

NINETEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CURATORS

OF THE

State Historical Society

AT IOWA CITY,

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE.

1892.

[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

DES MOINES:

G. H. RAGSDALE, STATE PRINTER,
1893.

LIBRARY ROOM,
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA. }

To His Excellency, HORACE BOIES, Governor of Iowa:

SIR—The Board of Curators of the State Historical Society submit this, its Nineteenth Biennial Report.

In 1857 the society was organized under an act of the Sixth General Assembly, making an appropriation for its support and providing that it should be "in connection with and under the auspices of the State University." The object of the society shall be to collect, embody, arrange and preserve in authentic form a library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary, and other materials illustrative of the history of Iowa; to rescue from oblivion the memory of its early pioneers, to obtain and preserve narrative of their exploits, perils and hardy adventures; to secure facts and statements relative to the history, genius, progress or decay of our Indian tribes; to exhibit faithfully the antiquities, and the past and present resources of the State, and to promote the study of history by lectures and diffuse and publish information relating to the discription and history of Iowa."

How well the curators have complied with the law may be gleaned from the summary or review of what has been accomplished with the small means at our command.

Since our last biennial report the curators have had held before the society and the public free lectures on historical subjects as follows: "Prehistoric Iowa," by Prof. S. Calvin; "Iowa Indians," by Dr. J. L. Pickard; "The Louisiana Purchase," by Dr. C. M. Hobby; "The Introduction of the Common Law into Iowa," by Chancellor Emlin McClain; "Iowa City, a Contribution to the Early History of Iowa," by Benjamin T. Shambaugh, M. A. All of which the society has had published for exchange and distribution. The society expect to continue the course of lectures and to that end have secured some able men of the society to deliver lectures on historical subjects that will interest the people of Iowa.

REVIEW.

From 1857 to 1860 the regular annual appropriation by the State was.....	\$ 250.00
From 1860 to 1880.....	500.00
Since 1880 it has been.....	1,000.00
An average for 37 years.....	641.80

Out of this insignificant sum the society has been compelled to pay rent, custodian's salary, fuel, expressage upon exchanges, and postage, binding of paper files and the maintenance of a quarterly journal for nearly twenty-one years, viz.: Annals of Iowa from 1863 to 1875 and "Iowa Historical Record" from 1885 to 1893. The character of the journals may be learned from the fact that of 5,225 pages of printed matter 2,497 pages are devoted to historical subjects, upon all possible lines connected with the Territory and State, 1,117 pages are given to biographical sketches of men and women who have helped to make Iowa, illustrated by 63 portraits; 578 pages are given to memoranda of the civil war in which Iowa nobly participated. The remaining pages are given to special addresses (355 pages) and to brief personal notices, book reviews, and proceedings of the society.

The character of the historical work and the biographical work may be judged from the list of contributors in which appear the names of Hon. T. S. Parvin, Dr. Wm. Salter, N. H. Brainard, C. W. Irish, Col. Albert Lea, Col. N. Levering, Rev. Father Kemper, Bishop Perry, Hon. Chas. Negus, Judge Wilson, Senator J. F. Wilson, Hon. Charles Aldrich, Judge G. G. Wright, Hon. Heday Deane, Col. S. P. Curtis, Judge McDill, Mrs. Austin Adams, and Mrs. J. M. Love, Snel Foster, Dr. A. B. Robbins, Gov. Kirkwood, Hawkins Taylor, Eliphalet Price and many others.

Among the biographical sketches accompanied by portraits, will be found those of Governors Lucas, Lowe, Chambers, Briggs and Grimes, Benjamin Jennings, Iowa's first public school teacher; Judges Love and Adams, Curators James Lee and S. C. Trowbridge, John A. Parvin, Thomas Hughes, and others prominent in Iowa annals.

LECTURES.

Anniversary and other lectures have been given by Hon. T. S. Parvin, Hon. Charles Negus, Hon. F. H. Lee, Hon. H. Clay Dean, Rev. Dr. G. F. Magoun, Rev. Dr. Wm. Salter, Hon. Hiram Price, Prof. S. Calvin, Chancellor McClain, Dr. C. M. Hobby, J. L. Pickard, LL. D. and B. F. Shambaugh, A. M., part of which have been published for distribution and exchange.

EXCHANGES.

Exchanges are regularly maintained with the historical societies of the United States and with several European societies and with the several departments of the Government at Washington. Nearly complete files of over fifty prominent newspapers of the State are preserved and bound for convenient reference; of these newspaper files there are nine hundred volumes, some of which it would be impossible to duplicate, and which are of incalculable value to students of State history.

LIBRARY.

The society's library now numbers fifteen thousand volumes, obtained chiefly by gift from the State, the general Government and private individuals; a few rare volumes have been purchased out of a small fund of \$400 bequeathed the society.

PAINTINGS, ENGRAVINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

But few paintings have been secured. Photographs of every governor of the State and every United States senator from Iowa have been obtained, and of many other prominent men. Photographs of members of the Constitutional conventions of 1857 taken from ambrotypes, which are also in possession of the society, are put in albums for convenient examination.

FLAGS.

Flags borne by Iowa regiments during the civil war, numbering thirteen in all, are kept in a glass case for inspection. Twelve confederate flags captured by Iowa men are in the collection of war relics, one of which is the first flag raised in South Carolina after her secession. Among war relics will be found one of John Brown's guns, the one used in Kansas. Chains taken from the necks and legs of slaves, a confederate wooden mortar, pikes, swords, guns, etc.

MUSEUM.

The museum contains nearly 5,000 specimens of miscellaneous character obtained by gift.

The rooms of the society are opened only two days in each week because of lack of funds wherewith to pay a permanent custodian.

Students are admitted at other times for private study.

The State University under whose auspices the society is placed by legislative act is unable to aid the society even though students find here sources of information not available elsewhere.

A small fund at the disposal of the society for the employment of a custodian who should be in attendance every day would be of great value to students gathered here from all parts of the State.

In conclusion of this report the Board of Curators feel the necessity and ask that an appropriation be made of \$2,000 per annum in addition to the \$1,000 they are now receiving, that they may be enabled to further the interests of the society.

The Board of Curators of the society for the two years under review was as follows:

By appointment of the Governor:

Hon. D. N. Richardson.....	Davenport
Hon. Geo. D. Perkins.....	Sioux City
Miss Marion Murdock.....	Humboldt
Hon. S. M. Clark.....	Keokuk
Hon. W. J. Knight.....	Dubuque
Hon. J. O. Crosby.....	Garnaville
Hon. R. H. Moore.....	Ottumwa
Hon. John F. Duncombe.....	Fort Dodge
Hon. S. R. Davis.....	Creston

By election of society:

Dr. J. L. Pickard.....	Iowa City
Dr. C. M. Hobby.....	Iowa City
Prof. S. Calvin.....	Iowa City
Prof. T. H. McBride.....	Iowa City
Hon. Peter A. Dey.....	Iowa City
Hon. S. E. Paine.....	Iowa City
Hon. Geo. W. Ball.....	Iowa City
Dr. E. F. Clapp.....	Iowa City
Hon. L. B. Patterson.....	Iowa City

The officers of the society are:

J. L. Pickard, LL. D.....	President
M. B. Cochran, M. D.....	Vice President
Lyman Parsons.....	Treasurer
M. W. Davis.....	Secretary
H. W. Lathrop.....	Librarian

The report of the Treasurer is hereby appended and statement showing for what purpose the expenses were incurred:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

State Horticultural Society of Iowa in account with Lyman Parsons, Treas.

GENERAL FUND.

By balance (\$53.16) and deposits..... \$ 2,053.16

DIBURSEMENTS.

To vouchers Nos. 1 to 71, and balance (\$131.67)..... \$ 2,053.16

July 1, balance on hand..... \$ 131.67

SPECIAL FUND.

By balance (255.26) and deposits..... \$ 739.11

July 1, by balance..... \$ 739.11

PRINTING AND BINDING FUND.

By deposits..... \$ 1,000.00

To vouchers Nos. 1 to 16, and balance (\$292.40)..... 1,000.00

July 1, 1893, to balance..... 292.40

The following shows the expenditures of the society for the two years:

Publishing Record.....	\$ 689.20
Publishing lectures.....	172.00
Rent.....	687.50
Librarian and care of rooms.....	342.00
Secretary.....	300.00
Binding.....	86.70
Fuel and gas.....	39.10
Postage and box rent.....	27.55
Shelving and cases.....	36.52
Express and freight.....	18.82
Glass and frames.....	10.30
Rent of lecture room.....	25.00
Printing and postals.....	16.00
Miscellaneous.....	6.20
Total.....	\$ 2,629.00