

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



Iowa History Month Continues

Our celebration of Iowa History Month continues the next two weeks with an exciting lineup of events and activities, including our new museum exhibition, online presentations, activities for children and families to do at home, and much more.

Here are a few ways to join the celebration:

"Iowa's People & Places," the State Historical Museum of Iowa's new exhibition, explores 13,000 years of history with artifacts from across the state, including stone tools made from Iowa's earliest inhabitants, handcrafted Meskwaki beadwork, a Norwegian loveseat, a medicine bag used by the first Black graduate from the University of Iowa medical college, a Hmong immigrant's embroidered story cloth (pictured), and artifacts from the high-flying career of astronaut Peggy Whitson.



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"Iowa History 101" online programs continue at noon each Tuesday and Thursday with upcoming programs about the state capitols in Iowa City and Des Moines, women at Iowa State College during World War I and the 1918 flu pandemic, and the beloved actress Donna Reed (pictured), whose early years in Denison shaped her Hollywood career.



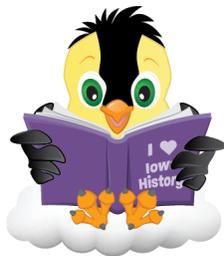
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The “Iowa Stories” lecture series presents "The Cherry Sisters: The Best Worst Act in the World" at noon on Wednesday, March 17, when the London-based music historian Darryl Bullock discusses what he discovered about the infamous vaudeville act from his research at the State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center in Iowa City.



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Throughout the month . . .



- Join **Goldie’s Kids Club** and enjoy online programs and at-home activities for children and families who want to learn more about Iowa’s past. New content is posted online every month, including Storytime and Innovative Iowans activities focusing on the state symbols, and video instructions for the activities.
- Schedule an Iowa trivia program via Zoom for your organization’s next meeting. State Historical Society of Iowa special projects and outreach coordinator (and two-time All-Iowa Trivia Bee champion!) Jess Rundlett will lead a 30-minute trivia for your group, free of charge. You can contact her at jessica.rundlett@iowa.gov.
- Purchase an “Iowa: History Happens Here” T-shirt from **Raygun in Des Moines and online**. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Iowa Historical Foundation.

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Throughout the Year . . .

Join us in commemorating Iowa’s 175th anniversary of statehood by subscribing to **The Annals of Iowa**, reading the **Iowa History blog**, or even **playing BINGO!** You can pickup a card the State Historical Museum of Iowa or download one at home.



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Days of Learning

Zoom in for a close look at a new online initiative called **Days of Learning**, which connects educators, students, parents and life-long learners to programs that showcase Iowa's arts, history, humanities and film. The collections were curated in partnership with other cultural and humanities organizations to offer live and recorded programs, featured content from digital archives, photo galleries, podcasts and more.

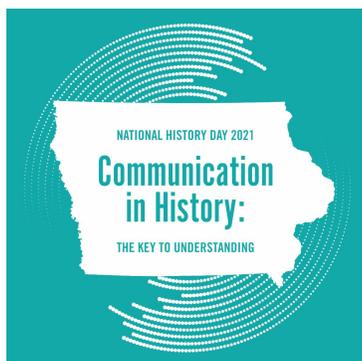
The first program features the **"Iowa's People & Places"** curated collection, which includes the following:

- Watch master woodcarver Harley Refsal demonstrate **Kolrosing**, a traditional Scandinavian artform that involves rubbing natural pigment into incised lines in wooden surfaces to create beautiful patterns and sketches.
- For decades, fans of the popular Nancy Drew mystery book series didn't know the author's name, Carolyn Keene, was actually a pseudonym . . . until clues pointed toward a ghost writer from Ladora, Iowa. Read the extraordinary real-life story of **Mildred Wirt Benson**.
- Pick up a few tips from **"How to Shoot Video of Yourself,"** a how-to video by Iowa filmmaker Cameron McCoy. The video shows you the basics of filming yourself in a remote and virtual world.
- From 1928 through the 1970s, a Mount Pleasant photographer named A.M. "Pete" Wettach focused his lens on Iowa farm life. **Browse some of his best shots** in an online album curated from the State Historical Society of Iowa's collection of nearly half a million photos from Iowa's past.



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The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs' thanks MidAmerican Energy and Musco Lighting for sponsoring the Days of Learning initiative.



Judges Needed for National History Day

Volunteers needed! We're looking for judges to evaluate student projects for the **2021 National History Day** virtual state contest. Judges will work in teams and receive online training before the contest.

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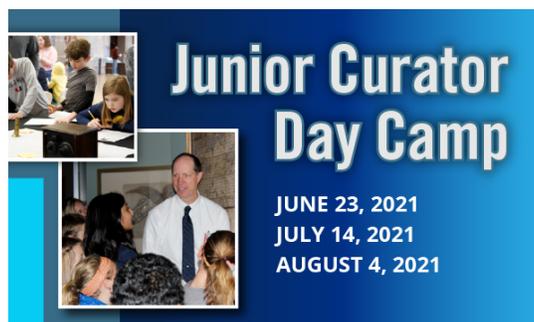
Summer Camps: Young Writers' Workshop and Junior Curator Camps



Young Writers' Workshop Returns

The **Young Writers' Workshop** returns this summer for a week of exciting adventure. Students entering grades 7-12 will work with a nationally known young adult author to hone and refine their writing skills using artifacts, exercises, research and storytelling tips. The students will end the week by giving a performance of their stories. The five-day workshop is set for **June 14-18**.

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Junior Curator Day Camp

Young historians in grades 4-6 can learn what it takes to run a museum during the **Junior Curator Day Camp**. They'll explore the role of curators, conservators and exhibition designers by investigating artifacts, exploring the State Historical Museum of Iowa's collection and learning about Iowa history. Students also will design their own exhibit. The single-day camps are offered **June 23, July 14 or Aug. 4**.

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Historic Preservation, Education and Research Grants

Grant applications are being accepted for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Research Grants for Authors



Deadline: April 15

The Research Grant for Authors supports historical research and interpretive writing on topics related to Iowa history. Proposals that pursue neglected topics or new approaches to more familiar topics will receive preference. Grant recipients will be expected to produce a manuscript to be considered for The Annals of Iowa.

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Historical Resource Development Program



Deadline: May 3

This program provides up to \$50,000 for the preservation, conservation and interpretation of history by encouraging individuals and organizations to educate the public about historical resources, including historic buildings, museum collections and documentary materials.

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Country School Grants



Deadline: May 3

The Country School Grant provides up to \$5,000 for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa's one- and two-room country schools. The funds also may be used for interpreting the history of country schools or for educational activities taking place in a country school.

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Programs & Events

- March 17: ["Iowa Stories: The Cherry Sisters: The Best Worst Act in the World"](#)
- March 25: ["Iowa History 101: 100 Years of Donna Reed"](#)
- April 3: [History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault](#)
- May 1: [History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault](#)
- June 14-18: [Young Writers' Workshop](#)
- June 23: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)
- July 14: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)
- Aug. 4: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

Grants & Nominations

- April 15: [Research Grant for Authors](#)
- May 3: [Historical Resource Development Grant](#)
- May 3: [Country School Grant](#)

Please check our online calendar for more events and opportunities across the state.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[VISIT OUR CALENDAR](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)