

## STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA, IOWA CITY

### Officers

Marvin H. Dey, President

W. J. Parizek, Treasurer

### Board of Curators

Elected by the Society—Marvin H. Dey, Thomas Farrell, R. H. Voland, Merritt C. Spiedel, R. G. Popham, William R. Hart, R. A. Fenton, Burton V. Bridenstine, and F. B. Olsen, all of Iowa City.

Appointed by the Governor—Mrs. John Hammill, Britt; O. J. Henderson, Webster City; Mrs. Margaret Jones Hinderman, Wapello; Mrs. Kathlyn M. Kirkeleg, Bedford; Mrs. Anna M. Morrison, Grundy Center; Henry K. Peterson, Council Bluffs; Clifford Powell, Red Oak; Mrs. Lloyd Thurston, Osceola, and Mrs. Helen Vanderburg, Boyden.

Superintendent, Dr. William J. Petersen, Iowa City.

Organized in January, 1857, its purposes are to preserve the history of Iowa and further its dissemination among the people of the state. In fulfillment of these purposes a permanent program of activities has been gradually developed and put into execution. This includes (1) the discovery, collection and preservation of materials of Iowa history; (2) researches in the field of Iowa history; (3) publication of the materials of Iowa history; (4) dissemination of the materials of Iowa history through public depositories and members. The library of the society now includes about 94,400 titles. There are twelve hundred active members and thirty-two auxiliary members. The official depositories within the state number two hundred and thirty-five.

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## STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

The dominant motif of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives is preserving the history of Iowa—its development from the era of many thousands of years ago, the roaming upon its prairies by the aborigines, the enjoyment here by the red man in his hunting exploits, the discovery and mining of its lead and coal deposits, the coming of the Indian trader and the pioneer, the early community settlements, the establishment of schools and churches, the organization as a territory and later admission to statehood, the building of roads and the coming of the railroads, the progress of its people and its institutions—all a glorious panorama of its history from the beginning up to the present.

In achieving this high purpose a major objective has been the gathering of historical source material—the substance from which history is written. The Iowa Historical Department was founded in 1892, and quickly became an important link in the chain of educational and cultural activities of the state, occupying a field then only partially developed for systematically collecting and preserving at the seat of government the priceless materials and records of Iowa development. From small beginnings the department has grown in fifty years to fill and overflow the beautiful building erected on the state capitol grounds at an original cost of about \$375,000, and in later years to acquire by purchase the Kasson Memorial building, situated at a short distance, as a temporary cataloging workshop for the immense accumulation of