

A Historical Museum

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

A HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Because of its public displays of historic materials, the historical museum is probably one of the most widely known of the activities of the department. Yet good as these collections and exhibits are, the department would like to make them show even more faithfully and completely the history of our Iowa mid-west. To accomplish this objective the department must obtain additional specimens and representative objects in a number of fields still incomplete. A few of these fields are indicated below.

One of the largest sections of publicly displayed materials in the department consist of Indian items, from the mound builders to the Indian of our later era. The museum would like to obtain additional pottery and other artifacts from the pre-historic mound builders' culture. It would appreciate information of the discovery of new mounds whenever such are located. Of the later period, items in common use among the Indian tribes before the intrusion of the white man are wanted in a few instances, as well as materials used in the Indian trade business.

In the pioneer and middle periods of our own civil history field, tools and equipment of the blacksmith shop are sought, together with the tools of other home manufacturers, such as the gunsmith, the wheelwright, and the mill operator. As a supplement to our spinning wheels and hand looms, and with the object of preparing a room or series of displays to show the domestic and industrial arts of early times, the department is seeking good specimens of homespun clothing, linsey-woolsey, or other fabrics spun and woven for Iowa men, women, and children. "Store" clothes of men and boys of the last half of the 19th century are desired too. At present certain kitchen and table utensils of common use would be

welcomed to supplement a few gaps in these displays. Pioneer housekeeping equipment is wanted too.

The department believes that a presentation to the state through this department of significant and illustrative historical materials for museum display enhances the value of the object many fold by making its story available to the countless number of visitors who annually visit the building in Des Moines.

SOME MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

Among some of the recent acquisitions of the past quarter worthy of note is the fully complete hand loom given the department by Mr. Clem Hootman and his sister, Mrs. Mary H. Bonnett, of Keosauqua, Iowa. Long in use in Van Buren County before the turn of the century, this loom will shortly be placed on exhibit in the department. Two hand sod corn planters from John and William Powell, of Eddyville, Iowa, and another hand corn planter of a later date, from Dr. S. H. Bauman, of Birmingham, Iowa, have also been received to add to the display of agricultural implements and materials.

Additional articles, including several photograph albums and scrap books of clippings relating to Admiral George Collier Remey and to Charles Mason, first Chief Justice of Iowa, have been received from the son and grandson, Charles Mason Remey, of Washington, D. C.

MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES

Two memorial observances in the department building this past quarter were occasions for presentations to the department.

On November 23, 1940, the Iowa Society of the Descendants of the Mayflower, in celebrating the 320 anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, presented a model of the Mayflower to the department, especially for the genealogical section of the historical library. Mrs. Charles H. Humphryes, Governor of the Iowa Society presented the ship, and Curator Williams accepted.

On December 27, 1940, the Kinsman Woman's Relief Corps, No. 24, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, presented a large three by four foot bronze plaque in honor of the

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