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SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



New Grants for Iowa History & Culture

Today the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs announced \$2.3 million in grants to 244 Iowa organizations and individuals across the state. That includes more than **\$550,000 for historical research and various projects** supported by the Historical Resource Development Program, which is funded through the state's Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funds to preserve historical collections, invest in communities through historic preservation and promote Iowa history. Here are just a few of this year's recipients:

- ~ The City of **Dubuque** received \$30,000 to conduct an in-depth survey about local African-American history from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- ~ The Iowa Jewish Historical Society, based in **Waukee**, received \$19,324 to document and expand its collection of oral-history interviews with Jewish Iowans, recorded over the last 40 years.
- ~ Liberty Hall in **Lamoni** (pictured) received \$4,500 to repair and paint its one-room school, which served students from the 1870s through 1930.
- ~ Polk County Conservation received \$25,000 to create an exhibition at the Jester Park Nature Center in **Granger** about Iowa's geological, anthropological and archaeological past.
- ~ The Siouxland Historical Railroad Association in **Sioux City** received \$32,250 to study archaeological artifacts from a railroad construction camp and to create online educational resources about transportation-related archaeology.

In addition, 17 historians from **nine states and the Czech Republic** each received \$1,000 to research various topics in Iowa history, including 1920s flappers, Jay "Ding" Darling's conservationist cartoons, and Camp

Hantesa in Boone. The resulting articles may appear in the Annals of Iowa, the quarterly journal published by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

[SEE THE FULL LIST OF NEW GRANTS](#)



Celebrate Learning

A new collection of online resources was unveiled today as part of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs' ongoing **Days of Learning**, an initiative that connects educators, students, parents and lifelong learners with a **showcase of Iowa's arts, history, humanities, film and culture**. The multimedia collection, "**Celebrate Moments & Cultures**," features a few high points from Iowa's past and present – a mix of milestones, memorable stories and points of view – specially curated by the department staff and other experts from cultural and humanities organizations across the state.

Check out a video about the **BrewNost beer festival** at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library or the photo album from the **women's suffrage** movement or five great books about the **Iowa State Fair** . . . and so much more. Enjoy!

[BROWSE THE NEW COLLECTION](#)



On the Road Again

The State Historical Society of Iowa's mobile museum hits the road again (after a 16-month pit stop during the pandemic) with a visit this weekend to the Pomeroy Sesquicentennial. The brand-new exhibition, "**Iowa History 101: Iowa's People & Places**," explores 13,000 years of Iowa history with 56 artifacts tucked into a custom-built Winnebago.

The mobile museum will visit **all 99 Iowa counties** between now and the end of 2023, similar to its first three-year tour but with a different exhibition. The first exhibition tour made 175 stops across all 99 counties from 2017 through 2019 and attracted nearly 65,000 visitors, including 11,400 students.

The new exhibition's presenting sponsor is EMC Insurance Companies with additional partnership support from Casey's General Stores, Winnebago Industries, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Mike Wolfe.

See it for yourself in **Pomeroy** (July 9-11), **Columbus Junction** (July 27-31), **Britt** (Aug. 6-8), **Wilton** (Aug. 20-22), **Shenandoah** (Sept. 25) and **Lamoni** (Oct. 3).

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW TOUR](#)

Best Wishes for Paula Mohr

We bid farewell today to Dr. Paula Mohr of the State Historic Preservation Office and thank her for 14 years of service to Iowa. During her tenure here as an architectural historian, she helped build Iowa's Certified Local Government program into one of the most active in the country, coordinated the annual Preserve Iowa Summit as well as the 2018 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum in Des Moines, and contributed to special projects like the "Hollywood in the Heartland" exhibition at the State Historical Museum of Iowa and an ongoing statewide survey of sites related to Civil Rights history. Recently, she has led the charge for a new State Historic Preservation Plan to guide historic preservation efforts for the next decade.



Previously, Paula worked in curatorial and preservation positions at the White House, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Service and the U.S. Treasury.

We wish her all the best in her new endeavors, which include consulting, teaching in Goucher College's historic preservation program, and restoring a historic school in Van Buren County.

Pictured: Paula, second from right, received the John and Sue Renaud Award for State Leadership to Advance Historic Preservation at the Local Level during the 2018 NAPC Forum in Des Moines.



Smithsonian to Feature Cedar Rapids Student's Exhibit

After **16 Iowa students earned honors** last month at the National History Day National Contest, there is still more good news. An exhibit by **Katelyn Anderson** was selected for this year's virtual exhibit showcase June 15-29 on the website of the **Smithsonian's National Museum of American History**. Katelyn, who just finished eighth grade at Taft Middle School in Cedar Rapids, titled her project "Number, Please?" How the Hello Girls Operated Switchboards for Military Communication." **Congratulations to Katelyn and her teacher, Amy Engelmann!**

[LEARN MORE](#)

Coming Up Online

Iowa Stories: The Wall Ridge Excavations: A Modern View of a Glenwood Earthlodge Noon July 15 [Register](#)

The next Iowa Stories webinar from Iowa City look at how researchers used cutting-edge methods and archaeological records to shed light on the **daily technological, subsistence and dietary aspects of Native American households in the eastern Plains during the 1300s**. The work is captured in "Household Economy at Wall Ridge: A Fourteenth-Century Central Plains Farmstead in the Missouri Valley," the first comprehensive study of a prehistoric Central Plains household in more than 50 years. The book's authors, including colleagues from the Office of the State Archaeologist, will fill out the webinar's panel.



Iowa History 101: Forever Free: Rediscovering Heroes, Heroines & Helpers on Central Iowa's Underground Railroad Noon July 22 [Register](#)

Join **Gale Brubaker**, executive director of the West Des Moines Historical Society; **Ricki King**, a genealogist and mentor for



Forever Free; and **Forever Free participants** who will share their recent research about the **Underground Railroad in central Iowa**.

Disney Animator to Virtually Visit Goldie's Kids Club



Tune in online at 1 p.m. July 24 for a special Goldie's Kids Club program with **Kendra Vander Vliet, a layout artist at Walt Disney Animation Studios** who grew up in Sheldon, Iowa. Vander Vliet has worked on many Disney feature films and shorts including: "Frozen," "Feast," "Big Hero 6," "Zootopia," "Moana," "Olaf's Frozen Adventure," "Ralph Breaks the Internet," "Frozen 2," and "Raya and the Last Dragon." She'll discuss her design inspiration, demonstrate character models

and share some behind-the-scenes stories from her career. Registration is free but required.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Junior Curator Camp

Young historians entering grades 4-6 can learn about Iowa history with unique educational experiences only available at the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Using the museum and exhibits as a unique classroom, Junior Curator Camp participants will examine historical artifacts and explore career options as curators, conservators and exhibit designers. A few spots still remain for the session on Aug. 4.

Junior Curator Day Camp

JUNE 23, 2021
JULY 14, 2021
AUGUST 4, 2021

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

Tour the Capitol Grounds

Ever wonder about the monuments around the Iowa Capitol? Take a closer look during a **free guided tour** of the capitol grounds with Goldie's Kids Club on [July 10](#) or [Aug. 7](#).