

# State of Iowa

1958



## THE IOWA STATE BANNER

The State Banner or flag was made from a design drawn by Mrs. Dixie Cornell Gebhardt of Knoxville. The Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution presented it to the 39th General Assembly and it was officially adopted on March 29, 1921. It has three vertical bars of blue, white and red, bearing in the white section an eagle and the state motto, with the word Iowa in red.

By act of the joint session of the General Assembly of Iowa on March 24, 1949, the Iowa Flag poem, written by E. O. Osborn of Knoxville, and the music, composed by Esther May Clark of Oskaloosa, were officially adopted as the Iowa Flag Song.

## DESCRIPTION OF PAINTING "WESTWARD"

Over the main stairway is the large painting "Westward," an idealized representation of the coming of the people who made Iowa. Edwin H. Blashfield was the artist. Many competent critics have pronounced the picture one of the great American murals. The artist was paid \$10,000 for his work. His description follows:

"The main idea of the picture is a symbolical presentation of the Pioneers led by the spirits of Civilization and Enlightenment to the conquest by cultivation of the Great West. Considered pictorially the canvas shows a Prairie Schooner drawn by oxen across the prairie. The family ride upon the wagon or walk at its side. Behind them and seen through the growth of stalks at the right come crowding the other pioneers and later men. In the air and before the wagon are floating four female figures; one holds the shield with the arms of the State of Iowa upon it; one a book symbolizing enlightenment; two others carry a basket and scatter the seeds which are symbolical of the change from wilderness to plowed fields and gardens that shall come over the prairie. Behind the wagon and also floating in the air, two female figures hold respectively a model of a stationary steam engine and of an electric dynamo to suggest the forces which come with the later men.

"In the right hand corner of the picture melons, pumpkins, etc., among which stand a farmer and a girl, suggest that here is the fringe of cultivation and the beginning of the prairie. At the left a buffalo skull rather emphasizes this suggestion."

## DECORATIONS—MOSAICS—PAINTINGS

Above the large "Westward" picture are six mosaics, designed by Frederick Dielman of New York, made in Venice of very small pieces of permanent colored stone. Subjects are Defense, Charities, the Executive, the Legislative, the Judiciary and Education. Cost the state \$10,000. Among the finest and largest in America.

At the top of the staircase on the south wall is a painting of a basket of corn by Floyd V. Brackney, a native of Marshall County. He was paid \$1,000.

A picture of 168th Infantry, back from France in 1919, taken by W. T. Showers, hangs in the south corridor. Twenty-six feet long and six feet high. It is one of the largest reproduction photographs in the world.

Battle flags of Iowa regiments in the Civil, Spanish-American and World War I are preserved in the rotunda of the capitol.

Twelve statues, high within the rotunda, beginning north of the library door, represent History, Science, Law, Fame, Art, Industry, Peace, Commerce, Agriculture, Victory, Truth and Justice.

Eight lunettes, or half-moon-shaped paintings surrounding the rotunda, the work of Kenyon Cox, famous American artist. He was paid \$8,000 for them. Entitled: Hunting, Herding, Agriculture, The Forge, Commerce, Education, Science, Art. Allegorical to indicate the progress of civilization.



## THE WILD ROSE OF IOWA

The Wild Rose, which is abundant all over Iowa, was adopted as the official State flower by the Iowa General Assembly, May 7, 1897.



### THE GREAT SEAL OF IOWA

The Great Seal of the State of Iowa was adopted in 1847, by an act of the First General Assembly. It is retained in the custody of and under the control of the governor.

### GROUNDS AND MONUMENTS

The original site for the capitol was given the state and covered about four blocks. In 1913 the legislature authorized a tax to pay for additional grounds and the park around the Capitol has been enlarged to 85.4 acres (or 93 $\frac{1}{4}$  including streets), by the purchase of several hundred lots and residences and business houses and is conceded to be the largest and most beautiful setting for a state capitol in the world.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, erected in 1889-90, is 145 feet high and cost \$150,000. It was designed by Harriet A. Ketcham of Mt. Pleasant.

The Allison Memorial, located on the site on which the first capitol stood, was constructed in honor of the late Senator Wm. B. Allison of Dubuque by Gen. Greenville Dodge.

A small and appropriate memorial to Christopher Columbus, erected by Iowa citizens of Italian ancestry, stands near by.

West of the capitol is an impressive bronze statuary group depicting "The Pioneer." The cannon and mortar on the grounds are of Civil war days. The grave of Willson A. Scott, one of those who gave the state the capitol grounds, is near where he lived and is appropriately marked. A bronze cannon taken in the Spanish-American war, and the headpiece of the Battleship Iowa, are near the historical building. A granite block dedicated to the soldiers of the Spanish-American war veterans stands on the plaza east of the capitol.

In 1950, the fine record of Iowa citizens in war bond drives was rewarded with the presentation of a replica of the Liberty Bell, standing just across the road west from the new office building. Boy Scouts presented a replica in miniature of the Statue of Liberty on the parking area just east of the capitol building. A stone erected by the W.R.C. in honor of Crocker Post 12 Department of Iowa, was set in 1944.

### SOME IOWA SLOGANS

Nicknamed "Hawkeye State" by early editors and pioneers.

"In all that is good Iowa affords the best."—Sidney A. Foster.

Iowa is Indian for "This Is the Place," or "The Beautiful Land."

"Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."—Iowa motto.

"Iowa, her affections like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable union."—Inscription by Lt. Gov. Enoch W. Eastman, on the Iowa stone in the Washington monument.

## QUOTATIONS ON THE WALLS

Around the rotunda Abraham Lincoln's—"That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Above the grand stairway, on the south side, by Patrick Henry—"No free Government or the blessings of Liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to Justice, Moderation, Temperance, Frugality and Virtue and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles."

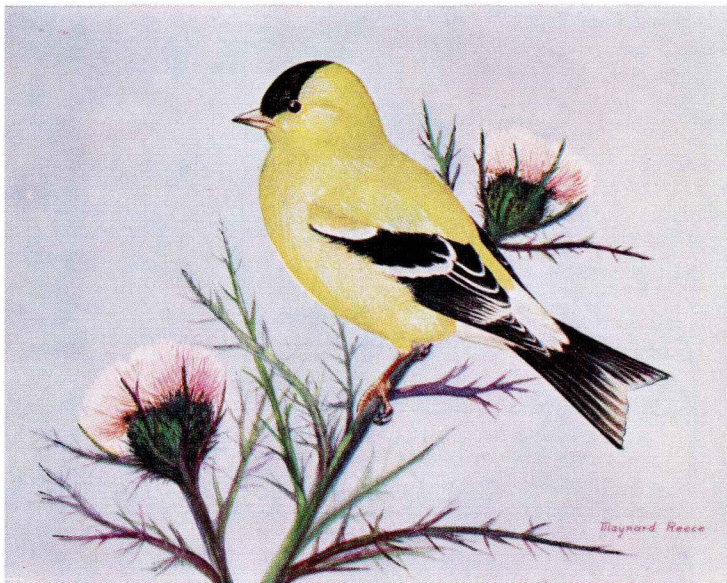
On the north, by G. W. Curtis—"Courageous confidence in the intelligence of the community is the sure sign of leadership and success."

Underneath, by Solon—"The ideal state—that in which an injury done to the least of its citizens is an injury done to all."

Above the door of the law library appears William Pitt's famous saying, "Where Law ends Tyranny begins."

## IOWA CHRONOLOGY

- 1673—Iowa first seen, Mississippi explored, taken by France.  
1762—Louisiana, including Iowa, ceded by France to Spain.  
1788—Julien Du Buque mined lead with Indians.  
1799—Jean Faribault traded with Indians near present state capitol.  
1800—Louisiana ceded to France from Spain by secret treaty.  
1803—U. S. bought Louisiana from Napoleon, \$15,000,000.  
1804—Indiana territory included what is now Iowa.  
1805—Pike explored the Mississippi; Lewis and Clark the Missouri.  
1805—Louisiana territory organized, St. Louis the capital.  
1808—Army post, Indian factory established at Fort Madison.  
1812—Iowa became part of Missouri territory, newly formed.  
1816—Fort Armstrong established on Rock Island.  
1821—Iowa left out when Missouri was admitted as state.  
1830—School opened in Lee county, the first Iowa settlement.  
1834—First Fort Des Moines established, Montrose, Lee county.  
1834—Iowa attached to Michigan territory; 2 counties formed.  
1836—Wisconsin territory formed; Burlington the capital.  
1836—First newspaper, the Du Buque Visitor.  
1838—Iowa became a territory July 4; population 22,859.  
1843—Fort Des Moines II established at Raccoon forks.  
1846—Iowa the 29th state, Dec. 28; population, 102,388.  
1846—Town of Fort Des Moines platted; 1856 became a city.  
1854—First locomotive into Iowa at Davenport; railroad across Iowa, 1867.  
1857—Adopted new constitution—progress, freedom, home rule.  
1866—Railroad into Des Moines; stages, steamboats out.  
1898—Grand monument erected to Iowa's soldiers, sailors.  
1915—Capitol grounds enlarged to 93 acres under Governor Clarke.  
1950—Iowa population, 2,621,073; land area, 55,586 square miles.  
Iowans in the wars: Civil War, 72,242, Iowa population 674,913; Spanish-American, 5,859, Iowa population 2,058,069; World War I, 114,213, Iowa population 2,358,066; World War II, 262,838, Iowa population 2,538,268; Korean conflict, 70,500, Iowa population 2,621,073. State capitol built, 1873-1886; state historical building, 1899-1904; state office building, 1951.



## THE GOLDFINCH, THE STATE BIRD

The Eastern Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis* (Linnaeus), often referred to as a wild canary, was made the official State bird of Iowa by the General Assembly March 22, 1933.

## THE "IOWA CORN SONG"

CHORUS  
*a tempo* *mf-f*

Were from I O A I O A,  
Best in all the land joy on ev-ry hand, We're from  
I O A, I O A,  
That's where the tall corn grows. We're from

The "Iowa Corn Song," familiar all over the United States by use at Shrine, Legion and other conventions, is a genuine favorite with Iowa people. It was first used in 1912 by Za-Ga-Zig Temple Shriners of Des Moines at a convention in Los Angeles when George E. Hamilton put down a chorus to the music of the old song, "Traveling." Later, John T. Beeston, leader of the Shrine band, scored it for a singing band, composing new words for the chorus, as shown above. Presentation authorized by the copyright owner, John T. Beeston, Des Moines.

## THE SONG OF IOWA

*Air: "Der Tannenbaum" ("My Maryland").* By Major S. H. M. Byers

1. You ask what land I love the best, I - o - wa, 'tis I - o - wa, The  
2. See yon-der fields of tasselled corn, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa, Where  
fair - est State of all the west, I - o - wa, O! I - o - wa. From  
Plen - ty fills her gold - en horn, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa. See  
you - der Mis - sis - sip - pi's stream To where Mis - sou - ri's wa - ters gleam O!  
how her won - drous prai - ries shine To yon - der sun - set's pur - pling line, O!  
fair it is as po - et's dream, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa.  
hap - py land, O! land of mine, I - o - wa, O! I - o - wa.



## THE CAPITOL BUILDING

The cornerstone of this impressive-looking building was laid on September 29, 1873, in the twenty-seventh year of Iowa's statehood.

The First General Assembly in 1846 authorized a commission to locate the permanent capital nearer the center of the state, but the place selected in Jasper county was not satisfactory, and the Fifth General Assembly in 1855 directed that the capital should be within two miles of the Raccoon forks of the Des Moines river.

A temporary capitol was built in 1857 by Des Moines citizens and later bought by the state. It was in use more than 30 years and was destroyed by fire.

The construction of a permanent Iowa capitol was authorized by the Twelfth General Assembly in 1868. A commission headed by the governor and with one member from each of the eight congressional districts, under an appropriation in 1870, adopted a plan to reduce cost to a million and a half dollars.

The cornerstone, cut from an Iowa granite boulder, was laid by Gov. Samuel Merrill, Nov. 23, 1871, and was filled with historical documents, coins and newspapers.

The legislature having limited the cost and use of materials, the foundation walls crumbled under a hard winter, and it was deemed advisable to take out nearly all the stone and commence over.

Under an act of the Thirteenth General Assembly, April 13, 1870, a new capitol commission was organized. The governors were ex-officio members of the commission.

The defective material having been removed and a new foundation secured, the cornerstone was re-laid Sept. 29, 1873, with only the name Iowa and date A.D. 1873 on its face. Appropriations were made by 12 separate Assemblies. The capitol commission closed its work July 4, 1886. A fire in the north wing, Jan. 4, 1904, necessitated much expense for repair and redecoration by a third capitol commission, making the total cost after restoration \$3,296,256.00. The original decorations are still in the Senate.

The capitol architecture is of modified Romanesque, with stately columns. Dimensions: Length, 363 feet, 8 inches; width, 246 ft., 11 in.; north and south fronts, 175 ft.; east and west fronts, 118 ft., 8 in.; height to top of cornice, 92 ft., 8 in.; rotunda, 66 ft., 8 in.; house chamber, 74 by 91 ft., 4 in. and 47 ft., 9 in. to ceiling; senate chamber, 58 by 91 ft., 4 in., and 41 ft., 9 in. to the ceiling; to top of finial on dome is 275 feet; number of steps from sidewalk to lantern over dome, 398; height to ceiling of first story, 23 ft., 9 in.; height above sea level, 1,151 ft.; area covered in square feet, 54,850. Imported and domestic marble of 29 kinds were used in the interior; wood used, nearly all Iowa walnut, cherry, catalpa, butternut, oak.

The dome of the capitol is covered with 22 carat gold leaf; cost \$16,500.

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