

TWELFTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CURATORS

OF THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT IOWA CITY,

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE.

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1879.

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[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

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## REPORT.

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HALL OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, }  
IOWA CITY, IOWA, December, 1879. }

*To His Excellency, JOHN H. GEAR, Governor of Iowa:*

THE Board of Curators of the State Historical Society herewith present the biennial report required by law.

The society is now in the twenty-third year of its existence, being about six months older than the present constitution of Iowa, and but little more than ten years younger than the State itself. It may fairly be reckoned one of the advantages enjoyed by the younger members of our union of States over the older ones, that they have reached full maturity within the lifetime of their earliest settlers, and are thus enabled to hand down to their future generations of inhabitants a full and perfect record of state history from the first settlement. The student of their history has not to grope through a century or two of slow and unrecorded growth, to find the causes which have made them what they are, and stamped a distinctive character upon their institutions and their men. The foundation of a State Historical Society by the same generation that founded the State itself, is a phenomenon that probably was never seen before the present century, and that could hardly have occurred under other circumstances than those which have attended the birth of Iowa and her sister States in the Mississippi valley. Usually the first colonists of a new land have neither the leisure which permits them, nor the tastes which persuade them, to record carefully the earliest annals of their enterprise. Usually, too, they are hardly aware of the importance and value of such annals in the eyes of posterity. They can hardly know whether the com-



monplace toils and labors, which are all they have to record, will figure in history as the opening page of a grand tale of a thousand years, or whether they will drift into the Sargossa sea of oblivion, with the valueless and unconsidered relics of so many other abortive human enterprises. We need not wonder, therefore, that two entire centuries passed over the colonies which became our elder sister states before any organized effort was successfully made to preserve their early history; but we may be profoundly grateful that a few unselfish and far-sighted men accomplished as much for Iowa, within as many decades from the date of its first territorial organization. It is worth mentioning here, in this connection, as a circumstance which can be paralleled in but one or two other states, if at all, that among the present most active members of our Board, meeting with us every month for the work of our Society, we have the sheriff by whom this county was first organized upon its purchase from the Indians (Col. Samuel C. Trowbridge), and at least one of the first purchasers of land in Iowa City (Robert Hutchison, Esq.), who saw the site of our beautiful university town an uninhabited waste, and heard the voice of the general government (through the mouth of an auctioneer) offering it for sale to the first comers. Such facts as these will no doubt be common enough in the still younger states and territories west of us, where historical societies, after the example of our own, now are formed, or will be so, as soon, almost, as there is a single fact in their history to remember; but upon the minds of older communities they impress more forcibly than dates and statistics, the completeness as well as the rapidity with which a State, still so young as Iowa, has developed her institutions. To many an intelligent resident of the old world, the changes which these gentlemen have seen with their own eyes, and the lessons which they can draw from their own memories, would no doubt seem as foreign to sober history as the creations of romance.

But the advantage which Iowa may derive from the ease and accuracy with which her earliest history may be written, lies not chiefly in the record of her wonderful material growth. The story of the earliest formative period of a great state is more fruitful in lessons than any later one. The elements of national life, the deep-seated causes of weal or woe to the entire community, the true

nature of popular institutions and their actual working, are more easily studied in that stage than in any later one. The same forces are at work, guided by the same laws—speaking generally, and apart from minor qualifications,—in the imperial state with millions of population, as in the sparsely settled territory from which it has grown; but the very extent of the former makes it more difficult to see these forces and laws in their entirety, and therefore their true relations to each other. The threads which must guide us through the labyrinth may be much more easily grasped while they are few and simple. Besides, the mere lapse of time makes more difficult the solution of every historical problem. It may be taken as an axiom, that the institutions and the events of a given community, in any given generation of its members, are the exact net results of the history of all the preceding generations of the same community. We could explain them—we could almost predict them beforehand,—if we did but know that history perfectly. With even a tolerable knowledge of that history, they could be sufficiently understood to save each succeeding generation from a multitude of blunders, losses, and disasters. The chief obstacle to such knowledge is the fact that the problem increases in complexity with each succeeding generation. The first period in the life of a new state may be analyzed and comprehended with comparative ease; the second is complicated with all the results of the first; the third may already become so complex as to defy investigation historically and compel the student of government and law, of social science or political economy, to abandon his method in despair, and fall back upon the commonplaces that have so long served as assumed “principles” in these sciences. Hence, it is an advantage—not a sentimental, imaginary pleasure, but a solid, practical, useful advantage—for any enlightened community, in the nineteenth century, to be able to study its history from the beginning in full, accurate, trustworthy records. The history of Iowa may be so written, as to give the world, what it does not now possess, a complete contemporary record of the normal, untrammelled development of a free and sovereign State, under republican forms of government, from its very beginning. The very reasons which make that history seem uneventful and dull to the mere curiosity hunter, give it a special value as a contribution to social and politi-



cal science. And it may certainly be added, without betraying a more than just state pride, that no community upon the face of the earth has a history better worth recording in these respects, than the young State of Iowa. Brief as that history has been, it is already that of a great state, larger, richer, more populous than many of the kingdoms and republics most famous in story and song; and yet its material and financial prosperity has not been purchased, as has too often been the case elsewhere, by neglect of the intellectual and moral advancement of its citizens. The pastor and the teacher have kept equal pace with the workman and the farmer. Freedom and law have gone hand in hand. When war became just and necessary, fifty regiments sprang from the midst of the most peaceful and industrious people on the continent, as the men of Clan Alpine sprang from the heather; and when war was no longer a duty, they returned to civil life, to be governed by the justice and the constable. There is probably no state in the Union, of any size, so free from "the criminal classes"—from definite and traditional bodies of law-defying men or women, gathered and compacted together by pauperism, ignorance, and evil training—as are the million and a half of the people of Iowa. There is probably no community upon earth, where the average of wealth *per capita* is so high as it is in Iowa, in which the entire amount of wealth is so evenly distributed.

Is not the experience of such a State as this worth preserving from the very beginning? And ought not special pains to be taken to preserve it *now*, when the men who founded it are still here, in considerable numbers, but thinned out every year by the resistless scythe of Time?

The Society has already, in the past twenty-three years, saved up in its annals, and archives, much that would before this time have been lost forever, but for its exertions. It holds now, in its cheap and temporary quarters, a mass of material for state history that all the wealth of the State could not replace if once destroyed. But there is work for it to do, which must be done very soon or never, of greater extent and value than all it has yet done. The sum at present allowed for its work by the State enables it barely to store and preserve its present collections. It could not even do this, but for the gratuitous services of a few of its members, who

give their time and labor, and in some cases their money, to a task in which they have not the slightest interest beyond that of all their fellow-citizens.

The organization and work of the Historical Society have been fully detailed in its successive biennial reports, of which this is the twelfth. The first three of these, for 1857, 1859, and 1861, respectively, are now entirely out of print, and inaccessible to most of the persons interested in the work of the Society. They contain matter of some importance for preservation, and are not lengthy. They embrace in all, title-pages included, only twenty-six pages, which could be easily reprinted in twenty pages, at most, of the form now used for executive documents. The curators would therefore respectfully suggest that these three reports should be reprinted, as an appendix to the present (twelfth) report of the State Historical Society. Even if there were no other reasons for doing so, it would be a graceful recognition of the services rendered to the State by the gentlemen who first founded the Society, and gave much unselfish labor to the work. Some of them are no longer among us to be affected by any praise we can bestow. Others are still honored citizens, and retain a strong interest in the history of which they themselves have been a great part.

During the two years which have elapsed since the eleventh report, the work of the Society has necessarily been confined to the care of its collections, with such additions as have been made to it by voluntary contributions. All that could be saved from the state allowance of \$500 per annum, after paying the most indispensable expenses of rent, fuel, and care, has been used in binding the newspapers which contain the early history of the State. An account of these disbursements will be found in the treasurer's report annexed. It is much to be regretted that the Society has not had the means to complete this work, and to preserve, in permanent, well-bound volumes, all its collections of Iowa papers. We can hardly complain that our list of current publications is not more complete, while we have not the means to bind regularly the papers that are sent to us gratuitously by the publishers. But we are all the more obliged to those who do not allow their generosity to be chilled by this seeming want of appreciation, and append with pleasure the following list of Iowa newspapers now regularly re-



ceived at the Historical rooms, by the gift of the publishers; for the binding of which the State should make provision:

List of newspapers regularly received at library of Historical Society:

Des Moines Register.	Muscatine Weekly Journal.
Iowa City Republican.	Iowa City State Press.
Cedar Falls Gazette.	Cedar Rapids Times.
Fayette County Union.	Marengo Republican.
Clayton County Journal.	Dubuque Weekly Times.
Lyons Weekly Mirror.	Anamosa Eureka.
Adair County Reporter.	Wright County Monitor.
	Waukon Standard.

#### GERMAN.

Der Wochertliche Demokrat. Iowa Staats Anzeiger.

#### BOHEMIAN.

Slovan Americky.

The following list of books and pamphlets, received from abroad during the last biennial period, is very suggestive, not merely for what it contains, but for what it does not contain. Almost every State in the Union now has a Historical Society, which is ready to exchange with us; and many publications of value would be sent every year to our collection, if it were known that they would be received and properly cared for. The services of a single officer, sufficiently paid to devote his time to the work, would be abundantly repaid by the valuable library thus gathered. We have no means to pay such an officer; and we have no individual looking for such a place; and therefore the State loses the benefit of the exchanges, and of donations that actually press for reception.

Bulletin of American Geographical Society, sessions 1876-7.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, 1877-78.

Monthly Weather Review to date.

Speech of Wm. B. Allison, in Senate, Dec. 13, 1877, on resolution for payment of U. S. bonds in silver.

Annual Reports Board of Regents Smithsonian Institution, 1876 and 1877.

New England Historical Genealogical Register, 1878 and 1879 to date.

From Brig. Gen. G. S. Benet: Annual Report of Chief of Ordnance for 1877 (bound).

From Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.: Meteorological Observations for 1875 (bound).

From New England Historical and Genealogical Society: Sketch of Life of Wm. Blanchard Towne.

From Secretary Treasury United States: Finance Report for 1877 (bound).

From Historical Society of Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (quarterly) from Vol. 1 to date. Proceedings of New England Historical and Genealogical Society for 1878-9.

From Walter S. Briscoe, Assistant Librarian: Pamphlets relating to History of Amherst College, Mass.

From Secretary of War: Report of Chief of Engineers to Secretary of War, 1877.

From Department of State: Foreign Relations of U. S. for 1877, and pamphlets relating thereto.

From the Publishers: Annals of the Deaf and Dumb, Quarterly, 1878 and 1879, to date.

From Brig. Gen. A. A. Humphreys: Map of the Battle of Gettysburg—three sheets. U. S. Geological Explorations of the 40th parallel, by Clarence King, geologist in charge—Vols. IV, V, VI. Atlas of Geological Explorations of 40th parallel by Clarence King.

From A. R. Wickersham, publisher: Five bound volumes of The Washington Press, Washington, Washington county, from 1856 to 1876.

From A. E. Martin, warden: Biennial Report of Warden of Additional Penitentiary to Seventeenth General Assembly.

From State of Iowa: Supreme Court Reports, Vols. 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

From Minnesota Historical Society: Proceedings of Society from its organization to the admission of the State. Annual Report of Minnesota Historical Society for 1877.

From Wisconsin Historical Society: Twenty-fourth Annual Report. Catalogue of Picture Gallery of Society.

From New Jersey Historical Society: Proceedings of Society for 1878.

From Massachusetts Historical Society: Proceedings of, for 1876 and 1877 (bound). Historical Collections—3d series, vol. 4 (bound).

From Delaware Historical Society: Life and Military Services of Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Smyth (bound). Some Leaves from Early History of Delaware and Maryland. Historical Sketch of Oliver Evans. Reports concerning Public Schools of the city of Wilmington. Acts of General Assembly relating to city of Wilmington. Some Vital Statistics of city of Wilmington. Report of the City Solicitor of the city of Wilmington. Annual Report of Chief Engineer, etc., of the city of Wilmington. Annual



Report of Chief Engineer of Water Department of city of Wilmington. Annual Report of Chief Engineer and Registrar of the city of Wilmington.

From C. W. Hobart, Esq.: New York Weekly Tribune from 1856 to 1872.

From the Society: Proceedings of American Antiquarian Society, 1877

From Long Island Historical Society: Fourteenth Annual Report of the Society, 1877.

From the Secretary: Constitution and By-laws of New England Society of Orange, New Jersey.

Bulletin of Essex Institute, vols. 9 and 10.

Alabama Cairns, letter of J. Bancroft Davis to N. Y. Herald.

From the Author: Early settlement of Ohio. Centennial address at Washington county, Ohio, by Israel Ward Andrews, LL. D.

From Secretary of State: Report in relation to criminal returns of Iowa for 1874-5, by Josiah T. Young. Seventh Biennial Report of Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm.

From W. S. Appleton: Ancestry of Mary Oliver (bound). Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton (bound).

From Samuel A. Green, following pamphlets: Annual Report, School Committee, town of Boston, for 1876-7 and 1877-8. Proceedings at dedication of Jamaica Plain Branch of Boston Public Library. Arguments in behalf of preservation of Old South Meeting House. Roll of Students of Harvard University for 1866. Annual report of Boston Provident Association, 1876-7. Proceedings of Boston Provident Association 1876-7. Oration before Governor and Citizens of Boston, July 5, 1875, by James Freeman Clarke, 99th Anniversary of American Independence. Orations before City Authorities of Boston, July, 1870, 1872, and 1873.

From the author: History of the Suffolk Bank, by D. R. Whitney.

From the author: Natural and Revealed Religion—a sermon by C. D. Bradlee.

From the author: History of the War Department of the United States—by L. D. Ingersoll (bound).

From C. H. Lothrop, M. D.: Medical and Surgical Directory of Iowa for 1876, and 1878-79, 2 vols. (bound).

From Department of Interior: Contributions to History of Medical Education and Medical Institutes. Special Report by W. S. Davis, LL. D. Report of Commissioner of Education, 1877 (bound). Journals of Proceedings, Reports and Documents complete of the 41st, 42d, 43d, and 44th Congresses, 450 vols., bound in calf. Geographical Surveys West of the 100th Meridian, by Lt. G. M. Wheeler, in charge vols. II, III, IV, V, VI (bound).

Survey of the Northern Boundary of United States from Lake

of the Woods to Summit of Rocky mountains (bound). United States Official Register, 1877, 1878 and '79.

From Massachusetts Historical Society: Proceedings from 1791—1835 (bound).

From the author: Genealogy of the Whitney Family, 3 vols. (bound in morocco).

In conclusion, we beg leave to refer to our previous reports, for the recent work of the Society, and an estimate of the means necessary to enable the Society to do the work it has assumed, in the best possible manner. The only change we should make would be to credit upon the item of binding and that of cases, shelving, etc., the amount paid within the last two years, as appears by the treasurer's report, and to ask, instead of the sum of \$600 for secretary's and librarian's salaries, one sufficient to procure the services of a good man who should appreciate the full importance of his task, and devote his entire time to it.

(The estimate above referred to was made by a legislative committee of the Fourteenth General Assembly, in their report to that body, and as a matter of convenience is copied here from our former report:

For binding newspapers.....	\$ 1,000
For glass-cases, painting, and shelving.....	300
For rent of building.....	300
For fuel and lights.....	100
For secretary's and librarian's salaries.....	600
For printing.....	500
For postage, expressage, and incidentals.....	200

Total for biennial period..... \$3,000)

The officer, whose duty it is to subscribe this report, cannot sign the same without reminding your Excellency, and through you, the legislature of the State, that the State Historical Society is, in a peculiar sense, a contribution by all the citizens of Iowa to a common interest, in which no section or class of citizens ought to have any peculiar or selfish motive. He would respectfully ask that a visiting committee of the approaching legislature be instructed to



visit and inspect the work thus far done by the Society, and to suggest the means by which that work may be most efficiently done for the future.

All of which is respectfully submitted, on behalf of the Historical Society and the Board of Curators.

WM. G. HAMMOND,

*President of Iowa State Hist. Soc'y and Board of Curators.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *in account with* PETER A. DEY,  
*Treasurer.*

DR.—1877-8-9.

To 30 vouchers paid on incidental account...	\$294 38
To 4 vouchers paid on stationery, binding, etc.....	259 90
To 16 vouchers, salaries.....	328 75
To 7 vouchers, rent.....	725 00—\$1,608 03
Dec. 1, 1879, To balance in hands of treasurer.....	40 87
	<hr/> \$1,648 90

CR.—1877.

Jan. 18.	By cash from H. S. Welton, former treasurer.	\$ 50 41
June 14.	By cash from State treasurer (appropriation).	502 92
July 13.	By cash from Thomas Hughes, Sec., books sold.....	83 00
July 25.	By cash from Thomas Hughes, Sec., annals sold.....	6 00
1878.		
April 15.	By cash from State treasurer (appropriation).	506 57
1879.		
March 19.	By cash from State treasurer (appropriation).	500 00—\$1,648 90
Dec 1.	To balance in hands of treasurer.....	40 87