New on the Shelves

“New on the Shelves” is a list of recent additions to the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa. It includes manuscripts, audio-visual materials, and published materials recently acquired or newly processed that we think might be of interest to the readers of the Annals of Iowa. The “DM” or “IC” at the end of each entry denotes whether the item is held in Des Moines or Iowa City.

Manuscripts

American Red Cross, Des Moines and Polk County Chapter. 1 document (217 pages), 1929. Typescript copy of survey and report requested by Col. E. A. Sirmyer, Commanding Officer of the Fort Des Moines Army Post, to study living conditions of enlisted married soldiers residing in the vicinity of the army base. The report, based on in-home visits and oral interviews (primarily with wives) conducted by local American Red Cross personnel, included information on home conditions, religious and recreational activities, health, employment, and finances. Surveying personnel were also to note any circumstances indicating possible illegal or negative social behavior. [Personally identifiable information is redacted in the reference version.] DM.

Conversational Club (Dubuque). Records. ½ ft., 1868–1916. Minute books of this women’s club that was organized in 1868 by Mary Newbury Adams, a graduate of Emma Willard Seminary (Troy, NY), who later became prominent in the woman suffrage and Transcendentalist movements. Members studied a range of topics in science and the humanities, and guest speakers such as Julia Ward Howe and Amos Bronson Alcott occasionally visited meetings. DM.

Crooke, George. Papers. ½ ft., 1862–1897. Assortment of Civil War materials related to Crooke’s service as first lieutenant and adjutant of the 21st Iowa Volunteer Infantry, including three Civil War letters; clothing, camp, and equipage records; and other documentation that Crooke compiled for the regimental history he published in 1891. DM.

First Friends Church (Des Moines). Records. 6 ft., 1903–1999. Records of this denomination that was organized in 1881 as the Des Moines Friends Meeting and later affiliated with the Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting (1928) and the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. Collection includes articles of incorporation, church histories, correspondence, minutes and meeting reports, newsletters and bulletins, subject files, membership directories, planning documents, and ephemera. These records also include some newsletters, handbooks, and printed minutes of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. DM.

Fogleman, Ralph. Scrapbook. ¼ ft., 1920s–1990s. Photos, clippings, and ephemera related to this draft horse breeder and exhibitor from Callender, who owned several of the world’s largest Belgians at various points in his career. DM.
Graham, James. Diaries. 2½ ft. (40 vols.), 1863–1905. Pocket diaries kept by Graham, a lumberyard owner and civil servant from Fayette County. The earliest diaries were written while Graham served in the Civil War with the 7th Independent Battery, Wisconsin Light Artillery. Graham moved to Hawkeye, Iowa, directly after the war, and eventually to West Union in 1883. In addition to farming and operating the lumber business, he was a school board member, justice of the peace, and township clerk, and was politically active in Republican caucuses and county conventions. The 1905 diary includes entries written by Adeline Graham during her husband’s final days and for a brief time after his death. DM.

Improved Order of Redmen, Great Council of Iowa. Records. 1 ft., 1891–1944. Newsletters, several charters, reference materials, and memorabilia of this patriotic fraternal organization that traces its origins back to the Sons of Liberty. DM.

Longstaff, Ronald E. (Hon.). One DVD (2 hrs., 7 mins.), 2007. Video oral history interview of this Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. DM.

Miller, Jerry C. Papers and 185 35mm color slides, 1973–1993. Documentation related to the work and educational outreach of restoration painter Jerry C. Miller, whose projects included the Iowa State Capitol and Terrace Hill. DM.

Robbins, Lewis (Lute) and Harriet E. Papers. 1¼ ft., 1878–1897. Exchanges of letters among Lewis and Harriet E. Robbins (Solomon, Mills Co.) and their four children, with the most frequent correspondence occurring between Harriet and her daughters, who attended Tabor College (Iowa) and Wellesley (Mass.) in the 1880s and 1890s. Harriet’s letters describe activities at the Solomon farm and reflect her interest in literature and education, while those from the daughters share details about their experiences at college and travels in the U.S. and abroad. DM.

Rowen, Francis. Papers. ¼ ft., 1864–1865. 39 Civil War letters written by Francis (Frank) Rowen who served with Company K of the 15th Iowa Infantry. The letters—written to his wife Delia—cover the period from October 18, 1864, to July 17, 1865. During that time the 15th Infantry participated in Sherman’s March to the Sea, the siege of Savannah, and the Carolinas Campaign, and was present for the grand review of the armies in Washington, D.C., on May 24, 1865. DM.

Audio-Visual Materials

Bentonsport, Iowa. One ambrotype, ca. 1876. Rare photographic format showing view of Bentonsport from across the Des Moines River. DM.

Fort Des Moines Army Post. One black-and-white photograph, 1920. Group photo of the 14th U.S. Cavalry’s H Troop. DM.

Highland Park College (Des Moines). One black-and-white photograph, ca. 1890. Graduating class of the Highland Park College pharmacy department. DM.

Klein, Art. Two glass-plate negatives, 1917. Views showing Art Klein (Treynor) with the Curtiss Pusher airplane he built from a kit, which is now part of the State Historical Museum of Iowa’s collections. DM.

Lamont, Iowa. 12 black-and-white photographs, 1901 and ca. 1901. Views of this Iowa community, including high school graduates, residences, and the Lamont Woman’s Club. DM.

**Published Materials**


*Upper Mississippi River Navigation Charts: Mouth of the Ohio River to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers, Upper Mississippi River, Miles 0 to 866*, St. Louis: U.S. Army Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, [2001]. IC.