

State policy to recommend to the Assembly in your annual message, an appropriation for this purpose.

In our older States, filled with men of wealth and leisure, such an appropriation might be uncalled for, but in our own State, where citizens are necessarily all absorbed in building homes, and securing fortunes, we cannot find a sufficient number of men, willing to give their time and money, that are requisite to success in this enterprise. We have men who love this work, and feel a deep interest in gathering up and preserving, whatever may serve to illustrate our history, but they cannot devote themselves to it. In our older states, however, the office is not filled for the honor of the position, but the requisite funds are usually contributed by members of the society, or obtained from a permanent fund, secured by liberal donations from friends of historical research.

In concluding this report, the board beg leave to call your attention, and that of our citizens, to a single paragraph in the annual report of the New York Historical Society. It expresses our own sentiments, and articulates our own feelings. "The advantages resulting from the study of history, and the collection of historical records, cannot be too strongly urged on the attention of the members of this Society. In order that history may be written the most authentic materials must be provided. No generation comprises within its own knowledge and experience all that is necessary to secure the integrity of its annals. It must rely upon records, it must examine and compare opinions, it must study the events of the past. It must have the means of investigation and analysis at hand. Collections like these by which we are surrounded, and which are designed to preserve the memories of other days, will be deemed of inestimable value by generations which are to come after us."

Such works are a blessing to mankind, since they furnish men with a true standard of character, excite them to noble emulation, keep alive the stimulus of honorable example and prevent that lapse of national reputation, which would be unavoidable without the incitement and influence of great names and great deeds?

In behalf of the Board of Curators,

*Iowa City, Dec. 1st, 1857.*

C. BILLINGS SMITH,  
Corresponding Secretary.

## SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

# IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TO THE

GOVERNOR

AND

EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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DES MOINES:  
1860.

## REPORT.

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*To His Excellency, SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD, Governor of the State of Iowa:—*

SIR: In compliance with the act of the legislature of Iowa, granting two hundred and fifty dollars annually to the "State Historical Society," the executive committee of the Society beg to present herewith the report of the treasurer, for the past two years, exhibiting the financial condition and extent of expenditure of the Society, with the accompanying vouchers. The total receipts of the two years, including the balance on hand on the second day of December, 1857, have been seven hundred and sixty-eight dollars and thirty-seven cents, and the expenditures, five hundred and three dollars and twenty-six cents, leaving a balance in the treasury of two hundred and sixty-five dollars and eleven cents. [See Appendix A.] In presenting their third annual report, the executive committee are happy to congratulate the members of the Society, and the citizens of the State, in view of the progress made by the Society since its organization, an advancement, we believe, unprecedented by any similar organization, either east or west.

Not only have the additions to our library and cabinet been comparatively large, but a sympathy for the Society, and a proper appreciation of its object and utility, is being felt, not only by our own enlightened citizens of Iowa, but by "men of letters" throughout our own country and in Europe, from whom in many instances we have received substantial proof of their interest in our prosperity. The report of the librarian shows that during the past year fourteen hundred volumes have been added to the library, besides papers and pamphlets.

These works may be classed in the following manner:

1. "History."
2. "Belle Lettres."

3. "Government," "Jurisprudence" and "Politics."
4. "Arts" and "Sciences."
5. "Theology."

We have desired especially to obtain copies of all publications of our own State, and believe we have to a very great extent succeeded in this, excepting some of the early newspaper files, which it is feared in a few instances have been destroyed. We have received, however, as will be seen by the report of the librarian, several files of the early newspaper publications of our own State. Of recent newspaper publications of our own State, it will also be seen by the librarian's report, that we are in receipt of about one hundred, and our warmest acknowledgments are due to these editors and publishers, who so generously responded to the request of the committee to send to the Society regular files of their papers. There are a few instances in which this call has not been responded to, as desired, and in these few we believe the parties did not properly comprehend the object of the committee in making the request. The value of such a collection of newspapers and periodicals cannot be too highly appreciated, for in it is contained almost a complete history of the State, at least all of the most important events, and they are recorded as they pass, and for convenience of reference they are invaluable. Already have these files been consulted in numerous instances for information that could be obtained from no other source; and the importance of this collection is being felt more and more daily. We therefore hope that all newspaper publishers who have not already sent their publications to the Society will not fail to do so without delay. Our collection of pamphlets and documents number about one thousand. The value of collections of this character, comprising as has justly been observed, "the elements of history," cannot be too highly estimated; and it has been the object of the committee to augment the number as much as is practicable. To our collection of maps, many additions of much value have been made during the past year, so that we have copies of nearly all that have been published of the State, from the first settlement by the whites to the present time, and one that dates back as early as 1650, which, in connection with the description of the country accompanying it, forms a very interesting volume of our library of earliest maps of

the Mississippi Valley, by "Joliet & Lasalle," from George H. Yewell, Esq., an artist of our State, at present residing in Paris.

Within the past year we have obtained two autograph letters of Gen. Washington; one of Benjamin Franklin; one of De Witt Clinton's and a large number of papers and books of an old date, among which is a copy of "Cicero" written on parchment, in the year 1253, one of those rare curiosities that seldom finds its way into a modern library. Owing to the want of an artist, perhaps, as much as anything else, our picture gallery contains but one painted portrait—a half length picture of Gen. Washington, by a Western artist. We have, however, a large number of daguerreotypes and photographs, among which are those of the members of the last constitutional convention, and a number of our State officers. We have also a number of lithograph pictures of interest.

We have promises of a large accession to the number of painted portraits, among which are those of our ex-governors now living, and from George H. Yewell, Esq., a half length portrait (from a photograph) of Robert Lucas, first Governor of Iowa Territory. And we are happy to report, that Antoine Le Claire, Esq., of Davenport, has promised the Society a full length portrait of himself, so soon as a suitable artist can be procured to do the work. This will probably be done within the coming year, so that before another annual report is made, our picture gallery will contain not only the fulfillment of the promises we now have, but many other paintings of interest.

Many additions to our cabinet of curiosities have been made within the past year, among which are two Indian war clubs; powder horn worn by Black Hawk when taken prisoner; a quantity of pottery from an Indian mound in the northwest portion of the State; a large number of arrow heads, stone hammers, pipes and other instruments used by the aborigines; some very choice geological specimens from our own State; the grinder of a mastodon found in Davis county, and presented by D. D. Waynick, Esq.; a large number of ancient copper coin of American, European and Asiatic stamps; a number of bills of continental currency and old currency of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; with others of old date. In the department of natural history but comparatively little has been accomplished; yet we have a few of the rare species of birds of our

own State, and several species of fishes, and modern shells from our own rivers. To this collection we expect to make large additions during the coming year, and we have promises from a number of gentlemen of assistance in this department.

Additions to our library are promised by Rev. Henry Giles, Hon. Theodore Sedgewick, Henry Bohy, Esq., London; George H. Yewell, Esq., Paris; Hon. George Bancroft, William Cullen Bryant, Esq., C. Childs, Esq., Hon. Lewis Cass, Prof. Jeremiah Day, Amos Dean, LL. D., G. W. Ellis, Esq., Hon. Millard Fillmore, Rev. Francis Hawks, D. D., Rev. J. T. Headley, New York; Dr. J. G. Morris, Baltimore; Hon. E. D. Morgan, N. Y.; William C. Noyes, Esq., N. Y.; Prof. D. Olmstead, New Haven; Rev. S. T. Prime, N. Y.; Rev. J. Speare Smith Bolt, M. D., E. Sargeant, Esq., Boston; Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, Hartford; Prof. Silliman, New Haven, Ct.; Prof. Jared Sparks, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Hon. Laurel Summers, Le Claire, Iowa; Hon. M. Van Buren, N. Y.; H. A. Wiltse, Esq., Dubuque; Maj. William Williams, Ft. Dodge, Iowa; Lambert A. Wilmer, Esq., Philadelphia; Rev. Francis Wayland, D. D., Providence.

We have received the promise from the lamented Prof. W. W. Mather of Columbus, O., of a MSS. History of a Military Survey of Iowa and Missouri made by him in 1832, under the direction of the War Department, but his sudden death prevented our obtaining the work as soon as we anticipated. We hope, however, to secure it at no distant day, and make such use of it as may then be deemed advisable.

The above list contains the names of but a small number of those who have promised donations to our collections, for there are many persons in our own State, and others who are waiting for an opportunity to send collections which they have already made for the Society; and the words of encouragement and promise of assistance, which we receive, not only from citizens of our own State, but from those of other states, with whom the society is in correspondence, lead us to hope much for the future prosperity of our organization.

We have reliable promise of MSS. histories of nearly half the counties of our State, to be written by men who are fully competent for the work, which they have undertaken, and who will enter upon it as soon as practicable. In the appendix to this report will

be found the history of Scott county, from its first settlement by the whites to the present time, by Hon. Willard Barrows; the history of Dubuque county, from its first settlement to 1840 by C. Childs, Esq.; the history of Davis county, from its first settlement by the whites to the present time, by H. B. Horn, Esq.; the history of Wapello county from its first settlement by the whites to the present time, G. D. R. Boyd, Esq.; accompanied with a history of the Indians of the Des Moines Valley, for a number of years prior to the settlement of the country by the whites, gathered from their traditions by Hon. Uriah Briggs; the history of Boone county, by S. C. Daniels, Esq.; of Cerro Gordo county, by A. B. Tuttle, Esq.; of Wayne county, by John Hays, Jr.; of Madison county, W. W. McKnight; of Jefferson county, by Hon. Chas. Negus; of Johnson county from its first settlement to 1841, by M. R. Cothran. Also a lecture on the discovery of the Mississippi River, delivered at the annual meeting of the Society, December, 1857, by Hon. T. S. Parvin. To all of the above named gentlemen, the Society is under special obligation for their zealous efforts to promote its object and interests.

The Society is also under special obligations to the following named gentlemen for donations made by them:

Hon. James Lawrence, Boston, for a full set of the works of Wm. Hickling Prescott, Daniel Webster, and Benton's Thirty Years' View; to Rev. Albert Barnes, D. D. for a full set of his own publications; to Hon. Steven A. Douglass for Congressional Documents and Smithsonian Reports; to Hon. Jas. W. Grimes, Hon. James Harlan, Hon. G. W. Jones and Lieut. Maury for valuable Congressional Documents; to Messrs. Sheldon, Blakeman & Co.; N. Y., for ——— miscellaneous books; to J. A. Lapham, Wis., for works relating to Wisconsin history; to Messrs. Fink & Marquard, Iowa City, for a copy of the life and writings of Wm. Penn; to Easton Morris, Esq.; for a copy of his reports of cases in Supreme Court, and for a number of volumes of "State Papers;" to Hon. W. Penn Clarke for copies of his report of Supreme Court decisions, and for a complete file of the N. Y. *Tribune* from 1840 to the present time; to R. H. Sylvester, Esq., for an autograph letter of Gen. Washington, and valuable Congressional documents; to Geo. S. Hampton, Esq., for an autograph letter of Gen. Wash-

ington, and valuable Congressional documents; to Geo. S. Hampton, Esq. for an autograph letter of Gen. Washington, Franklin and other valuable papers; to Messrs. Henn & Williams for a full set of their maps of the State; to R. M. Prettyman for the powder horn taken from Black Hawk, when taken prisoner at the battle of Bad Axe; to S. H. Fairall for a MSS. copy of Cicero, written on parchment during the thirteenth century.

The Society is also under obligation to the Western Stage Co. for furnishing the corresponding secretary a pass over their lines free of charge, and to many other gentlemen in our own and other States, the names of whom, if given, would swell this report to a greater length than would be desirable.

The act of the legislature providing for the organization of the State Historical Society, designates that eighty bound copies of all reports and documents published by and under the authority of the State, be appropriated to the use of the Society for distribution in other states and in Europe. The committee has secured the specified number of copies of the Acts of the General Assembly for 1858; Senate and House Journals, and Report of State Agricultural Society for same year. Also, the specified number of the Census Report for 1856; and debates of the Constitutional Convention; Geological Report; Journal of Board of Education; Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction; and thirty-five copies of the Acts and resolutions of the Board of Education. The Journals of the House and Senate, and Acts and Resolutions for 1857; Reports of all State officers and State Institutions, and message of the Governor for 1857 and 1858; forty-five copies of the Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Education; thirty copies of the Agricultural Report, and some other State papers are yet due the Society from the State. The reason assigned for their not being furnished to the Society is, that there were not enough left after the distribution to counties.

None of the volumes that the Society has received, except Geological Report and Debates of the Constitutional Convention, were bound as was provided in the organic act of the Society; a matter which was probably overlooked by the proper officer having it in charge. This matter should have been attended to, from the fact that most of the volumes which the board have received from other societies, and especially State institutions, were bound when re-

ceived, and it is desirable to reciprocate that favor; and farther, it is highly important in order to preserve books of that character that they should be properly bound. The binding may be of a cheap description, so that it would not cost over thirty or forty cents per volume. The board would have had the work done at the expense of the Society, had the appropriations been equal to the expense; but, from the limited resources of the Society, this was wholly out of the question. We can only hope that this matter may not be neglected by the State hereafter, or that the appropriations to the Society may be large enough to enable the board to pay for it from its treasury.

The committee are happy to report that during the past year no meeting of the Board of Curators has failed for want of a quorum, and that the meetings have been regularly held each month, and there has been that degree of interest manifested by the members of the board, that augurs well for the future prosperity of the Society. Not only have the local members attended the meetings in most instances punctually, but in many cases, members residing at a distance from Iowa City, have met with us and greatly assisted in carrying out the objects of the Society—and to such an extent are the citizens of the State becoming interested in its prosperity, that several applications for membership have been received from persons residing in remote portions of the State.

It was, at the organization of the Society, a somewhat difficult matter to find earnest, active members, who fully appreciated the importance of an institution of this character, but that has now changed, and our citizens are becoming alive to the vast and important results which are sure to grow out of a properly conducted State Historical Society, and proffers of assistance are received from every portion of our State. This is what we need, and what we must have in order to fully carry out the objects contemplated by our organization.

We want books, pamphlets, catalogues of schools and colleges; reports of meetings of religions, political, benevolent and scientific organizations and societies of every description; old newspaper files, letters, manuscripts, paintings, photographs, lithographs and daguerreotypes of prominent individuals of the State; maps, plats of

towns and cities, distinct and extinct, biographical sketches, and pictures of localities, towns and counties; manuscript or printed lectures, speeches, etc.; Indian traditions, portraits, and curiosities of every description; description of Indian mounds, earth-works, etc., constitutions, by-laws, rules and regulations, and list of officers and members of societies and associations of early organization in this or other States. From publishers of newspapers and periodicals we solicit regular copies of their publications, and from authors and sister societies we solicit copies of their publications—promising in all cases to make return of our own publications, and those which we may have for exchange. We also solicit from the citizens of our own and other States, prepared specimens of natural history, such as birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, wild animals of all kinds, and botanical specimens. These are designed to exhibit as far as may be the fauna and flora of the State. There is no doubt that many species of both are becoming extinct every year, and to preserve them while we may is an object which we deem well worthy of our attention, and especially as there is no organization in the State of which the board has any knowledge, engaged in making a collection of this kind. At the last meeting of the board of trustees of the State University, on a petition presented to them by the board of curators, the use of the former U. S. District Court room, in the University building, was granted to the Society for a library and cabinet room; which is sufficiently large for the present uses of the Society. Appropriate cases and shelving have been constructed and the room generally has been fitted up in a neat and appropriate manner. The books up to this time had been permitted to occupy the same room with the University library—much to the inconvenience of both the Society and the University. But by this grant from the board of trustees all difficulty in this respect is passed, and the accommodations of the Society, for the present at least, are in this respect all that we could desire.

To show the comparative progress of the Society during the past year, we make the following extract from the second annual report of the Wisconsin Historical Society, published in 1856:

“The Massachusetts Historical Society, the pioneer institution of the Union, which was founded in 1791, has 8,000 volumes in its library, and has published thirty-one volumes of collections; the

New York Historical Society was founded in 1804, has 25,000 volumes, and has published about thirteen volumes of collections and proceedings; the American Antiquarian Society, founded in 1812, has 22,000 volumes, and has published three volumes of collections, a catalogue volume, and several pamphlets; the Rhode Island Historical Society, founded in 1822, has 2,500 volumes, and has published five volumes of collections; the Maine Historical Society founded in 1822 (number of volumes unknown), has published three volumes of collections; the New Hampshire Historical Society, founded in 1823, has 1,500 volumes, and has published six volumes of collections; the Connecticut Historical Society, founded in 1825, has 8,000 volumes, but has published no collections; the Pennsylvania Historical Society, founded in 1825, with 2,000 volumes in its library, has published five volumes of collections, and several bulletins and pamphlets; the Virginia Historical Society, founded in 1818, has 1,200 volumes, and has just published one volume of collections, and about seven volumes of an historical register; the Ohio Historical Society, founded in 1831, has 1,000 volumes, and has published three volumes of collections and several pamphlets; the Kentucky Historical Society, founded in 1838, has 1,000 volumes in its library, and has issued no publications; the Georgia Historical Society, founded in 1839, has united its library with that of the Savannah Society, and has published three volumes of collections; the Maryland Historical Society, founded in 1814, has 2,128 volumes, and has published several pamphlets; the Missouri Historical Society, founded in 1844, has 300 volumes, and has issued one pamphlet of proceedings; the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, founded in 1844 has 3,000 volumes, and has published nine volumes of an Historical and Genealogical Register and some pamphlets; the New Jersey Historical Society, founded in 1845, has 1,930 volumes, and has published four volumes of collections and six of proceedings; the Minnesota Historical Society, founded in 1849, has 300 volumes, and has published four pamphlets of collections.

“There are other Historical Societies extant, such as those of Vermont, North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama, whose libraries are small, and which have issued no publications.

“It thus appears from the most recent statistics of these societies

that there are only seven which exceed ours in the extent of their libraries, and none that has equaled ours in the rapidity of its growth; our Society having been founded January 30, 1849, and having 2,115 volumes, some 3,000 pamphlets, eleven paintings and a large number of manuscripts, engravings, antiquities and curiosities in its library, and having published one volume of collections and three annual addresses in pamphlet form."

The State Historical Society of Iowa was organized Feb. 3d, 1857, our library contains about 2,000 volumes, a large number of pamphlets, maps, manuscripts, engravings and curiosities; we have published one annual report, and the present year will issue our first volume of collections—a progress, as before remarked, unprecedented by any similar institution in our country. But although our progress has been thus rapid and our collections for the time our Society has been in operation so numerous, but a moiety has been accomplished, to what might have been, could the undivided attention of a single individual have been given to this work, whose salary would have been an adequate compensation for service rendered. It is rare to find men who will engage in any labor or enter upon any work, especially as arduous as the duties incumbent upon the office of Corresponding Secretary of a Society of this character, who feels the responsibilities of his office and who has sufficient capacity to engage in work of this kind, without some security or promise of pecuniary reward; such an one it is rare to find in the older states of our commonwealth, and especially in the west.

What we need then, is an appropriation from the State of an amount sufficient to compensate a man who will devote his whole time to the duties of the work of collecting the materials for a complete history of the State, and to arrange them in proper form for publication. The materials are abundant, and could be easily obtained if there was some one to go over the State and collect them. To meet this want an appropriation of not less than fifteen hundred dollars per year is necessary, for that amount would no more than pay for the time and traveling expense of such an agent. Other States have wisely made provisions for a work of this kind, and our own should not be behind, for the time is fast passing away, when very many important incidents of the early history of our State will be lost forever. We ask this appropriation with more confidence

from the fact that the zeal that has already been shown by the members of the Society, is a good earnest that the work will not be lost. We have thus endeavored to lay before your Excellency, the history, growth, prospects and wants of the State Historical Society of Iowa, with the hope that the labors of the committee may meet with the approval of yourself and those to whom the Society is indebted for that material aid which has enabled us to accomplish what has been done, and with the assurance that the enlightened wisdom of our legislators will never suffer its interests to flag for want of proper encouragement from the State.

J. W. Grimes.  
Thos. H. Benton.  
T. S. Parvin.  
J. C. Traer.  
D. P. Palmer.  
E. W. Eastman.  
C. Childs.  
C. B. Smith.  
W. H. Barris.  
J. D. Wilson.

*Iowa City, Dec. 1, 1869.*

Morgan Reno.  
G. W. McCleary.  
D. L. Wells.  
W. Reynolds.  
K. Porter.  
S. W. Huff.  
G. H. Jerome.  
W. A. Sale.  
M. B. Cochran.

*Executive Committee.*