

STATE OF IOWA
1924

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CURATORS

OF THE

**State Historical Society
of Iowa**

For the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1924

Published by
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Des Moines

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CURATORS

OF THE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Iowa City, Iowa, September 15, 1924

Hon. N. E. Kendall, Governor of Iowa:

In accordance with Section 246 of the Code of Iowa, 1924, the Board of Curators of The State Historical Society of Iowa submit herewith their thirty-fifth biennial report for the period ending June 30, 1924.

MARVIN H. DEY,
President.

REPORT OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ESTABLISHMENT AND LEGAL STATUS

The State Historical Society of Iowa was established pursuant to an act of the Sixth General Assembly entitled "An Act to provide for an annual appropriation for the benefit of a State Historical Society" and approved on January 28, 1857. On February 7, 1857, organization of the Society was fully effected by the adoption of a constitution. In 1872 the Society was brought into closer relations with the State by "An Act to Reorganize the State Historical Society", which was passed by the Fourteenth General Assembly and approved on April 23rd. The Society was first incorporated in December, 1867. Its present incorporation dates from the year 1892.

The present organization of The State Historical Society of Iowa is based upon the provisions of the Code of 1924, Title XII, Chapter 235, Sections 4542-4548, inclusive, which read as follows:

4542. The state historical society shall be maintained in connection with and under the auspices of the state university, for carrying out the work of collecting and preserving materials relating to the history of Iowa and illustrating of the progress and development of the state; for maintaining a library and collections, and conducting historical studies and researches; for issuing publications, and for providing public lectures of historical character, and otherwise disseminating a knowledge of the history of Iowa among the people of the state. [R., '60, § 1959; C., '73, § 1900; C., '97, § 2882; S., '13, § 2882-a; 40 Ex. G. A., ch. 4, § 120.]

4543. The board of curators of the society shall consist of eighteen persons, nine of whom shall be appointed by the governor, and nine elected by members of the society. Their term of office shall be two years, and they shall receive no compensation. The governor shall make his appointments on or before the last Wednesday in June in each even-numbered year, and the terms of the persons appointed shall commence on that day; and, at the annual meeting of the society in each odd-numbered year, the others shall be elected by ballot from the members of the society, for the term next ensuing, which annual meeting shall be held at Iowa City on the Monday preceding the last Wednesday in June. [C., '73, §§ 1901, 1903; C., '97, § 2883.]

4544. Members may be admitted to the society at any time under such rules as may be adopted by the board of curators. [C., '73, § 1902; C., '97, § 2884.]

4545. The board shall appoint annually, or oftener if need be, a corresponding secretary, recording secretary, treasurer, and librarian from the members of the society outside of their own number, who shall hold office for one year, unless sooner removed by a majority vote of the board. Said officers shall hold the same position in the society as upon the board of curators, and their respective duties shall be determined by said board. No officer of the society or board shall receive any compensation from the state appropriation thereto. [C., '73, § 1904; C., '97, § 2885.]

4546. It shall also appoint from its members a president, who shall be the executive head of the board, and hold office for one year and until his successor is elected. [C., '73, § 1904; C., '97, § 2886.]

4547. The curators, a majority of whom shall reside in the vicinity of the university, and five of whom shall constitute a quorum, shall be the executive board of the society, and have full power to manage its affairs. It shall keep a full and complete account of all of its doings, and of the receipt and expenditure of all funds collected or granted for the purposes of the society, and shall biennially report the same to the governor on or before the fifteenth day of September. [R., '60, § 1960; C., '73, § 1906; C., '97, § 2887.]

4548. Five copies of the reports of the supreme court and twenty copies of all other books and documents published by the state or upon its order shall be delivered to the society for the purpose of effecting exchanges with similar societies in other states and countries, and for preservation in its library, or other purposes of the society. [R., '60, § 1961; C., '73, § 1907; C., '97, § 2888; 40 Ex. G. A., ch. 3, § 24.]

PUBLIC SUPPORT

For a period of sixty-seven years the public support of The State Historical Society of Iowa took the form chiefly of permanent annual appropriations. In 1857 the sum of \$250 was voted by the General Assembly as a permanent annual allowance for the use of the Society. This permanent annual support was increased to \$500 in 1860; to \$1,000 in 1880; to \$2,500 in 1902; to \$7,500 in 1904; to \$12,000 in 1907; to \$16,000 in 1911; to \$20,000 in 1913; to \$24,000 in 1917; and to \$44,500 in 1921.

In addition to the permanent annual support the following special appropriations have been voted by the General Assembly: \$6,000 in 1868; \$1,000 in 1892; \$2,000 in 1900; \$9,500 in 1902; and \$750 in 1906.

The present support of The State Historical Society of Iowa is provided for in Section 121 of the New Budget Law, enacted at the extra session of the Fortieth General Assembly, as follows:

There is hereby appropriated for the use of the state historical society, out of money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, annually until July 1, 1925, the sum of forty-four thousand five hundred dollars (\$44,500.00) which shall be payable in quarterly installments upon the order of the board of curators of said society.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following is a summary* of the finances of The State Historical Society of Iowa from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1924.

RECEIPTS	
General Support Fund of 1913 (Act of 35th G. A.), including balance on hand July 1, 1922.....	\$ 43,805.71
General Support Fund of 1917 (Act of 37th G. A.), including balance on hand July 1, 1922.....	8,968.67
General Support Fund of 1921 (Act of 39th G. A.), including balance on hand July 1, 1922.....	43,880.89

*For a detailed and itemized financial statement, see 1924 report of the Board of Curators to the Executive Council, published in Expense Report for 1924.

Publication and Membership Fund (Derived from membership dues, sale of publications, and film rentals), including balance on hand July 1, 1922.....	8,587.96
Interest Fund (derived from interest on bank account), including balance on hand July 1, 1922.....	1,467.05

\$106,710.28

EXPENDITURES		
Fund	Amount	Balance
General Support Fund of 1913.....	\$ 43,348.20	\$ 457.51
General Support Fund of 1917.....	8,960.50	8.17
General Support Fund of 1921.....	42,171.40	1,709.49
Publication and Membership Fund.....	6,772.49	1,815.47
Interest Fund	1,450.46	16.59
Total expenditures all funds	\$102,703.05	\$4,007.23
Total balance all funds	4,007.23	
Expenditures and balance equal total receipts	\$106,710.28	

CURATORS AND OFFICERS

The Board of Curators as now constituted consists of the following persons:

Appointed by the Governor—Mrs. Lillian Clark Cary, Dubuque; John M. Grimm, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. A. H. Hoffman, Des Moines; Mrs. Mary H. S. Johnston, Humboldt; W. G. Kerr, Grundy Center; Mrs. Ellsworth Richardson, Pella; Alfred C. Smith, Clinton; Mrs. Helen S. Taylor, Bloomfield; H. O. Weaver, Wapello.

Elected by the Society—Arthur J. Cox, Marvin H. Dey, Henry G. Walker, S. A. Swisher, Charles M. Dutcher, Morton C. Mumma, W. O. Coast, W. L. Bywater, Thomas Farrell, all of Iowa City.

The officers of The State Historical Society of Iowa as elected by the Board of Curators in 1924 are as follows:

Marvin H. Dey, President; P. A. Korab, Treasurer.

SALARIED STAFF

The following constituted the salaried staff of the Society, as provided for by action of the Board of Curators, from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923; Superintendent and Editor, \$3,500; Executive Clerk and Secretary to Superintendent, \$2,800; Research Assistant, \$600; Clerk and Stenographer, \$840; Clerk and Stenographer, \$840; Library Research Associate, \$2,500; Library Assistant, \$780; Library Assistant, \$780; Library Assistant, \$480; General Assistant, \$720.

The following constituted the salaried staff of the Society, as provided for by action of the Board of Curators, from July 1,

1923, to June 30, 1924; Superintendent and Editor, \$3,500; Associate Editor, \$2,800; Executive Clerk and Secretary to Superintendent, \$2,800; Research Assistant, \$2,000; Clerk and Stenographer, \$840; Clerk and Stenographer, \$840; Clerk and Stenographer, \$840; Library Research Associate, \$2,500; Library Assistant, \$1,500; Library Assistant, \$840; Library Assistant, \$600; General Assistant, \$720.

All other services are paid for by the hour or by the week by the order of the Board of Curators upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

MEMBERSHIP

Persons are admitted to membership in The State Historical Society of Iowa upon election by the Board of Curators and the payment of an initial fee of \$3.00. Membership in the Society may be retained upon the payment of \$3.00 annually. Members of the Society are entitled to receive all the publications issued by the Society during the period of their membership.

Persons are admitted to life membership in the Society upon election by the Board of Curators and the payment of \$50.00; members having paid \$50.00 in annual dues are enrolled as life members. Life members are entitled to all the privileges of members without the payment of annual dues.

On July 1, 1924, there were on the rolls of the Society the names of 1,296 active members, of whom 91 were life members.

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Local historical societies (such as county historical societies, city or town historical societies, and old settlers' associations) may be enrolled as auxiliary members of The State Historical Society of Iowa upon application by such local historical societies and the approval of the Board of Curators.

Patriotic organizations within the State of Iowa (such as the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Iowa Society of Colonial Wars) may be enrolled as auxiliary members of the State Historical Society upon application of such organizations and upon approval by the Board of Curators.

Auxiliary societies or organizations receive all of the publications of The State Historical Society of Iowa issued during

the period of their affiliation without the payment of any fees or dues. Each auxiliary society or organization is entitled to one vote at the business meetings of the Society.

On July 1, 1924, the auxiliary members of the Society numbered 24.

OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Curators, certain public and college libraries within the State have been designated as official depositories. These official depositories receive all the publications of the Society as issued without the payment of any fees or dues whatsoever. Thus the Historical Society aims to make its publications accessible to the greatest possible number of citizens of the Commonwealth. Within the State there are now 175 official depositories, which may be regarded as branch libraries of the Society.

It is the policy of the State Historical Society to maintain exchange relations with certain libraries and institutions throughout the United States—an arrangement which results in the acquisition of valuable materials for the library of the Society. Sixty-four libraries and institutions have been designated as official exchange depositories outside the State.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

In most States the principal function of the State Historical Society has been that of collection and exhibition, historical research having been left, for the most part, to individual initiative. But with The State Historical Society of Iowa, historical research and publication have become the dominant activity. Through its organization and institutional activities, the materials of State and local history are discovered, critically studied by specialists, compiled, edited, and published. Thus, instead of attempting to make the largest possible collection of historical materials in one place, the Society endeavors to compile, publish, and distribute the greatest amount of accurate, scientific historical information. Instead of hoarding books and manuscripts for the use of a few, the Society aims to make the history of the State accessible to the many.

The work of historical research and investigation is done largely by trained specialists under the direction of the Superintendent. Neither partisan bias nor personal prejudice is knowingly allowed

to enter into the work of those who are engaged in research for the Society.

The scope of the researches is indicated by the series of historical publications listed below.

THE RESEARCH WORKERS

During the period under review the following persons, outside of the regular salaried staff of the Society, have been engaged in research work for the Society: John E. Briggs, Myrtle A. Cline, E. M. Eriksson, Earl S. Fullbrook, George Hurley, W. A. Jackson, Chas. R. Keyes, N. D. Mereness, F. Elizabeth Pettibone, Ivan L. Pollock, Kirk H. Porter, Geo. F. Robeson, Alan Rockwood, Jay J. Sherman, Jacob Van Ek, and N. R. Whitney.

HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Publication is an essential feature of the activities of The State Historical Society of Iowa, since its purpose is not alone to investigate, to discover, to collect, and to preserve, but also to make accessible the materials of Iowa history. The established series of publications of the Society are:

- The Iowa Journal of History—a quarterly magazine
- The Palimpsest—a monthly magazine
- The Public Archives Series
- The Iowa Biographical Series
- The Iowa Economic History Series
- The Iowa Social History Series
- The Iowa Applied History Series
- The Iowa Chronicles of the World War
- The Miscellaneous Publications
- The Bulletins of Information

THE QUARTERLY

During the period under review *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, the quarterly publication of the Society, has been continued. With the close of the year, 1924, twenty-two volumes of this publication will have been completed. The principal contributions to the *Iowa Journal* during the period from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1924, are as follows:

Sioux City and the Black Hills Gold Rush 1874-1877. By Erik McKinley Eriksson.

- A Typical Iowa Pioneer Community. By George F. Parker.
- Iowa Troops in the Sully Campaigns.
- History of the Organization of Counties in Iowa. By Jacob A. Swisher.
- History of the Office of County Superintendent of Schools in Iowa. By Jay J. Sherman.
- An Unworked Field in Mississippi Valley History. By Louis Bernard Schmidt.
- The Westward Movement of the Corn Growing Industry in the United States. By Louis Bernard Schmidt.
- A History of the Military Department of the State University of Iowa. By Alan C. Rockwood.
- Congregational Life in Muscatine, 1843-1893. By Irving Berdine Riehman.
- The Economic Basis of the Populist Movement in Iowa. By Herman Clarence Nixon.
- The Development of Trans-Mississippi Political Geography. By Ruth L. Higgins.
- A Document Relating to Dutch Immigration to Iowa in 1846. By Henry Stephen Lucas.
- The Legislation of the Fortieth General Assembly of Iowa. By John E. Briggs and Jacob Van Ek.
- The Granger Movement in the Middle West with Special Reference to Iowa. By W. A. Anderson.
- The Framers of the Constitution of 1857. By Erik McKinley Eriksson.
- The Location of County Seats in Iowa. By Jacob A. Swisher.
- Constitutional Provisions for the Suffrage in Iowa. By Carl H. Erbe.
- The Location of County Seats in Iowa. By Jacob A. Swisher.

THE MONTHLY

In July, 1920, the Society began the publication of a monthly magazine entitled *The Palimpsest* for the more widespread dissemination of Iowa history. Supplementing the other publications of the Society, this new monthly magazine aims to present the materials of Iowa history in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense. The scope and character of *The Palimpsest* are indicated by the articles which have appeared in the twenty-four numbers issued between July, 1922, and July, 1924:

VOLUME III

No. 7, July, 1922

- Liquor and the Indians. By John C. Parish.
 The Handcart Expeditions. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
 The Passing of a Slave. By Bruce E. Mahan.

No. 8, August, 1922

- Robert Lucas. By John C. Parish.
 Iowa in the Days of Lucas. By John C. Parish.
 Three Early Taverns. By Bruce E. Mahan.

No. 9, September, 1922

- A Day at New Melleray. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 The Trappists in Europe. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 The Abbey in Iowa. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 The Life of the Trappists. By Bruce E. Mahan.

No. 10, October, 1922

- The Sioux City Corn Palaces. By John Ely Briggs.
 The Blue Grass Palace. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 The Ottumwa Coal Palace. By Carl B. Kreiner.

No. 11, November, 1922

- That 1900 Football Team. By John Ely Briggs.
 The World's Series of 1891. By Chester H. Kirby.
 Adrian C. Anson. By J. A. Swisher.

No. 12, December, 1922

- The Passing of Homer. By Bessie L. Lyon.
 Pilot Grove. By O. A. Garretson.

VOLUME IV

No. 1, January, 1923.

- The Siege of Corinth. By Clint Parkhurst.
 The Iowa Thespians. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 Pleasant Hill Dramatics. By Bruce E. Mahan.

No. 2, February, 1923

- A Confederate Spy. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 Ventures in Wheat. By J. M. Burrows.

No. 3, March, 1923

- A Man of Vision. By Bertha Ann Reuter.
 A Contested Election. By Jacob Van Ek.
 Legislative Episodes. By John Ely Briggs.

No. 4, April, 1923

- The Iowa. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
 The Winter of Eighty-One. By Josephine Barry Donovan.
 Tesson's Apple Orchard. By Ben Hur Wilson.

No. 5, May, 1923

- The First Iowa Field Day. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 The Capital on Wheels. By J. A. Swisher.

No. 6, June, 1923

- "Bob" Burdette—Humorist. By Sherman J. McNally.
 Grasshopper Times. By Josephine Barry Donovan.

No. 7, July, 1923

- Pointing the Way to Iowa. By Laenas G. Weld.
 The Discovery. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 Father Marquette. By Ruth B. Middaugh.
 Louis Joliet. By John Ely Briggs.

No. 8, August, 1923

- Restorer of Iowa Palimpsests. By Bertha M. H. Shambaugh.
 An Iowa Doone Band. By Jocelyn Wallace.

No. 9, September, 1923

- The Early Iowans. By Geo. F. Robeson.
 A Pioneer Journey. By J. M. D. Burrows.
 Bridging the Cedar. By Bruce E. Mahan.

No. 10, October, 1923

- Kelly's Army. By Donald L. McMurry.
 Lieutenant Jefferson Davis. By Dorothy MacBride.

No. 11, November, 1923

- Over the Rapids. By Ben Hur Wilson.
 The Scotch Grove Trail. By Bruce E. Mahan.

No. 12, December, 1923

- The Scrap-Book of a Quiet Little Lady with Silvery Hair.
 By Bertha M. H. Shambaugh.

VOLUME V

No. 1, January, 1924

- Grandmother's Story. By Bessie L. Lyon.
 Grandfather's Adventure. By Addison M. Parker.
 An Old Settler's Story. By Eliphalet Price.
 Old O'Brien. By Josephine Barry Donovan.

No. 2, February, 1924

A Tribune of the People. By Erik McKinley Eriksson.
Two District Conventions. By Jacob Van Ek.
Master of Oratory. By Frank Luther Mott.

No. 3, March, 1924

Judge Joseph Williams. By Bruce E. Mahan.
Justice in Early Iowa. By Geo. F. Robeson.

No. 4, April, 1924

The Des Moines Rapids Canal. By Ben Hur Wilson.
Birds of Early Iowa. By E. D. Nauman.
The Pen Knife Quarrel. By Jacob Van Ek.

No. 5, May, 1924

Hard Times in Early Iowa. By Geo. F. Robeson.
Peter in the Pumpkin. By Charles H. Babbitt.
Stagecoach Days. By Orville Francis Grahame.

No. 6, June, 1924

Home Guards. By Bruce E. Mahan.
Over the Border. By Bruce E. Mahan.
A July Alarm. By Bruce E. Mahan.
Marching as to War. By Bruce E. Mahan.

IOWA CHRONICLES OF THE WORLD WAR

Five volumes in the *Iowa Chronicles of the World War* series were published and distributed during the biennium: *The Red Cross in Iowa*, in two volumes of 269 pages each, by Earl S. Fullbrook; *Food Administration in Iowa*, also in two volumes of 235 and 239 pages, respectively, by Ivan L. Pollock; and *The Sale of War Bonds in Iowa*, a book of 236 pages, by Nathaniel R. Whitney.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

To the Miscellaneous Publications there have been added a volume of 316 pages entitled *The British in Iowa*, by Jacob Van der Zee; *The Government of Special Charter Cities in Iowa*, by Geo. F. Robeson, a book of 286 pages; *History of the Sixth Iowa Infantry*, containing 539 pages, by Henry H. Wright; and *Literature of Iowa Pioneer Life*, containing 89 pages, by Frank Luther Mott.

BULLETINS OF INFORMATION

Bulletins of Information Nos. 10 and 11 were published during the biennium, the former entitled *Pageantry for Iowa Communities* and the latter *State and Local Archaeological Surveys*.

LIBRARY

Since its establishment in 1857, The State Historical Society of Iowa has maintained a library of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts for the use of those interested in the study of Iowa history as well as for the benefit of those who either upon their own initiative or under the direction of the Society are engaged in scientific historical research. It was not, however, until the removal of the Library to the Hall of Liberal Arts in 1901 that the entire collection was completely classified, accessioned, and shelf-listed according to modern library methods. The inventory of the Library taken in July, 1924, records the following statistics:

Number of accessioned titles	58,322
Number of unaccessioned pamphlets.....	6,255
Number of bound newspapers.....	4,010

Total number of titles in the library..... 68,587

Besides the large collection of miscellaneous titles bearing upon the general and local history of Iowa, the Mississippi Valley, and the United States, the Library contains the various official and scientific publications of the United States Government, publications issued under the authority of the State of Iowa, the laws of the Territories and States of the Mississippi Valley, and the publications of the various historical, scientific, and learned institutions of the country. In recent years an effort has been made to collect the writings of Iowa authors and to compile a card index of such authors and their writings.

ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES TO BE CONTINUED

It is the purpose of The State Historical Society of Iowa to continue its activities in (1) discovering, (2) collecting, (3) preserving, (4) investigating, and (5) publishing the materials of Iowa history along lines already laid down and policies already established—to the end that the heritage of the pioneers and the achievements of succeeding generations may not perish.