

## Celebrating the Territorial Centennial

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### CELEBRATING THE TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL

During the past spring and summer the department has co-operated with the Iowa Territorial Centennial Commission in the state-wide celebration and observance of the one hundredth year of Iowa's creation as a territory. The culmination of those celebrations, held in some fifty-one communities in the state, was the Iowa State Fair, which was designated the Iowa Territorial Centennial State Fair in honor of the occasion. The board of directors of the state fair and its able secretary, Mr. A. R. Corey, are to be congratulated upon the excellent celebration they offered to the people of Iowa. The success of this year's centennial augers well for the one to follow, the centennial of Iowa's admission into the Union in 1846, to be celebrated eight years from this date.

Among the several exhibitions which formed a part of the territorial celebration at the state fair and which are deserving of special commendation, the officers of the fair board and the members of the Iowa Women's Clubs who undertook and carried through the exhibition of period rooms are to be especially congratulated upon having produced through the medium of these rooms what will be remembered as probably the greatest educational exhibit yet placed on the state fair grounds, from the historical point of view. The difficulties encountered in securing appropriate articles for these rooms, and the problem of selecting from the wealth of material collected, were indeed great. The editor regrets that he does not supply the list of names of these women who participated in making these exhibits, in order that he might accord to each her due meed of praise for the splendid work which was accomplished.

In co-operating with the state fair board and the territorial commission, the department loaned various types of materials for the special exhibitions displayed at the fair. Noteworthy among these loans were the gowns worn by Mrs. George

Clarke at the inaugural of her husband as governor of the state in 1912, and by Mrs. William Larabee at the inauguration of her husband as governor of Iowa in 1888. These formed a part of the exhibition of period dresses which received so much favorable attention from visitors at the fair. The department's splendid Conestoga wagon, its old steam locomobile—the first steam automobile owned west of the Mississippi—an old high wheeled bicycle, and its famous Red River cart were loaned to form a part of the excellent transportation exhibit in the special centennial tent at the fair grounds.

In addition to contributing to several of the historical exhibits at the fair grounds, special exhibits were arranged during the state fair week in the department building as well. Notable among these was the special arrangement in the Portrait Gallery of oil paintings of Iowa territorial leaders: Iowa's three territorial governors, Robert Lucas, John Chambers, James Clarke; two of her three judges on the territorial supreme court, Chief Justice Charles Mason and Justice Joseph Williams; also the portraits of the first governor of the state of Iowa, Ansel Briggs, and the first two United States Senators from Iowa, A. C. Dodge and George Wallace Jones.

Another exhibit of unusual merit was the display of paper money which circulated in Iowa during the territorial period and for some time thereafter. This display of the best single collection of Iowa currency in the state was made possible through the courtesy of Mr. Walter Rosene of Ogden, Iowa. In this exhibition were specimens of the notes issued by the first bank authorized to do business in Iowa, the Miners Bank of Du Buque; some of these notes were issued when the area west of the Mississippi was still a part of Wisconsin territory, one note was that rare item, a note issued by the Miners Bank of Du Buque after the territory of Iowa had been created.

Other special exhibits during this week were the display of dresses on the second floor, three of which came from the collection of dresses worn by Mrs. Josephine Mason Remy, who was born in Burlington, Iowa, in 1845, the daughter of Chief Justice Charles Mason. She married George Collier Remy, who was also born in Burlington, and who later entered An-

napolis; following his graduation he rose to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the Navy, the first man born west of the Mississippi to achieve that rank. In addition to these dresses of Mrs. Remy, two of a later period were exhibited in this display by Mrs. Louis B. Schmidt of Ames. Other exhibits commemorating Iowa's one hundredth year were the exhibition of dolls and needle work of the early days, and, on the third floor, the display of certain select documents from the public archives, relating to the government of the Territory of Iowa.

The museum arranged a special exhibit of birds showing those species that were common to Iowa in the territorial days, but which are now rare or extinct. These included wild turkey, several species of duck, passenger pigeons (now completely extinct), and the upland plover.

The attendance at the building during the state fair week was somewhat larger than a year ago, achieving a grand total of 18,000 people.

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#### RECENT ACQUISITIONS

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A number of gifts have been received by the department in the last several months which will interest friends and visitors to the department:

A flag with thirteen stars was donated by Miss Mildred Clark of Saint Louis, Missouri. It had formerly been the property of her grandfather, Captain Benjamin Clark, who had brought the flag from his New York home to Buffalo, Iowa, in the spring of 1833. It had been in the Clark family prior to that time, having served as a company flag in the war of 1812-15.

From the trustees of the J. G. Edmundson estate, Des Moines, the department has received Mr. Edmundson's brougham carriage, which was manufactured in the early '90's at a cost of approximately \$850.00. The carriage is in excellent condition and makes a very valuable addition to the transportation exhibits in the basement of the building.

A side saddle, a large copper kettle and a stirrer was received from Harry C. Brewer of Adel; several spurs of chased

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