In December 1996, Iowans will celebrate 150 years of statehood. These fifty books on Iowa, written by Iowans, include novels, memoirs, and historical studies portraying every part of the state. All of these volumes are on the shelves of the Iowa Authors Collection in the University of Iowa Libraries, a gathering of over 13,000 printed volumes by over 2,000 authors. An Iowa author (for the purpose of the collection) is defined as a writer who was either born in the state or who has lived here for at least twenty years.

Selecting fifty books out of over 13,000 is, of course, a very personal choice and another curator might have quite different preferences. More recent books and volumes still in print have been emphasized. There is a definite Iowa City slant, for a number of the books were published by the University of Iowa Press. Rather than full bibliographic description after each entry, the date of the first edition is indicated in parentheses. Works that are still available for purchase have “In print” at the end of the entry. All of the selections on this sesquicentennial list are readable and worthwhile and serve as interesting introductions to Iowa’s heritage.

Bess Streeter Aldrich, Song of Years (1939). Novel of pioneer Iowa, 1854-1865, with a setting on the Cedar River in eastern Iowa. In print.
Richard Bissell, My Life on the Mississippi; or, Why I Am Not Mark Twain (1973). Days and nights of a boy from Dubuque on the Upper Mississippi in the 1920s.


Paul Corey, *Three Miles Square* (1939). The first volume of a trilogy on a farm family in southwest Iowa in the early twentieth century. *The Road Returns* (1940) and *County Seat* (1941) are the two following volumes.


Curtis Harnack, *We Have All Gone Away* (1973). Reminiscences of growing up in northwest Iowa before World War II. In print.


MacKinlay Kantor, *But Look, the Morn; the Story of a Childhood* (1947). Recollection of his boyhood in Webster City by a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist.


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Frederick Manfred, *This Is the Year* (1947). Novel about Frisian immigrants farming in far northwest Iowa.


Herbert Quick, *Vandemark's Folly* (1922). The first volume of a trilogy of novels set in Iowa in the nineteenth century. *The Hawkeye* (1923) and *The Invisible Woman* (1924) are the two succeeding volumes. In print.


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