

Department notes

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Department notes." *The Annals of Iowa* 21 (1938), 235-237.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5996>

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

THE DEPARTMENT now has on exhibition on the third floor a complete display of Iowa's Geological column. Samples from every formation in the state, including all the glacial drifts, loesses, etc., were secured during the summer by E. H. Scobey of the State University of Iowa, who was employed by this department for that purpose.

The visitor will find the display of maps and charts, together with modern specimens of sea life, helpful in guiding him to a good understanding of Iowa's geological past. Previous to this the geological history of Iowa was represented in the department only by a series of fossils.

ON SUNDAY, August 29, 1937, the Iowa State Safety Council dedicated a bronze plaque to the late Mrs. Alex Miller, formerly Secretary of State, and the founder of the Iowa highway patrol system. The dedication took place during the State Fair week at the fairgrounds in Des Moines.

The plaque has been presented to this department and occupies a prominent place in the front corridor. With the dates 1871-1937 in the two upper corners, the plaque reads as follows; the quotation is from Mrs. Miller's own pen:

“The good driver observes the golden
Rule of the highway. By practicing the
Same courtesy upon the road that he
Would show a guest in his home, he is
Not only taking a long step toward
Preserving his own safety but he
Is helping to establish a code of
Ethics upon the highway which will
Herald a better day.”

Presented to the State of Iowa
In memory of
Mrs. Alex Miller, Secretary of State
1932 — 1937
By the
Iowa State Safety Council
August 29, 1937

OUTSTANDING among the gifts received by the department during the past quarter were the records and materials of the Iowa Suffrage Commission, together with a case built especially for their preservation and display. Together with the bronze plaque in the state house, which was dedicated May 10, 1936, these materials, and their case, completes the memorial to the women who worked so long and so faithfully to secure equal suffrage in this state. The case, built of solid oak and weighing 1,500 pounds, is located in the Autograph Room. Similar in construction to those used for the Autograph Collection, it has a glass show-case top in which certain selected materials may be exhibited.

The materials date from the earliest document in 1854, to August 26, 1920, the latest. They consist of letters, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, insignia, and other records of the movement carried on in Iowa by women of the state for equal suffrage. In addition to the letters of the state leaders in the movement, there are also letters from famous women, leaders in the national agitation and campaign for enfranchisement, among them being letters from Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt. Since the latter was an Iowa woman and began her career as a "suffragette" in this state, there is an abundance of material from her, both as a state leader and as a national figure.

Included in the gift from the Suffrage Commission was a several volume history treating of the suffrage movement in the United States, as well as the program in Iowa.

The first state organization for equal suffrage, 1870, had for its president Henry O'Connor, who was then the Attorney General of the State. Amelia Bloomer was an executive officer of the state association at this same time. Among the prominent women connected with this movement in Iowa over the period from 1870 to the time of the adoption of the amendment in 1920 were the following:

Amelia Bloomer
Mrs. Mary A. Emsley Adams
Dr. Harriet Bottsford Amy
Mrs. Martha C. Callanan
Mrs. Mary J. Coggeshall

Byrd L. Damon (Mrs. Chas. W.)
Rev. Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon
Mrs. Julia Clarke Hallom (Mrs. Joseph W.)
Miss Mary Elma Hamilton
Mrs. Eliza Heaton Hunter
Mrs. Caroline A. Rice Ingham
Dr. Margaret Billingsley Mills (Mrs. F. W.)
Mrs. Martha Lavery Peck (Mrs. John F.)
Mrs. H. K. Evans
Mrs. Emily T. Phillips
Mrs. Lizzie B. Read
Mrs. Carrie C. Rutledge (Mrs. J. I.)
Rev. Mary Augusta Safford
Mrs. Rowena Edson Stevens
Mrs. Eleanor Chafin Stockman (Mrs. G. C.)
Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt
Mrs. Blanche Schnadig Wolf (Mrs. Sam J. H.)
Mrs. Anna Savory

AN ACTUAL count of the Sunday visitors at the historical building from June 20th to November 28th, inclusive, shows that during this period, exclusive of the Sunday of the State Fair week, 10,043 persons came to inspect and to view the exhibits on display. The attendance of visitors during State Fair week alone was 15,943, of which 2,312 came on Sunday. Thus the total Sunday attendance for this period was 12,355.

The holiday attendance on the four holidays, Fourth of July (celebrated on July 5), Labor Day, Armistice Day, and Thanksgiving Day, totaled 1,441. This figure, added to the record of the Sunday attendance, gives a total attendance for Sundays and holidays, from June 20th to November 28th, of 13,796. If the attendance record of the State Fair week is added to this, the grand total of 27,427 visitors to the department is obtained.

No attempt was made to count the attendance of other days in this four month period.

This attendance record is gratifying, for it shows the great interest the people of the state have in this department and the work it is trying to do.

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