

EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

§8A.703

*Department of Administrative Services, State Historical Building of Iowa,  
600 East Locust Street, Des Moines 50319; 515.281.7471*

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Term Ending</i>
Jerome Thompson, Chair .....	Des Moines .....	June 30, 2025
Christina Blackcloud.....	Tama.....	June 30, 2024
Sarah Bowman.....	Clive.....	June 30, 2026
John Brown.....	Johnston.....	June 30, 2024
Kevin Condon.....	West Des Moines.....	June 30, 2026
Kylie Dittmer.....	Chariton.....	June 30, 2024
Terrence Lindell.....	Waverly.....	June 30, 2025
Kevin Mason.....	Mason City.....	June 30, 2026
Dawn Meyer.....	Manning.....	June 30, 2024
Cecilia Rokusek.....	Cedar Rapids.....	June 30, 2025
Lori Witt.....	Pella.....	June 30, 2025

Entrusted to preserve Iowa’s historical legacy, the State Historical Society of Iowa identifies, records, collects, preserves, manages, and provides access to Iowa’s historical resources. As an advocate of understanding Iowa’s past, the State Historical Society of Iowa educates Iowans of all ages, conducts and encourages research, disseminates information, and supports historic preservation and education throughout the state.

The State Historical Society was established in 1857 in Iowa City as a private organization. Today, it is part of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.

The society maintains a library and special collections program with extraordinary collections at the State Historical Building in Des Moines and the Centennial Building in Iowa City. The State Archives of Iowa identifies, preserves, and protects state government records and makes them available for research in the society’s reading room in the State Historical Building. Visitors can uncover their roots through research on Iowa topics as varied as agriculture, labor, politics, and women’s suffrage. Collections include books, maps, manuscripts, newspapers, census records, oral history interviews, and photographs. The library and special collections program and the State Archives offer many public and technical services, from assisting genealogical and other researchers to advising on appropriate care of personal and government documents.

Another dimension of Iowa’s history is preserved through the society’s seven historic sites: Montauk (Clermont), Matthew Edell Blacksmith Shop (Haverhill), Abbie Gardner Cabin (Arnolds Park), American Gothic House (Eldon), Plum Grove (Iowa City), Blood Run National Historic Landmark (Lyon County), and Toolesboro Indian Mounds National Historic Site (Wapello).

The society produces publications, including *The Annals of Iowa*, a scholarly history journal, and *The Iowa Historian*, an online newsletter.

Society staffers are available to assist all Iowans in researching, preserving, and interpreting the history of their communities. In addition, the society offers grants that enable local communities and individuals to organize local preservation programs and to preserve the state’s historical resources.

The State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Directors is a citizen advisory panel of Iowans which advises the director on the programs and priorities of the agency.

**Grant Programs**

**Country School Grant Program** – *Kristen Vander Molen*, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines 50319; 515.281.4228

The Country School Grant Program provides up to \$5,000 per grantee for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa’s one- and two-room country schools. The funds may also be used for interpreting the history of country schools or for educational activities taking place in a country school. The annual grant deadline is in May.

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**Historical Resource Development Program** – *Kristen Vander Molen*, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines 50319; 515.281.4228

Historical Resource Development Program grants are designed to help individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, state and local government agencies, and Certified Local Governments (CLGs) in identifying, preserving, and interpreting their historical resources. The annual grant deadline is in May.

**Historic Site Preservation Grant Program** – *Kristen Vander Molen*, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines 50319; 515.281.4228

Historic site preservation grants provide funds to acquire, repair, rehabilitate, and develop historical sites that preserve, interpret, or promote Iowa's cultural heritage. Projects funded by this program must promote an understanding of the record of human experience within Iowa. All grants must involve work on "vertical infrastructures," which is defined in Iowa Code section 8.57. The annual grant deadline is in September.

**Research Grants for Authors Program** – *Andrew Klumpp*, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines 50319; 515.281.8697

The Research Grants for Authors Program awards up to 10 research stipends to support original research related to the history of Iowa or Iowa and the Midwest. Preference is given to applicants proposing to pursue previously neglected topics or new approaches to or interpretations of previously treated topics. The State Historical Society of Iowa invites applicants from a variety of backgrounds, including academic and public historians, graduate students, and independent researchers and writers. Applications will be judged on the basis of their potential for producing publishable work. Grant recipients will be expected to produce an annotated manuscript targeted for *The Annals of Iowa*, the society's scholarly journal.