

COLLECTING PLAN
of the
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The State Historical Society of Iowa is obligated to assist the citizens of Iowa in identifying themselves individually and collectively in place and time, and in understanding how they have become who they are and how they can shape whom they are yet to become.

To accomplish this, the Society is empowered to identify, record, collect, preserve, manage, and interpret the manifestations of Iowa's history. Every aspect of the collections--including natural specimens, artifacts, printed materials, archives, manuscripts, photographs, machine-readable data, and works of art--helps to document the lives of the people who have lived and worked here and the substantial impact of agriculture, industry, government, social life, and the arts in Iowa.

This collecting plan was created by the Society's Collections Committee, representing the Society's bureaus, board of trustees, and the public. The collecting plan defines, coordinates, and integrates the collecting efforts of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Staff, space, and funds for collecting are limited; the Society cannot collect everything, nor should everything be collected. By articulating the following recommendations, assumptions, guidelines, and areas of special emphasis, this collecting plan provides the framework within which staff can make daily collecting decisions on an individual or bureau level. The intent of this plan is not to dictate, but to guide collecting decisions so that collections development at the Society will benefit from coordinated and integrated collecting objectives.

This collecting plan is a first step. Of greater importance are processing and analysis of collections, and sharing that information, which will further refine the Society's collecting efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As author of this collecting plan, the Collections Committee recognizes that collecting strategies are needed for the areas of special emphasis listed at the end of this document. The Collections Committee recommends that the Society begin immediately to develop collecting strategies for these specific areas.

2. The Collections Committee encourages Society management, bureaus, and individual staff members to develop and implement routine communication procedures for sharing information about potential donors or donations, new acquisitions, and

upcoming projects that may require specific collecting efforts.

3. The Collections Committee encourages the appropriate bureaus to establish sets of curatorial and archival guidelines to ensure that professional criteria are consistently applied to collecting decisions.

4. The Collections Committee encourages the Society to use feasible and innovative methods of documenting and recording unwieldy or ephemeral manifestations of Iowa history--such as through photography and oral history projects.

ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES

Materials will be collected according to the following assumptions and guidelines.

Assumptions:

1. The State Historical Society of Iowa serves a public that comprises several audiences, including researchers, museum visitors, genealogists, government agencies, historic preservationists, subscribers to Society publications, and Society members--as well as future generations of Iowans. The Society collects materials to serve these audiences of today and of the future.

2. The holdings of the State Historical Society of Iowa comprise many collections. The museum, archives, and library use different nomenclatures and criteria in evaluating, acquiring, and cataloging materials. These are useful differences because they increase ways of providing access to the material, determining its historical significance, and serving the public's various needs. Differences in professional criteria will be respected--as will the need for each section to collect material that documents and enhances the collections held by other sections.

3. This collecting plan will be reviewed annually by the Society's Collections Committee for possible revision.

4. This collecting plan will reflect the acquisition policy as stated in Administrative Rule: "The staff of the society shall evaluate potential acquisitions for their relevance to the collections, research, exhibit, educational, intrinsic, historical, or scientific importance, physical condition, relationship to the annual collecting priorities established by the collections committee, and impact upon the operations of the society."

Materials collected will meet some or all of the following guidelines:

Guidelines:

1. The human experience in Iowa will be documented. The Society is interested in collecting materials that reflect how Iowans have lived.

2. The collections will reflect Iowa's diverse socio-economic, ethnic, cultural, age, and racial groups. The Society will place special emphasis on materials that illuminate and document the roles of previously overlooked or narrowly defined populations (for example, children, low-income Iowans, African-Americans, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, and women). While our intent is to be inclusive, we acknowledge that the categories are an intellectual construct; individuals do not live their lives within a single category or under a single label, but as participants in various facets of society. By specifying certain groups of Iowa's population, our goal is to *draw attention* to the need to identify and document their *participation* in Iowa history.

3. The material will fill gaps or build on strengths in current collections.

4. Within any one category, materials will be sought that help to illustrate a continuum, document continuity and change, and reveal how these changes have affected the lives of Iowans.

5. An acquisition will have an adequate level of contextual documentation.

6. Materials will be collected to support Society programs and services.

7. Special consideration will be given to rapidly vanishing or endangered materials that are historically significant.

8. The Society acknowledges that other Iowa institutions that collect Iowa history have various strengths within their collections. Recognizing those strengths will help further define and focus collecting efforts. While not ruling out duplication or overlap, the Collections Committee encourages the Society to collect in ways that *complement* the strong collections of others. The committee also encourages the Society and other institutions to develop ways of sharing information about collections' strengths with each other and with the public.

9. The collections will reflect all geographical areas of Iowa. In order to fill identified gaps in current collections, emphasis will be placed on western Iowa and other under represented regions in current collections.

10. Material collected will reflect all time periods of Iowa history. Emphasis will be

placed on the 20th century (especially post-1920) to fill identified gaps in current collections.

11. Special emphasis will be given to the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Business and Industry
- Domestic Life
- Military Affairs
- Native Americans
- Social Issues and Responses
- Transportation
- Women

(Detailed descriptions of these areas appear in the next section.)

Recognizing the Society's limited resources, bureau representatives concur that these areas shall receive special emphasis as the Society begins active and integrated collecting. The list of areas emerged through evaluation of several factors: staff perceptions of strengths and gaps in existing collections, and staff opinions on collecting priorities (based on 1991 surveys); overall significance to Iowa history; demonstrated public interest; awareness of uncollected and rapidly vanishing materials; and general feasibility and likelihood of success.

Please Note

The following Areas of Special Emphasis--which constitute the bulk of this document--have been singled out as areas in which proactive collecting is currently most feasible. Nevertheless, the Collections Committee emphasizes that other areas not listed here are also important to Iowa history and deserve attention. This list does not preclude collecting efforts in other areas. Materials relating to any other theme, time period, or geographical area will be considered. Staff should not feel restricted to the areas listed here. Nor should staff be discouraged from making contacts and soliciting quality materials in any area of Iowa history. The purpose of the list is not to limit collecting, but to focus and coordinate limited resources. This list suggests places to begin--but not end--our collecting efforts.

AREAS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS

The following descriptions of the areas of special emphasis present a definition of the topic and its relevance to Iowa history; strengths and gaps in Society collections; complementary or similar holdings in other Iowa institutions; and recommendations.

The information presented here on strengths and gaps is based on staff perceptions, not on formal collections analysis. As more information is gathered, these descriptions will be revised. Nevertheless, sharing this limited information now is a starting point for developing collecting strategies, and increasing staff awareness of specific Society collections and of holdings at other Iowa institutions.

Agriculture

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

Iowa has long been primarily an agricultural state. Agriculture's importance to Iowa history cannot be stressed enough. It has affected the lives of a majority of Iowans directly through farming, or indirectly through agriculture-related businesses and industries, and interrelationships between small towns and farmers. The Society will emphasize collecting materials on rural life and farming practices.

Strengths:

- Farm account books from the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Earthwatch Project: oral histories about mid-20th-century farming in northwest Iowa.
- Diaries: Elmer Powers farm diary (1920-44) about the Great Depression; Clara Ackerman diary (1932-33) about daily life, farm prices, protests; Emily Hawley Gillespie diary (1838-88) about farm life.
- Pre-1920 photographs (housed in Iowa City).
- Photographs for 1920 to 1955 (housed in Des Moines). Includes photos of the following: Iowa State Fair; 1930s farm crisis; some from the 1980s farm crisis; photos from the *Des Moines Register* (1930s-early 1950s).
- Artifacts from middle-class farm households (for example, the Doris Brainard Collection).
- Museum artifacts on Iowa's natural history show the relationship of natural history and agriculture.
- Vincent Mart photo collection: 10,000 aerial photos of Iowa towns (1960s-80s) show transportation networks, grain elevators, and implement shops, which serve area farmers.
- Materials related to community life may overlap with agriculture, because of the interrelationships of small towns and farming.

Gaps:

- Farm diaries of men, women, and children covering all time periods.

- Material on tenant farmers and absentee landlords.
- Grange records.
- Information on how changing farming techniques have affected farm life.
- Photographs (especially post-1940) depicting rural life, domestic life on the farm, and work in the fields and farmyard.
- Objects that demonstrate significant changes in rural life and farming practices.

Complementary collections at other Iowa institutions:

- Living History Farms (demonstration of the process of farming).
- Midwest Old Threshers (extensive collection of agricultural machinery).
- University of Iowa Libraries. Special Collections holds archival material on the Wallace family; Iowa farm radicals such as Milo Reno and Fred Stover; and farm journalists. The Map Collections include USDA aerial photographs.
- University of Northern Iowa Library: Hearst Collection on farm politics. Charles Hearst (father of writer James Hearst) was president of Iowa Farm Bureau in early 20th century.
- Iowa State University Library. Special Collections Department, Archives of American Agriculture holds largely 20th-century material and includes the following categories: agri-business (Garst and Thomas Inc., and others); conservation and conservationists; rural electrical cooperatives; records of Iowa State University and ISU Extension Service; farm organizations (Iowa Farmers Union, Iowa Farm Bureau, National Farmers Organization, etc.); farm protest groups (Rural Coalition, National Family Farm Association, etc.); historians, journalists, and politicians ("Tama Jim" Wilson); producer and distributor associations (Pork Producers, Iowa Grain and Feed Association); professional and technical associations; scientists (Norman Borlaug); and veterinary medicine.

Recommendations:

Specific areas of interest include: farm organizations; periods of agrarian unrest and farm crises; demographic changes; changes in rural communities and their relationship to farm life; sustainable agriculture; environmental issues; role of children, women, and men on the farm; the farmstead; farm labor; and reminiscences, diaries, photographs, and oral histories. In particular, the Society needs objects that demonstrate the significant changes in farm life and farming practices.

Business and Industry

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

"Business and Industry" comprises the services provided by and for Iowans, and the production, extraction, and distribution of products by and for Iowans. Public inquiries

in this area are frequent. Researchers wish to study certain types of industries or businesses. Individuals who own products once manufactured in Iowa want to learn more about those companies. Historic preservationists request material to document commercial and factory buildings.

Business and Industry collections help document how Iowans have made their living in non-agricultural occupations. They also shed light on urban history in Iowa. Business leaders usually were responsible for town development and growth, and some became important philanthropists in Iowa.

Business and Industry collections also document changes in Iowa's economy, such as the post-World War I decrease in the types of small industry in Iowa (the pearl button industry and cigar making are two examples). Iowa businesses and industries have been interrelated with other midwestern and national businesses (for example, through branch plants in Iowa), and small businesses are increasingly affected by the national and international business scene. Likewise, the continuing relationship between agriculture and business and industry needs to be documented. Society collections will reflect and illuminate these changes over time, and focus on changes in work, working conditions, workers, urban service businesses, and management.

Strengths:

- Printed material: business histories; trade catalogs; advertisements; house organs or company publications; annual reports; trade association publications; Chamber of Commerce publications; business directories; clippings file on Iowa businesses; memoirs and biographies of entrepreneurs; industrial census records.
- Company records for many smaller businesses (such as feed stores, jewelry and candy stores, lumberyards, and farm equipment manufacturers).
- Photographs: Extensive photographs of varied Iowa businesses and products. Strong in pre-1940 business interiors (housed in Des Moines and Iowa City).
- Archival and library collections (housed in Iowa City) for lumber, meat packing, farm equipment, and electronics industries.
- Museum collections include representative product packages, craft tools, early 20th-century office equipment, and early 20th-century Iowa-made radios.
- A related collection, the labor oral history project, helps document the worker in the industrial age.
- Exterior photographs of commercial buildings built before 1940. Many of these photographs were taken between the late 1970s and early 1990s. A limited number of duplicate prints and negatives of historic photographs also exist. The images are housed in the Society's Historic Preservation Bureau.
- Matthew Edel Blacksmith Shop. This historic site reflects changes in an agriculture-related service center for farm machinery and auto repair.
- Fire insurance maps of commercial districts in Iowa communities.

Gaps:

- Drainage-tile manufacturing.
- Garment industry.

- Creameries.
- Cottage industries.
- Small family-run businesses.
- Farm cooperatives.
- Women in business.
- Post-1930 objects.
- Objects related to the personal and work life of industrial workers.
- Photographs of post-1940 business interiors, and exteriors from all time periods.
- Although archival materials include regulatory records, corporation charters, insurance company financial statements, and tax assessments, their research breadth and value are uncertain because of the lack of finding aids.
- Objects: products invented or manufactured in Iowa.

Recommendations:

Business and Industry is an extremely broad area. In order to create both representative and manageable collections, the Society should select perhaps four or five Iowa industries that have had a major impact on Iowa and four or five small-town service businesses. Within these sub-topics, collections should be developed that document change and reflect both workers and management.

Domestic Life

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

Domestic Life collections comprise the materials that document the daily life of adults and children in Iowa households. In particular, materials will be sought that reveal continuity and change in domestic life, and that represent the cultural and economic diversity of Iowans. This subject area obviously overlaps into other areas, including community life; social life and customs; sports, recreation, and leisure; and women. Materials collected may well document any or all of these other areas.

Strengths:

- For late 19th and early 20th century: artifacts related to home furnishings, food preparation and serving, house cleaning, clothing, leisure time, and textile-working.
- For farm life: artifacts from middle-class households (for example, the Doris Brainard Collection).
- Photographs: late 19th- and early 20th-century interiors (primarily housed in Iowa City).
- Recent exterior photographs of houses built before 1940. The photographs were taken between the late 1970s and early 1990s. The images are housed in the Society's Historic Preservation Bureau.
- Diaries: For example, Carolyn McKinley Carson (1869-1939) about daily life in

Marengo, Anita, and Lake Okoboji; Elspeth Close (diary of a teenager, World War I era); Emily Hawley Gillespie diary (1838-88) about farm life; and others

- Mary Barton collection: fabric samples, laces and trims, quilt patterns and images, fashion pictures, household hints and ads, circa 1850-1950, and research materials.
- Montauk: This historic site illustrates the life of the Larrabees, a prominent Iowa family circa 1880s-1900.

Gaps:

- For pre-1875 and post-World War II: objects and archival and printed materials.
- Objects: Gaps exist in major areas of the furniture collections, household technologies (such as appliances) and 20th-century clothing.
- Photographs: gaps in late 20th century.
- Material related to childhood (including parenting and child care).

Recommendations:

The Society will seek out manuscript collections of ordinary individuals; correspondence collections, for instance, often give detailed information about daily life. Likewise, the Society will also seek to acquire large groupings of objects from one household that are interrelated and thus create their own context.

Military Affairs

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

Materials about homefront activities and about the experiences of Iowans during war time will be collected in order to document how wars have affected the tenor of life in Iowa, especially in the 20th century. Significant gaps exist in the Society's documentation of all 20th-century wars and conflicts (especially post-1945) and their impact on Iowa.

The Civil War continues to appeal to many of our audiences--museum visitors, researchers, readers, genealogists. Although our Civil War diaries and letters help to illuminate the typical soldier's experiences, as well as complement Adjutant General regimental records, significant gaps exist regarding the average person's experience in the Civil War--whether in the military or on the homefront. For example, we have many more formal portraits of officers than candid images of camp life; we have presentation swords but not common weapons or battlefield uniforms. Homefront material regarding women's and children's roles is minimal.

The Spanish-American War is adequately represented by photographs of camp life in Florida and of soldiers in the Philippines--though less so by manuscript sources.

Strengths:

- Annie Wittenmyer Collection (documents Iowa's sanitary agent's coordination of

- women's relief work during and after the Civil War).
- Formal portraits of Civil War officers (housed in Des Moines).
- Grenville Dodge Collection (Civil War general).
- Grand Army of the Republic photograph collection. This extensive collection of group photos of reunions and encampments (1870s-1920s) largely provides genealogical information (housed in Des Moines).
- World War I uniforms.
- Photographs of the 42nd or Rainbow Division in World War I, mostly of regiments or European settings (housed in Des Moines).
- U.S. Food Administration Collection for World War I (housed in Iowa City).
- Poster Collection (1,500 for World War I, and 2,500 for World War II).
- Casualty files for World War I and II, including a photograph and brief biography for Iowa casualties (housed in Des Moines).
- Clippings file for World War II and the Korean War (topically arranged; in need of preservation and improved access).
- Records of early militia units, including National Guard through 1914.
- Research records on Fort Des Moines Provisional Army Officer Training School, which served as a training camp for African-American officers in World War I and WACS in World War II. The records are housed in the Society's Historic Preservation Bureau.

Gaps:

- 20th-century weapons, uniforms, and equipment.
- Materials that document the impact of war on farming, business, and domestic life in Iowa.
- Women's roles.
- Objects relating to state militia units and National Guard.
- Refugees and resettlement.
- Protest movements and peace activism.
- Veterans' organizations.
- Homefront activities related to the war effort.
- Iowa's military camps (including those for African-American officers, WACS, and prisoners-of-war).

Complementary collections at other Iowa institutions:

- Camp Dodge holds the Adjutant General's records after 1914; grave registrations for all veterans buried in Iowa; and state bonus records for war service.
- University of Northern Iowa Library: materials related to student training company (1892-1900 and 1917-1918), and armed services training detachment of WAVES and Army Air Corps during World War II. Also ROTC records.

Recommendations:

National media will continue to document wars overseas; to avoid overlap and to

control growth, Society collections should focus on defining the Iowa experience in wars, especially on the homefront. And to complement official records held elsewhere, the Society should seek the typical soldier's personal and everyday materials (such as photographs; letters and diaries; field uniforms, gear, and typical weapons).

The Collections Committee alerts Society staff to the timeliness of documenting Iowans' involvement on the homefront in the 20th century. Some potential interviewees are now age 70 or older; active collecting and oral history interviews need to be launched immediately. Documenting post-1945 wars also need not wait.

Native Americans

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

Public interest in Native American culture in Iowa is high, and the need to educate the public about the diversity of tribes and tribal life styles is great. Participation of Native Americans in all aspects of Iowa history (including employment, military service, and domestic and community life) will be sought. Although more material is needed regarding other tribes (including the Sioux, Ioway, Winnebago, and Potawatomi), emphasis will be placed on the Mesquakie because they are the only distinct tribal group residing in Iowa today who maintains a traditional life centered within their community.

Strengths:

- Pre-1920 Mesquakie artifacts. The collection is extensive in terms of range and importance because of the quality and rarity of objects.
- Duren Ward Collection of Mesquakie portrait photographs (circa 1905).
- Svacina photograph collection (1919-1940s) regarding the development of the tourist-oriented annual Mesquakie powwow.
- A related collection of archeological research records contains substantial information about prehistoric peoples of Iowa. These records are housed in the Historic Preservation Bureau.
- Blood Run National Historic Landmark: archeological site of an Oneota village and trading centers (circa late 1600s-early 1700s) and possibly Omaha, Ioway, or Oto villages.
- Sauk and Mesquakie 1841 census materials (housed in Des Moines archives).
- Charles R. Keyes Archaeological Collection (housed in Iowa City): more than 108,000 artifacts and related documents from 82 of Iowa's 99 counties, including artifacts from all prehistoric native cultures known to exist in Iowa prior to Euro-American settlement.

Gaps:

- Post-1920 materials.
- Materials related to urban settings.

- Materials related to gambling establishments operated as tribal businesses.

Complementary collections at other Iowa institutions:

- Sanford Museum and Planetarium (in Cherokee): archeological materials from northwestern Iowa, including collection of incised catlinite tablets from the Oneota culture.
- Sioux City Public Museum: Plains material.
- Kendall Young Library (Webster City): the W. H. Van Ness Collection of Plains materials.
- University of Iowa (Iowa City): Prehistoric and Mesquakie objects and printed materials in Iowa Hall and at the Office of the State Archaeologist; small collection of Plains, Mesquakie, and southwestern objects in the Museum of Art.
- Putnam Museum (Davenport): Mesquakie collection, Mississippian pottery, Plains objects, and southwestern pottery.
- Mills County Museum (Glenwood): extensive archeological material from southwestern Iowa.
- Luther College Archeological Research Center (Decorah) primarily has archeological material from northeast Iowa.
- Effigy Mounds National Monument (near McGregor): nearly 200 prehistoric earth mounds.
- Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory: focus on central Iowa archeological material.

Recommendations:

It is still possible to actively collect post-1920 material; much has survived and is held by the Mesquakie or by private collectors. Some traditional objects could be commissioned at a relatively small expense.

Oral history interviews, especially with aging tribal elders, should be conducted to document the extensive changes in Mesquakie culture since 1920. These narratives would extend and enhance comparable pre-1920 narratives and would document shifts in leadership and traditional values. This process should be initiated as quickly as possible; each year the opportunity diminishes.

Social Issues and Responses

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

Although many social conditions and problems affect the entire nation, the Society's focus is how Iowans of all ages have experienced and reacted to particular social conditions and problems. This is a continually changing area. New organizations and constituencies appear, create documents and objects, and vanish as society shifts its interest from one issue to another. There is a constant demand by researchers for

material on a variety of social issues and responses. State and local government records reflect these issues, but many other perspectives are needed.

Strengths:

- Temperance (archival and printed materials).
- Project Hope Halfway House (reintroduction of inmates to society; archival materials housed in Iowa City).
- Aging (archival and printed materials).
- 19th-century orphans (archival and printed materials).
- Northwest Relief Association Collection regarding relief work for Civil War orphans and widows, and for 1870s farmers during grasshopper plagues (archival material housed in Des Moines).

Gaps:

- Photographs, audio-visual material, and diaries showing how social conditions and problems affect individuals.
- Records of organizations both pro and con on various issues.
- Materials related to settlement houses.
- Ephemeral material (such as signs and banners) from protest movements
- Objects related to prohibition and bootlegging.
- Oral histories of participants in various social movements.

Complementary collections at other Iowa institutions:

- University of Northern Iowa Library: Faculty collection on anti-smoking campaign; archives on minority education.

Recommendations:

Conducting oral histories with leaders of various movements is especially critical. Given their ephemeral nature, many materials are in danger of disappearing if a concentrated effort is not made to collect them on a current as well as a retrospective basis. The Collections Committee encourages staff to be alert to collecting possibilities regarding timely issues such as (*but not limited to*) the following:

- Substance abuse.
- Temperance and prohibition.
- Anti-smoking campaigns.
- Gambling.
- Crime and punishment.
- Poverty and homelessness.
- Welfare and charities.
- Civil rights.
- Race relations.
- Nativism.
- Gay and lesbian rights.
- Rights of persons with disabilities.

- Abortion controversy.
- Child abuse and domestic abuse.
- Aging.

Transportation

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

Modes of transportation in Iowa have played a major role in settlement of Iowa, growth of urban areas, and economic development. The Society will focus on changes in transportation and their effects on Iowa. This includes steamboats and other water transportation, railroads, motor vehicles, early 20th-century road construction, and interstate highways.

Strengths:

- Photograph collections, especially steamboats and railroad depots (particularly strong in Iowa City).
- Government records regarding the state's regulatory role (minutes of various public transportation commissions including highway, aeronautics, and railroad commissions).
- Annual reports of railroads.
- Grenville Dodge Collection (related to his role as a builder of the Union Pacific Railroad).
- Contextual research records for such transportation-related topics as railroads, bridges, and the Lincoln Highway. These records include photo-inventory sheets of many structures and research for review and compliance files, National Register of Historic Places, surveys, and planning grants. The records are housed in the Society's Historic Preservation Bureau.

Gaps:

- Manuscript materials.
- Post-1950 automobiles and other transportation-related objects.

Complementary collections at other Iowa institutions:

- Department of Transportation Library, Ames. Collections include Highway Commission minutes, historic road files, photograph collection of 5,000 images related to Iowa roads, newspaper clipping file on Rock Island Railroad (1958-present), and an Iowa road map collection.
- University of Iowa Libraries, Special Collections. Railroad holdings include four major collections: the Leonard Collection on building railroads; Rock Island Railroad records after bankruptcy; the records of the Cedar Rapids Passenger Train Station on the Northwestern Railroad; and a photo collection of more than 250,000 railroad images from Iowa and the world.

- Dubuque County Historical Society (steamboating).
- Municipal Art Gallery in Davenport (Mississippi River scenes).

Recommendations:

Because of space limitations, the Society will focus on collecting printed and photographic materials, records of smaller transportation companies, and smaller-sized artifacts (such as items associated with roadside diners, early service stations, tourist cabins, and motels and airline travel).

Oral history interviews of transportation workers should also be undertaken to illuminate the human dimension of transportation issues.

Women

Definition and relevance of subject area to Iowa history:

The Society seeks a better balance of materials in the collections to document women's participation in all aspects of Iowa history. More inclusive historical methodologies have increased the public's requests for primary-source material relating to women and the need to further define the variety of women's experiences in Iowa. Current collections are uneven and do not reveal a continuum, especially regarding women's rights.

Strengths:

- Women in education (relatively strong in manuscript and photo collections).
- Women's groups. For some women's groups, collections include several decades of state and local records (American Association of University Women; Business and Professional Women; University Club; various study groups).
- Artifacts related to domestic roles of women.
- Photographs of posed domestic scenes: before the turn of the century (housed in Iowa City); for 1940s-1960s, including war-time workers (housed in Des Moines).
- Archival materials on 19th- and early 20th-century woman suffrage: Iowa Equal Suffrage Association (1854-1951); Carrie Chapman Catt Papers (1898-1959); Dexter Bloomer Papers (husband of Amelia Bloomer; 1839-1900); Anna B. Lawther Collection (anti-suffrage materials, 1874-1931); and State University of Iowa Equal Suffrage Association (1915-1920).
- The mother-daughter diaries of Emily Hawley Gillespie and Sarah Gillespie Huftalen span 1838 to 1952 and detail domestic life and work as farmer, seamstress, and teacher.

Gaps:

- Manuscripts, photographs, and objects related to women in non-domestic roles other than teaching.

- Records of women's groups are not multiculturally representative.
- Photographs: post-1960s coverage is slight.
- Mid- to late-20th-century women's movements.

Complementary collections at other Iowa institutions:

- University of Northern Iowa Library: archival collection on women in education
- To encourage complementary collections, the Society will invite ongoing discussion and cooperation with the Iowa Women Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries.

Recommendations:

In existing collections, women's roles and perspectives need to be identified and further documented. For example, what role have women played in Iowa business and labor? Searching for the woman's viewpoint in existing collections and materials may help identify additional strengths and gaps.

As with all aspects and populations in Iowa's past, the Society will look for materials that document change in women's attitudes and actions (professional and personal); cross-generational ties; social changes that affect women's lives; and changes in how society perceives women. We need to collect personal accounts of Iowa women that shed light on change and continuity in Iowa. We seek accounts of both prominent women and ordinary women, and manifestations of those lives (such as work clothes and objects used, and personal writings).

State Historical Society of Iowa
Collections Committee (February 1993)