



Iowa's 175th anniversary of statehood campaign receives national recognition

Iowa's campaign to commemorate its 175th statehood anniversary has received some notable accolades from out of state.

The **American Association for State and Local History** honored the State Historical Society of Iowa for its overall anniversary campaign as well as a special anniversary edition of *The Annals of Iowa*. Both Awards of Excellence are part of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards, the association's highest recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.

The two national awards follow **regional recognition** from the **Midwestern History Association**, which last month honored the 175th anniversary campaign with the Alice Smith Prize in Public History.

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Iowa students earn top National History Day honors

Iowa students had a strong showing last week at National History Day's national contest.

Sarah Tilberg of Le Mars Middle School and **Caleb Sinnwell** of Nashua-Plainfield High School each took first place in their respective categories. Tilberg took top honors for her exhibit, "A Ray of Compassion: Debate and Diplomacy of the Indochinese Refugees," while Sinnwell won for his website, "Khrushchev, Corn, and Cold War Diplomacy: Garst Grows Relations with Russia One Ear at a Time."



In addition, **Melissa Fairbanks, Reegan McKee, Nathan Schoenfelder and Peyton Small** of Akron-Westfield Middle School won third place for their documentary, "Tell Me and I May Forget; Show Me and I May Not Remember; Involve Me and I Will Understand": The Story of the Osage."

Fourteen more Iowa students received special recognition this year in the National History Day program, which involves more than half a million middle and high school students around the world. Students research, develop and present papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites and performances about historical topics related to an annual theme. This year's theme was "**Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.**"

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George Washington Carver gets his own day

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed legislation last week that annually designates **Feb. 1** as **George Washington Carver Day**. The bill encourages government entities, civic organizations, schools and institutions of higher education in the state to observe the day by emphasizing the meaning and importance of Carver's accomplishments in science and agriculture, and his global humanitarian achievements. It also acknowledges **Simpson College** and **Iowa State University**, where he studied.



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George Washington Carver.
Photo: Library of Congress.

Juneteenth programs bring history to life

The State Historical Museum of Iowa recently created a new exhibit to highlight **Juneteenth's origin in Texas and its evolution in Iowa.**

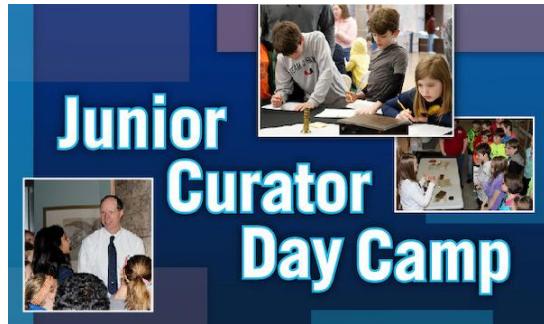
The first celebration of what would become Juneteenth took place in Texas on June 19, 1866, which marked the first anniversary of the day Black Americans there first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation.



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

In Iowa, the first-known emancipation celebration happened in Muscatine in 1856, when locals recognized the end of slavery in the British West Indies.

Register now for Junior Curator Day Camp



Register for [July 13](#) or [Aug. 3](#) camp. The activities are the same, so choose the best one for you.

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[Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

[July 13, Aug. 3](#)

What does it take to create and run a museum? Young historians in grades 4-6 will explore the roles of curators, conservators and exhibit designers. Students will investigate **historic artifacts**, explore the **museum's collection vault** and learn about Iowa's exciting history with museum staff. Students also will **design their own exhibit** featuring objects from the State Historical Museum's collection.

Visit 'Hands on History' and Goldie's 'Creative Corner'

Bring your young historians to the State Historical Museum of Iowa to enjoy the newly refurbished "[Hands On History](#)"

exhibition and Goldie's Kids Club "**Creative Corner.**" You'll find plenty of new things to see and do, including puzzle books, Legos, coloring sheets, take-home worksheets and more. The museum is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.



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Visit the Society's Library & Archives Research Centers

The [**Iowa History Collections Catalog**](#) makes researching the state's collection of historic documents and artifacts, genealogical records, newspapers and images easier than ever. Available to anyone with an internet connection, the system allows users to search across all cataloged collections or just within the society's museum, libraries, archives and special collections. Staff are adding existing and new collection holdings to the catalog weekly.

[**Visit the Research Center**](#)

The Research Centers in Des Moines and Iowa City are now open by appointment only, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Please [visit our website](#) for more information and to make an appointment.

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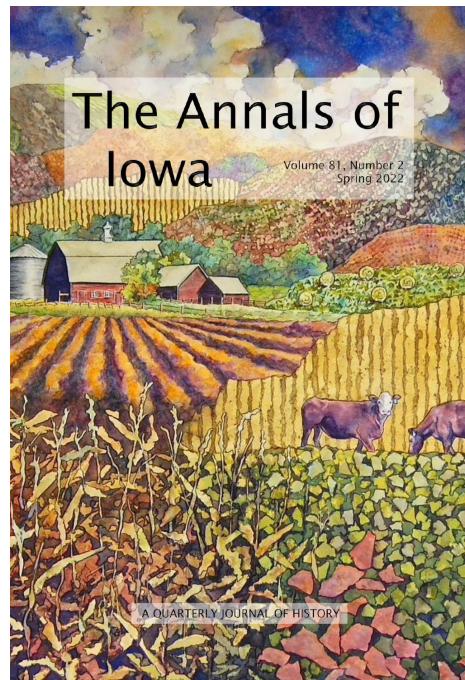
Subscribe to The Annals of Iowa

Subscribe to The Annals of Iowa and receive the latest issue, which features "Pioneers, Sunday Schoolers, and Laundrymen: Chinese Immigrants in Iowa in the Chinese Exclusion Era, 1870–1890" by **Anthony J. Miller** and "A Flight of Alien, Unclean Birds: The Mobility of

"Hobo Labor in Iowa 1870s–1910s" by **Nathan Tye**, plus reviews of new books about Iowa and Midwestern history.

Cover art: Judy Thompson, "Abundant Acres," 2021.

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Upcoming Events



Iowa History 101:
**"Sports for the Liberal Arts:
Reimagining Iowa's Small Colleges,
1921–1939"**

Noon June 23

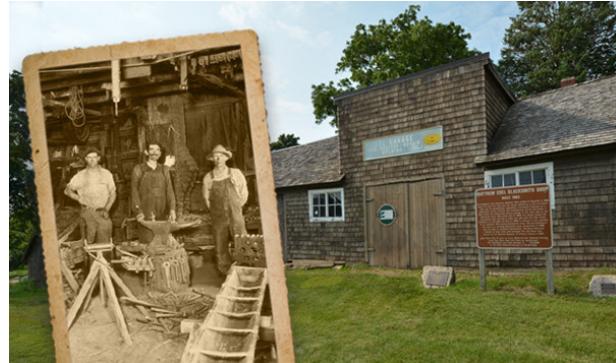
Brian Ingrassia, a professor at West Texas A&M University, will discuss the **evolution of college sports**, as seen in this political cartoon, left, from the Clinton Advertiser.

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Goldie's Field Trip: Matthew Edel Blacksmith Shop

10 a.m. June 25

Take a guided tour of the Matthew Edel Blacksmith Shop. This historic site has numerous historical objects including **tools and inventions** created by Matthew Edel, who owned the shop from 1883 until



his death in 1940. After the program, guests are welcome to join in an activity and explore the grounds. This program is **recommended for children 8-12 years old** and current members of Goldie's Kids Club.

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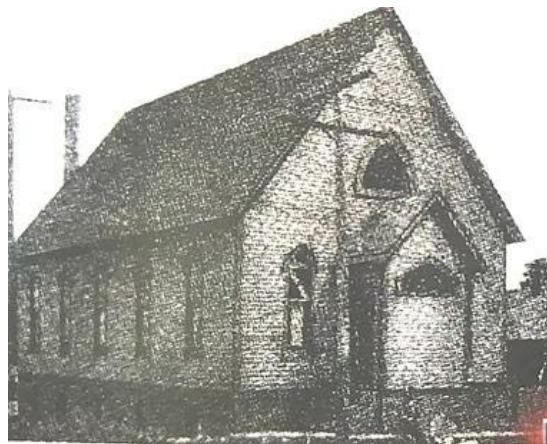
**Goldie's Field Trip:
Montauk Historic Site**

2 p.m. July 9

The Montauk Historic Site was the home of former Iowa Gov. William Larrabee and his wife, Anna. **Explore the grand estate**, which is filled with many artifacts, original furnishings and art. After the tour, walk the grounds and trails overlooking the Turkey River Valley. This program is **recommended for children 8-12 years old** and current members of Goldie's Kids Club.



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St. Paul AME congregation in Des Moines, 1882-1918.

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**Iowa History 101:
"Printing and Performing Citizenship:
Black Activist Cultures in Iowa"**

Noon July 14

Northwestern University Ph.D. student Mila Kaut will discuss how Black women's practices of institutional citizenship in **AME churches** and the **Iowa State**

Bystander shaped the priorities and possibilities of Black activism in Iowa. Kaut, who is also a co-organizer of the **Iowa Colored Conventions Project**, will consider the historical lessons that this late 19th-century activist culture might lend to ongoing struggles for racial equality.

**Iowa History 101:
"From Coal Palace to Closing
the Plant: Coal and
Community on the Lower-Des
Moines River"**

Noon July 28

Join Kevin Mason, a Waldorf University associate professor of history, as he explores the **history of coal in southeastern Iowa**.

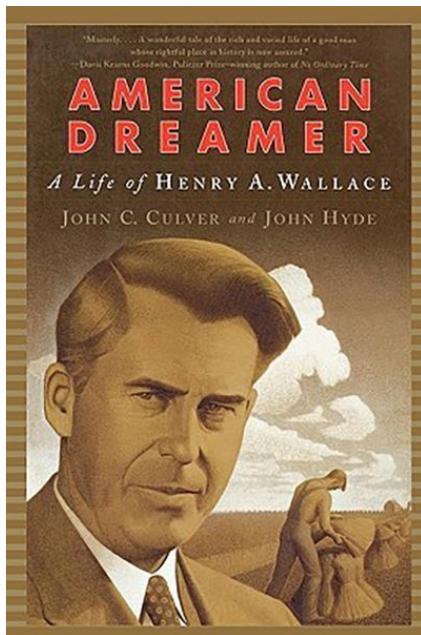
Incorporating elements of his 2021 walk across Iowa (pictured) to follow the route of the 1st United States Dragoons, Mason's presentation will focus on how early observation of coal deposits paired with boosterish enthusiasm to develop a significant Iowa industry. The talk will highlight early exploration, dispossession, industry development, the **Ottumwa Coal Palace**, and diverse communities including **Buxton**.



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Iowa History Book Club

The popular **Iowa History Book Club** continues with John C. Culver and John Hyde's "**American Dreamer: A Life of Henry A. Wallace**" on Sept. 22, and Linda Clemons' "**Dakota in Exile**" on Dec. 1. Programs are recorded and posted online at iowaculture.gov.



[American Dreamer: A Life of Henry A. Wallace](#)

7 p.m. Sept. 22

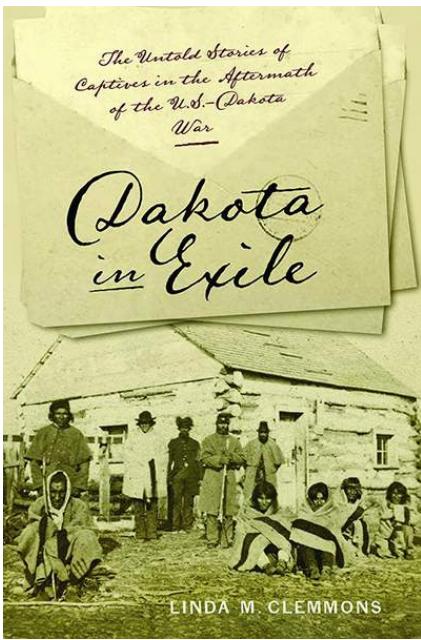
A trailblazing politician, agriculturalist, economist, author and businessman, **Henry Wallace** was loved and reviled, and finally revealed in this first full biography. Join Annals of Iowa editor **Andrew Klumpp** and **Tim Walch**, director emeritus of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, for a look at "**American Dreamer: A Life of Henry A. Wallace**," written by former U.S. Sen. John C. Culver and journalist John Hyde.

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[Dakota in Exile](#)

7 p.m. Dec. 1

Robert Hopkins was a man caught between two worlds. As a member of the **Dakota Nation**, he was



accused of taking up arms against U.S. soldiers when war broke out with the Dakota in 1862. As a Christian convert and preacher, his allegiance was often questioned by his fellow Dakota. Illinois State University professor of history Linda Clemmons joins Annals of Iowa editor Andrew Klumpp for a discussion about this difficult time in U.S. history.

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Humanities Partnership Grants

Need support for a one-time opportunity that falls outside the regular grant cycles? Consider applying for the Humanities Partnership Grant, which offers funding **up to \$25,000**. The **program has a rolling deadline** until funds are depleted for the funding period that ends Oct. 31.



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DESTINATION IOWA

Revitalizing Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds recently announced a \$100 million investment in Iowa's quality of life and tourism through a new grant program called **Destination Iowa**. The funding will support visionary projects in four key areas: economic

Guidelines

Review the [Destination Iowa guidelines](#) on the Iowa

development, outdoor recreation, tourism, and creative placemaking.

The program **accelerates ongoing momentum for creative placemaking** across the state, generated by business, government, education and cultural leaders. It also recognizes the role you and others play in **creating places where people want to visit, live and work** – from our smallest towns to biggest cities.

Economic Development Authority website.

The application window is open for projects that must be completed by June 30, 2026. Funding is made available through the federal **American Rescue Plan Act**.

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