

State Librarians of Iowa
1837 - 2008

Compiled by Karon S. King
Library Resource Technician
State Library of Iowa
1112 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

2008

This list of State Librarians of Iowa, along with their photos or portraits, and brief biographies, was prepared for the March 2008 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the State Library's move from the 2nd floor of the State Capitol into the east wing of the State Historical Memorial and Art Building on March 1908 (renamed the Ola Babcock Miller Building in 2002).

Sources used for the biographies and portraits or photos are listed on each librarian's page. Two main sources were used to create the list of State Librarians: Brigham, Johnson. "Pioneer History of the Territorial and State Library of Iowa." *Annals of Iowa* Oct 1912: 482-538 and Gue, Benjamin F. *History of Iowa from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*, vol.3. New York: Century History Co.,1903, p.457-458.

State Librarians of Iowa

Wisconsin Territory

James Clarke (1837)

Iowa Territory

Theodore S. Parvin (1838 – 1839)

Charles Weston (1839 – 1840)

Morgan Reno (1840 – 1845)

State of Iowa (joined the Union December 28, 1846)

Lemuel B. Patterson (1846 – 1851)

Israel Kister (1851 – 1852)

Martin L. Morris (1852 – 1855)

John Pattee (1855 – 1858)

John P. Coulter (1858 – 1860)

Lewis I. Coulter, son of John P. Coulter (1860 – 1868)

John C. Merrill (1869 – Sept. 1871, when he died)

Ada E. North (1872 – 1877)

Sara B. Maxwell (1878 – 1888)

Mary H. Miller (1888 – 1894)

Laura C. Creighton (1894 - 1896)

Lana Hixson Copes (1896 – 1898)

Johnson Brigham (1898 – Oct. 8, 1936, when he died)

John D. Denison (1936 – 1938)

Blanche A. Smith (1939 – 1956)

Ernestine Grafton (1957 – 1970)

J. Maurice Travillian (1971 – 1972)

Barry Porter (1973 – 1982)

Claudya B. Muller (1983 – 1986)

John Montag (1986 – 1988)

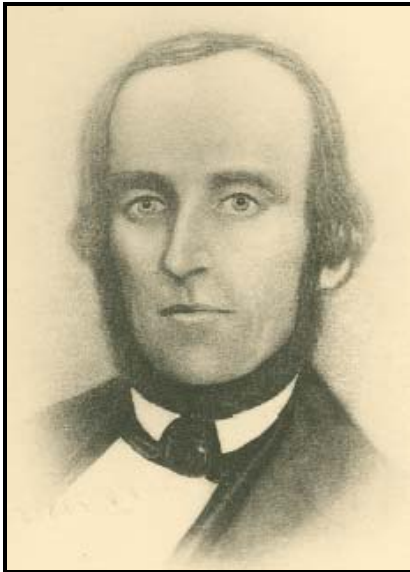
Shirley George (1988 – 1991)

Sharman B. Smith (1992 – 2000)

Mary Wegner (2001 - present)

Wisconsin Territory, (Statehouse in Burlington)

1. **James Clarke** – 1837



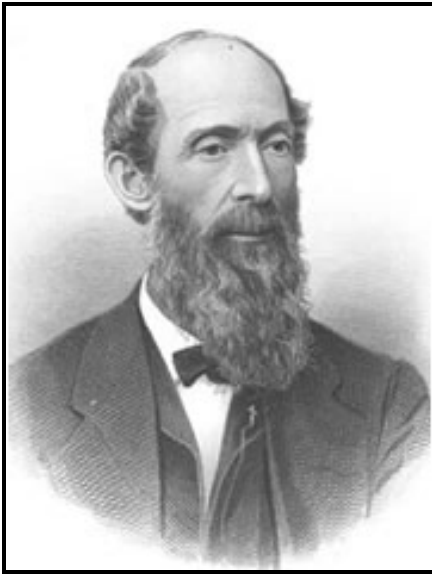
Born in Lingonier Valley, Pennsylvania on July 5, 1812, James Clarke grew up with youthful optimism and idealism. He became a printer in a newspaper office in Harrisburg and in 1836 moved west to work as an editor at the *Missouri Republican* newspaper in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1837 he established the *Wisconsin Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser* (now the *Burlington Gazette*) in the new territorial capitol of Burlington. That same year Governor Dodge appointed him as Territorial Librarian for the new Territorial Library “in a large, airy and convenient front room, in the second story of the commodious house at the corner of Columbia and Main Streets.” By 1840, Clarke was appointed Secretary of the Iowa Territory. On Sept. 27, 1840 James married Christiana H. Dodge (the Governor’s daughter). Clarke was 33 when he became Iowa’s third Territorial Governor in 1845 and played a leading role in Iowa’s transition to statehood. He spent the rest of his life in Burlington, Iowa. In August of 1850 a cholera epidemic took the life of James Clarke, his wife, and a child.

Briggs, John Ely. “James Clarke.” *Palimpsest*, Dec. 1939: 385-399

Salter, William. “James Clarke, the Third Governor of the Territory of Iowa.” *Iowa Historical Record*, Jan 1888: 1-12

Iowa Territory, (Statehouse in Burlington)

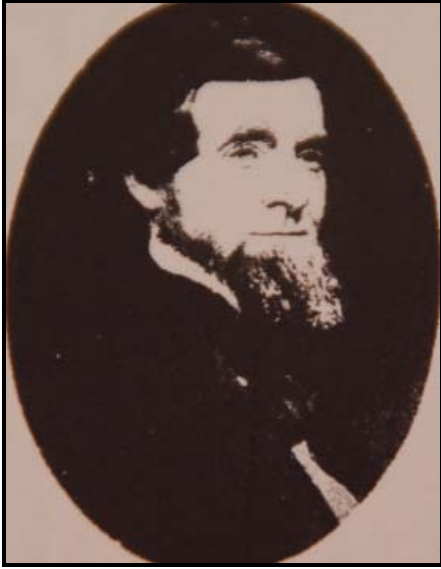
2. **Theodore S. Parvin** - 1838 to 1839



Theodore Sutton Parvin was born in Cumberland County, New Jersey, Jan. 15, 1817. He graduated from Woodworth College, Ohio in 1833, and from the Cincinnati Law School in 1837. Between these dates, he made for himself a reputation in Ohio as a successful educator. He was a private secretary to Iowa's territorial Governor Lucas and also served as Territorial Librarian. After Parvin served as US District Attorney for the middle district of Iowa, he filled three terms as probate judge. From 1846 to 1856 he served as clerk of the US District Court. In 1857 he was elected Register of the Iowa State Land Office. He was one of the first trustees of Iowa's State University, and for ten years was professor of natural sciences in that institution. He was one of the organizers of the State Historical Society, and for several years edited the *Annals of Iowa*. Theodore Parvin was one of the founders of the Masonic order in Iowa. He died at his home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa June 28th, 1901, at the age of 84.

History of Johnson County, Iowa containing a history of the county, and its townships, cities and villages from 1836 to 1882. together with biographical sketches... Iowa City, IA: 1883. 764-766

3. Charles Weston - 1839 to 1840



Charles Weston was born in Washington County, New York in May of 1811. His father was Judge Roswell Weston, of the Court of Common Pleas. Charles graduated from Renssalaer Institute and practiced law with his father. He then came west, arriving in Burlington in December 1837, on the first stage coach that made the trip from Chicago to Rock Island. When crossing the Mississippi in a shaky flat boat, the river began filling with floating ice and he nearly lost his life. Weston began the practice of law in Burlington and remained in the capitol of the Territory a year or more. After the death of Territorial Secretary Conway, Weston was appointed Fiscal Agent, and in connection with his duties, acted as Secretary of the Territory. Governor Lucas appointed him Judge Advocate General, with the rank of colonel. He succeeded Parvin as Librarian Oct. 18, 1839, and held the office until Jan. 24, 1840. In 1840 he moved near Davenport, Iowa, investing in land near the city. Unsuccessful as a farmer, he moved to the city, where he married Louisa Macklott Dec. 14, 1842 and settled down for life. In 1851 he was elected Mayor of Davenport, and in 1857 elected County Judge. Charles Weston moved to Pennsylvania in the early 1860s and there died.

1870 U.S. Federal Census, Lower Chichester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, p. 302, line 81, Charles Weston household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

Downer, Harry E. *History of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa*, vol. 1. Chap. 13, Chicago: S.J. Clarke. 1910.

Scott County Marriages 1850 and Before. transcribed by Debbie C. Gerischer. (Online: USGenWeb Project <http://www.celticcousins.net/scott/scottmarriagespre1850.htm>)

4. **Samuel “Morgan” Reno – 1840 to 1845**

Samuel Morgan Reno was born in Mercer County Pennsylvania on July 19, 1816, the son of Charles Reno and Frances Laughlin. Morgan moved to Iowa in 1839 and married Margaret A. Hammer on Feb. 23, 1843. They had two children: Charles M. and Flora. Reno was the third and last Territorial Librarian and the second Treasurer of the Territory, holding the office from Jan. 1840 to Jan. 1841. He was also the first State Treasurer of Iowa, elected to the office Oct. 1846 and served two terms through 1850. During the Civil War, Reno served as a Lieutenant in the Sixth Iowa Cavalry. Morgan Reno was a lawyer and his Supreme Court cases can be found in the *Morris Reports* and *Greene Reports*. He died in Iowa City July 10, 1869 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery. His widow died in 1899. His son, Charles M. Reno, served as City Treasurer, County Treasurer, and Mayor of Iowa City.

Stiles, Edward H. *Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa*. Des Moines: Homestead Pub., 1916.

1860 U.S. Federal Census, Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa, p.767, line 9, household of Morgan Reno, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

History of Johnson County, Iowa containing a history of the county, and its townships, cities and villages from 1836 to 1882. together with biographical sketches... Iowa City, IA: 1883. 904

Ancestry World Tree Project: Family Tree of Gregg Reno, g.reno@comcast.net

Iowa Territory (Statehouse moved to Iowa City 1845)

5. **Lemuel B. Patterson** - 1846 to 1851



Lemuel B. Patterson was the first State Librarian when Iowa became a state. He was born in Rushville, Indiana, Sept. 12, 1824. He came to Iowa City in the spring of 1841, and was admitted to the State bar in 1846. It is reported that while holding office he drew up the first homestead law passed by the Iowa Legislature. He was a member of the Iowa City council in 1857-1859. On May 10, 1851, while serving as State Librarian, he married Miss Jane Hazard, who, with an infant son, died of cholera in 1856. In 1860, he became a practicing attorney, in partnership with Levi Robinson. The firm of Patterson & Robinson, Iowa City, was long reputed to be the oldest law firm in the State of Iowa. Patterson was a Democrat in politics; was City Attorney in 1868-1870, and again in 1874-1876. In 1874, he won the railroad bond suit for his city in the Supreme Court vs. Iowa City. Mr. Patterson accumulated some valuable city property and was to the last an influential citizen of the former State Capitol. He died March 15, 1897.

History of Johnson County, Iowa containing a history of the county, and its townships, cities and villages from 1836 to 1882. together with biographical sketches... Iowa City, IA: 1883. 891

6. **Israel Kister** – 1851 to 1852



Israel Kister was born in York County, Pennsylvania on Feb. 4, 1810. His parents moved to Wooster County, Ohio when he was fifteen and that is where Israel received his education. Kister moved to Van Buren County, Iowa in 1839 with his wife Susan, and then on to Davis County in 1843 where he purchased 234 acres of land. As a young lawyer in Iowa, he was appointed commissioner to organize Kishkekosh County (now Monroe County) and to locate its county seat – Albia. Israel Kister became Iowa's second State Treasurer from 1850 to 1852. At this time he also served as Librarian for the State Library (1851 to 1852). His wife, Susan, died in 1853 and Israel married Catherine Douglass on Dec. 9, 1854. Israel Kister died on August 22, 1881 and is buried with his wives in the IOOF Cemetery in Bloomfield, Iowa.

Early Marriages of Davis County, Iowa. transcribed by Deb Barker. (Online: USGenWeb Project, Davis County Iowa Genealogy)

Iowa State Treasurers 1846 – 1970. (Online: The Political Graveyard, 2007)

1850 U.S. Federal Census, Bloomfield Township, Davis County, Iowa, p.311B, line 1, Israel Kister household, (Online: USGenWeb Census Project, transcribed by Joyce Lunsford, 2005).

Pioneer History of Davis County, Iowa...1924-1927. Bloomfield, IA: Davis County Genealogical Society, 1976, 22-23 and 305-306.

IOOF Cemetery, Bloomfield, Iowa. Bloomfield, IA: Davis County Genealogical Society, 1989, 97.

7. **Martin L. Morris** – 1852 to 1855

Martin Luther Morris was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania on Jan. 20, 1816. He married Sarah Jane Wood in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on Jan 22, 1838. They had nine children: William W., Priscilla L., Martha A., William C., Emma D., Martin L., Ella M., Morgan R., and Jeannie. Morris was a printer and in 1840 published the *American Union*, a weekly Democratic paper. The family came to Iowa in 1846. Martin Morris was State Treasurer of Iowa from Dec. 4, 1852 to Jan. 2, 1859. He was also State Librarian from 1852 to 1855. When the Civil War broke out, Morris enlisted in the First Iowa Cavalry July 18, 1861 and was promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant. The family had moved to Kansas by 1870 and his wife, Sarah, died there in 1886. Morris remarried to Mary Elizabeth Green in 1888. They moved to Yamhill, Oregon where Martin Morris died on Jan. 17, 1893 at age 76. He was buried in the Pike Cemetery in Yamhill.

1850 US. Federal Census, Fort Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, p.25 line 20, M.L. Morris household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

1856 Iowa Census, Iowa City, Johnson County, family nb. 123., line 10, M.L. Morris household, (Online: Ancestry.Lib.com)

1860 US. Federal Census, Fremont Township, Johnson County, Iowa, p.613, line 35. Martin L. Morris. (Online: AncestryLib. com)

1870 US. Federal Census, Stranger Township, Leavenwork County, Kansas, p.529, line 10, Martin Morris household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

1875 Kansas census, Middle Creek Township, Miami County, p.20, line 37, M.L. Morris household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

1880 US. Federal Census, Middle Creek Township, Miami County, Kansas, ED 137, p.7, M.L. Morris household (Online: AncestryLib.com)

1885 Kansas census, Middle Creek Township, Miami County, p.72, line 30, M.L. Morris household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

1900 census, Kansas, Sedgwick County, 2nd Precinct, family of Morgan L. Morris, E.D. 291, sheet 15, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

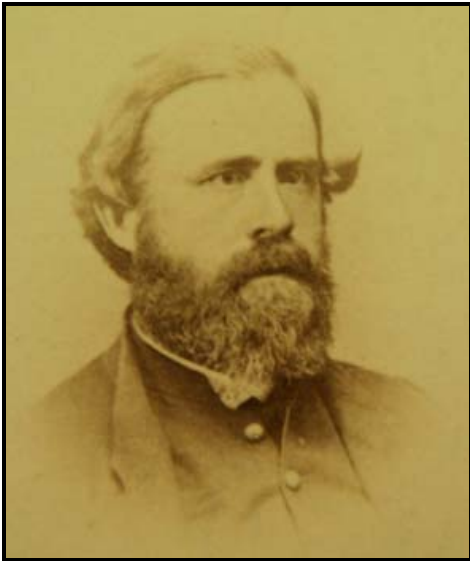
History of Johnson County, Iowa containing a history of the county, and its townships, cities and villages from 1836 to 1882. together with biographical sketches... Iowa City, IA: 1883. 506-507.

Cutler, William G. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: A.T. Andreas. 1883, (Online: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/miami/cutler/index-pt6.html>)

Martin Luther Morris, personal information, (Online: Ancestry.com)

State of Iowa (Statehouse moved to Des Moines in 1857)

8. **John Pattee** – 1855 to 1858



John Pattee was born in Canada on July 23, 1820. His father was a Methodist missionary and preached in Canada. He came to Iowa around 1850 and was a carpenter in Bremer County. John married Lidia Lanning on Aug. 23, 1855. That same year he was appointed State Auditor by Governor Clark serving that position until Jan. 3, 1859. John Pattee also served as State Librarian from 1855 to 1858. John and Lidia had one son, Samuel. Lidia died in 1859. John married Priscilla Clark (sister of Iowa's Governor E. Clark) on July 7, 1861. During the Civil War he served as Lieutenant Colonel of the 7th, 14th, and 41st Infantries. After the War, the Pattee family moved to the Dakotas. John Pattee died on Nov. 30, 1901 in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

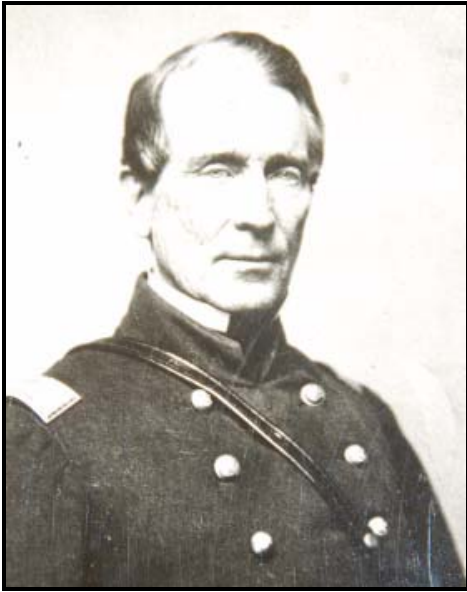
1860 US. Federal Census, Jackson Township, Bremer County, Iowa, p.397, line 26, John Pattee household, (Online: Heritage Quest Co.)

“Recent Deaths – Mrs. Priscilla Pattee.” *Iowa Historical Record* Apr 1887. 478

History of Johnson County, Iowa containing a history of the county, and its townships, cities and villages from 1836 to 1882. together with biographical sketches... Iowa City, IA: 1883. 891-892.

A Brief History of the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, (Online: <http://7thiowacavalry.com/history.htm>)

9. **John Parshall Coulter** – 1858 to 1860



John P. Coulter was born about 1803 in Pennsylvania. He became a physician, moved to Wooster, Ohio and married Elizabeth. John and Elizabeth had four children in Ohio: Lewis, Edward, Elnora, and Flora. The family moved to Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa and John Coulter became the State Librarian from 1858 to 1860. Coulter volunteered in the 12th Iowa Infantry, Company D during the Civil War, serving as a Lieutenant Colonel. Afterwards, he moved his family to Marion, Iowa (also in Linn County), and was the County Auditor from 1870-1875. Coulter died in 1879 at age 76 and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

1850 US. Federal Census, Town of Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, p.239, line 11, J.P. Coulter household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

1860 US. Federal Census, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, p.462, line 36, John P. Coulter household (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

1870 US. Federal Census, Town of Marion, Linn County, Iowa, p.229, line 39, John Coulter household (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

The History of Linn County, Iowa, containing a history of the county, its cities, towns. Chicago: Western Historical Co. 1878: 362

Lothrop, Charles H. *Medical & Surgical Directory of the State of Iowa 1880-1881.* Lyons, IA, 1876-1886.

10. **Lewis I. Coulter** - 1860 to 1868 (son of John P. Coulter)



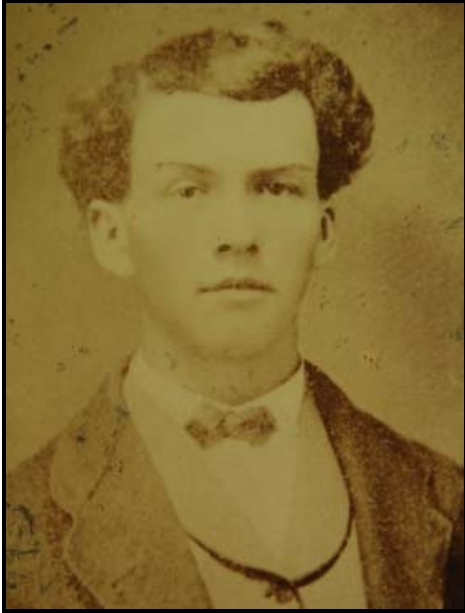
Lewis I. Coulter was born in Ohio in 1836, the son of John P. Coulter and Elizabeth. He married Kate K. Thurston in Des Moines, Iowa on April 26, 1860 and had two children, a son, Edward and daughter, Jessie F. in Des Moines. Lewis Coulter was a clerk in the office of the Iowa Supreme Court and after being appointed Deputy served as the State Librarian from 1860 to 1868. In 1870 Coulter was the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. He moved his family to Chicago, Illinois by 1880 and worked for the American Book Company.

1860 US. Federal Census, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, p.142, line 5, Lewis J. Coulter household (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

1870 US. Federal Census, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, p.179, line 28, Louis I. Coulter household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

1880 US Federal Census, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, ED 123, p.54, Louis I. Coulter household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

11. **John C. Merrill** - 1868 to Sept. 1871 (when he died)



“Johnny” C. Merrill was born around 1850 in Pennsylvania. His father, Samuel Merrill, became Governor of Iowa in 1868 and John C. was appointed State Librarian the same year. He proved to be an energetic and efficient Librarian, introducing the system of card cataloguing, while renumbering, rearranging, and classifying the whole Library. During this period the Library was kept open during all business days. Previously it was only open during sessions of the Legislature and Supreme Court as well as Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. John C. Merrill died Sept. 8th, 1871 in Des Moines, Iowa from typhoid fever. He was buried in Woodland cemetery.

“Illness of the State Librarian.” *Daily Iowa State Register* newspaper. Sept. 6, 1871. p.4.

“The Funeral of the State Librarian.” *Daily Iowa State Register* newspaper. Sept. 12, 1871. p.4

1870 US. Federal Census, Des Moines 6th Ward, Polk County, Iowa, p.265, line 26, John C. Merrel living in household of James Bird, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

Miller, Mrs. Mary H., Librarian. *Historical Sketch of the Iowa State Library*. Des Moines, IA. 1893.

12. **Ada E. North** - 1872 to 1877



Ada E. Miles was born in New York in 1841, the daughter of Rev. Milo N. and Mary Miles. In 1865 she married Major George J. North, Governor Stone's Military Secretary. In 1870 George died, leaving his widow with two small children, Howard and Georgia, to support. North began as a clerk in the Iowa legislature that same year towards the close of the session. A vacancy occurred in the office of State Librarian when John C. Merrill died in Sept. of 1871. Governor Samuel Merrill appointed Mrs. North to that position. She was the first woman to become head of the State Library and "many eyes anxiously watched her administration to see whether a woman would prove competent for the position." North set about to change the image of the librarian by offering sessions on the use of the catalogs, reference works, and other library aids. With her efforts a bill was passed creating a Library Board of Trustees consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Judges of the Supreme Court. After serving as the State Librarian she was appointed Librarian of the State University in Iowa City where she helped organize the Iowa Library Society (now the Iowa Library Association). She died in Des Moines, Iowa on January 9, 1899.

United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Iowa Volume, Chicago: American Biographical Publishing, 1878, (Online: http://iagenweb.org/civilwar/biographies/biographies_n.htm)

"A Study of the Public Library Movement in Iowa." *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. Jan 1937: 64.

Brigham, Johnson. "Mrs. Ada E. North." *Annals of Iowa*. Jan 1905: 624-626.

1860 US Federal Census, Town of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois, p.596, line 18, Milo N. Miles household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

13. Sara “Sadie” B. Maxwell – 1878 to 1888



Sara “Sadie” B. Bushong was born in Columbian County, Ohio, February 12, 1837, the daughter of Jacob and Hannah Bushong. She attended the academies at Bryan and West Unity, Ohio, then taught from 1853 to 1858. Sara married William Maxwell in 1858, and in 1863 they moved to Panora, Iowa. William and Sara had three children: Emmet G., Jessie, and Blanche. In 1876 Sadie wrote a book on the *Centennial History of Guthrie County, Iowa*; containing a short history of Iowa, history and description of Guthrie County, early settlement, incidents, etc. The very next year, on March 24, 1877, William and Emmett were murdered on a business trip in New Mexico. Sara moved to Des Moines and in 1878 Governor Gear appointed her State Librarian to succeed Mrs. Ada North. She served until 1888 and during her administration inaugurated the work of collecting and preserving the files of Iowa newspapers, books by Iowa authors, and material relating to state history. Mrs. Maxwell had charge of the Iowa Columbian Exposition at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. In 1897 Sara was elected Librarian of the Meadville, Pennsylvania Unitarian and Theological School, and held that position until her death. Sara B. Maxwell died October 12, 1904 at the home of her daughter in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania where she was living. It was said that “Many in Iowa recall with affection, this modest unassuming woman who went about among us, doing good.”

“Sara B. Maxwell.” *Quarterly of the Iowa Library Commission*, Oct 1904. 64.

1850 US. Federal Census, Williams County, Ohio, p.20-21, Jacob Bushong household, (Online: Access Genealogy; a free genealogical resource)

1870 US. Federal Census, Cass Township, Guthrie County, Iowa, p.166, line 1, Wm. Maxwell household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

Iowa Register of Marriages Polk County, Iowa. LDS microfilm project, p.289 (marriage of Martin L. Weaver to Jessie Maxwell, Sara’s daughter, April 29, 1886).

Deaths of William and Emmett Maxwell. *Guthrie Vedette* newspaper, Panora, IA Thursday, March 29, 1877 front page and Thursday, April 6, 1877 front page.

14. **Mary H. Miller** - 1888 to 1894



Mary H. MacGinnitie was born in Clarion County, Pennsylvania on July 24, 1842, the daughter of John P. and Marilla B. MacGinnitie. She came with her parents to Eddyville, Iowa in 1862 and taught in the public schools in Eddyville and Ottumwa. In 1867 she was married to Lieutenant Samuel Newell Miller, of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, who died March 27, 1872 leaving her to raise her three-year-old son, Frank. After the death of her husband she taught in the Des Moines public schools until May 1888, when she was appointed by Governor Larrabee to succeed Sara B. Maxwell as State Librarian. It was said that as State Librarian Mrs. Miller was “uniformly courteous and willing to do all in her power to make the use of its facilities as wide and general as possible.” Miller was elected the first President of the Iowa Library Association in 1891, holding the office for two terms. She was “kindly helpful to all who needed aid, and she had the true spirit of selflessness.” Her son, Frank, died May 25, 1896 and she died in Des Moines on March 28, 1904.

“Well Known Woman Dies; Mary M. Miller, Former State Librarian, Passes Away at Age of 63,” *The Register and Leader* newspaper, Des Moines, IA, Tuesday, March 29, 1904, p.2.

“Death of a Former Citizen, Mary H. Miller Passes Away at the Age of Sixty-Three,” *Eddyville Tribune* newspaper, Eddyville, IA, Friday, April 1, 1904, p.8

Hall, Willis L. *Biographical Sketches of the Twenty-fifth General Assembly of Iowa, the State Officers and Iowa Members of Congress*, Des Moines, Rowen Brothers: 1894:18-19.

“Mary M. Miller.” *Quarterly of the Iowa Library Commission*, Oct. 1904: 63.

Mary Miller photograph from Records of the Iowa Library Association, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City, Iowa

15. **Laura C. Creighton** – 1894 to 1896



Laura C. Hudson was born August 1, 1850 in Hazelwood, Missouri, the daughter of Alexander McFarland Hudson and Sarah J. Young. Her father was a lawyer who helped the Union causes in Missouri and was assassinated during the Civil War in 1863. Laura became the first Postmistress at Lebanon, Missouri. In 1868 she married James H. Creighton who was also an attorney and Mayor of Springfield, Missouri. James and Laura had five children: Carl H., Abilena, Harold S., Hugh M., and Edwin J.. The family moved to Indianola, Iowa where Mr. Creighton had a law firm Creighton & Creighton. In 1891 they moved to Des Moines. Mrs. Creighton had been involved with the Woman's Relief Corps and had been a delegate to their national conventions, member of their state executive council, and their department treasurer. She became the State Librarian from 1894 to 1896. During this time, their daughter, Abilena, married Shirley Christy in Des Moines and left for Phoenix, Arizona where Mr. Christy's family were bankers. Laura and James followed and lived with the Christy family from 1900 on. James died in 1912. Laura Creighton moved to Los Angeles, California in 1930 and died at the home of her son, Hugh, on January 28, 1932 at age 81.

Hall, Willis L. *The Iowa Legislature of 1896; containing biographical sketches of the members of the twenty-sixth general assembly of Iowa, the state officers and members of congress*, Des Moines. 1895: 24-25.

*The History of Warren County, Iowa, containing a history of the county, its cities, towns...*Des Moines: Union Historical Company: 1879. 589-590.

1860 US. Federal Census, Town of Lebanon, Laclede County, MO, p.220, line 38, Alexander McF. Hudson household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

1900 US Federal Census, Phoenix 1st Ward, Maricopa County, AZ, p.222, James Creighton household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

“Creighton Rites Arranged Here.” *The Arizona Republic newspaper*. Feb 1, 1932: sec.2, p.6

16. **Lana Hixson Cope – 1896 to 1898**



Sallania “Lana” H. Hixson was born on April 21, 1849 in Greene County, Ohio, one of eight children born to Dr. Oliver F. Hixson and Elizabeth Dawson. The family moved to Marshall County, Iowa by 1856 where her father was a doctor. Sallania married Samuel J. Cope on Feb. 9, 1868. They had two daughters: Jessie Elizabeth and Grace Elgie. Lana was active in temperance work, belonged to the Suffrage Society, Woman’s Relief Corps, and Daughters of the American Revolution. Lana Cope served as State Librarian from 1896 to 1898. The Traveling Library was established while she was Librarian. With her executive abilities, the library was managed with a “high standard of excellence.” Before 1900, Lana moved to Chicago, Illinois, then to Los Angeles, California by 1930 where she died on Jan. 14, 1943.

Ferguson, Anne K. *The Iowa Legislature of 1898; containing biographical sketches and portraits and members of the twenty-seventh general assembly of Iowa, and the state officers, including the judges of the Supreme Court*, Des Moines: Conaway & Shaw. 1897. 22-23.

1850 US. Federal Census, Sugar Creek Township, Greene County, OH, p.106, line 4, Oliver F. Hickson household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

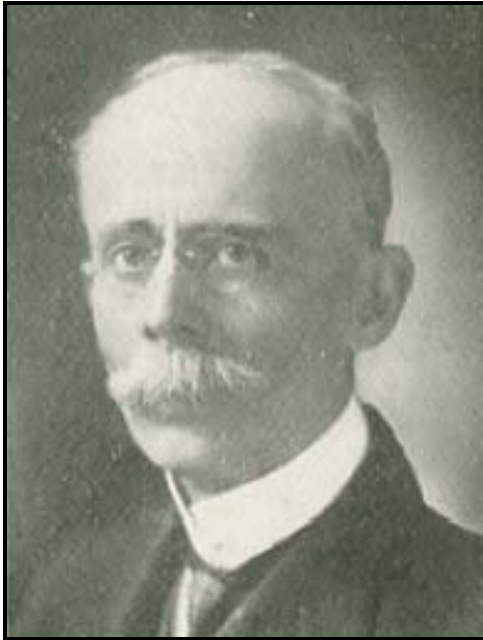
1856 Iowa Census, Town of Marietta, Marshall County, Marietta p.36, Oliver F. Hixon household, (Online: AncestryLib.com)

Marshall County Iowa Early Marriage Records, July 27, 1850 – July 1, 1880, Marshalltown, IA: Iowa Genealogical Society, p.145

1900 US. Federal Census, Chicago 3rd ward, IL, ED 66, sheet 5, Lena H. Cope household, (Online: Heritage Quest, 2008)

Death of Lana Hixson Cope. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. (Online: AncestryLibrary.com)

17. **Johnson Brigham** - 1898 to Oct. 8, 1936 (when he died)



Johnson Brigham was born on March 11, 1846 in Cherry Valley, New York, the son of Phineas Brigham and Eliza Johnson. In 1875 he married Antoinette Gano and they had one daughter, Anna. He began work as a newspaper editor and publisher in New York and later at the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa from 1881-1893. He was a noted Iowa author and historian, and founder and editor of the *Midwest Monthly Literary Magazine*. Johnson Brigham was the first recipient of the Iowa Library Association award for the most outstanding piece of literature written during the past year by an Iowa author. This award was later named the Johnson Brigham Plaque as a memorial to his life and service. Brigham served as State Librarian for 38 years. It was he who wrote a "Pioneer History of the Territorial and State Library of Iowa" in the Oct. 1912 issue of *Annals of Iowa*, one of few sources on this subject. Johnson Brigham died while serving as State Librarian at the age of 90 on Oct. 9, 1936.

Wetteland, Annette, Brochure entitled "Johnson Brigham," State Library of Iowa, 2007

"Johnson Brigham" *Palimpsest*, Aug 1952: 225-253.

18. **John D. Denison** - 1937 to 1938



John D. Denison was born at Clarion, Iowa, September 29, 1872, the son of John D. Denison and Triphena Gorton. John was raised on a farm. He graduated from Clarion High School in 1889, and Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa, in 1893. John was principal of a high school in Kansas for three years and then entered the law department of the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1898. He returned to Clarion to practice law. In 1905 Mr. Denison moved to Dubuque becoming Assistant County Attorney from 1907-1910, then moved to Des Moines, Iowa in 1915 to continue practicing law. Mr. Denison married Maude Lulu Clark in 1900 and had one son, John D. Jr.. Lulu died in Nov. 1916 and John remarried in 1918 to Nannie "Nancy" (McDaniel) Dewey, who had one son, Gordon Dewey. John Denison began his duties as State Librarian on February 15, 1937 serving through 1938.

Drennen, Lester W., ed. "Biographies Elective State Officials." *State of Iowa Official Register 1937-1938*, Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1938.131-132.

Harlan, Edgar R. *A Narrative History of the People of Iowa, with special treatment of their chief enterprises in education, religion, valor...* Chicago, American Historical Society, 1931: 53-54

19. **Blanche A. Smith** – 1939 to 1956



Blanche Annette Smith was born in Monroe, Iowa, on Aug. 26, 1887, the daughter of Otis E. Smith and Annie Slusser. She attended schools in Des Moines, Shenandoah, and Indianola, Iowa, graduating from Simpson College in 1908. Blanche taught at the Indianola High School, was teacher-librarian at Loveland, Colorado high school from 1914 to 1917 and an Assistant in the Fort Des Moines Hospital Library from 1914-1918. She was a Library Assistant at the Omaha Public Library in Nebraska from 1918-1920. Blanche was also an assistant at the Des Moines Public Library, head of the Extension Division in a Washington, DC Public Library, Assistant Librarian at Cleveland College, and Assistant Professor at Wisconsin Library School. She was appointed Executive Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission in 1938 and became the State Librarian in 1939. Blanche A. Smith died in December 1979 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Brown, David K. ed. "State Traveling Library." *State of Iowa Official Register 1939-1940*. Des Moines: State of Iowa. 1940.126-127.

"Smith, Blanche A(nnette)," *Who's Who in the Midwest*. Chicago: A.N. Marquis Company. 1949: 1153.

Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," (Online: Rootsweb.com, 2008) <<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>> for reference to Blanche A. Smith.

"Blanche Smith Dies at Wesley Acres," *Indianola Record Herald* newspaper, Monday, Dec. 10, 1979, p.4

20. **Connie “Ernestine” Grafton** – 1957 to 1970



Ernestine Grafton was born in Hubbard City, Texas on Jan. 17, 1913, the daughter of Louis D. Grafton and Connie Newton. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity University, Waxahachie, Texas in 1933, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma in 1934, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago in 1940. Ernestine was School Librarian in Port Arthur, Texas from 1934-35, Reference Assistant in the Cincinnati Public Library, Ohio from 1936-1941, Tri-County Librarian in North Carolina from 1941-1944, and State Extension Librarian at the Virginia State Library from 1945-1957. Miss Grafton became the first director appointed by the new State Traveling Library Board in July 1957. Ernestine died on August 2, 2000 in New York City.

Needham, Sherman W. ed. "Iowa State Traveling Library." *Iowa Official Register 1957-58*, Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1958.173.

"Grafton, C(onnie) Ernestine." *Who's Who in the Midwest 1963-1964*, 8th ed. Chicago: Marquis Publications Co., 1964: 341.

Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," (Online: Rootsweb.com, 2008) <<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>> for reference to Ernestine Grafton.

21. **J. Maurice Travillian** - 1971 to 1972



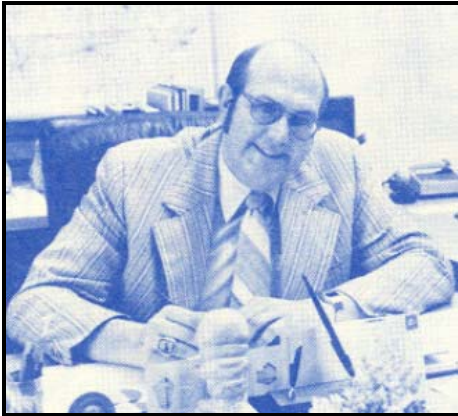
J. Maurice Travillian served as Director of the Marshalltown Public Library from 1964 to 1970 when he became Assistant State Librarian at the State Library. Maurice initiated the first Iowa Governor's Conference on Libraries and formulated a five year plan for library services in Iowa. After leaving in 1972, he became Director of the Wartburg College Library in Waverly, Iowa. In 1995 Mr. Travillian became the State Librarian of Maryland and was later the Assistant State Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education. His wife was also a librarian and they have three children.

"Appointment of J. Maurice Travillian." *Newsletter for the Library Group*. Jan 1970: 2.

"Acting Director and Director of Extension Services Resign." *The Aardvark*, May/June 1972: 2.

"Welcome to the Maryland General Assembly." *The Citizen*, Spring 2007: 5 (State Librarians – Maurice Travillian). <http://www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org/newsletter/adobe/spring07.pdf>

22. **Barry L. Porter** - 1973 to 1982

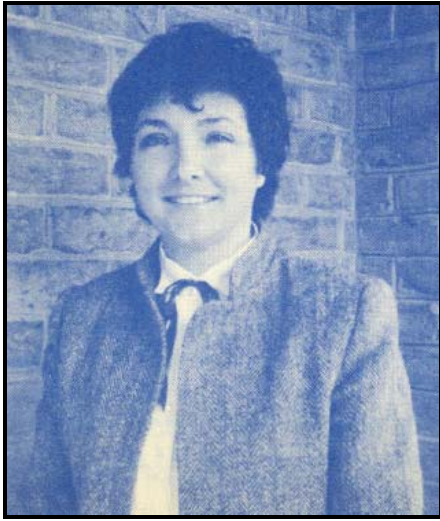


Barry Lavon Porter was born in Cedar City, Utah on Oct. 3, 1942, the son of LaVon Porter and Alta Haycock. Barry received his Bachelor of Science degree from South Utah State College and his Masters in Library Science from Brigham Young University. He married Gayle Willis Sept. 3, 1965 and had five children: Donald, Michelle, Jeffrey, Steven, and Jared. Barry worked as Bookmobile and Reference Librarian for the Utah State Library Commission; was Executive Secretary of the Utah Library Association; trustee for the Center for Research, Rocky Mountain Region; and Chairman of the Western Council of State Librarians. He was the State Librarian of Iowa from January 1973 through 1982. During his nine years as State Librarian, he guided the State Library through a transition from a traveling library that provided book collections to libraries around the state, to an agency that provided statewide programs, consultants, and networking services. Afterward Porter moved to Denver to enter into a partnership with Carl Gaumer's Reference Service covering the area of Washington, Oregon, and California.

"State Librarian Resigns..." *Footnotes*, Oct. 1982: front page

"Porter, Barry Lavon." *Who's Who in the Midwest 1982-1983*, 18th ed. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1982: 552

23. **Claudya B. Muller** – 1983 to 1986

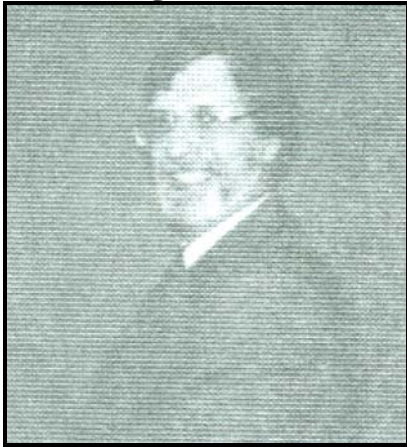


Claudya Burkett was born in Bavaria, Germany on Sept. 14, 1946 while her father was stationed there in the military. Her parents were Ralph Leon Burkett and Elfiede Katherine Hilpert. Claudya came to the United States in 1952 and married William Albert Muller III on Dec 12, 1965. They had one daughter, Martha Genevieve. Claudya received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967 from Georgia Southern College and her Master of Librarianship in 1968 from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She became assistant to the head of circulation at Georgia State University; assistant director at War Woman Regional Library, Georgia; associate director at Ottumwa Heights College Library in Ottumwa, Iowa; bookmobile librarian at Gallia County District Library in Ohio; director at Jackson County Public Library in West Virginia; and Director of Worcester County Library in Snow Hill, Maryland. Muller became the State Librarian of Iowa on April 1, 1983 and served until 1986 when she accepted a position in New York .

“Meet Claudya Muller, State Librarian...” *Footnotes* March 1983: front page

“Muller, Claudya Burkett.” *Who’sWho in the Midwest 1986-1987, 20th ed.* Chicago: Marquis Who’sWho. 1985: 405.

24. **John Montag** – 1986 to 1988



John Joseph Montag II was born in Omaha, Nebraska on Jan. 8, 1948, the son of John Joseph Montag and Ruth Helen Johnston. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and English from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska and his Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Iowa. He taught high school English in Creston, Iowa and Potter, Nebraska. John Montag married Linda Kay Lubanski in 1971 and had two daughters: Nicole Elizabeth and Megan Kristine. Montag became Assistant Professor of Libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He came to Iowa in 1984 and became Director of the Office of Information at the State Library, then Acting Director in February 1986 when Claudya Muller left Iowa to accept a position in New York. Montag accepted the position of State Librarian in October of 1986, serving through 1988. He was the director of the Thomas Library at Wittenburg University, Springfield, Ohio from 1987-1995, and is currently the director of the Nebraska Wesleyan University Library in Omaha. Retired.

“Montag Appointed State Librarian...” *Footnotes* Oct 1986: front page

“Montag, John Joseph II.” *Who’s Who in the Midwest 2002, 28th ed.* New Providence, NJ: Marquis Who’sWho. 2001: 417

25. Shirley George – 1988 to 1991



Shirley H. Hattendorf was born on Dec. 29, 1938 in Elgin, Illinois, the daughter of Edwin William Hattendorf and Nora Wiese. George received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University in Indiana, her Masters in Library Science from the University of Minnesota, and her Masters in Business Administration from the University of Chicago. She married Melvin R. George and had two daughters: Catherine and Elizabeth. George was a reference librarian at Elmhurst, Illinois Public Library, head of the Reference Dept. at Helen M. Plum Memorial Library in Illinois, administrative librarian at Maywood, Illinois Public Library, and assistant state librarian at the State Library of Oregon before becoming Iowa's State Librarian in 1988. During George's four years as State Librarian, the Open Access and Net Lender programs were initiated. The State Library also saw the creation of the State Data Center and added the Patent and Trademark Depository Library. After leaving the State Library, George became director of the Beaverton City Library in Beaverton, Oregon. Retired.

"Shirley George Resigns from State Library." *Footnotes* Nov/Dec 1991: front page

"George, Shirley H." *Who's Who in the Midwest 1990-1991*, 22nd ed. Willmette, IL: Marquis Who'sWho, 1989: 220.

26. **Sharman B. Smith** – 1992 to 2000



Sharman Bridges Smith was born in Lambert, Mississippi. Before coming to Iowa, Smith was director of Library Services at the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson. Other positions she held there included director of Library Operations and manager of Information Services. Smith also served as director of the Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Regional Library in Brookhaven, Mississippi and was head librarian in the Clinton Public Library in Clinton, Mississippi.

Under Sharman's direction, the 88-year-old building housing the State Library underwent a four year historic renovation. The SILO Locator and SILO Interlibrary Loan program were developed during Smith's tenure. Her crowning achievement was the passage of legislation in 1999 which established Direct State Aid for public libraries.

In 2000, Sharman moved back to Mississippi to become Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission. Retired.

"Sharman Smith Named to State Librarian Post." *Footnotes* May 1992, front page

"Smith, Sharman Bridges." *Who's Who in the Midwest 2000-2001*, 27th ed. New Providence, NJ: Marquis Who'sWho. 2000: 558

27. Mary Wegner – 2000 to 2013



Mary Wegner was named State Librarian in 2001, and prior to that served as Assistant State Librarian for one year. Before joining the State Library of Iowa, she worked for more than 20 years as the director of the libraries at Iowa Methodist, Iowa Lutheran and Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. Wegner was president of the Iowa Library Association in 1999. She is a member of the board of trustees of the Bibliographical Center for Research, and is also on the Legislative Committee of COSLA, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. She serves on WebJunction's national E-learning Advisory Committee and the National Advisory Board for Warburg College's Vogel Library.

Wegner began her professional career as a reference librarian at the Waterloo Public Library. She spent one session as a caucus staffer for the Iowa House of Representatives before joining the hospital library. A native Iowan, Wegner has lived in eight Iowa communities. She graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in history, and received her master's degree in library science from the University of Iowa.

State Library initiatives developed under Wegner's tenure include the statewide availability of EbscoHost databases in Iowa school, public and academic libraries; development of Iowa School Library Program Guidelines following passage of legislation which requires Iowa school districts to employ teacher librarians; the PLOW (Putting Libraries on the Web) program which provides Web sites for nearly 300 Iowa public libraries, and helped facilitate the transformation of the state library and library services areas into one entity, Iowa Library Services.

"Wegner Named State Librarian." *Footnotes* Oct./Nov. 2001: front page
"State Librarian's Biography." State Library of Iowa Web site
<<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/about/bio>>

Historical Highlights of the State Library of Iowa

Creation of the State Library of Iowa - 1838

When the territorial government of Iowa was established in 1838, it appropriated \$5,000 for the purchase of a library to be kept at the seat of government for the accommodation of the Governor, Legislative Assembly, judges, secretary, marshal, and attorney of the territory.

Locations of the State Library of Iowa

1838 – 1841, Burlington (Old Zion Church)

1841 – 1849, Iowa City (Butler Capitol)

1849 - 1857, Iowa City (Old Stone Capitol)

1857 - 1884, Des Moines, (Old Brick Capitol)

1884 - 1908, Des Moines, (State Capitol)

1908 – 2008, Des Moines (State Capitol and State Historical Memorial and Art Building (renamed in January 2002 to Ola Babcock Miller Building)

The State Library of the territory of Iowa was first located in Burlington, Iowa, where the territorial government began. Governor Lucas had a room set up temporarily in a frame building on Jefferson Street in Burlington, IA., belonging to Mr. John S. David.

“In the summer of 1849 there was a removal of the library – probably from one part of the old State House to another – the expense, all told, amounting to \$5.00.”

“In 1871, the Library was moved into the vacated Supreme Court room in the Old Brick Capitol [in Des Moines] and was thus given nearly double the floor and shelving space it had before.”

In January 1884, the library was moved to the second floor of the new capitol. “This room is fifty-three feet wide, one hundred and eight feet long and forty-five feet from floor to ceiling; it has four galleries reached by winding stairs at either end of the room, is finished in ash and chestnut and has marble pilasters and wainscoting, and encaustic tile floor; there are twelve rooms, three in each corner; those on the main floor have been fitted up as work rooms, cloak room, private room for the judges, and the librarian’s private office; on the first gallery is an art room, room for law periodicals, one for miscellaneous periodicals, and a newspaper room.”

The State Library moved from the Capitol to the east wing of what is now the Miller Building in March 1908.

A plaque inside the front doors of the Miller Building is a biography of Ola Babcock Miller and a dedication of the new name of the State Historical Memorial and Art Building to the Ola Babcock Miller Building in January 2002.

Catalogues of the State Library of Iowa

The first State Library catalogue was written in 1839. It included law reports, standard works of literature, science, law and maps.

Hours Open

When Iowa was a territory, the State Library was open during the legislative session and Supreme Court sessions from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 9 p.m. The rest of the year the library was only open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

Beginning of the State Library Commission

In 1872, the State Library was taken out of the hands of the Governor and “placed with the judges of the Supreme Court, styling them Commissioners of the State Library.”

Iowa Traveling Library

In 1896, the General Assembly established the Traveling Library of Iowa within the State Library to purchase and loan books to communities where no library existed.

General Library, separate from the Law Library

In 1901, a general library, exclusive of the law section, was reorganized and moved to the east wing of the new State Historical Memorial and Art Building in March 1908. “..the State Librarian shall have general charge of the Historical Department and of the consolidated (general library) and law libraries. The curator of the museum and art gallery shall have charge of the museum, the art gallery, the newspapers and historical periodicals. The assistant to library shall have charge of the law library, under the direction of the state librarian.”

Legislative Reference Bureau

The 1909 legislature “enabled the Librarian to organize a Legislative Reference Bureau in connection with the Law and Document Department.”

Medical Library

The Iowa State Medical Library was established as a unit of the State Library in 1919.

Sources:

Brigham, Johnson. “Pioneer History of the Territorial and State Library of Iowa.” *Annals of Iowa* Oct 1912: 482-538

Miller, Mrs. Mary H., Librarian. *Historical Sketch of the Iowa State Library*. Des Moines, IA. 1893.

32nd Biennial report of the State Librarian to the governor of the State of Iowa. Des Moines: State of Iowa. 1909: 1