

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

# IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

## Happy Election Day!

Whatever happens at the polls today, tomorrow it will be history. So while you're waiting (and waiting and waiting?) for the election results, take a look back at Iowa's prominent role in presidential history.

Visit the "First in the Nation" exhibition (pictured) at the State Historical Museum of Iowa to revisit the origin and evolution of the Iowa Caucuses.



[LEARN MORE](#)



On the Iowa Culture app, check out the featured tour called "Iowa's Presidential Past" to learn more about Herbert Hoover's childhood in West Branch, first lady Lou Henry Hoover's roots in Waterloo, Abraham Lincoln's connection to Mount Pleasant, and even Richard Nixon's military stint in Ottumwa.

[CHECK OUT THE APP](#)



For extra credit, enjoy recordings of State Curator Leo Landis' recent "Iowa History 101" presentations about presidential history and women's suffrage, which took full effect 100 years ago.

[WATCH THE VIDEOS](#)

Otherwise, if you're ready to think about something else for a change, mark your calendars for upcoming "Iowa History 101" presentations about World War I, on Nov. 12, and winter holidays, on Dec. 10.



[LEARN MORE](#)

## Twist and shout – and cross your fingers!

The legendary Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake has been nominated to become a National Historic Landmark. U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt toured the site last week, and a review panel with the National Park Service plans to consider the official nomination at 3:30 p.m. Thursday during a public, live-streamed meeting. If the nomination succeeds, the ballroom would become the 27th National Historic Landmark in Iowa.



[SUBMIT A PROPOSAL](#)

## Celebrate Iowa Gala 2020

If you're reading this newsletter, chances are, you're a big fan of Iowa. So join us for the Celebrate Iowa Gala, a statewide celebration of history, art, film and more. At this year's virtual event, on Dec. 11, you'll have chance to meet notable Iowans, watch an Iowa movie star add his handprints to the Wall of Fame at the State Historical Museum of Iowa, enjoy musical performances at the American Gothic House and the Surf Ballroom – and so much more.



[LEARN MORE](#)

## Preserve Iowa Summit

Mark your calendars for next year's Preserve Iowa Summit, set for June 3-5 in Council Bluffs, and let us know if you'd like to present a session or you know someone who might. Proposals are due: Nov. 10.

# History Alive

Register for the Digital Education Package



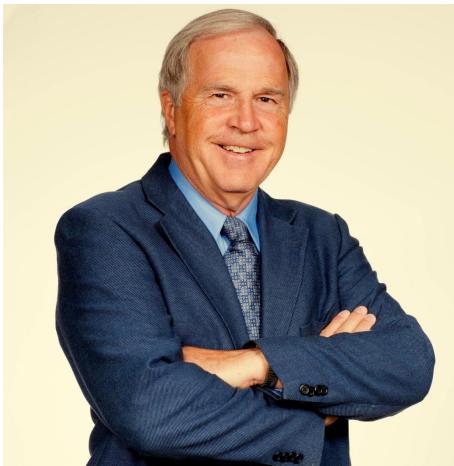
To celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment's passage, the State Historical Museum of Iowa has developed "History Alive: Votes for Women," a free, digital education package about women's suffrage. The package includes educational materials and activities, live programs and primary sources that are flexible for in-person, virtual or hybrid instruction, and it meets Iowa Core Social Studies and Visual Arts Standards. Three live, recorded programs about women's suffrage are scheduled for November:

Nov. 6, 10 a.m., "Universal Suffrage for Women of Color in Iowa."

Nov. 13, 10 a.m., "The Life and Legacy of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt and Women in Politics."

Nov. 20, 10 a.m., "First-Person Interpretation of Suffrage in Iowa."

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



## Remembering Tom Morain

Tom Morain "did more than anyone we know to cultivate appreciation of Iowa history," according to a recent [tribute](#) in The Des Moines Register. Please join State Curator Leo Landis and Iowa Public Radio host Charity Nebbe to share memories of Tom, who died last month after a distinguished career leading the State Historical Society of Iowa, Living History Farms and history projects across the state. The online event starts at 7 p.m. on Nov. 24.

[REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#)

## Endangered Properties

The nonprofit group Preservation Iowa is calling for nominations for its annual statewide list of Most Endangered Properties. So if you know of a historic

building, site or structure that is at risk, consider nominating it to the list, which has included more than 200 properties – and helped save many of them – since its creation in 1995. Nominations are due Dec. 7.



[NOMINATE A PROPERTY](#)

## Iowa's Preservation Plan



Every 10 years, the State Historic Preservation Office develops a statewide plan to guide Iowa's historic preservation efforts according to current challenges and evolving best practices in the field. The plan is required by the state office's federal partners at the National Park Service and draws upon insights from preservationists, archaeologists, historians, community leaders and other stakeholders. If you'd like to help prepare the new plan, please submit a proposal by Dec. 1.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Support for Rural Revitalization



The State Historic Preservation Office is now accepting applications for the newly named Iowa's Rural Heritage Revitalization Grants program. Earlier this fall, SHPO received \$600,000 to redistribute in historic preservation grants, funded by a \$4.8 million grant from the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program. Iowa's local governments and nonprofits that own properties on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$125,000. Applications are due Feb. 1.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Statewide Photo Album

The team behind an online photo archive called Fortepan Iowa relaunched a new-and-improved website on Sunday, with a slick new design that lets

users search whatever key words they'd like ("train," "dog," "Keosauqua," etc.) The project's organizers received an Iowa Arts Council grant last year to create **a series of temporary, photo-based murals** and are now recruiting volunteers to help tag the online photos to improve the website's search function.



[BROWSE THE PHOTOS](#)

## Programs & Events

Through Nov. 9: [\*\*Featured Tour: Iowa's Presidential Past\*\*](#)

Through Nov. 23: [\*\*Featured Tour: Grant Wood Scenic Byway\*\*](#)

Through Nov. 23: [\*\*Featured Tour: Loess Hills National Scenic Byway\*\*](#)

Through Nov. 30: