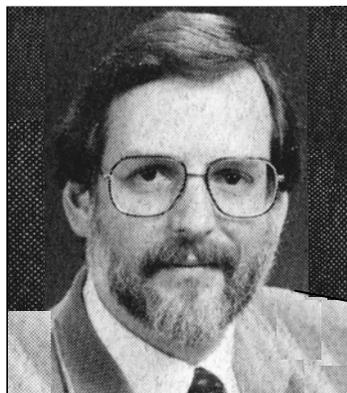
**Claude Cook**  
1947-1960



**Jack Musgrove**  
1960-1980



**Adrian Anderson**  
1980-1985



**David Crosson**  
1985-1995

## **Proposed Expansion for Archive Storage**

## Lack of Space

The most confounding and longest-running problem in the building was the lack of adequate space, which the Biennial Reports of the Historical Department mention as early as 1916. The magnitude of the problem is illustrated by the desperate temporary remedies undertaken by successive curators while they awaited the construction of an addition to the building.

At various times, archival material was stored on the third floor (which was inadequately supported for the load), in ventilator ducts, the sub-basement, and even in steam-pipe tunnels, in which the humidity varied from zero to one-hundred percent and the temperature occasionally reached 110 degrees.

The 25th Biennial Report of the Historical Department, issued in 1940, contains the following description of the dilemma: "Twenty-three hundred forty-one (2,341) bound volumes of newspapers had been stored for years in the sub-basement in a steam pipe room

ventilator duct where they were rapidly deteriorating, and where is required almost a day's work to get at a volume and an equal time to return one."

By 1946, the requests for additional, more suitable space, had become more insistent:

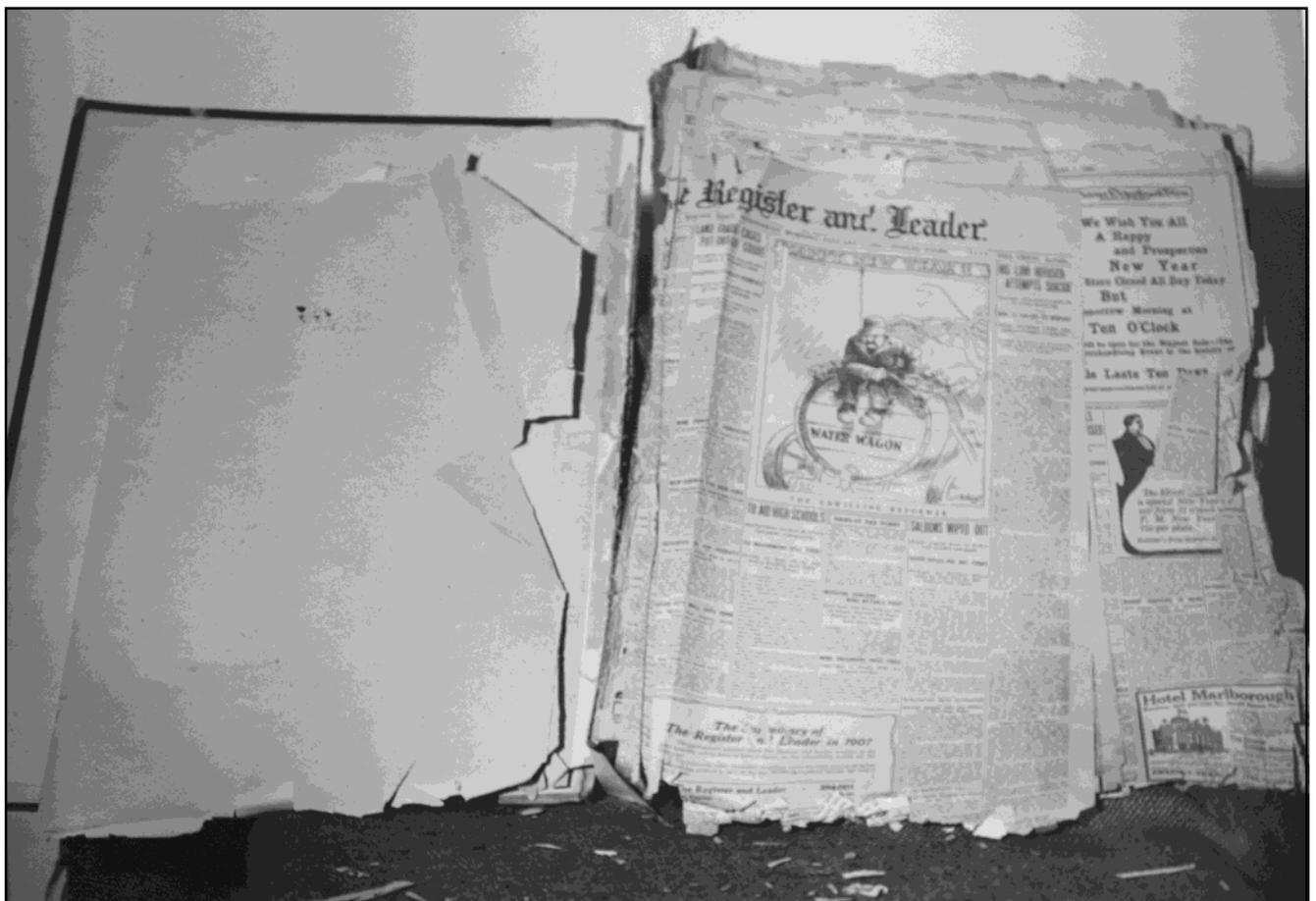
Iowa's Historical Building is crammed full of all sorts of historical things . . . Iowa is asleep in regard to taking precautions against the burning of records. Every curator of the department has begged the legislature to appropriate enough money to build a fireproof building . . . but for some reason that is unexplainable, no action has been taken. 1946 *Iowa General*

Despite elaborate plans, the eloquent diatribes, and the truly alarming photographs in the Biennial Reports, no addition was forthcoming. Finally, in 1987, an entirely new Historical Building was completed, which was located a few blocks to the west. Virtually all of the exhibits and archival items were moved to the new quarters. Much of the state library, however, remains in the original building. Taken from *The History of the Iowa Historical, Memorial, and Art Building in Des Moines, Iowa, and Recommendations for Its Preservation and Future Use* by Susan Wallace, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 1992



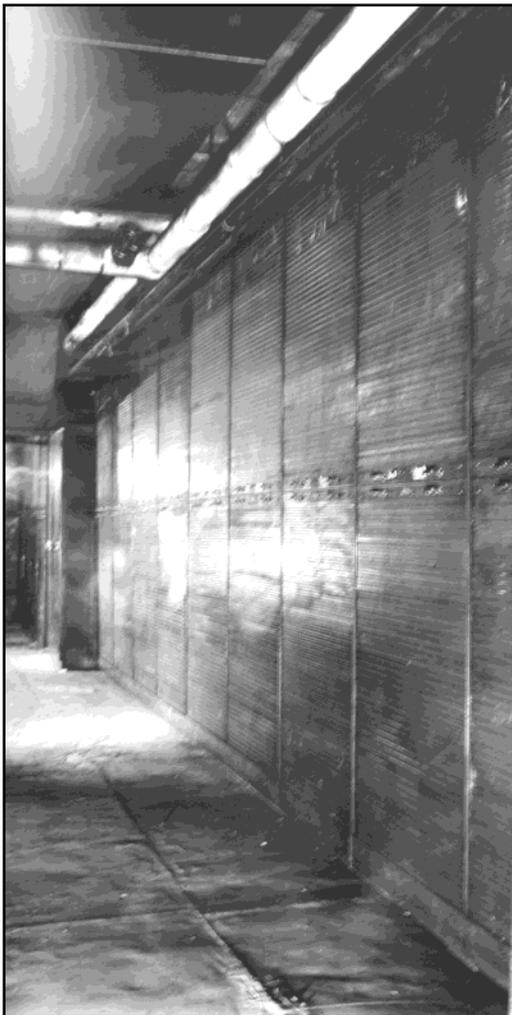


Subbasement storage and poorly kept newspaper files led to deterioration, *circa 1940*

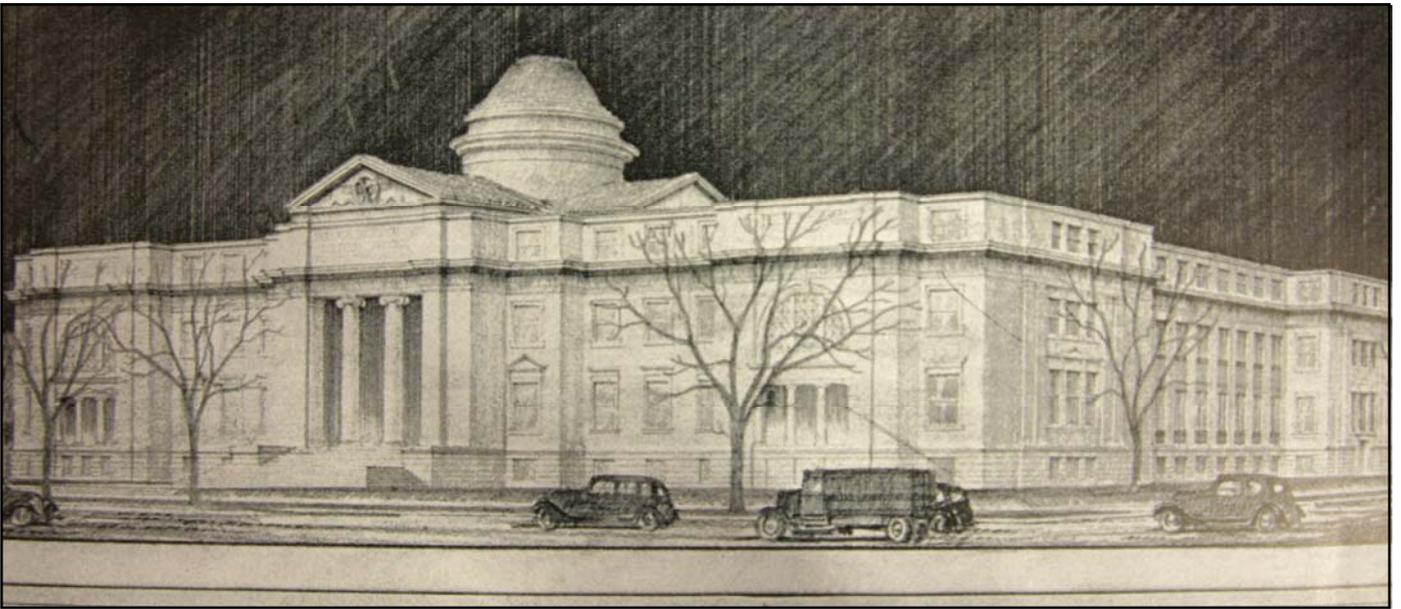




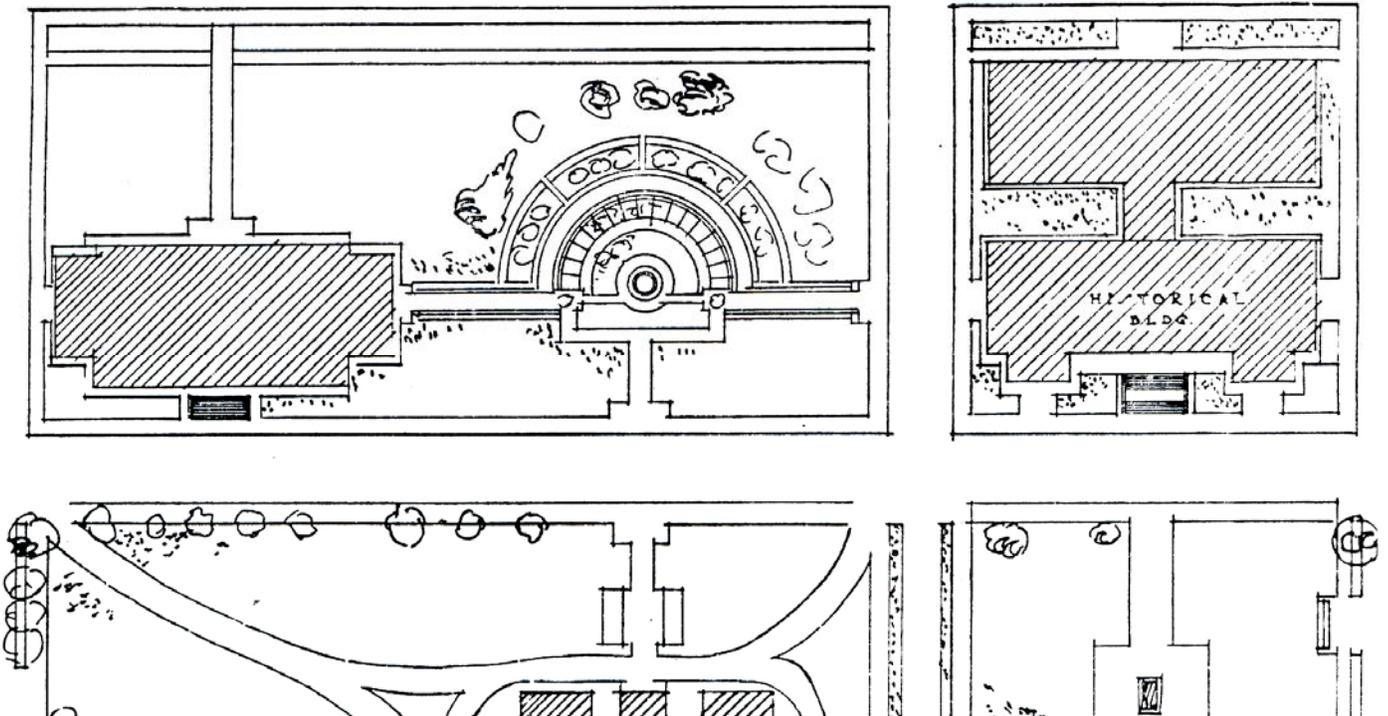
Subbasement storage for archives, books, and newspapers, *circa 1940*



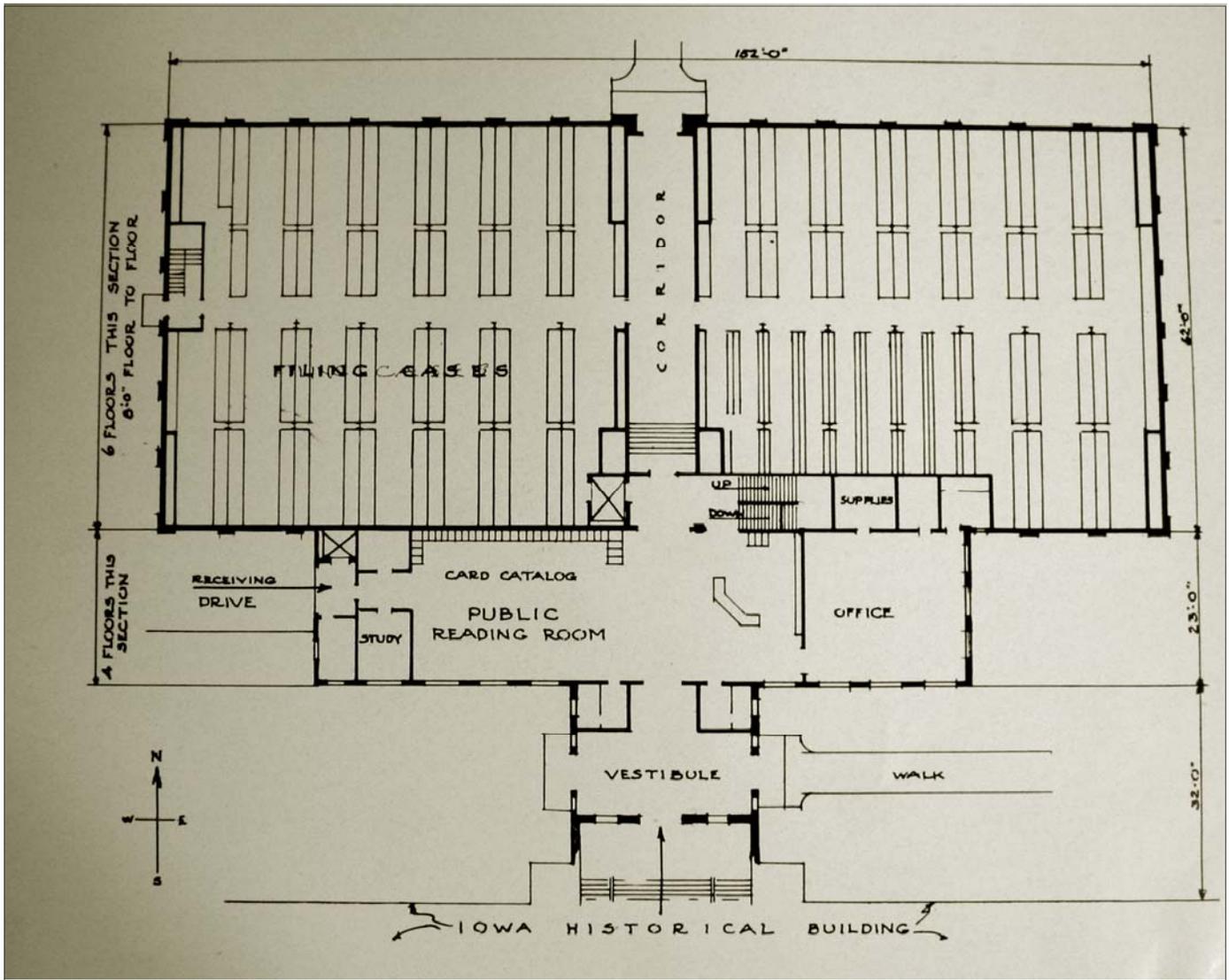
Steel vaults in subbasement for archives



Here is an architect's sketch of the Historical Building, showing the south (front) and east sides. This depiction displays the proposed archives annex to the north at East 12th and Des Moines streets. 1944



A proposed location for the State Archives Building. 1944



A proposed plan for a single floor by Karl Keffer

# **Pictures of Library, Exhibits, and Displays over the Years**

## **Historical Museum Exhibit Floor Maps**

- **Ground Floor and First Floor.....Page 189**
- **Second Floor and Third Floor.....Page 190**

**Historical Building Pictures.....Page 191**

**Traveling Library Picture.....Page 192**

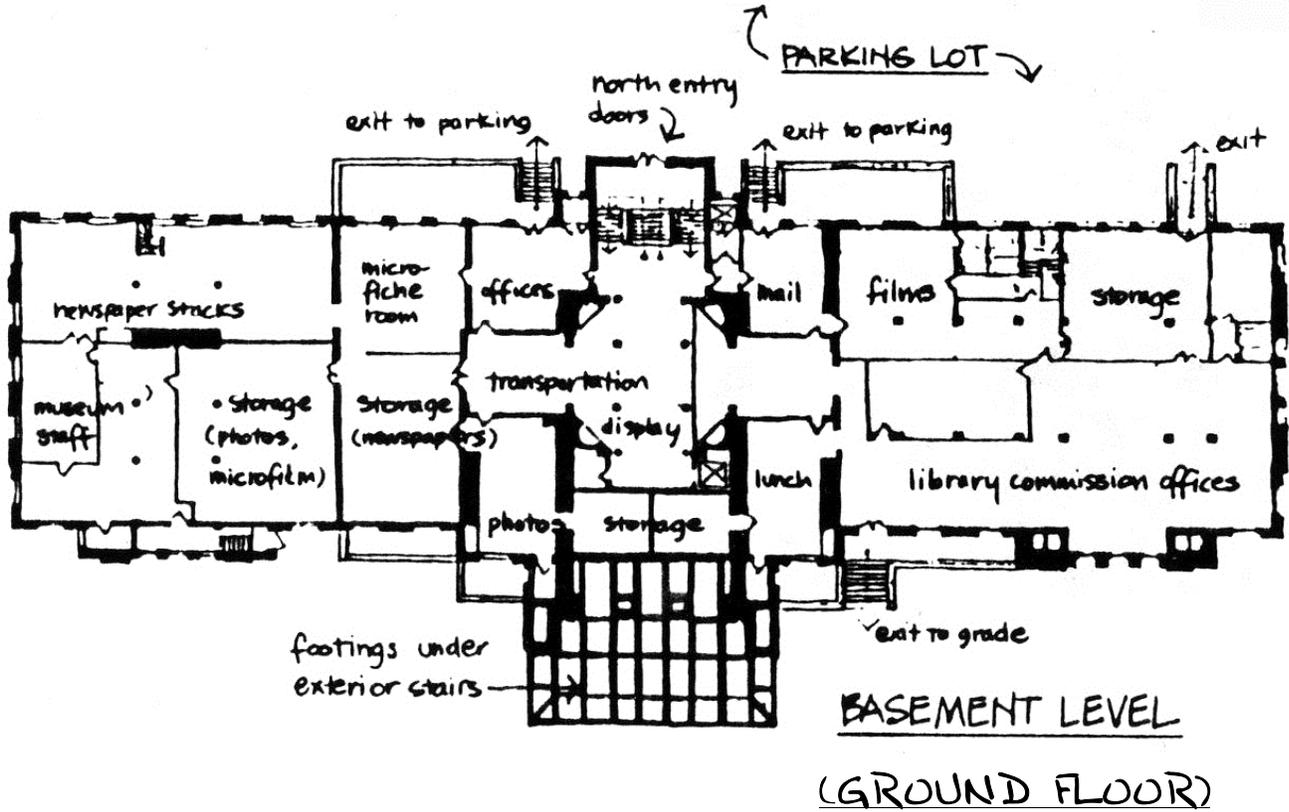
**Pictures of the State Library of Iowa.....Page 193**

**Museum Displays over the Years.....Page 194**

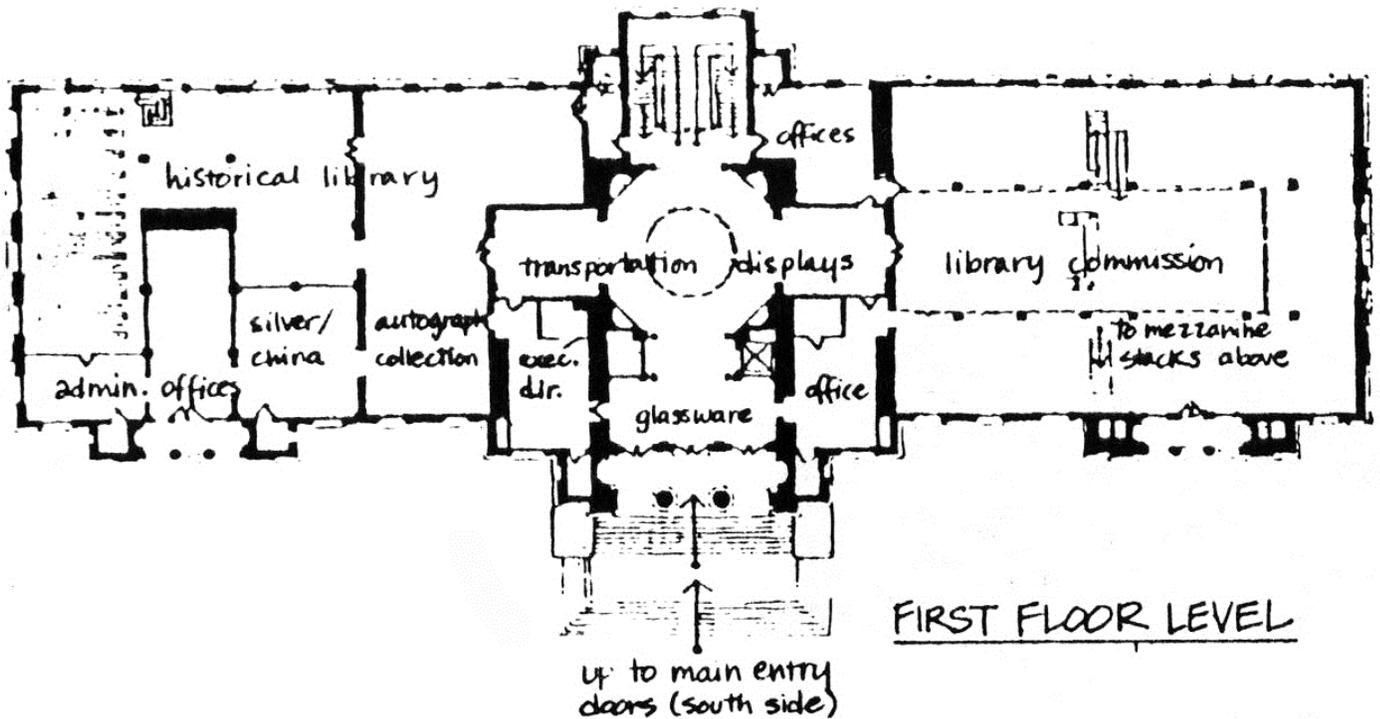


*Circa 1914*

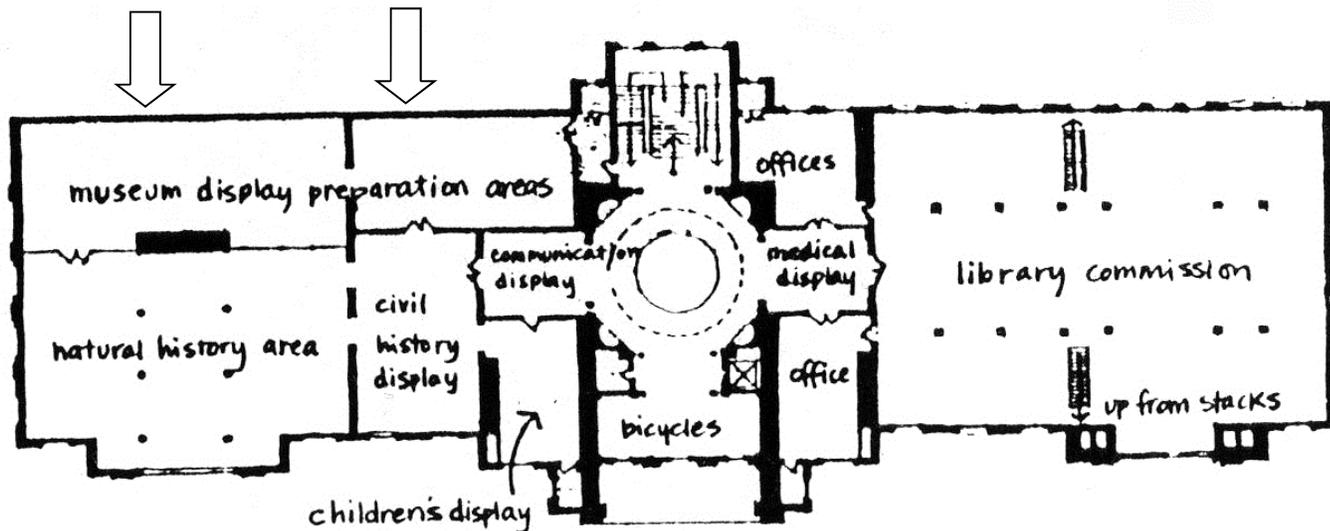
# Historical Museum Exhibit Floor Maps



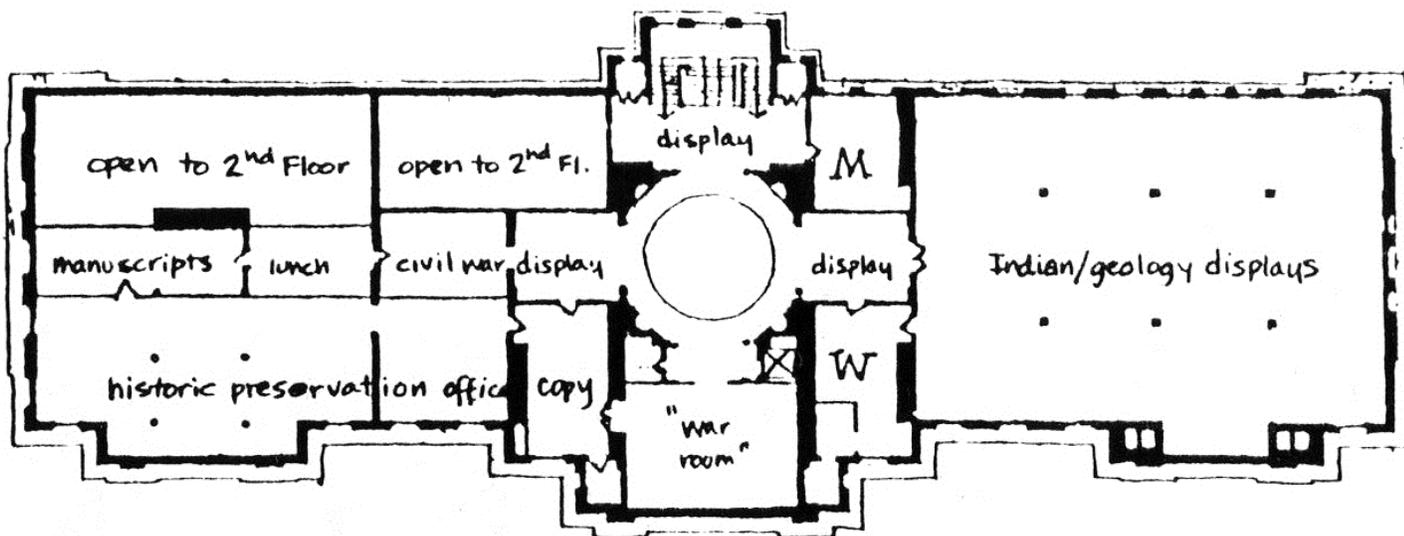
These floor maps were drawn and labeled in 1983. The smaller displays constantly changed places within the museum over the years, and different eras featured other items as well. Therefore, these are locations of displays featured during the ending years of the original Historical Building Museum.



The Portrait Gallery was originally located here.



SECOND FLOOR LEVEL



THIRD FLOOR LEVEL  
PUBLIC TOILETS AVAILABLE



**Historical Building from atop the Capitol, circa 1910**



**Early 20th century transportation**



The Historical Building taken from the Capitol looking to the northeast. This picture was taken during the early 20th century.



This book caravan of the Iowa State Library is shown parked in front (south side) of the Historical Building. *Circa 1920.*

### State Library of Iowa



Ground floor, *early 1900s*



Ground floor, *early 1900s*

**State Library of Iowa**



A librarian checks the shelves. *Circa 1920s*

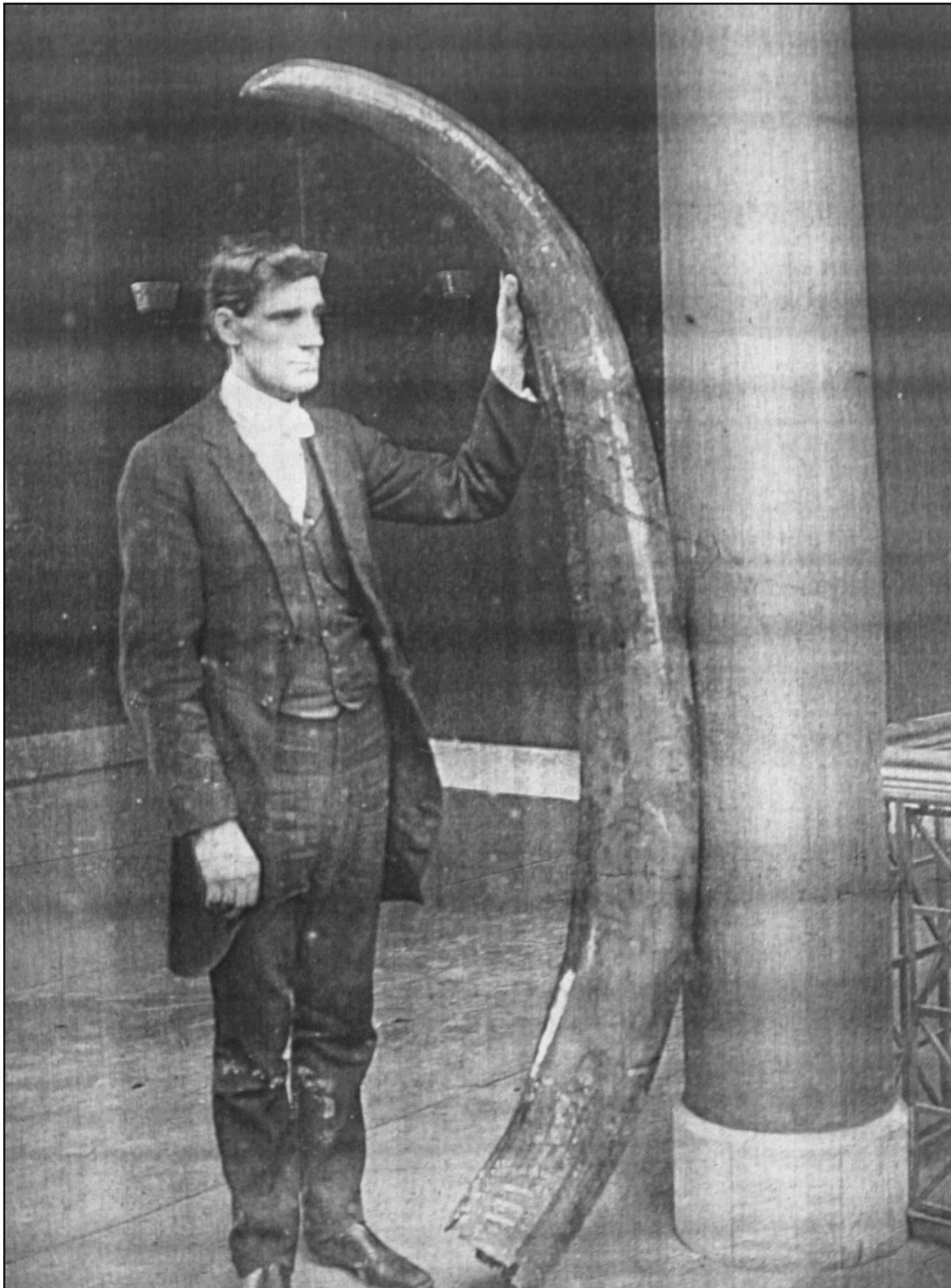


First floor entrance and desk looking east. *Circa 1920s*

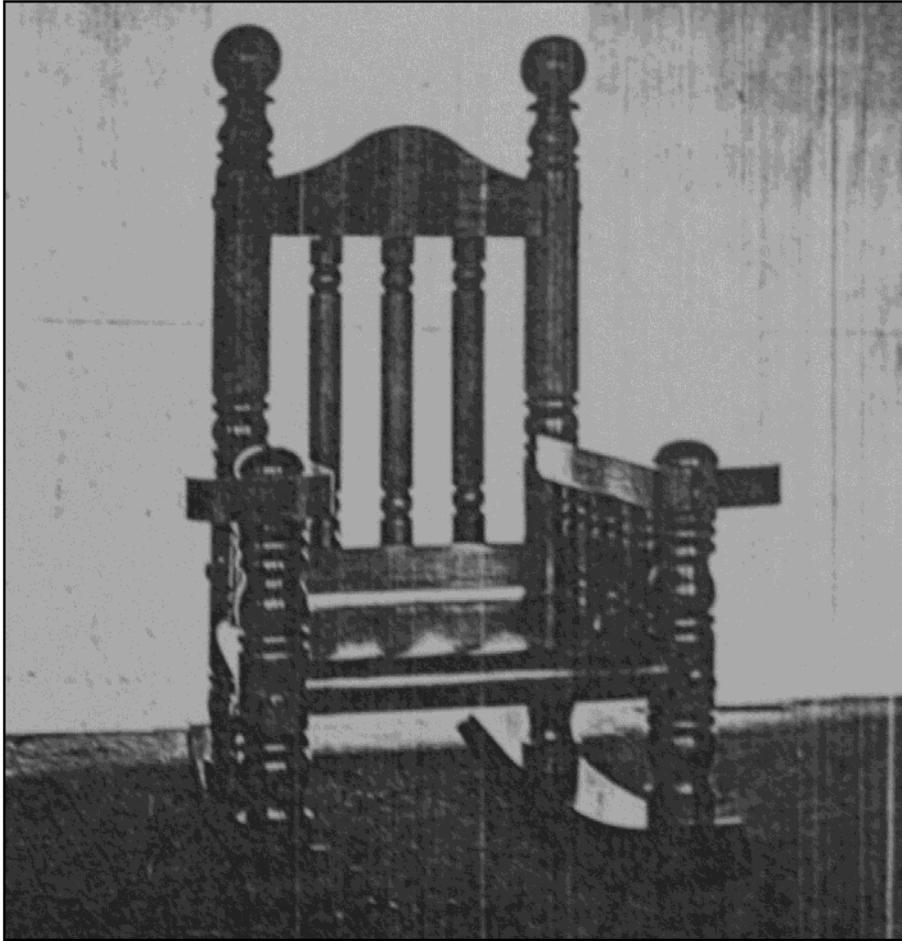
State Library of Iowa



Third floor, *Pre-1940*



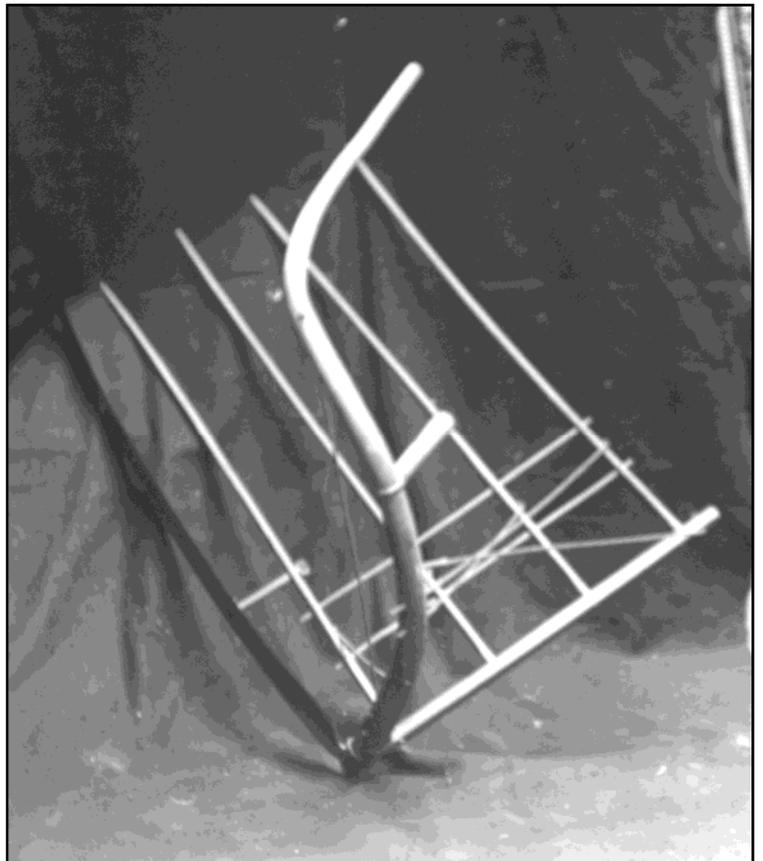
Thompson Van Hying (Iowa Historical Department) with mastodon tusk he restored. The tusk was excavated at Castana, Iowa. This was in the original building before the wings were built. *Circa 1904*



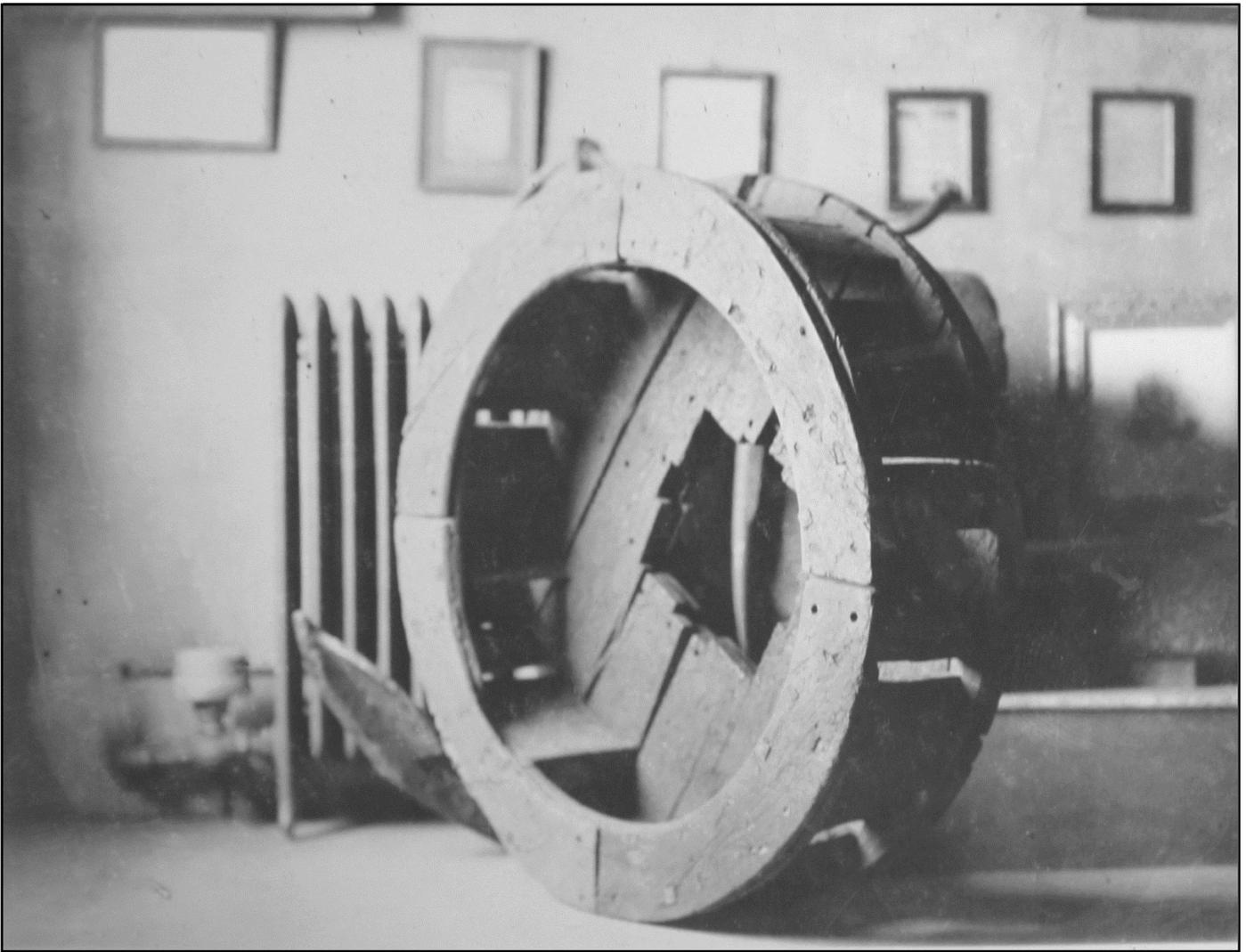
President Theodore Roosevelt chair, 1905



Printing press

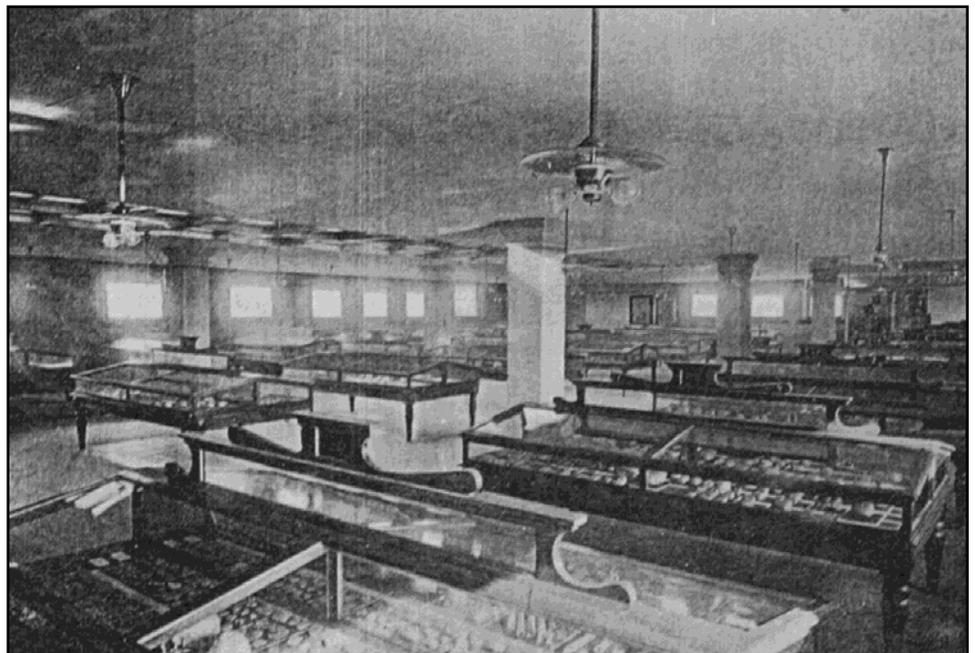


Grain cradle



In 1842, this handmade water turbine succeeded an overshot wheel in turning the burrstones in the Clayton mill that had been erected on Chequest Creek in 1837. After being buried in the mud since the flood that destroyed the mill in 1851, the erosion by another flood in 1905 exposed the two wheels, which were still in a good state of preservation. They were presented to the Iowa State Museum at Des Moines. The wheel had a wooden shaft and the water flowed radially outward between the wooden vanes.

Right: Display cases  
Indian Room, third floor





Sand paintings by Andrew Clemens,  
First floor



Andrew Clemens was born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1857. He was a sand artist who formed his pictures by compressing natural Colored sands inside chemists' jars.

At a young age, Clemens suffered from encephalitis, causing lifelong deafness. At the age of 13, Clemens entered the Iowa State School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs.

Clemens' sand painting career blossomed during his summer vacations from the State School, when he would spend time honing his craft. He would collect naturally colored grains of sand from an area in Pikes Peak State Park known as Pictured Rocks. Here, the basal portion of the sandstone near Sand Cave is naturally colored by iron and mineral staining. Clemens separated the sand grains into piles, by color, and used them to form the basis for his art.

To create his art, he inserted the presorted grains of sand into small glass drug bottles using homemade tools formed out of hickory sticks and florists wire. His process utilized no glue, and pressure from the other sand grains alone held the artwork together. When Clemens completed a sand bottle, he sealed the bottle with a stopper and wax. At first, Clemens' work was simple and geometric in nature; diamond-shaped patterns against an ivory white background was a regular motif in his earliest work.



Clemens died at age 37 in 1894.



Cut in Washington State, this section of spruce was unloaded in Des Moines by mistake while en route to the 1893 World's Columbia Exposition in Chicago. The tree was 267 years old when cut, and has a diameter of sixty-six inches. First floor



Mill stone grinding wheels



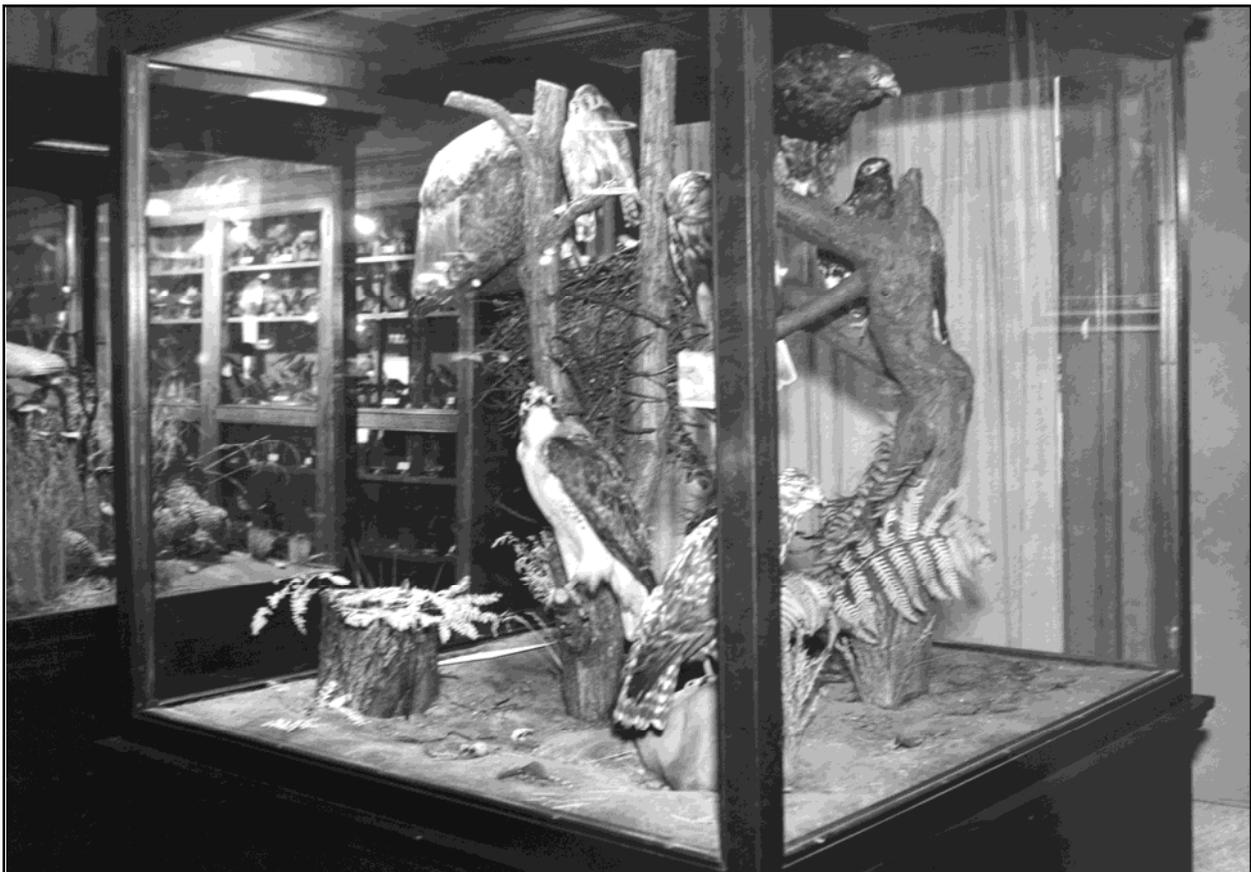
Joseph Skeppan, museum director and taxidermist, working on an armature of an elk for the display. *Circa 1915*



This display of birds includes the bald eagle. *Circa 1920*



**Bird displays**





This is a timber wildlife display featuring the black bear. *Circa 1920-30*



A young girl seems fascinated by this moose display.



Third graders from Hubbell School in Des Moines enjoy the natural history displays shown to them by teacher Hala Rhodes. *February 1934*





The Indian Room featuring a wickiup. Third floor, 1937



The craftsmanship used in creating clothes is evident in this Native American dress display. Third floor, circa 1935



Hala Rhodes explains to her students what they are seeing in the Indian Room. *February 1934*



Hala Rhodes poses with her students in the Indian Room. *February 1934*



Viewing the display of crime artifacts. 1941



Pioneer stove, first floor, *early 1960s*



"Things People Gagged On" was a popular display in the museum for many years. The note below both displays read as follows: "Foreign material removed from food and air passages by Dr. James A. Downing (from 1929-1956). Upper three rows: Bronchi—Lower row: esophagus" The display was taken down because the individual plastic envelopes holding the specimens were deteriorating.



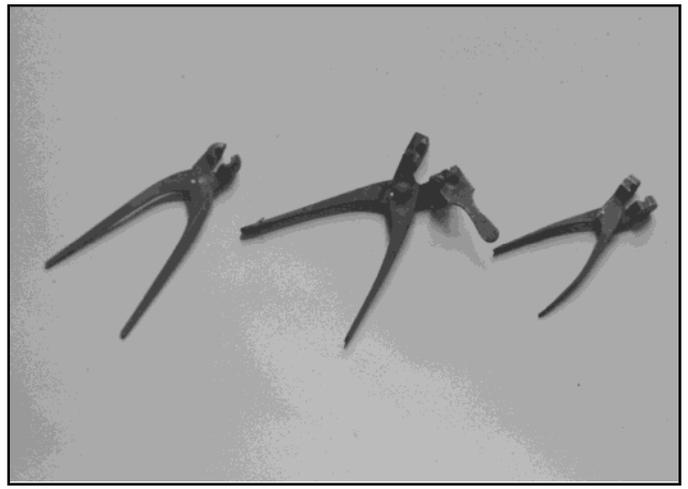
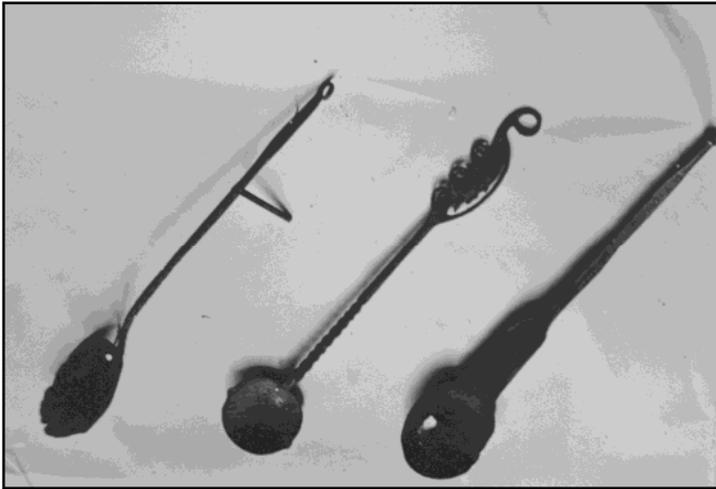


Chinaware, first floor, *early 1960s*

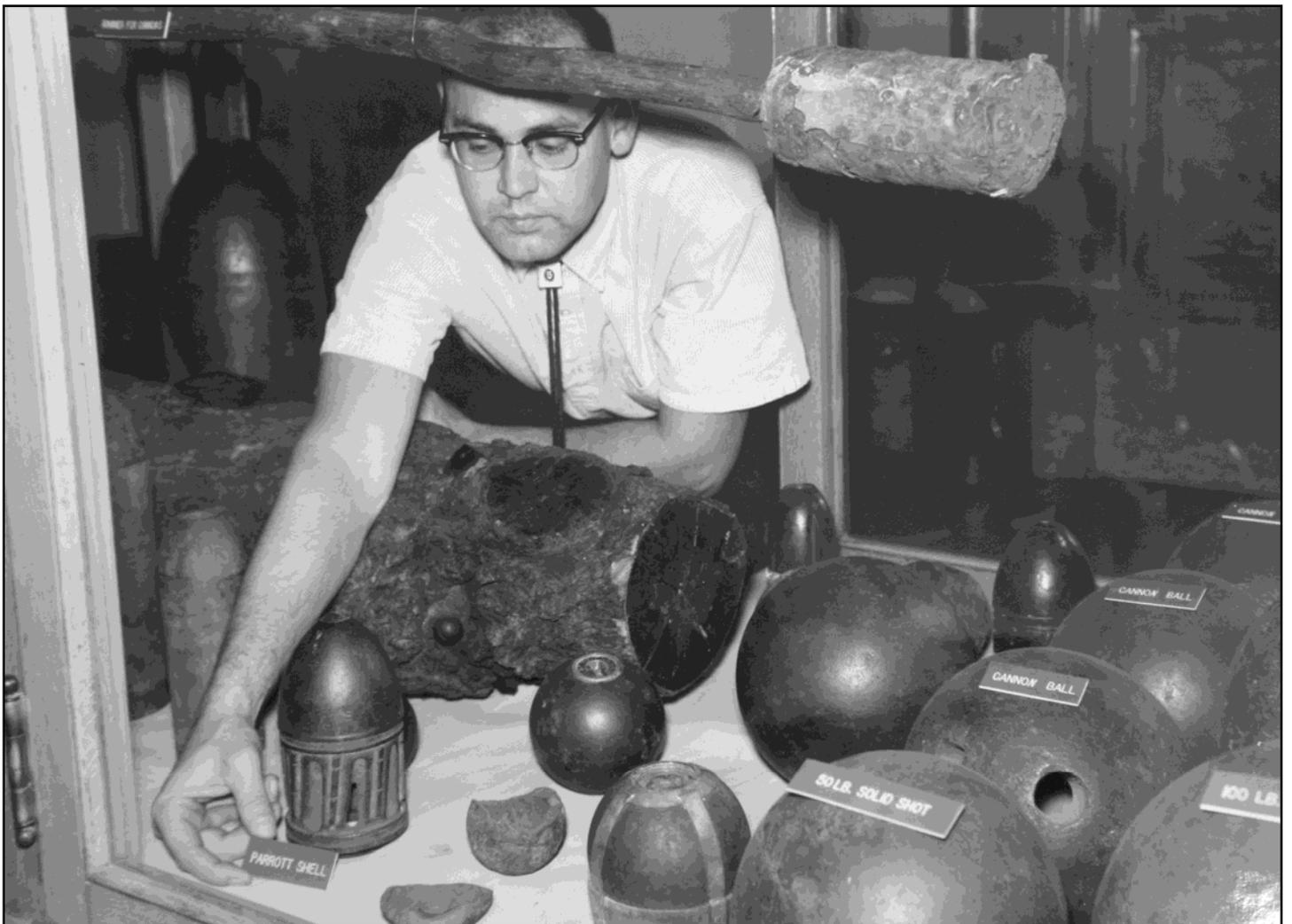


Engraved glass





Civil War era lead ladles and bullet molds that were used in making ammunition.



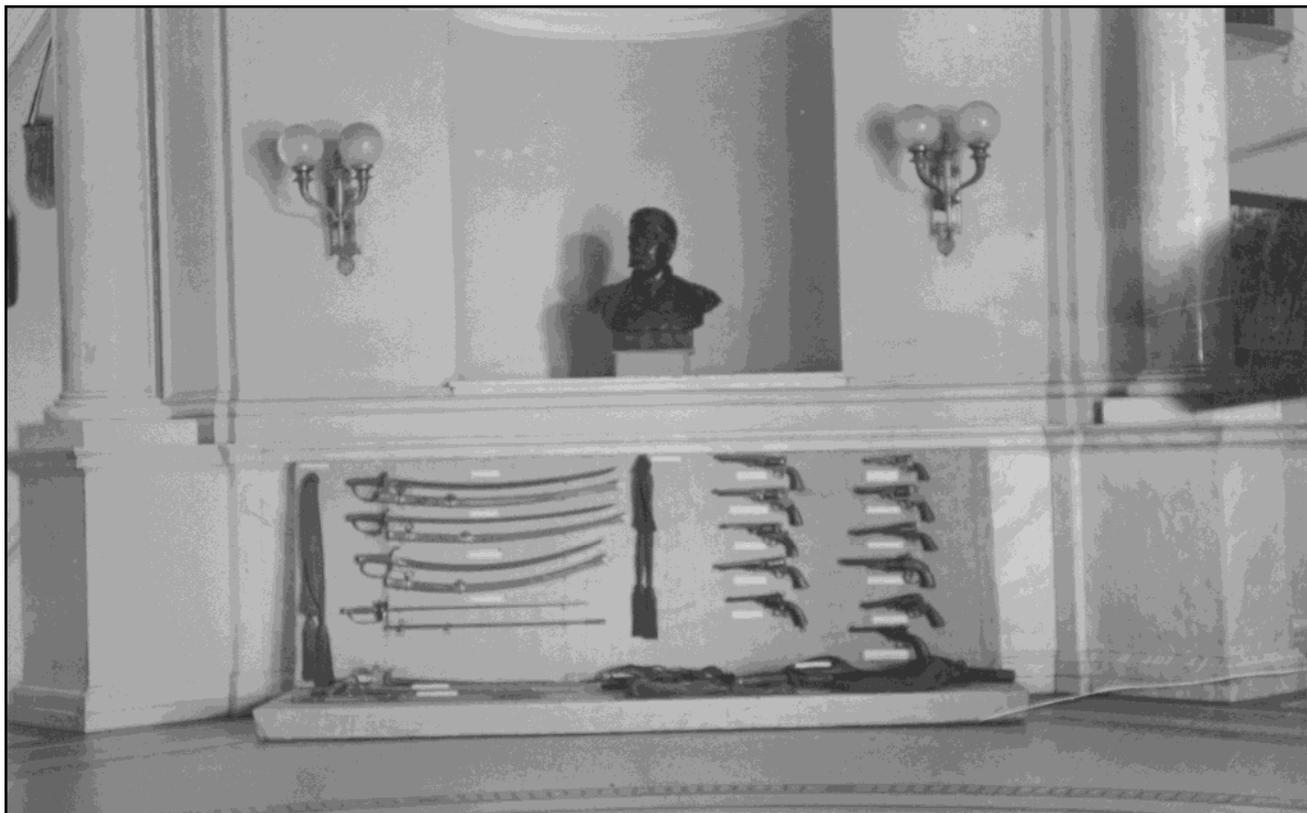
Dick Boyt, Museum Director, labels a Parrott shell fired in field artillery pieces during the War Between the States. Other projectiles in the display case include solid and exploding cannon balls and shrapnel shells. The tree trunk in the case came from the battlefield at Chickamauga, Georgia, and it's embedded with musket and cannon balls. At the top of the case is a ramrod for a cannon. 1961



Iowa Governor Norman Erbe (right) with James Wells, administrative assistant in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Iowa (center) and curator Jack Musgrove (left), examine a spare instrument package of artificial satellite Explorer III at the Historical Building in March of 1961.



Civil War display, first floor, *circa* 1965



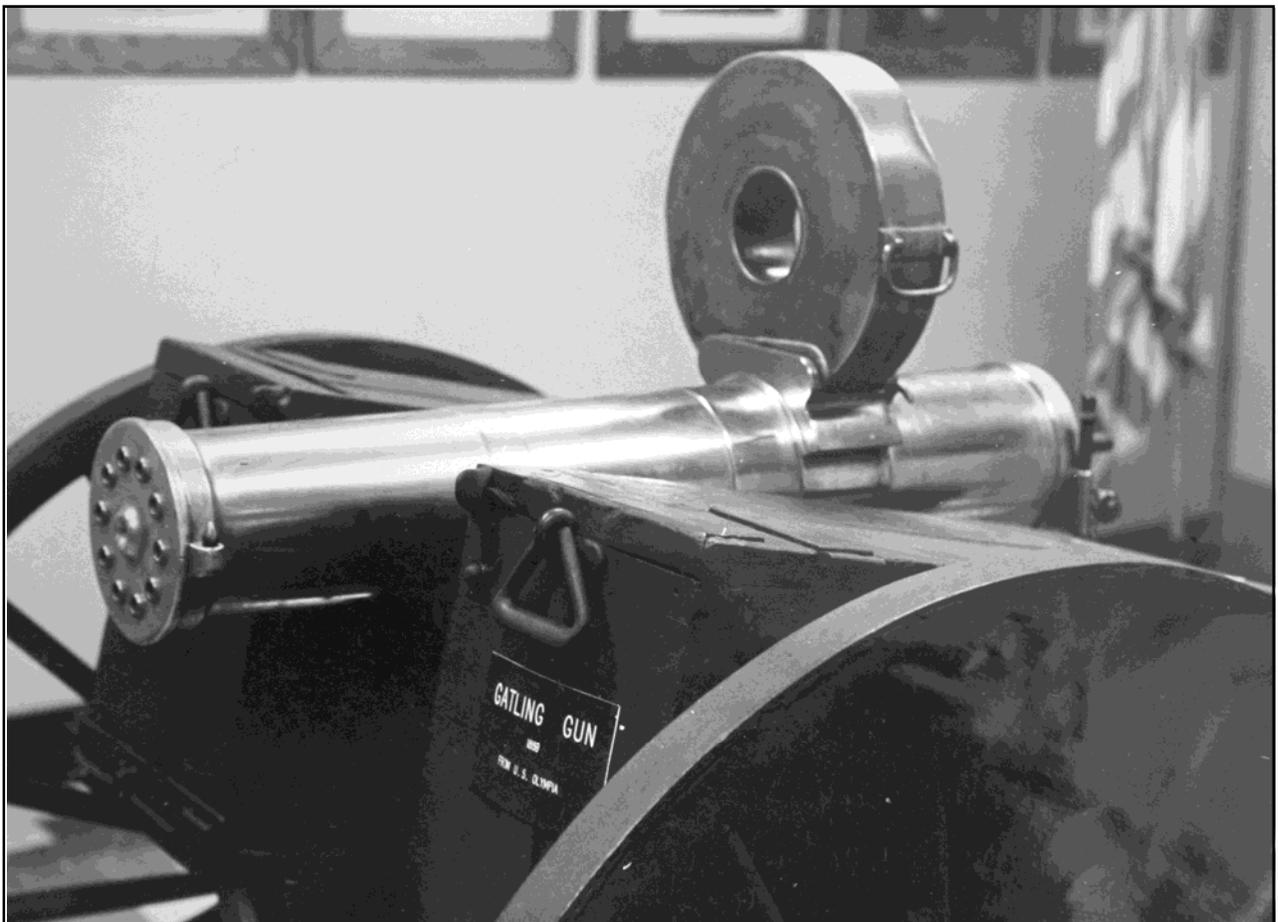
Civil War display, first floor, *circa 1965*



Jack Musgrove, curator, and Fred Voitel, administrative assistant, examine the label identifying one of the many types of Civil War period muskets and rifles on display.



Civil War display, first floor, *circa* 1965



Gatling gun, a weapon first used in the Civil War.



This computer display features the *Cyclone* computer developed at Iowa State University. Second floor, 1966



Portrait gallery, second floor, 1966



A variety of eras of the telephone are displayed. Second floor, 1966



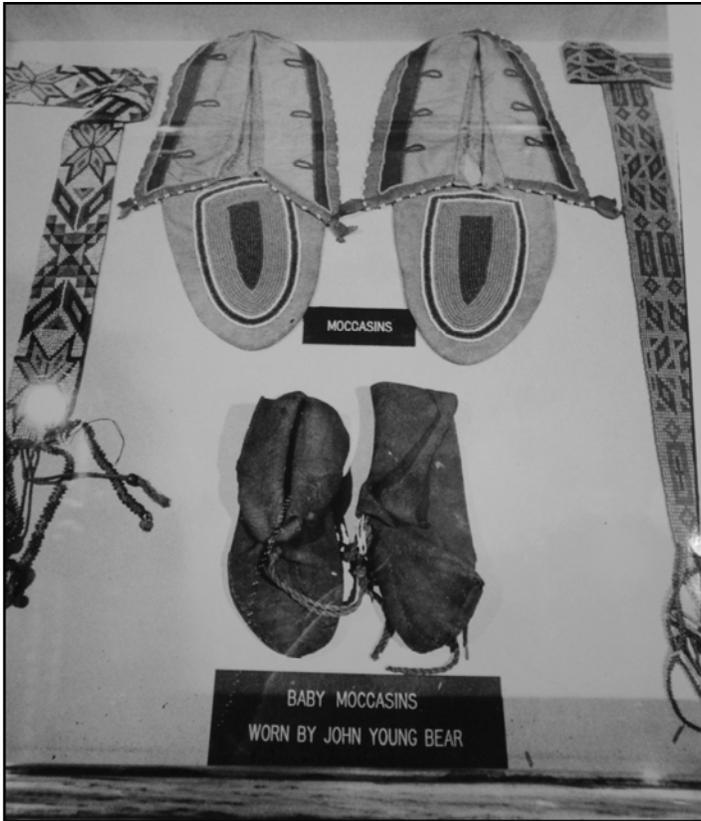


Curator Jack Musgrove and his wife view the telephone display. Second floor, 1966



Display of old weights and measures, 1966

### Native American Display



**Moccasins**

(John Young Bear was an artist widely recognized for continuing the Mesquakie sculpting tradition.)



**Clay pottery**



**Native American dolls**



**Native American doll**



**Native American pocket**

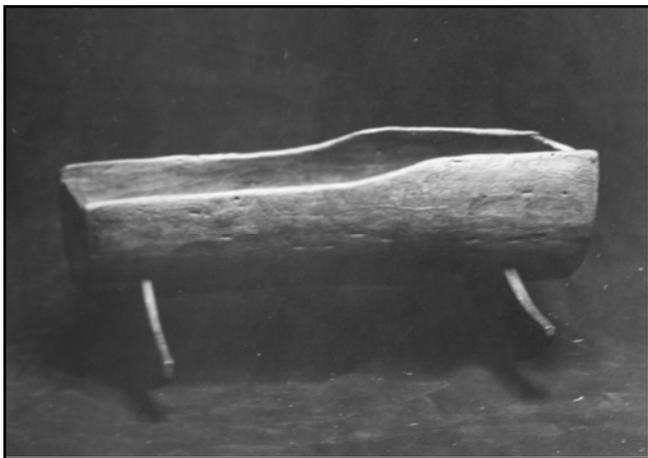
### Native American Display



Native American vest



Pouches



Baby cradle



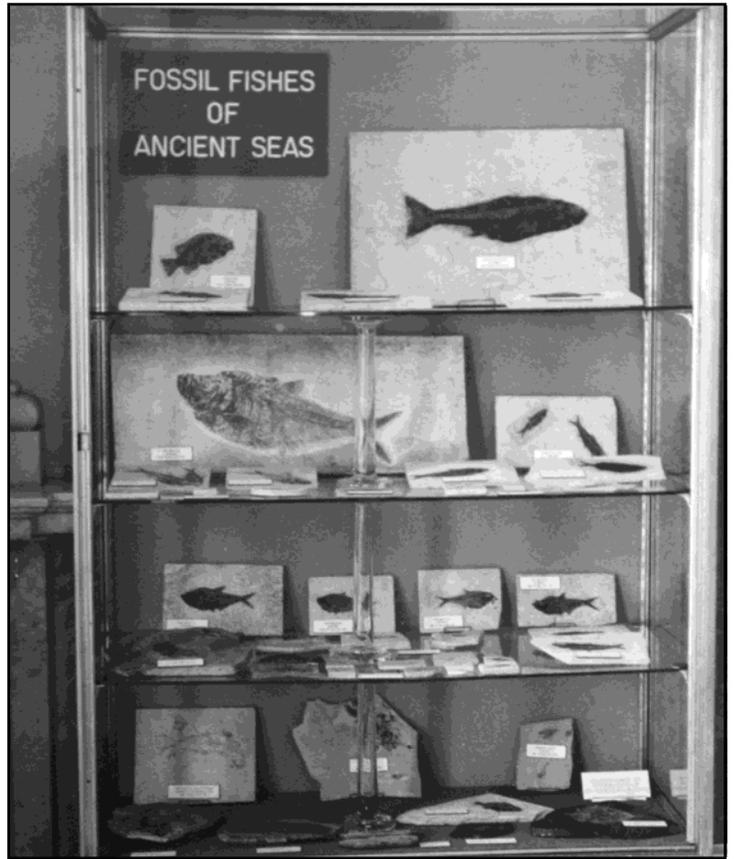
Horn powder carriers



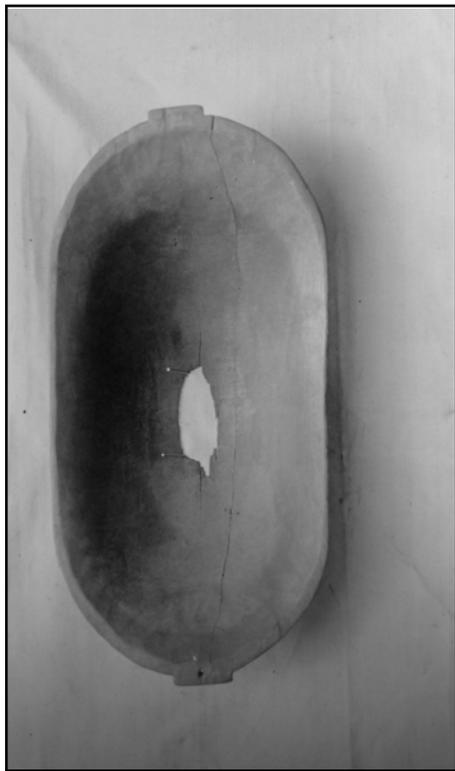
Mortar and pestle



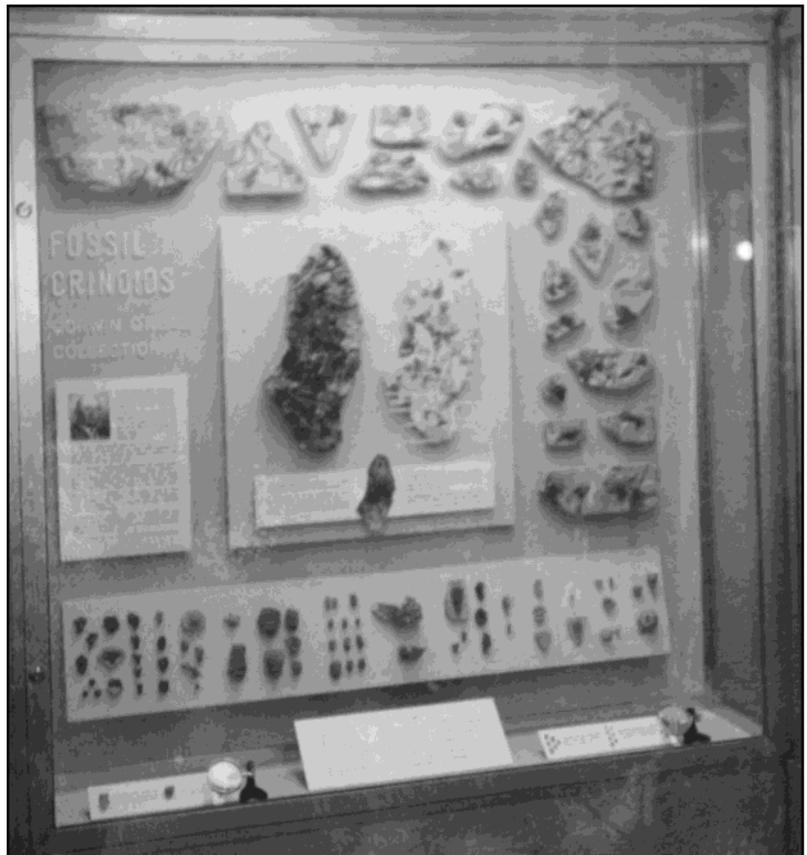
**Arrowheads**



**Fossil fishes and fossil crinoids**



**Bread bowl**

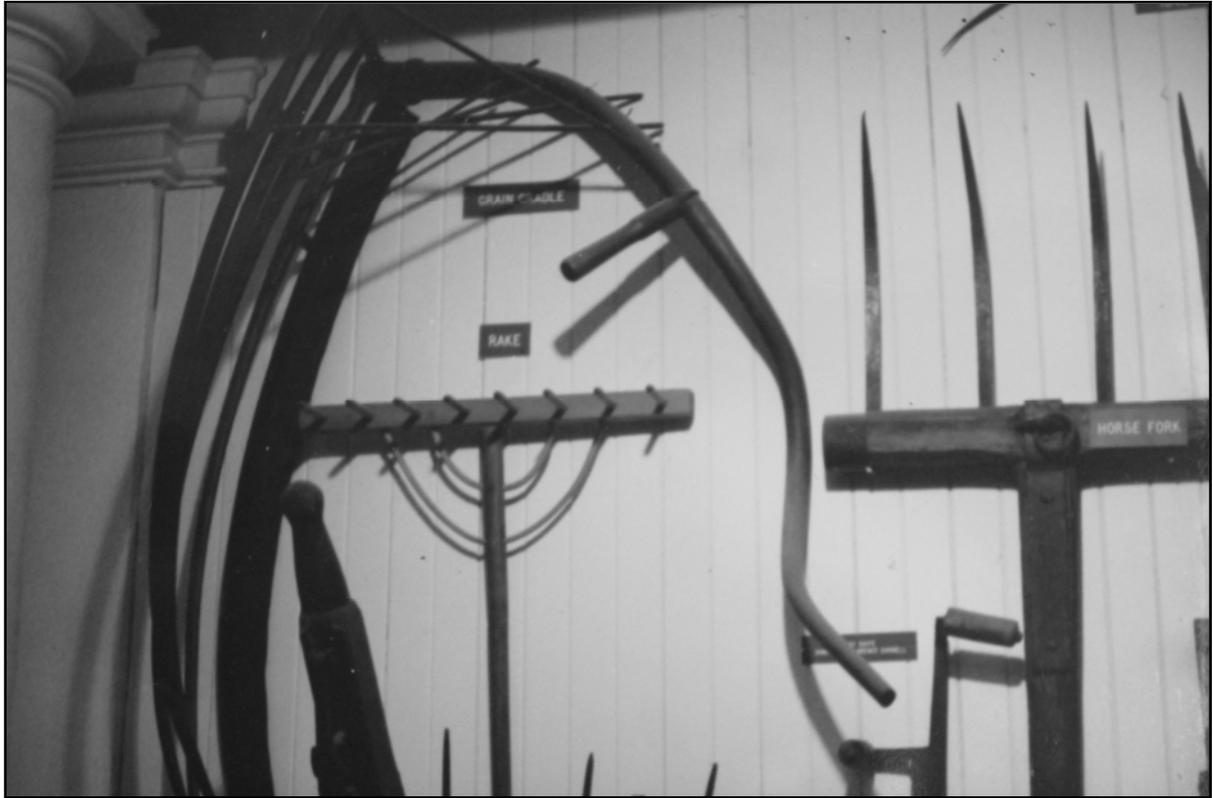




"Fun and Games" and doll display, second floor 1970s



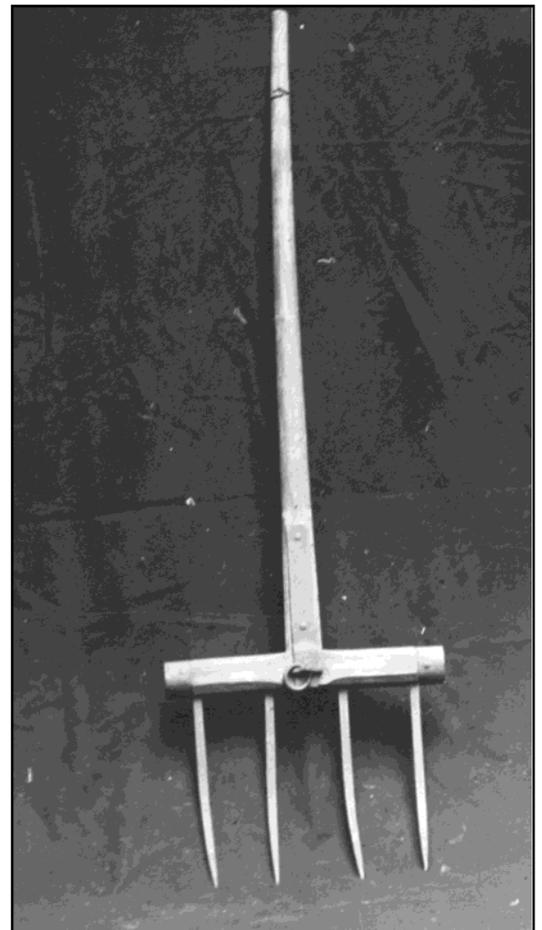
### Early American Display



Rakes and farm tools, *ground floor*



Plows, *ground floor*



Wooden rake

**Early American Display**



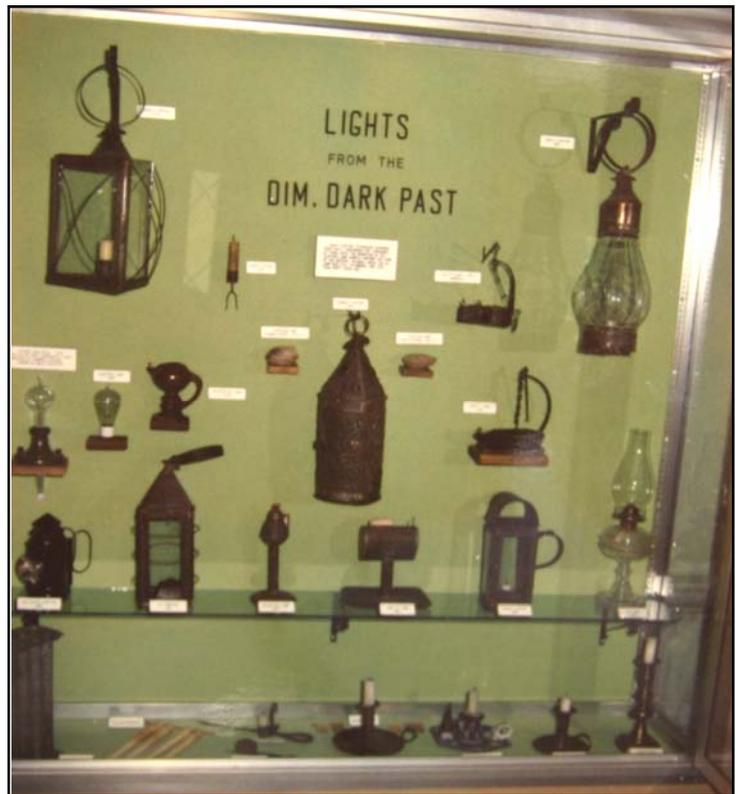
**Andirons**



**Old hat**



**Printing press**



**Displays showing types of early lighting**



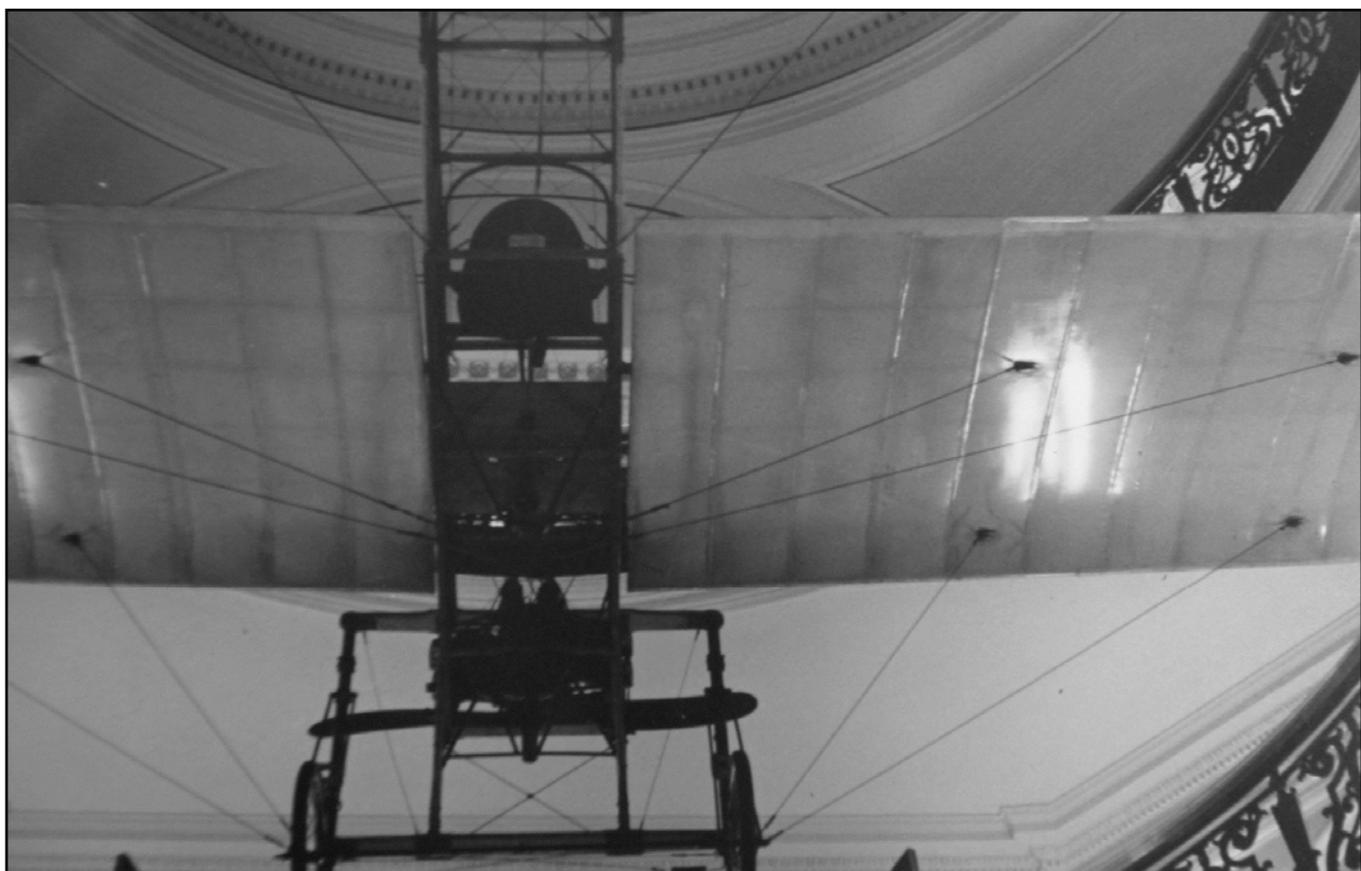
Bear traps, ground floor, 1983



Flintlock rifle, ground floor, 1983



Antique cars featured on the first floor, 1985

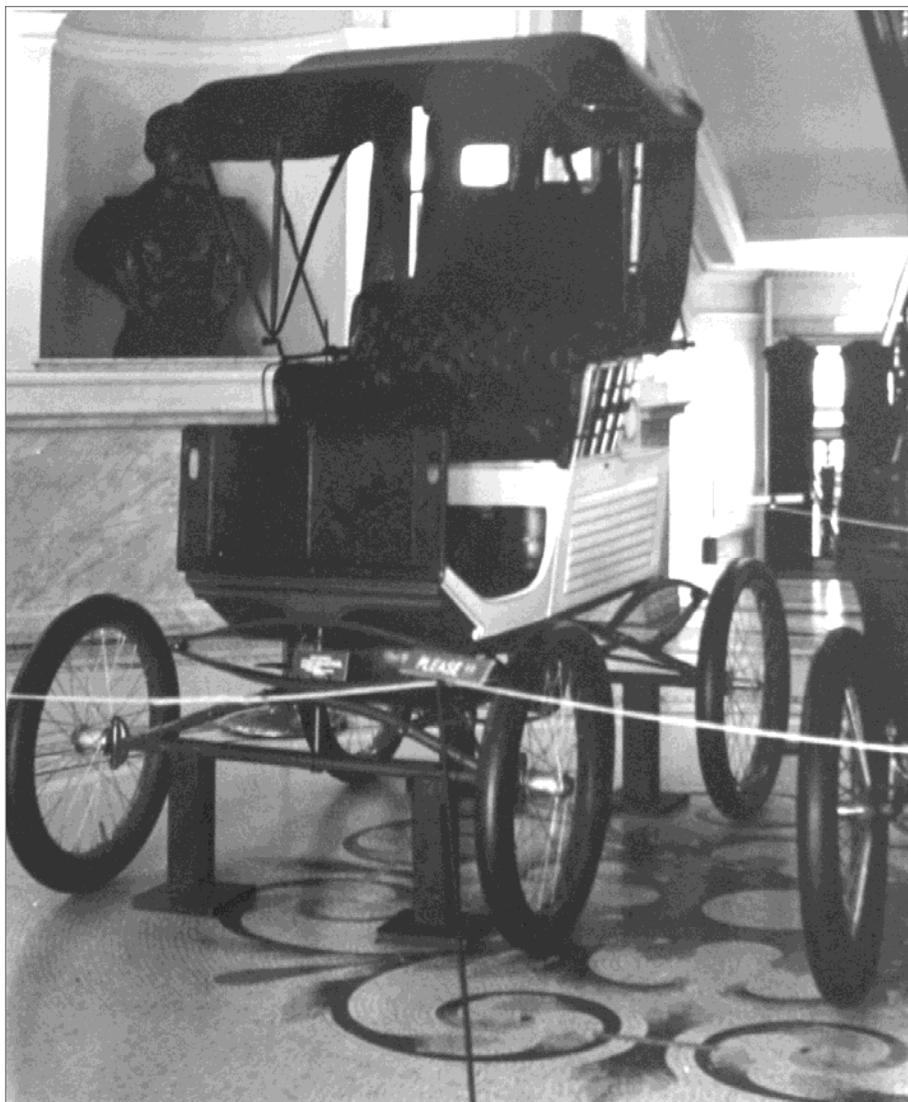


Biplane glider hanging in the rotunda between the second and third floors. 1985



Children and adults both enjoy the sights. Ground floor, 1980s





Buggies, first floor, 1980s



# Renovation

**Renovation and Current Building.....Page 228**

## **Renovation Plans Before and After**

- **Ground Floor.....Page 232**
- **Mezzanine.....Page 233**
- **First Floor.....Page 234**
- **Second Floor.....Page 235**
- **Third Floor.....Page 236**

**Interior Painting Pictures.....Page 237**

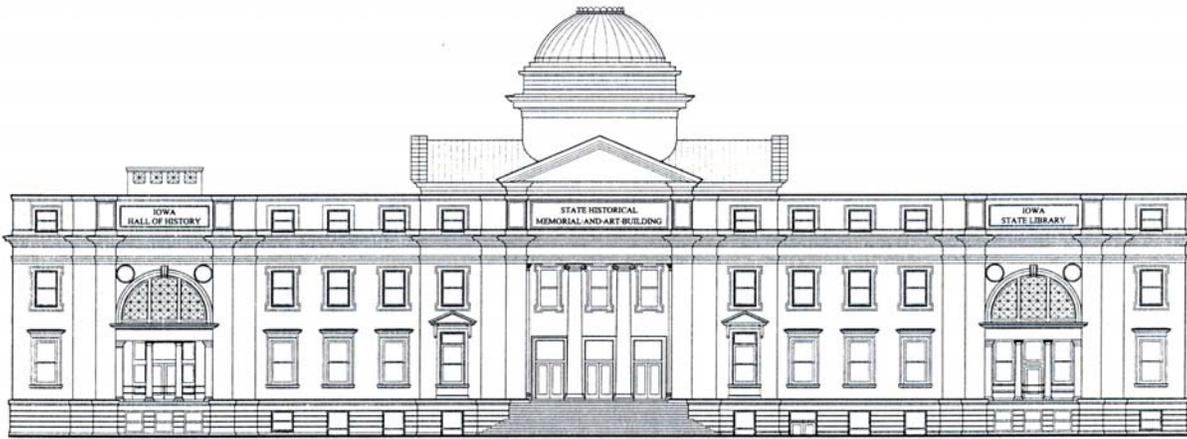
**Third Floor in the 1920s and Present Pictures.....Page 237**

**Dome Renovation Pictures.....Page 238**

**Renovation Pictures.....Page 240**

**Ola Babcock Miller.....Page 248**

**Renovated Building Interior Areas and Outside Views.....Page 251**



The State Library of Iowa, now known as Iowa Library Services, has been housed in the Miller Building since 1910. Renovation of the building took place in three stages, beginning in 1999. The rotunda was completed in 2000; the east wing was finished in 2001 and the west wing in 2002. Iowa Library Services remained in the building during the renovation, moving from the east wing to the west wing and back to the east wing, where it is now housed on three of the four floors.

### **Ground Floor**

The east wing's ground floor houses state and federal documents and Technical Services. Compact shelving was necessary to hold the vast state documents collection. The floor had to be reinforced to support the shelving since, when loaded, it is twice as heavy as regular shelving.

A ramp on the ground floor provides access from the outside of the building for people with physical disabilities. The ramp enters the building in a small room off the rotunda, just outside the library.

### **First Floor**

#### **Rotunda**

Each of the four alcoves on the first floor rotunda contains a bust: The busts represent George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, General Grenville Dodge, and General Jim Tuttle. Dodge and Tuttle were Civil War generals. Dodge, a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, fought in the battles of Vicksburg and Shiloh. He was the chief engineer of the Central Pacific Railroad. Tuttle, from Van Buren County, Iowa, fought at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Vicksburg.

The tracings on the walls in the first floor rotunda were discovered when restorers scraped paint off until they found the original tracings. Restoration painters reapplied the tracings over the original designs.

The marble used for the pillars and walls in the rotunda came from a quarry in Carrara, Italy, the same quarry used by Michelangelo for his sculptures.

## **Library**

The first floor library is the main reading room. It houses the general and reference collections, information on businesses in Iowa, the Iowa Collection, and the State Data Center, which provides a comprehensive collection of census information.

The mezzanine stores very old legal materials. Because there is no elevator to the collection, access is restricted to staff. Shelving goes up through the mezzanine floor, and actually supports it. In the 1950s, a bridge was added across the east window to connect the two mezzanines. It was removed so that the floor plan would reflect the original construction of the library. A staircase, which had been added to connect the first floor to the mezzanine and the second floor, was removed.

Service desks are the same on the first and third floors, and were created using photographs of the originals. Apparently, however, the desks were higher back then and the librarians sat on high stools behind them.

The exterior of the original card catalog was completely restored. Some of the original drawers still have old catalog cards in them, including original, handwritten cards from 1892. The interior was redesigned to hold public access computers.

The tables on the first floor are original to the building. The rocking chairs are also original, and were rescued in disrepair and restored.

The green light fixtures were designed to look like the originals, which were identified in photographs. The chandeliers originally had two arms, but renovation architects added a third arm to provide more lighting.

The plates and other library memorabilia on the shelves across from the Reference desk were a gift from a collector. There are also some old photographs of the library located there.

The Johnson Brigham Room, also known as the Blue Room, is now a meeting

room. Originally, it was the State Librarian's Office, and was named after the first state librarian. The room was nicknamed for the blue shell design in the stained glass window and has the only blue walls in the building.

### **Second Floor**

The second floor now houses the Legislative Services Agency offices and a large open meeting area.

At the time of renovation, the window in the beautiful alcove area was blocked with glass bricks. But this was not in the original building plan, and the architects decided to remove the bricks, providing a beautiful view of the Capitol and the Judicial Building. The wooden pattern on the windows is original and is repeated throughout the building, most noticeably on the railing outside the front of the building.

### **Third Floor**

In the early years, when the building was home to both the State Library and the State Historical Museum, Native American artifacts were housed on the third floor. Currently, Library Support Network and administration staff occupy the floor. Library Support Network staff work with public, school, and academic librarians to improve library services to all Iowans. The third floor also houses Library Science books and materials.

False ceilings made of sheetrock were added to conceal electrical conduit. All four floors are connected with fiber optic cables to increase computer response time. Wainscoting on each floor contains heating, cooling, and electrical wiring.

Architects attempted to restore the original paint colors, found as color swatches on the original architect's blueprints. Some other colors were identified by scraping through layers of old paint. Lighting was copied as closely as possible to original lighting and there are original wood floors throughout the building. Carpet was designed to keep with the era in which the building was constructed.

The skylights are original. Architects added a second glass ceiling to protect the skylights. At night, the skylights have backlighting, which looks like moonlight. Wooden cabinets by the staff break room are new, as are the marble facings and wainscoting on each floor.

Fire stairwells run from the third to ground floors and are considered areas of rescue assistance with a telephone at wheelchair height on each floor.

The State Librarian's Office includes original, refinished shelving. The quilt hanging on the wall was designed by a librarian from Council Bluffs, Iowa.

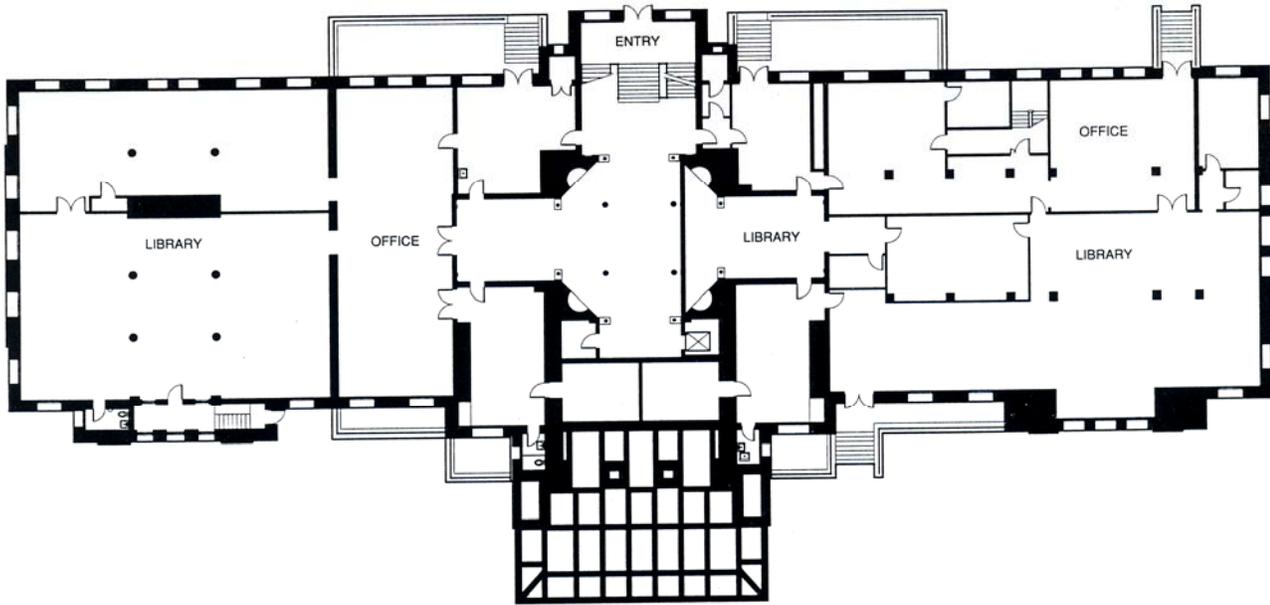
Men's and women's restrooms alternate on each floor. Great care was taken to replace the marble walls in all the restrooms. Small pieces of marble were cut to ensure that the veins would run in the directions specified in the original architect's plans. Matching marble was found in a quarry in Indiana.

### **The Dome, Floors, Elevators**

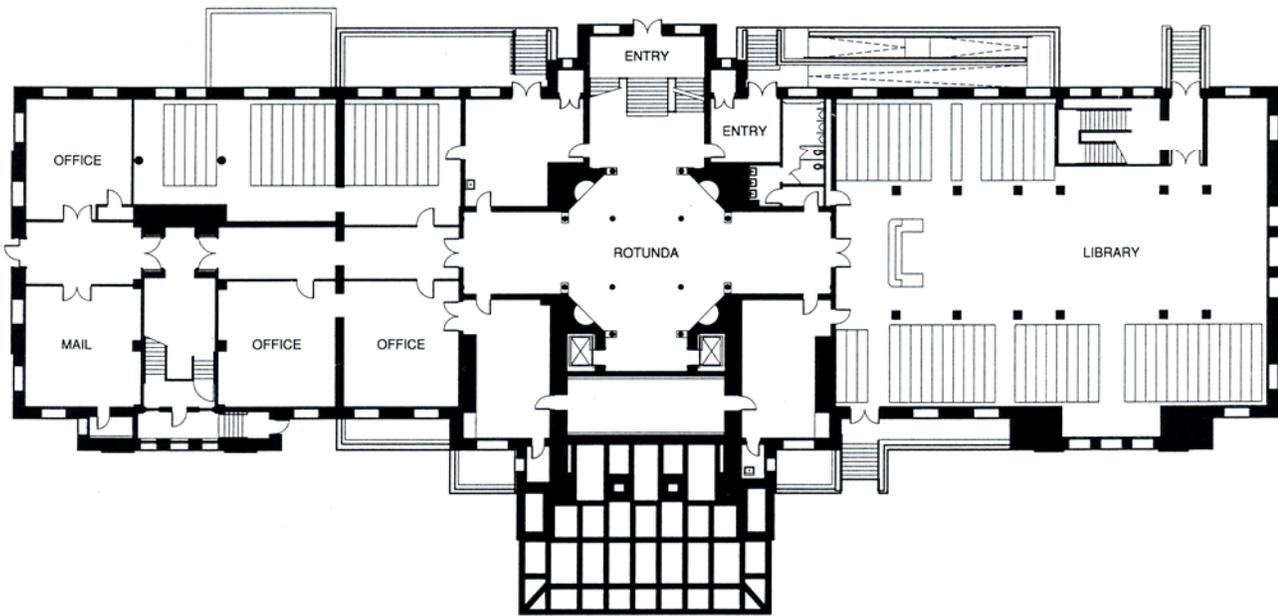
The designs on the dome show grapes and grape leaves; they are made of plaster. Restoration painters recreated the clouds from photographs found of the original dome. The mosaics on all floors in the rotunda are original. Tiles were brought from England. The marble columns on the first, second, and third floors of the rotunda are made from Italian marble. The Greek architectural styles of columns are Doric (first floor), Ionic (second floor), and Composite—a combination of Ionic and Corinthian—on the third floor. There was originally only one elevator in the building (on the east wing); the second elevator is new. The design on the elevator doors is based on the former "cage" door of the original elevator.

*(Helen Dagley, Librarian, State Library of Iowa.)*

# Renovation Plans

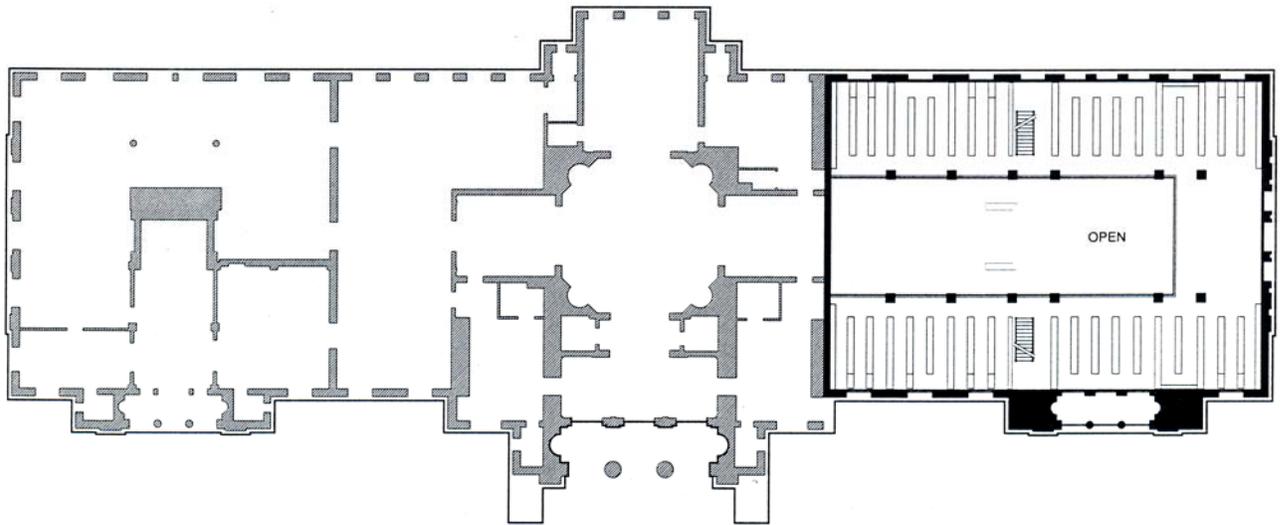


Ground Floor Original

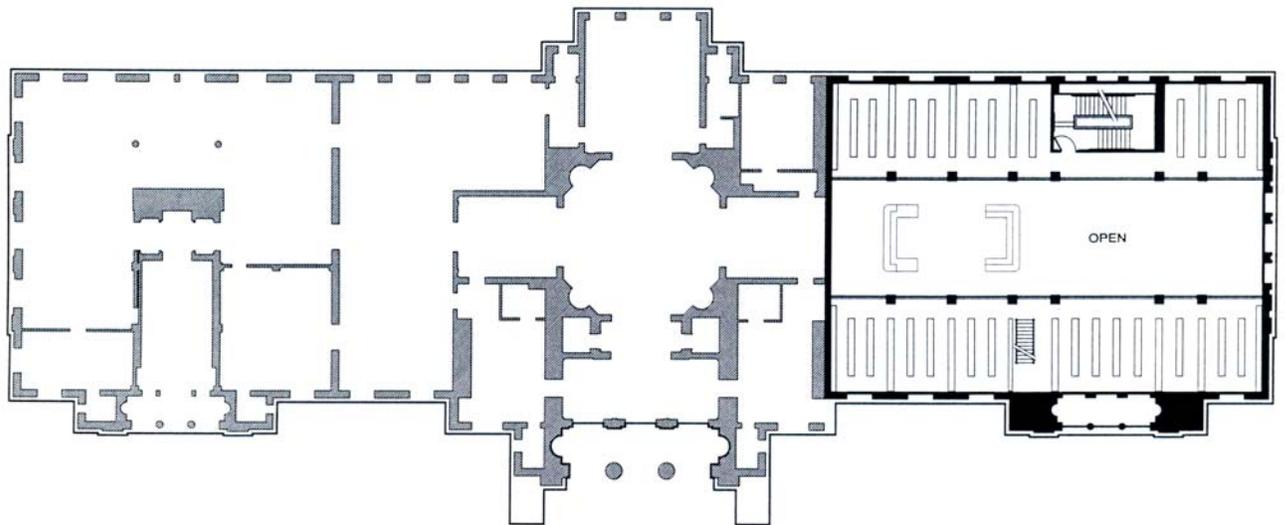


Ground Floor Renovation

# Renovation Plans

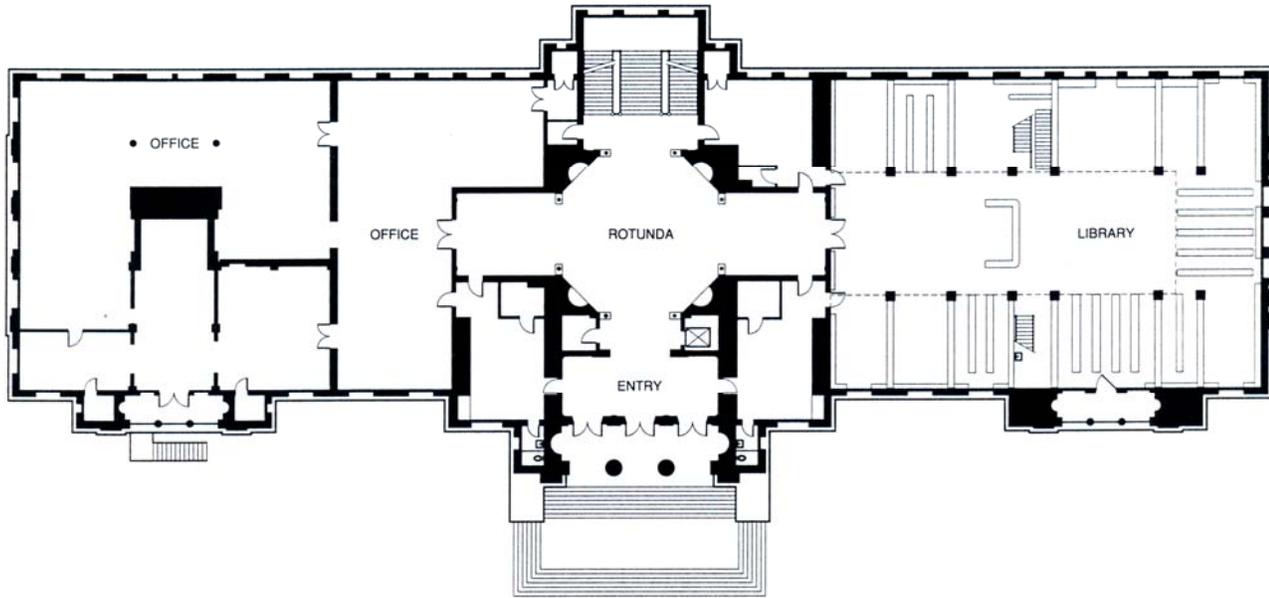


Mezzanine Original

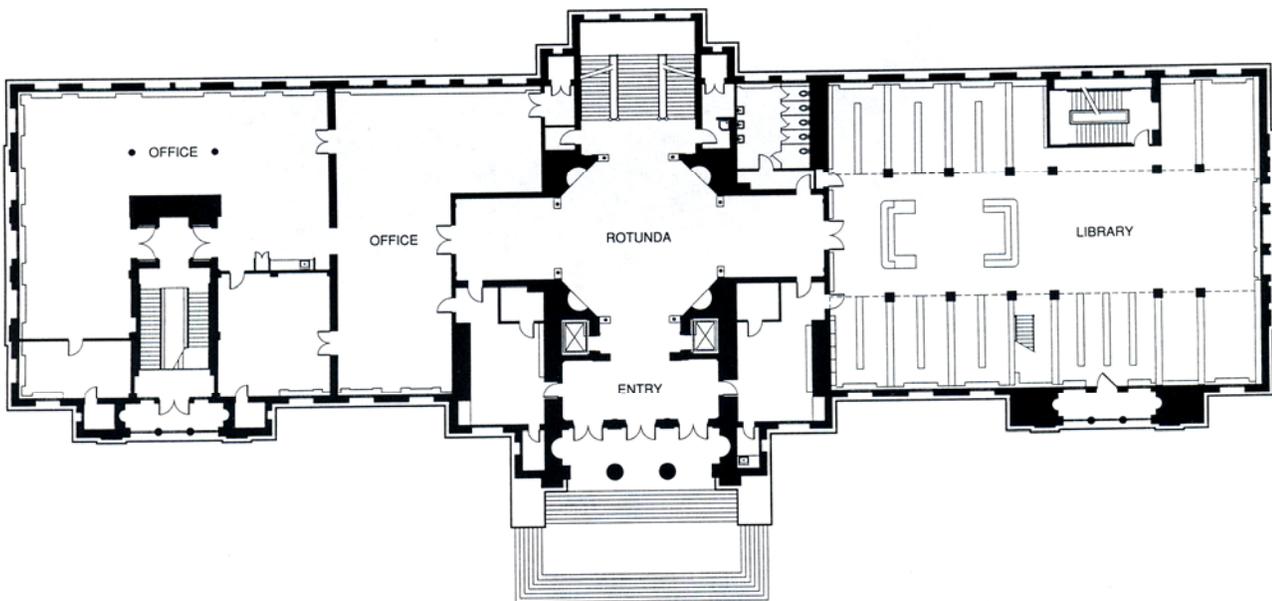


Mezzanine Renovation

# Renovation Plans

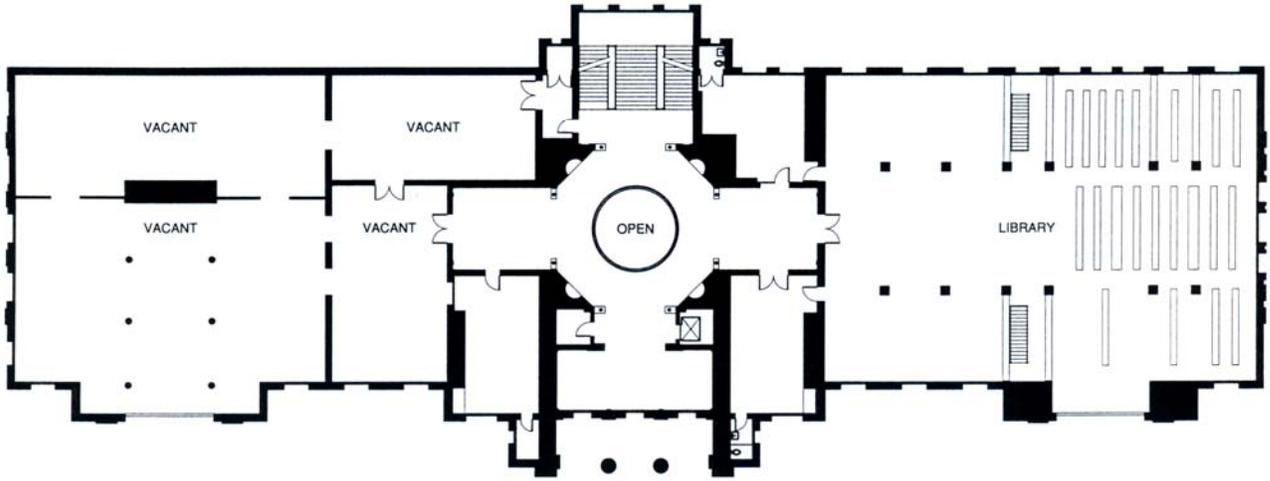


First Floor Original

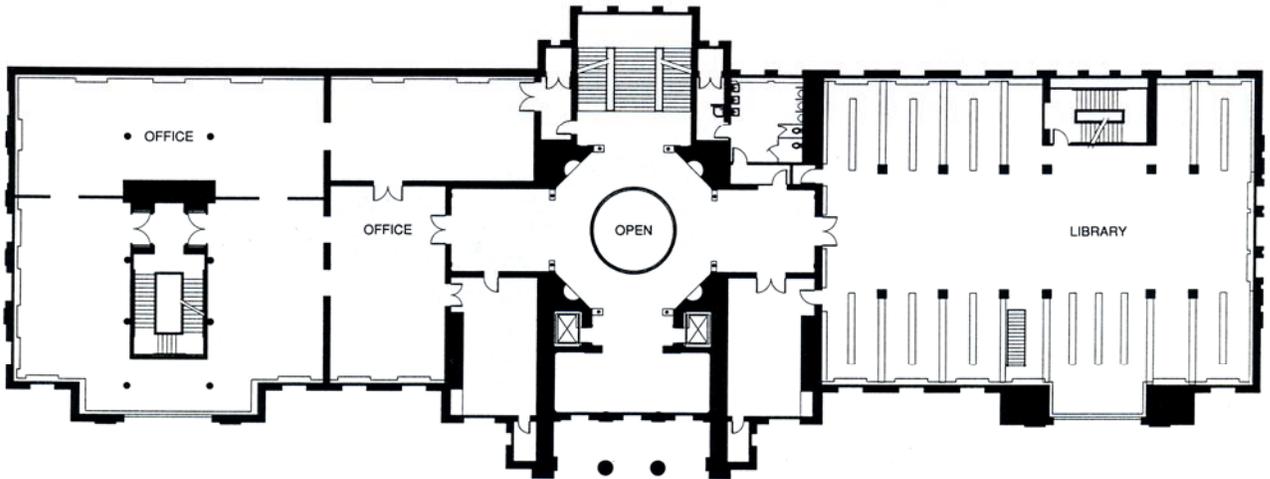


First Floor Renovation

# Renovation Plans

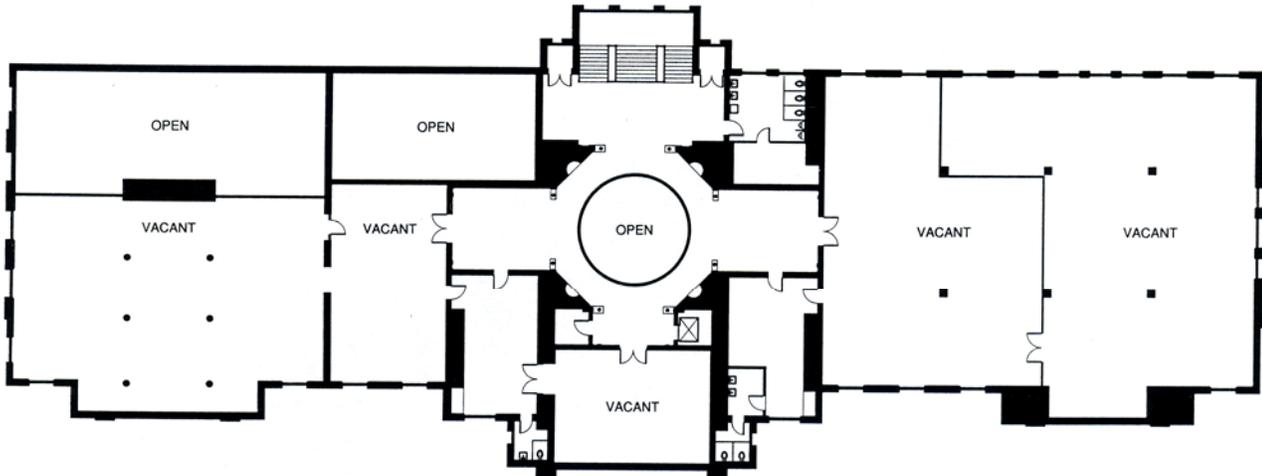


Second Floor Original

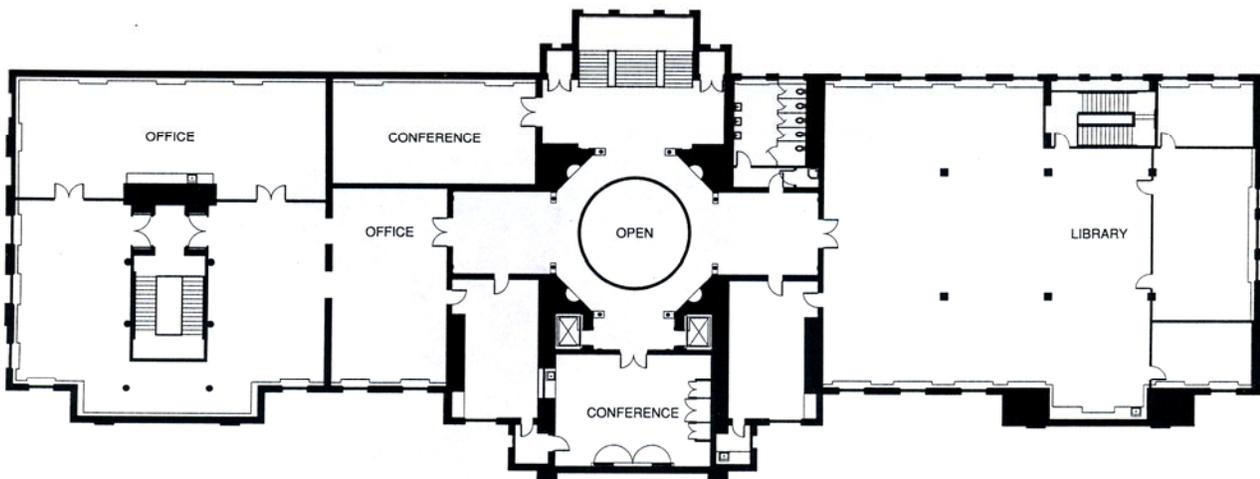


Second Floor Renovation

# Renovation Plans



Third Floor Original



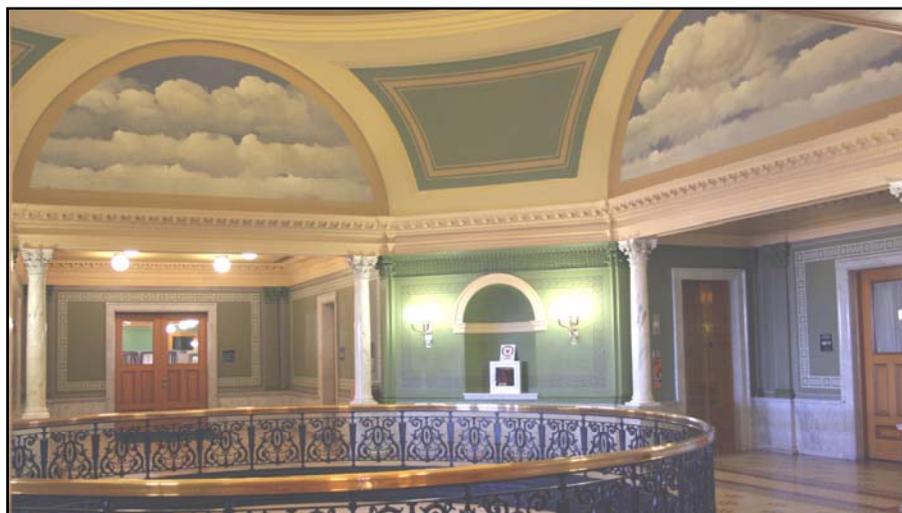
Third Floor Renovation



Workers are shown repainting the Dodge Room during the renovation of the Historical Building in 1983.



Third floor east, *circa 1920*



Third floor east, *after renovation*



Dome renovation, 1984





Views of the building during the dome renovation. *December 1984*





Installation of a new electricity transformer, 1984



The main library on the first floor is shown during renovation. 1997



Renovation is in progress on the first floor looking west. 1997



The second floor rotunda during renovation, 1997



Elevator installation, ground floor, 1999



Side newspaper stacks on the first floor (west) at the time of renovation just before moving them to the new Historical Building, 1999



First floor west, 1999



First floor west, 1999



Second floor, east side, 1999



Second floor, east side, 1999



Ramp over stairs from back, 1999



Third floor west, 1999



Third floor west, 1999



An electrician installs new wiring. 1999



Exterior renovation, 1999



## Ola Babcock Miller



Ola Babcock Miller was one of the state's most distinguished public servants. Today she is best known as "The Mother of the Iowa Highway Patrol."

Her consuming passion was to reduce deaths and improve safety on the state's roads.

In 1932, Miller was elected the state's first female secretary of state, and in ensuing years became one of Iowa's most popular elected officials.

Viola Babcock was born March 1, 1871, on a farm in Washington County. When she was 5, her

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Babcock, moved their family to the community of Washington, where she attended public schools. She also attended Washington Academy for four years, as well as Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant.

As a young woman, Miller taught in rural schools in her home county, then married newspaper editor Alex Miller, who in addition to running the small weekly *Washington Democrat*, was active in the Democratic Party. In 1926 he ran unsuccessfully for governor.

Ola Miller enjoyed life at home, raising her daughters Barbara and Ophelia—a son died in infancy—and taking time for her favorite hobby, painting. She entered "paintings and pickles" in county fairs.

When her husband died of a heart attack in 1927, Miller continued traveling the state and speaking out for social reforms.

She had already been active in the suffrage movement, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the women's society P.E.O.

When she decided to run for office, Miller never dreamed she could win. But she told friends she thought it would please her deceased husband, and called her campaign "a martyrdom to the cause."

But Miller was swept into office in 1932 on the coattails of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, despite having won by fewer than 3,000 votes. She had no trouble being re-elected in 1934 and 1936.

After her initial victory, a reporter interviewed the new secretary of state and noted: "It is obvious Mrs. Miller is nobody's fool."

Saddened and motivated by the highway death of a good friend's son, Miller began to advocate tirelessly for a uniformed state road patrol.

"Enforcement was not enough," *Des Moines Tribune* reporter Lillian McLaughlin wrote in her 1975 series, "Iowa Women Ahead of Their Time."

"She spoke constantly throughout the state . . . driving home the gospel of safe and sane driving."

Without official authority to do so, Miller initiated the patrol on August 1, 1934, by organizing a group of 15 motor vehicle inspectors who helped reduce the highway accident rate by stopping violators.

In May 1935, then-Governor Clyde Herring signed the law creating a 50-member patrol within the state's motor vehicle department, which operated under Miller.

In the patrol's first days, up to 5,000 Depression-stricken men applied for the jobs, which initially paid \$100 per month. The patrol chief made \$200 monthly, and his assistant earned \$165 per month. The men trained rigorously at Camp Dodge. By 1938, the patrol had 150 uniformed officers.

Reporter McLaughlin said Miller "had an ability—and used it—to place capable men in office. She demanded results from them and refrained from interfering with petty administrative details."

Iowa historian George Mills said the patrol became such a success that polls showed it was only "second to God in public esteem."

Ironically, early polling got a nudge because of Miller. Her son-in-law, George Gallup, who was married to Ophelia, saw the importance of political polling when Miller first ran for office. He later became nationally known for the polling techniques that he created.

## 250 *Looking Back*

Miller pushed herself, and illness proved her downfall when she continued to go on the road to fulfill a speaking engagement despite having influenza and a temperature.

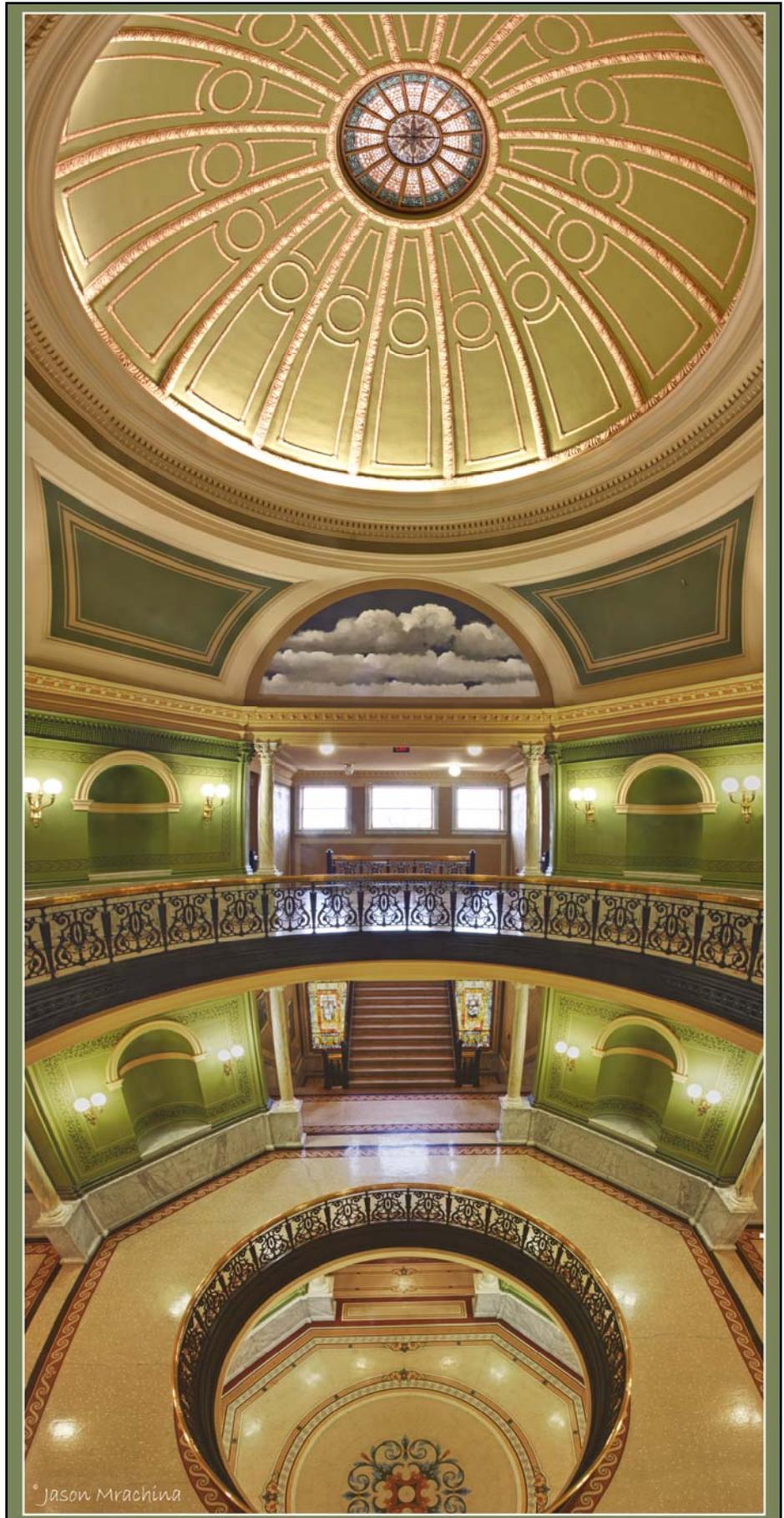
During treatment at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, she requested that her “boys” not send flowers, but they did in great quantities, and she commented that it was “the first time they’ve ever been guilty of insubordination.”

She died of pneumonia on January 25, 1937.

Statehouse offices were closed for her funeral, and services were attended by 1,500 people at the Washington Methodist Church. Included among the mourners were the 55 highway patrolmen who served as her pallbearers and honor guard who stood by her bronze casket.

On the first-year anniversary of her death, a delegation of patrolmen, wearing black armbands, put flowers on her grave in Washington. (*Iowa Library Services, State Library of Iowa*)

*Photo by  
Jason Mrachina*



**Interior of the Ola Babcock Miller Building  
Des Moines, Iowa**

## **Renovated Building Interior Areas and Outside Views**



Third floor, 2013



Third floor rotunda



Second floor rotunda



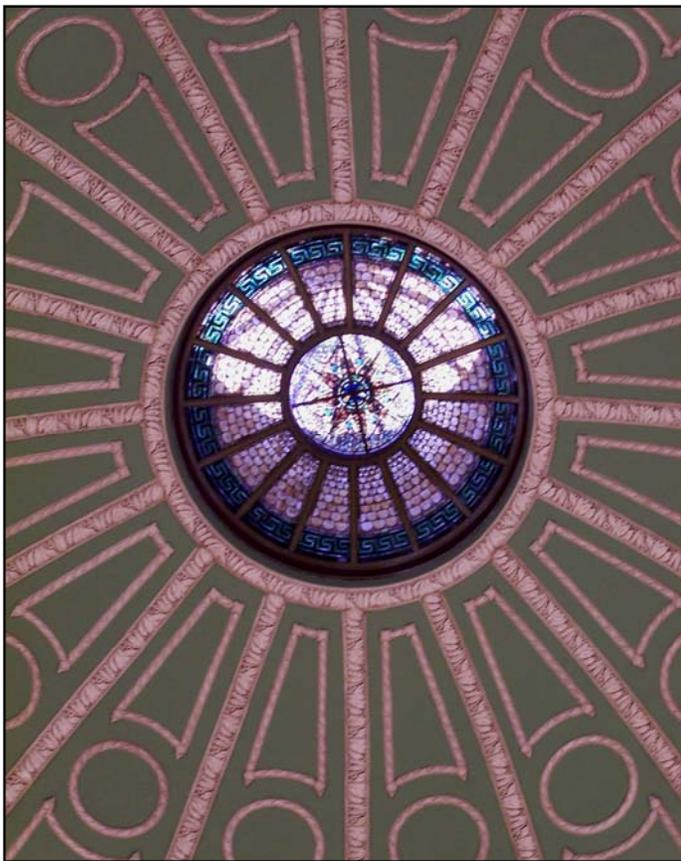
Information desk, first floor



Research desk with library card drawers



Looking west inside library on first floor



Interior dome



Third floor



1913



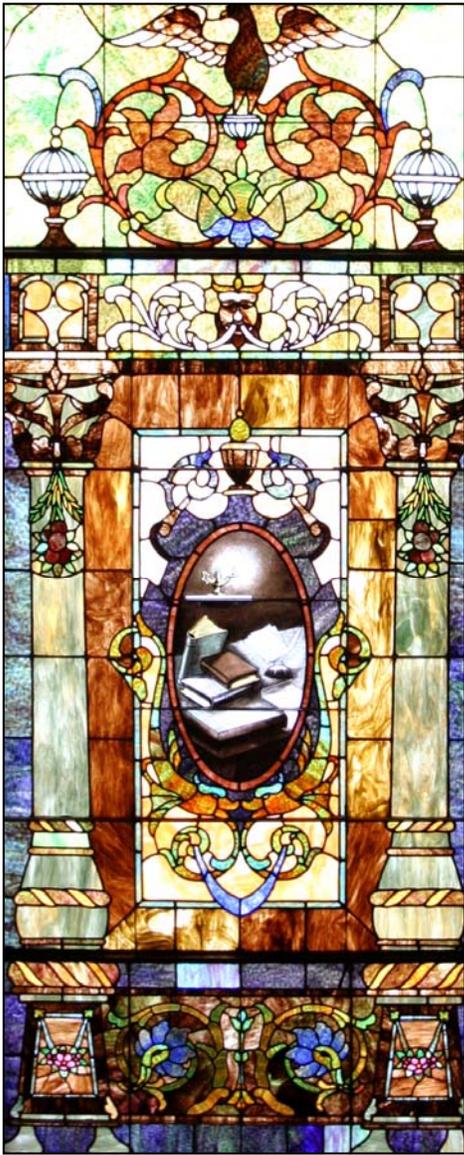
1934



1964

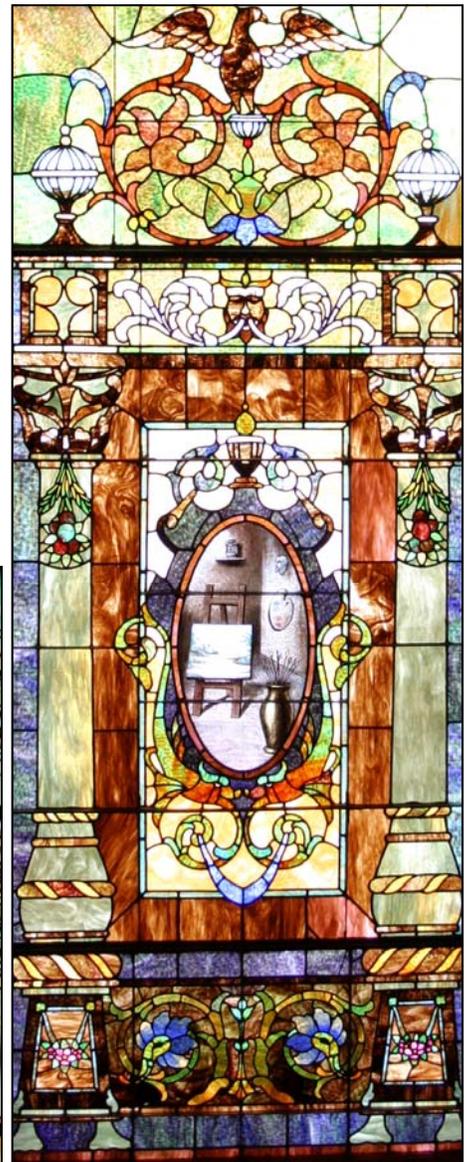


2013



**Library**

**Historical**



**Arts**

**\$6.00** Code 22