County Historical Societies

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COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

The suggestion is not infrequently heard that each county ought to have a historical society. It is not said that each county should produce a whole shelf of printed literature each year, but there is much in all local history that is worthy of preservation, and there is much valuable material going to waste, being irretrievably lost, simply because no one has the time or cares to take the trouble to preserve it.

Iowa, for instance, is quite young. She is so young that old men can recall the time when Iowa was not. But into her short life no little history has been crowded. Des Moines county played no unimportant part in the early history of the State. Much of that has never been written or verified and the time will soon come when there will be no opportunity to get the early history of this city and county from those who helped to make that history.

And there are not a few in city and county, who would gladly join hands with other good citizens and enter upon the patriotic work of preserving for the generations that come after us, a knowledge of what was done by us and those who preceded us. The expense need not be great, in fact there need be no expense. The county court house or the public library would furnish a meeting place and until some enthusiastic friends of the society make other provision therefor, the place for keeping the records and the accumulations of the society.

The generation of today in this young State has no idea, cannot picture to itself the conditions under which those lived and worked who built the foundations for this magnificent commonwealth. Neither does it know aught of those pioneers. In the schools they learn much of the planting of some colony on the Atlantic coast, details of all kinds covering early colonial times are impressed upon their minds. What do they know or learn of the founding of their own State, or of the trials and sufferings, the toil and hardship,
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the failures and successes of the makers of Iowa? And per-
haps these are no less important and of no less interest to
Iowans than the story of Rhode Island or Delaware.

By all means let us have a historical society.—Burling-
ton Hawk-Eye, Sept. 7, 1903.

IMPORTANT DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE MINERS.—We are
informed by the citizens of the Upper Des Moines Lead
Mines, that the United States District Court for Illinois
(Judges John McClain and Nathaniel Pope, presiding) de-
cided at its late session that the acts of Messrs. Flannegan
and Cunningham, superintendents for leasing the lead
mines, etc., etc., were without authority of law and therefore
void. The court decided, as our informants state, that the old
act of 1807, authorizing the President to lease Lead Mines
and Salt Springs, in what was then called the Indiana Terri-
tory, is rendered inoperative or virtually repealed by the law
of 1834, establishing the Galena and Mineral Point land dis-
tricts. It was but a short time since that we had the pleasure
of noticing a similar decision made by the Supreme Court of
our own Territory—and of offering our congratulations to
our northern brethren in Iowa. We now extend them to
the people of northern Illinois and Wisconsin. They can-
not but feel that their day of deliverance from the odious
tythe system, so repugnant to the genius and spirit of our
institutions has arrived. The officers sent by the adminis-
tration in the shape of superintendents, agents, etc., etc.,
have, we understand, on account of the vexatious manner in
which they harrassed the citizens of the mineral district
with petty law suits, become extremely odious. We are of
those who believe that the Federal Government is departing
from the high purposes for which it was created when it
descends to an interference with the business and avocations
of its people. It was never made for a lead mine digger or
a salt water boiler.—Territorial Gazette. [From The
Bloomington (Iowa) Herald, June 30, 1843.]