



Now in its 11th year, the [Celebrate Iowa Gala](#) offers a mix of new highlights and popular traditions that celebrate Iowa's creativity, diversity and community spirit. At this year's gala, you can enjoy:

Music from Parranderos Latin Combo, right, with special guests from Colombia, Morocco and Spain, plus the Dueling Fiddles, James Tutson and the Rollback, Jarrett Purdy, and Vibe.

Artwork by Portrait Studio and Iowa Artist Fellow Julia Franklin, who will create a new installation inspired by The Annals of Iowa, the state historical society's flagship journal.

Food and drinks from some of Iowa's finest farms, dairies, restaurants, breweries and distilleries.



Registration is now open!

Friday, December 9

6-7 p.m. VIP Reception

7-11 p.m. Celebrate Iowa Gala

Scottish Rite Consistory
Des Moines, Iowa

Proceeds from the Celebrate Iowa Gala support State Historical Society of Iowa exhibits, educational programs, an online catalog of the state's historical materials, and a mobile museum. If you can't attend the gala, feel free to make a donation online. We appreciate your support!

[BUY YOUR TICKETS](#)

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

Humanities Collaboration Grant program

A new grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs offers **up to \$30,000** for projects that involve and benefit diverse groups of Iowans and explore the human experience.

The **Humanities Collaboration Grant** supports educational programs that involve collaboration among nonprofit organizations, colleges/universities or schools and the participation of at least one humanities scholar.

Competitive applications will **exemplify fresh thinking and demonstrate new ideas** that encourage contemplation, spark conversations and engage the community.



Funding for the new program comes from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, a federal agency.

Application deadline: Dec. 1.

Image: Author Nnedi Okorafor, left, visits with Courtney Crowder of The Des Moines Register during the DSM Book Festival , which received a humanities grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs earlier this year.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Book Club: 'Dakota in Exile'

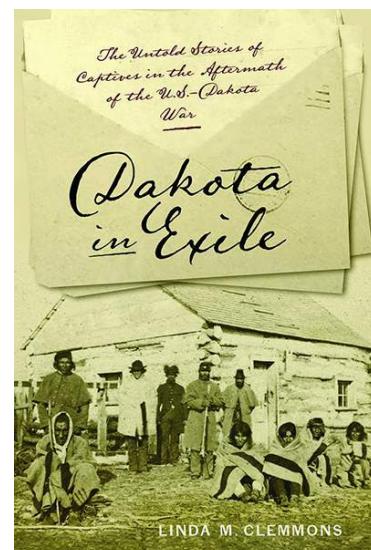
Iowa History Book Club

7 p.m. Dec. 1

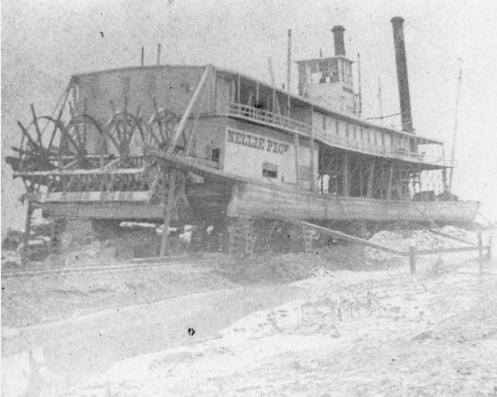
The Iowa History Book Club continues next month with Linda Clemons' "**Dakota in Exile: The Untold Stories of Captives in the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War.**" The online discussion will be led by **Andrew Klumpp**, editor of **The Annals of Iowa**.

Programs are recorded and [posted online](#).

[REGISTER FOR "DAKOTA IN EXILE"](#)



Iowa History 101 Presentations



Portrait of a Steamboat Town, Sioux City, 1868-1873

Noon Dec. 8

Join **Kassie Nelson** and take a deep dive into the relationship between **Sioux City citizens and the steamboat trade**.

The emphasis on the years from 1868 to 1873 highlights the unique nature of this relationship during a time when Sioux City and the steamboat trade were in transition.

Image: The steamship Nellie Peck.

[REGISTER](#)



The Education and Training of Seven African American U.S. Army Officers for World War I and its Aftermath

Recorded Nov. 10

The most recent Iowa History 101 program featured **Bernard Harris** who discussed little-known facts uncovered from archives and museums concerning **Fort Des Moines**, in 1917, when it hosted the segregated Infantry and Medical Officer Training Camps.

The talk focused on the experiences of **seven African American civilians** who graduated with U.S. Army officer commissions. Each of the men later served overseas in France, many in the trenches of World War I.

[SEE THE VIDEO](#)

Winter Break Collection Vault Tour

Register to join us for a free guided tour of the State Historical Museum of Iowa's collection. The **30-minute tour begins at 2 p.m. on Dec. 28** and offers a behind-the-scenes look at a small sample of its **80,000 objects**.

Spots are limited so register today!

Advance registration is required to attend this program. The tour is for people ages 12 and up.

[REGISTER IN ADVANCE](#)



State Historical Museum of Iowa
Winter Break Collection Vault Tour
Wednesday, Dec. 28
2 – 2:30 p.m.

Guided tours of 'Iowa's People & Places' exhibit

[**Register to join State Curator Leo Landis**](#) at the State Historical Museum of Iowa for a free 45-minute guided tour of the "Iowa's People & Places" exhibit, at **10 a.m. or 2 p.m. on Dec. 29**.

Journey through **13,000 years of history** in this exhibit, which features common and monumental events. American Indian settlements, statehood, court rulings, legislation, immigration and elections all set the course for Iowa, and still affect us today.



State Historical Museum of Iowa
"Iowa's People & Places" exhibit tours
Thursday, Dec. 29
10 – 10:45 a.m.
2 – 2:45 p.m.

Advance registration is required to attend this program. The tours are open to children and adults – children must be accompanied by an adult. Spots are limited for each tour. If the program becomes full, a wait list will be created.

[REGISTER IN ADVANCE](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

Goldie's Kids Club's Innovative Iowans: Otto Rohwedder



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

You could say this Innovative Iowans activity is the best thing since sliced bread. To celebrate **National Bread Month**, this month's Innovative Iowans features **Otto Rohwedder**, the inventor of sliced bread. After learning about his bread-slicing invention and watching the video, young historians can head into the kitchen to bake their own loaves of bread. Of course, automatic slicing machines are not required.

Kinnick documentary's screening in Japan

Iowa has another worldwide claim to fame: Filmmaker Scott Siepker recently attended the international premiere of his film, "**Kinnick: The Documentary**," in Yokosuka, Japan. More than 600 people came to learn about Hawkeye legend Nile Kinnick. The biopic is available on demand on Vimeo.

[WATCH ON DEMAND](#)



[Visit the State Historical Museum of Iowa](#)

Whether you're visiting the [State Historical Museum of Iowa](#) with your family, school or as part of a social/business group outing, you'll **discover Iowa's rich heritage** through a variety of exhibitions.

Our vast collection of artifacts tells the story of Iowa's past, before it became a state and after settlers arrived. Exhibits explore **Iowa's natural resources** and the balance between using them and preserving them.

You can also discover why **76,000 Iowans fought for the Union** in the Civil War, explore Iowa's **legacy on the silver screen**, and learn about **Iowa's bicycling history**. It's all here, waiting for you.

Visit the museum

The State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Thanksgiving holiday hours

- The State Historical Museum of Iowa will be **closed Nov. 24-25**.
- The State Historical Library & Archives of Iowa Research Centers in Des Moines and Iowa City, and the State Historic Preservation Office, will be **closed Nov. 23-25**.

You may notice some temporary changes to the State Historical Museum of Iowa during your next visit. Renovations are taking place at the building through 2023, including a new roof and the replacement of skylights. The exhibits remain open, and parking is available at the ramp on Grand and Pennsylvania avenues. Please use the Locust street entrance to enter the building, and be sure to check our [website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

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