

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS
COUNCIL

PRODUCE
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STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Register for Preserve Iowa Summit

There's still time to **register for the virtual2021 Preserve Iowa Summit**, but you'll need to do it today. Presented by the State Historic Preservation Office and co-hosted by Council Bluffs this Thursday through Saturday, Iowa's premier conference is for professionals and volunteers involved in historic preservation. This year's theme, "The Trail Ahead," looks two ways at once: back to Council Bluffs' history as a trailhead for explorers and settlers and forward to a future where Iowa communities use history to create a unique sense of place and shared identity.

Curious? Check out this [video](#) about the Historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs and then [register for the summit](#).



VIDEO: DODGE HOUSE

[REGISTER FOR THE SUMMIT](#)

Explore Iowa History Online

Join the thousands of Iowans who have tuned in online for the [Iowa History 101](#) and [Iowa Stories](#) webinars this year, during Iowa's 175th Anniversary. You can watch three new programs in June or catch up on recordings of previous webinars.

Iowa History 101

[Iowa's Borders: Evolution and Controversy](#)

June 10

Join Paul F. Anderson, professor emeritus at the Iowa State University College of Design, as he discusses the evolution of Iowa's borders, a process that began long before Iowa joined the Union in 1846.

[REGISTER](#)



Iowa History 101

Iowa's County Fairs

June 24

Join Leo Landis, the state curator for the State Historical Society of Iowa, as he discusses the history and heritage of Iowa's beloved county fairs.

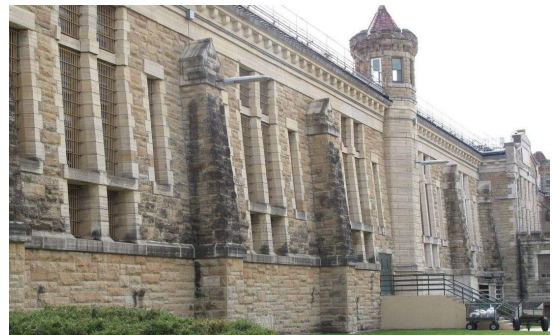
[REGISTER](#)

Iowa Stories

Iowa Women's Corrections

June 24

In the nearly 170 years since the first woman arrived at Iowa's oldest penitentiary, in Fort Madison, women and juvenile females have been held in some of Iowa's most well-known facilities. Join Erica Spiller for this discussion about Iowa's prison history.



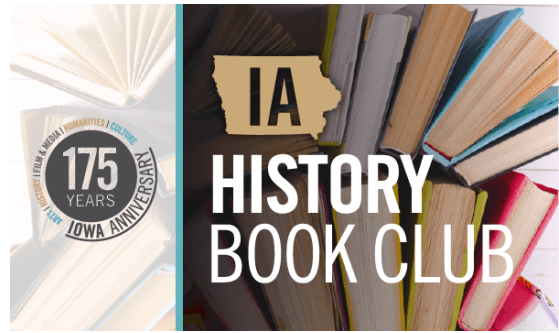
[REGISTER](#)

Join the Iowa History Book Club

Take a deep dive into Iowa history by joining the new statewide [Iowa History Book Club](#), with quarterly

online discussions led by guest scholars and Andrew Klumpp, the editor of [The Annals of Iowa](#).

The next discussion is set for 7 p.m. June 10, with a look at **“Equal Before the Law: How Iowa Led Americans to Marriage Equality”** by former Des Moines Register reporters Marc Hansen and Tom Witosky.



REGISTER IN ADVANCE

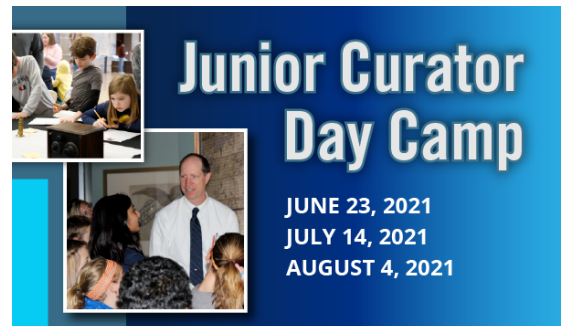
Youth & Family Programs

Do you have an aspiring curator or writer in the house? Well then, sign them up for Junior Curator Day Camp or the Young Writers' Workshop! Participants in these programs get to **explore the State Historical Museum of Iowa, examine historical artifacts, practice historical research and learn skills** they can apply to school and future careers.



Young Writers' Workshop is for students entering 7th-12th grades and offers a chance to learn about Iowa history with unique educational experiences. The workshop will take place **June 14-18**.

LEARN MORE



Junior Curator Day Camp is for students entering 4th-6th grades and gives them opportunities to learn about museums and the role of curators. The camps will be offered **June 23, July 14 or Aug. 4**.

LEARN MORE

Rural Revitalization Grants Announced

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has awarded \$600,000 in grants for historic preservation projects in or near Creston, Decorah, Elkader, Keokuk and Muscatine.

Iowa's Rural Heritage Revitalization Grants help rural communities preserve their history and

foster economic development through the preservation of historic properties. The grants are funded by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service and administered by the State Historic Preservation Office, which is part of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. *Pictured: Keokuk Union Depot.*



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Annals of Iowa Article Receives Award



The first building at Memorial University in Mason City, Iowa, which was meant to be a harbinger of the grand university that the Grand Army of the Republic planned to build in the community. (Courtesy of Jonathan Neu)

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The Midwest History Association awarded its highest honor for an article/journal to a story that was published last year in The Annals of Iowa.

The MHA awarded its **2020 Dorothy Schwieder Prize to Jonathan Neu's article "Produce Patriots As Well As Scholars: GAR Educational Reform and the Establishment of Mason City's Memorial University"** (The Annals of Iowa, Summer 2020).

In the citation, MHA said "Neu offers an innovative look at the role of the GAR and their work in educational reform, linking the activities of veterans and educators in Iowa and the Midwest to larger national efforts. The author challenges and builds on some of the most important historiographical work in the field of education and the popular memory of the Civil War."

Books on Black History in Iowa

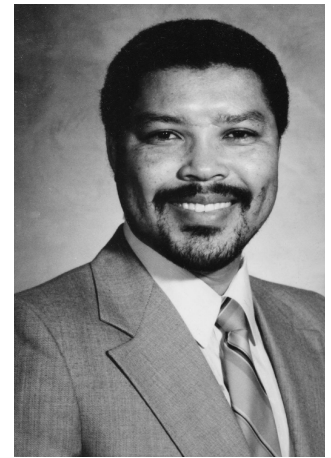
Two books related to Black history in Iowa are now available through various retail outlets, and both have ties to the manuscript collections available to researchers in the State Historical Library and Archives in Des Moines.

'The Call to Serve: The Thomas Mann Story'

By Thomas Mann Jr.

Born in Haywood County, Tennessee, in 1949, Thomas Mann Jr. received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1974 and joined the Iowa Department of

Justice as an assistant attorney general. In 1976, **Gov. Robert Ray appointed him as the first executive director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission** and, in 1982, he became the first Black Iowan elected to the Iowa Senate. Most notably, he led the state's legislative efforts to divest from companies doing business with the Republic of South Africa over apartheid. After leaving the senate, he continued working as a civil rights attorney in Iowa and Texas until he retired in 2016.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT MANN'S SPEECHES](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MANN'S LEGISLATIVE WORK](#)

'Susan Angeline Collins: With a Hallelujah Heart'

By Janis Bennington Van Buren

Susan Angeline Collins was the daughter of emancipated slaves Isaac and Sarah Ann Joiner Collins, who settled near Fayette, Iowa, in 1865. **At 24, she became the first African-American to attend Upper Iowa University.** After operating a laundry in Huron in the Dakota Territory for several years, she went to Chicago to train as a missionary. In 1887, she was recruited by Bishop William Taylor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa to serve in the Congo. She later taught at schools in Malange and Quessua, Angola. After 13 years she briefly returned to the United States, but by 1902 returned to Angola under sponsorship of the Pacific Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. She remained there for 18 more years, until returning to the United States in 1920.



[LEARN ABOUT COLLINS' LETTERS](#)

Ready for Your Close-Up?

As Iowa prepares to cap off its **175th year of statehood** on Dec. 28, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs invites Iowans of all ages to **create and submit a self-portrait**, which will be featured as part of the anniversary.

Step 1: **Print the instruction sheet** with the portrait frame.

Step 2: Draw your self-portrait inside the frame. Cut it out.

Step 3: Write your first name, age and Iowa county of residence on the back.

Step 4: Send your self-portrait in an envelope addressed to:

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

600 E. Locust St.

Des Moines, Iowa, 50319



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The Annals of Iowa

Get cutting-edge research about Iowa history by **subscribing to The Annals of Iowa**, our thought-provoking history journal that **examines the deeds, misdeeds and accomplishments of people from Iowa's past**. Published quarterly, the Annals offer compelling accounts that show you how their actions continue to be felt throughout Iowa today.



History in the News

Keep up-to-date with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs by signing up for our **newsletters** – a smorgasbord of information about history, arts, culture and film grants, programs and opportunities across the state. You may also enjoy **monthly updates from Goldie's Kids Club**, an Iowa history program designed for children and families.

Community Enhancement Through Architecture & Design Awards

The Iowa Architectural Foundation invites state-wide nominations for its **2021 Community Enhancement Through Architecture and Design awards**. The awards recognize those individuals, organizations, agencies or communities outside the architectural profession who have had a significant and positive impact on the quality of life in Iowa through their support of architecture and/or urban design. Winners will have demonstrated consistent and effective leadership, vision and support for architecture that has contributed to the betterment of any Iowa community(s). **Nomination deadline: June 30 at 5 p.m.**



Grinnell HSSC, AJ Brown Imaging

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Programs & Events

June 3-5: [2021 Preserve Iowa Summit](#)
 June 10: [Iowa History 101: Iowa's Borders: Evolution and Controversy](#)
 June 10: [Iowa History Book Club](#)
 June 14-18: [Young Writers' Workshop](#)
 June 23: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)
 June 24: [Iowa Stories: Iowa Women's Corrections](#)
 June 24: : [Iowa History 101: Iowa's County Fairs](#)
 July 14: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)
 Aug. 4: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

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

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[VISIT OUR CALENDAR](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

