

State of Iowa

1928

Report of the Board of Curators

OF THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF IOWA

For the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1928

Published by
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Printed and Bound by
The State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Iowa City, Iowa, September 15, 1928.

Hon. John Hammill, Governor of Iowa:

In accordance with Section 246 of the Code of Iowa, 1927, the Board of Curators of The State Historical Society of Iowa submit herewith their thirty-seventh biennial report for the period ending June 30, 1928.

MARVIN H. DEY,
President.

REPORT OF 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 1927, 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 illustrative 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; C., '24, § 4542.]

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; C., '24, § 4543.]

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; C., '24, § 4544.]

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, § 1994; C., '97, § 2885; C., '24, § 4545.]

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, § 1905; C., '97, § 2886; C., '24, § 4546.]

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. [R., '60, § 1960; C., '73, § 1906; C., '97, § 2887; C., '24, § 4547; 42 G. A., ch. 98.]

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; C., '24, § 4548.]

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 Chapter 275, Section 23, of the Laws of the Forty-second General Assembly.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following is a summary of the finances of The State Historical Society of Iowa from July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1928:

RECEIPTS		
From Appropriation by 41st General Assembly.....	\$	33,437.38
From Appropriation by 42nd General Assembly.....		35,322.63
Publication and Membership Fund (derived from membership dues and sale of publications), including balance on hand July 1, 1926		14,867.83
Contributions		1,375.00
Rebate on paper.....		114.60
Interest Fund (derived from interest on bank account), including balance on hand July 1, 1926.....		307.88
	\$	85,425.32
EXPENDITURES		
	Amount	Balance
Fund		
From Appropriation by 41st G. A.....	\$	33,437.38
From Appropriation by 42nd G. A.....		35,322.63
Publication and Membership Fund.....	10,608.25	\$ 5,174.18
Interest Fund		307.88
Saxxay Fund	64.00	511.00
Total expenditures all funds.....	\$	79,432.26
Total balance all funds.....		5,993.06
Expenditures and balance equal total receipts.	\$	85,425.32

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; Lafe Hill, Nora Springs; Mrs. H. C. Houghton, Jr., Red Oak; Miss Nettie McKinnon, Waterloo; Mrs. Grace Potter Miller, Ackley; Miss Merta Mitchell, Keokuk; Mrs. Jennie E. Pritchard, Garner; and Mrs. Ina M. Tilden, Ames.

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, and Thomas Farrell, all of Iowa City.

The officers of The State Historical Society of Iowa as elected by the Board of Curators in 1928 are as follows:

Marvin H. Dey, President; J. A. Parden, 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, 1926, to June 30, 1927: Superintendent and Editor, Associate Editor, Executive Secretary, two Stenographers, Library Research Associate, Research Associate, and two Library Assistants engaged in re-

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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, 1928, there were on the rolls of the Society the names of 1,396 active members, of whom 190 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, 1928, the auxiliary members of the Society numbered 27.

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 179 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-five 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 the regular salaried staff of the Society, have been engaged in re-

search work for the Society: Francis R. Aumann, John E. Briggs, Thomas P. Christensen, Charles R. Keyes, N. D. Mereness, John M. Pfflner, Dorothy Schaffter, Roy V. Sherman, and Herman H. Trachsel.

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 1928, twenty-six volumes of this publication will have been completed. The principal contributions of the *Iowa Journal* during the period from July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1928, are as follows:

- Fish and Game Legislation in Iowa. By Henry Arnold Bennett.
- The Evolution of the Agricultural Fair in the Northwest. By Earle D. Ross.
- Managing a Campaign: An Account of the Good Roads Campaign in Johnson County, Iowa. By Kirk H. Porter.
- William Penn Clarke. By Erik McKinley Erickson.
- Notes on the History of Lecturing in Iowa, 1855-1885. By Hubert H. Hoeltje.
- The Boundaries of Iowa. By Erik McKinley Erickson.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson in Iowa. By Hubert H. Hoeltje.
- The Influence of Natural Environment in North-Central Iowa. By William Julius Berry.
- Samuel Ryan Curtis. By Ruth A. Gallaher.

- The Election of 1892 in Iowa. By Walter E. Nydegger.
- Wild Life in Early Iowa. By Henry Arnold Bennett.
- The Legislation of the Forty-second General Assembly of Iowa. By Jacob A. Swisher and Dorothy Schaffter.
- Abandoned Railroads of Iowa. By Ben Hur Wilson.
- Economic History of the Production of Beef Cattle in Iowa. By John A. Hopkins, Jr.
- The Political Activities of the Dutch Immigrants from 1847 to the Civil War. By Henry S. Lucas.

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 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, 1926, and July 1928:

VOLUME VII

- No. 7, July, 1926
 - The Jones County Calf Case. By J. A. Swisher.
 - Fourth of July in 1860. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 - Boyhood on the Frontier. By Granville Stuart.
- No. 8, August, 1926
 - From Coast to Coast. By Ben Hur Wilson.
 - Across the Prairies of Iowa. By Ben Hur Wilson.
 - In Line with Progress. By Ben Hur Wilson.
- No. 9, September, 1926
 - Emerson at Davenport. By Hubert H. Hoeltje.
 - For Value Received. By Evangeline Stone Cowman.
 - Landscapes of Early Iowa. By Thomas H. Macbride.
- No. 10, October, 1926
 - Seward and Douglas in Iowa. By Louis Pelzer.
 - The Seventh Iowa State Fair. By Bruce E. Mahan.
 - The Campaign of 1883. By J. A. Swisher.
- No. 11, November, 1926
 - The Grave of Sergeant Floyd. By George Catlin.
 - On the Upper Mississippi. By George Catlin.
 - The Lead Mines of Dubuque. By George Catlin.
 - A Visit to Keokuk's Village. By George Catlin.

- Adventures in a Bark Canoe. By George Catlin.
The Course of Empire. By George Catlin.
- No. 12, December, 1926
River Towns. By Marie E. Meyer.
A Transient County Seat. By J. A. Swisher.
- VOLUME VIII
- No. 1, January, 1927.
The Pioneers.
The Iowa Pioneers. By Benj. F. Shambaugh.
By Boat and Covered Wagon. By Bruce E. Mahan.
Claim and Cabin. By J. A. Swisher.
Earning a Living. By John E. Briggs.
Around the Fireplace. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
On the Highway. By Pauline Patton Grahame.
Religion and Morality. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
The Means of Education. By Hubert H. Hoeltje.
Frontier Fun. By Bruce E. Mahan.
The News. By J. A. Swisher.
Pioneer Politics. By Roy V. Sherman.
Rough Justice. By Geo. F. Robeson.
- No. 2, February, 1927
A Capital in Name Only. By John E. Briggs.
Flashlights on Vicksburg. By Bessie L. Lyon.
- No. 3, March, 1927
A Trip to the Bad Lands. By E. de Girardin.
One More River to Cross. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
- No. 4, April, 1927
Rafting on the Mississippi. By Marie E. Meyer.
In This Neglected Spot. By Evangeline S. Cowman.
The Battle of Athens. By O. A. Garretson.
- No. 5, May, 1927
The Desire for Freedom. By Mrs. Laurence C. Jones.
Early Iowa Camp-Meetings. By Mabel M. Meredith.
High Water in Western Iowa. By N. Levering.
Baseball in 1867. By Bruce E. Mahan.
- No. 6, June, 1927
Prehistoric Man in Iowa.
Who and Whence. By Charles Reuben Keyes.
Tribes, Stocks, and Cultures. By Charles Reuben Keyes.
In Quest of Facts. By Charles Reuben Keyes.
Ancient Sites. By Charles Reuben Keyes.
Prehistoric Cultures. By Charles Reuben Keyes.

- No. 7, July, 1927
Siam Gold. By Bruce E. Mahan.
A Minor Prophet in Iowa. By F. R. Aumann.
- No. 8, August, 1927
Jim Jackson's Raid. By Herman H. Trachsel.
Rivers of Iowa. By J. N. Nicollet.
- No. 9, September, 1927
Poweshiek. By F. R. Aumann.
Implacable Foes. By John E. Briggs.
Talk of Peace.
- No. 10, October, 1927
Baseball Beginnings. By Erik McKinley Eriksson.
Biography of a Newspaper. By Franc B. Wilkie.
Due Process of Marriage. By Herman H. Trachsel.
- No. 11, November, 1927
Mahaska. By F. R. Aumann.
The Missouri Slope. By J. N. Nicollet.
The Amana Meteor. By Ben Hur Wilson.
- No. 12, December, 1927
The Hairy Nation. By Herman H. Trachsel.
When Barnum Came to Iowa. By John E. Briggs.

VOLUME IX

- No. 1, January, 1928
Wapello. By F. R. Aumann.
The Birth of the Territory. By John E. Briggs.
- No. 2, February, 1928
Indians of Iowa.
Prehistoric Red Men. By Charles Reuben Keyes.
The Ioway. By F. R. Aumann.
Omaha, Oto, and Missouri. By Helen Wylie.
The Saes and Foxes. By John E. Briggs.
The Sioux. By J. A. Swisher.
Winnebago and Pottawattamie. By Bruce E. Mahan.
Dispossession of the Tribe. By F. R. Aumann.
The Indian at Home. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
Indian Amusements. By Bruce E. Mahan.
On the Warpath. By Helen Wylie.
The Realm of the Spirit. By Ruth A. Gallaher.
- No. 3, March, 1928
The People's Theater. By William Eulberg Kelm.

Proximity. By Herman H. Trachsel.

Jumbo. By Russell C. Grahame.

No. 4, April, 1928

Keokuk.

The Watchful Fox. By F. R. Aumann.

The Council on the Iowa. By John E. Briggs.

Indian Oratory. By F. R. Aumann.

No. 5, May, 1928

Voyages of the *Black Hawk*. By Russell C. Grahame.

The Nicollet Boundaries. By J. N. Nicollet.

Pathfinding in Iowa. By J. C. Fremont.

No. 6, June, 1928

Nicholas Fejérváry. By Marie E. Meyer.

On the Frontier in 1845.

Bowen's Prairie. By Theodore F. Koop.

IOWA BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

During the period under review there was published a *Biography of Leonard Fletcher Parker*, containing 199 pages, by J. A. Swisher—the twelfth volume in the *Iowa Biographical Series*.

BULLETINS OF INFORMATION

Two Bulletins of Information were issued during the biennium: No. 13, entitled *The Pioneers—A Pageant of Early Iowa*; and No. 14, entitled *The Story of the Indian—A Pageant of Early Iowa*.

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, 1928, records the following statistics:

Number of accessioned titles.....	64,443
Number of unaccessioned pamphlets	9,163
Number of bound newspapers.....	4,374

Total number of titles in the library..... 77,980

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 writing 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.