

**THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE HISTORICAL  
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA**

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Third Biennial Report of the Historical Department of Iowa by Charles Aldrich

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**CHARLES ALDRICH**

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DEPARTMENT OF IOWA**



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OF THE  
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF IOWA.

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Made to the Trustees of the State Library,

NOVEMBER 1, 1897.

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BY CHARLES ALDRICH,

Curator and Secretary.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA.

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CHARLES ALDRICH, *Curator and Secretary.*



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT, }  
DES MOINES, Iowa, November 1, 1897. }

*To the Honorable Board of Trustees:*

GENTLEMEN—In pursuance of the requirements of section 2875 of the Code of 1897, I have the honor to transmit herewith the third biennial report of the Historical Department.

Very respectfully yours,



*Curator and Secretary.*





## INTRODUCTION.

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The work of the Historical Department has proceeded since the last report on the same lines marked out at its inception in 1892. This introductory note must, therefore, be to some extent a repetition of what has been set forth heretofore. Accessions have continued in the following directions:

*First.*—Works containing the data of state history, as files of Iowa newspapers and magazines, early territorial and state laws and documents, works of state and western history and biography, county histories, the publications of our religious bodies and educational institutions, and miscellaneous pamphlets.

*Second.*—Publications of neighboring states on similar lines, so far as it has been practicable to secure them in the way of exchange.

*Third.*—Official, state, national and general publications relating to the slavery question and the war for the Union.

*Fourth.*—Works relating to the Indian tribes of North America, but more especially to those in the valleys of the Mississippi and its tributaries.

*Fifth.*—The publications of the United States census bureau from the foundation of the government, almanacs and other statistical works.

*Sixth.*—Works of American history and biography.

*Seventh.*—Museum materials.

*Eighth.*—Manuscripts, autograph letters and portraits—an extension of "The Aldrich Collection," the original gift upon which the Historical Department was founded.

### IOWA NEWSPAPERS.

Without doubt the constantly increasing files of Iowa newspapers are the most valuable feature of this work. They not

only present the amplest record of passing events—which in time becomes history—but many of our enterprising journalists are systematically gathering up and publishing facts, details and narratives relating to the early history of their localities. This work has received a great impetus during the past two years, and the materials thus saved for historical purposes cannot but possess the highest value. They can be gleaned from no other sources. Embarrassment has arisen from the fact that this work was commenced at so recent a date that but few of our early newspapers could be readily secured. To some extent this is being obviated by the fact that the Department is occasionally obtaining gifts of files or volumes of public journals dating from our pioneer days. It is confidently believed that in this direction we shall receive many accessions hereafter, as more and more of these publications now hidden away come to light. I am not without hope that the state will yet become the owner of newspaper files running back to the beginning, though they will necessarily be made up of scattered materials. It is not probable that continuous files are anywhere in existence. The recent gift of thirty volumes of Iowa newspapers, dating from 1838 to 1864, by Hon. Theodore S. Parvin, is an instance in point, and a welcome and most valuable addition to the resources of the Department, while several single volumes have been acquired from other parties. These sources of information are deemed so important that a full list of our newspaper files is presented in the following pages. It is a rule of the Department promptly to render all practicable assistance to journalists throughout the state in supplying information from our newspaper files for publication in their columns.

#### EXCHANGES.

The Department is now profiting largely by exchanging its publications for those of the historical organizations of other states, especially in the west. The publications thus acquired not only for the most part possess great historical value, but they are published in limited editions and must be obtained at once, for the opportunity of acquiring them rarely comes a second time. Applications in a few instances have been made to the Department by western historical societies for such of the official publications of the state as are on hand for distribution. These requests, by permission of the secretary of state, have been honored, with the result that the Department has thereby been able to secure like favors in return.