

## What's in a Name

**#5 Turner Alley #401**  
Chartered July 28, 1969  
Cedar Rapids

#5 Turner Alley is perhaps the most widely recognized address in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is the site of a garage loft, which served as home and studio for Grant Wood during the time when the painter created his most famous works. "American Gothic" which brought immediate fame to Wood in 1930, and "Daughters of the Revolution," both fine examples of Wood's sensitive use of satire, were painted at #5 Turner Alley. In fact, the ten years he lived there were the painter's most productive. Best known as a regionalist painter, Wood portrayed Midwestern rural life in many of his works. However, time, energy and inventiveness he expended in making a home at #5 Turner Alley prove that Wood could create in a great variety of media.

Wood created a Spanish style home for himself and his widowed mother along with a workshop/studio for himself at #5 Turner Alley. Aided by some of his art students, Wood grooved, sanded, painted and lacquered the floorboards to represent tile. Wood himself hewed the beams and rough-plastered the walls, did the wrought iron work even to forging the iron, designed and made the time-table front door, and invented, perhaps the only fireplace made from a metal bushel basket turned upside down and used as a cowl.

The sunken bathtub at #5 Turner Alley was a compromise. Grant Wood wanted a shower, his mother wanted a tub. Therefore, Wood devised a clever system for both. The previously mentioned time-table front door was painted by Wood to let a visitor know if Wood was "in", "having a party", "taking a bath", "out of town", and so on. The many niches in the walls at #5 Turner Alley were decorated with lovely souvenirs Wood collected during his European trips, but most of the décor was his own: some things illustrating his ability as a carpenter, some his skill at interior decorating, others his gift for utilizing space, and still others illustrating Wood's artistry in painting lithography, designing, and wood working. Everything about #5 Turner Alley from 1925-35 speaks of a man not only gifted in expressing himself in all media of the arts, but a man blessed with insight into his fellow man. His love of people led Wood to seek companionship often. There were many informal gatherings at #5 Turner Alley and since Wood and his mother were poor, the guests brought their own refreshments. Much planning for Cedar Rapids artwork was done in these rooms. Turner Alley was to become a "Greenwich Village of the Corn Belt;" the spacious barns were used for art galleries and plays were staged in Wood's studio. Wood had designed the studio so that beds and painting supplies could be rolled under the alcoves when not in use. One of the many community activities Wood and "the #5 Turner Alley Group" instigated was the first Beaux Arts Ball. It's interesting to note that this event still continues today, since Wood's group planned it in 1931, and the format for the party remains the same as it was originally. Also while living at #5 Turner Alley, Wood organized a "garlic club" which met each noon. Wood was considered a marvelous cook and used some European techniques he had learned during his travels.

Today #5 Turner Alley is the property of Mr. John B. Turner, grandson of the John B. Turner who first befriended, housed and sponsored Grant Wood in the 1920's. Mr. Turner presented a Grant Wood collection to the Cedar Rapids Art Center in 1973. Besides some of Wood's finest artistic works, it includes many reminders of Grant Wood's life at #5 Turner Alley.

### **ABBE CREEK #1084**

Chartered March 6, 1985

Cedar Rapids

Abbe Creek and the surrounding area had a unique and significant part in the history of Linn County. William Abbe, said to be the first white settler in Linn County, came to the area in the summer of 1836. He staked his claim on 400 creekside acres before returning to Ohio for his family. In the winter of 1837 he returned and immediately built a floorless cabin, 12 feet by 14 feet. Later that fall, he built a large double log house with three rooms and an upstairs loft. By hunting and trading with the Indians he kept food on the table. He liked Indians and learned the Winnebago dialect, and later acted as an interpreter for white settlers and trappers. His wife Olive died two years after she arrived in the area. Abbe married Mary Walcott in 1840. The Iowa Territorial Commissioners met at the Abbe cabin in March 1839 to select Marion as the Linn County seat. On December 1, 1845 Abbe deposited a .504 fee at the General Land Office in Dubuque for "160 acres south of Abbe Creek." Iowa became a state in 1846. Abbe served as a state senator representing Cedar, Linn and Jones counties in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> legislatures in Iowa City, then the capital of Iowa. He also served as a justice of the peace and sheriff. Abbe left his family for the gold fields of California when gold was discovered. He returned to Iowa in 1851 but left again with his son the next year. In 1854 he died in the west at age 54.

In 1844 a school was built on the northwest side of the Abbe claim. First a log structure meeting house and a church. It faced north until the Lincoln Highway was constructed, then it was turned to face the highway. The Lincoln Highway was the first paved road to cross America from coast to coast. In 1964 the old school was opened as the Abbe Creek School museum.

### **ABBIE GARDNER #332**

Chartered May 11, 1968

Des Moines

Abbie Gardner's father built the Abbie Gardner Sharp cabin in 1856 near Spirit Lake. In March 1857 a band of Indians killed several members of the Gardner family and captured 14-year-old Abbie. This was the site of the Spirit Lake Massacre. In 1891 Mrs. Abbie Gardner Sharp purchased the cabin and lived there and in an adjacent cabin until her death in 1921. Mrs. Sharp operated the cabin as a tourist attraction where she sold her book History of the Spirit Lake Massacre and the Captivity of Miss Abbie Gardner, the story about the 1857 killings. From 1921 until the 1940's, her grandson lived in the cabin or a nearby building.

The cabin was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April 1973. Reconstruction and restoration began in January 1974. No one knows exactly what the original cabin looked like. No known photos or drawings exist. With the help of Abbie's book and other pieces of information, the cabin was historically reconstructed.

The Gardner Cabin is located on Pillsbury Point in the town of Arnolds Park, Iowa. The 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Iowa dedicated a Spirit Lake Massacre Monument as a memorial to the 40 victims of the massacre.

### **ANNIE WITTENMYER #737**

Chartered February 20, 1975

Davenport

Our chapter is named after Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer who was a pioneer in our area and gained much respect for her humanitarian efforts.

Annie Turner was born in Sandy Springs, Ohio in 1827. In 1847, Annie married William Wittenmyer, a wealthy merchant, and in 1850, they moved to Keokuk, Iowa. There Annie became appalled at the number of children she saw playing in the streets because their parents were unable to pay school tuition. Before long, she converted a room of her home into a classroom for these children and hired a teacher. This room was soon outgrown and accommodations were found for the children in an empty warehouse. Mrs. Wittenmyer was concerned that many of the children came from "unchurched families" so soon this same building housed a Sunday school. Eventually, this group grew into one of the most historic churches in Keokuk, the Chatham Square Methodist-Episcopal Church. In her spare time, Annie wrote several hymns which were used in the church services. Some of these are still sung today.

When the Civil War erupted, Mrs. Wittenmyer immediately responded and organized the Soldiers' Aid Society of Keokuk. The ladies worked tirelessly in the local hospitals which were filled with soldiers needing care, food and clothing.

In September 1862, the Iowa General Assembly formed two posts of sanitary agents for the state and specified that Annie was to be one of those agents. One of her greatest contributions was her installation of special diet kitchens in the army hospitals. During the war, Annie Wittenmyer was asked by many dying soldiers from Iowa's regiments to look after their children. In October 1863, she proposed that a soldiers' orphan home be started and the first one was opened near Farmington in July 1864. The largest was located in Davenport on 30 acres of government land in new barracks. Even 100 years later, the institution was known as the "Annie Wittenmyer Home". In the 1980's the orphanage closed its doors. Soon after the war, Annie moved to her son Charles' home in Sanatoga, Pennsylvania. There she busied herself with church and temperance work, wrote several books and fought for the Army Nurse Pension law which was finally passed in 1892. On February 2, 1900, Annie died.

### **ANTIQUER'S #284**

Chartered April 24, 1967

Burlington

Many organizations in Burlington have used names that are representative of our region. Not wanting to fall into such round-shouldered-with-use names, we decided to call ourselves the Antiquer's. We are liberally endowed with a genuine love and interest to preserve things of the past.

### **BEED'S MILL #639**

Chartered May 12, 1973

Hampton

A. K. Hansberry built Franklin County's historic old mill in 1857. He first built a saw mill and utilized it to saw out the oak lumber used in the construction of the mill. A dam was built and a millrace was dug. In 1858 the stonework was done but the building and fixtures were not completed until 1859.

The original building was small being but two stories in height and sloping down to one story on the east side. The Hansberry family lived in the lower story and the flour sifted down into a room adjoining the living quarters.

In 1864, the mill and 134 acres of land were sold to William Beed for \$6,500. Improvements were made and the building over the years, expanded to four times the original size and several stories higher. The mill was always an important factor in the growth and development of Hampton and Franklin County.

### **BLOOMER GIRLS #823**

Chartered August 28, 1976

Cedar Rapids

Amelia Bloomer lived in Iowa for the last 39 years of her life. In 1855, Amelia and her husband Dexter became pioneers in the new western settlement of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Being one of the country's foremost lecturers on women's rights, she continued to work for the women's cause in the west. She also was a leader in the temperance and anti-slavery movements.

She is perhaps best known for her original fashion costume. The "Bloomer Style" provided much needed publicity for women's rights while the cause was gaining popularity. One of Amelia's ambitions which was never realized in her lifetime, was to see women given the right to vote in her home state of Iowa.

Amelia Bloomer gave to women of our state and nation a special gift of having more value than the clothing style for which she is most often remembered. This gift was to strengthen the self-esteem of women.

A monument honoring Amelia Bloomer is located in Council Bluffs.

## **BONNIFIELD #1012**

Chartered May 1, 1982

Fairfield

Bonnifield chapter took its name from the Bonnifield Log House built by Rhodam Bonnifield for his family in 1838. The house was first located about eight miles east of Fairfield. In 1908, the house was moved by the Old Settlers Association to a 10-acre tract of land owned by the Old Settlers Association, located on the edge of the city of Fairfield. This log house is possibly the oldest dwelling still standing in Iowa. It is built of logs hand-hewn by the first settlers of Jefferson County, Iowa.

## **BUENA VISTA #753**

Chartered May 27, 1975

Storm Lake

We chose Buena Vista for our chapter name for several reasons. The county has a rich and colorful history. It was not until 1851 that the last of the Sioux Indians agreed to sell their land in northern Iowa to the government. So for a long time, part of Buena Vista County was Indian Territory. Buena Vista, which means "beautiful view" or "good view", was named to commemorate a battlefield in the Mexican War.

In March 1875, the infamous Spirit Lake Massacre occurred.

Chief Inkpudutah terrorized people and destroyed property in Buena Vista County. A few days later, news traveled down the river concerning killings. Abner Bell, our first permanent white settler, made his way across the prairie to Fort Dodge to notify the people there. A log cabin where he made his home is maintained in Storm Lake.

## **CALENDAR GIRLS #1254**

Chartered May 25, 1994

Red Oak

Red Oak, in the southwest corner of Iowa, is the home of the Calendar Girls chapter of the Iowa Questers. Red Oak was also the birthplace of the art calendar industry in 1889. The calendars were reproduced from original oil and pastel paintings by Thomas Moran, Charles Russell, Maxfield Parrish, R. A. Fox, Arthur Elsley, James Dobson and many other artists.

In the next 100 years, calendar art became a permanent part of the American scene. Girls portrayed on the art calendars depicted the trends of the era in family life, dress styles and sports. An historical exhibit of 100 years of calendar art from the T. D. Murphy Company has been assembled and is on permanent display in Red Oak, reflecting a history of our life and times. This exhibit has also toured the United States.

## **CAMEO BELLES #377**

Chartered April 14, 1969

Dallas Center

The Cameo Belles were originally named the Centennial Bells because of being founded on the centennial of the founding of Dallas Center. Later the name was changed to the Cameo Belles.

Cameos are an ancient art form that has been extinct for about 2500 years. The Victorian artifacts are usually jewelry pieces, such as pins, earrings, necklaces and rings. They have been carved from various materials such as shell, ivory, coral and other hard material and are made in bas relief meaning the design is raised above the background.

Victorians loved cameos and had them set in vermeil, which has a base of sterling silver covered or plated in gold. Subjects for the cameos were such things as profiles of ladies and warriors, as well as allegorical figures, flowers and landscapes.

One of the signs of an excellent quality cameo is the thinness of it, which when held up to the light, allows the figurative bas relief to be highlighted. As with any antique, much of the value of the cameo can be attributed to the provenance.

## **CAPTAIN GREELEY #871**

Chartered December 9, 1977

Ames

Captain Wallace M. Greeley was born March 15, 1840, on a farm on the south side of Lake Ontario in New York. In 1862, he joined the Union army as a private and rose to the rank of Captain. He wore this title honorably for the rest of his days. Captain Greeley came to Iowa in 1866 and located on a farm south of Ames. A year later he returned to New York where he was married. After the Civil War, Captain Greeley

started farming. Soon he moved into town and taught school. Later several men, along with Captain Greeley, opened a bank and he was named president.

In 1881, Captain Greeley purchased the first house in Ames proper built by Noah Webster in 1865. On this location, Greeley constructed the three-story brick house. Today, this is the Adams Funeral Home. This house was one of the most elaborate of its day and housed the first piano in Ames.

In 1887, Captain Greeley was elected mayor of the city of Ames. He was re-elected and served two more terms. Later he served Story County as representative to the State General Assembly for three terms. Captain Greeley was ranked as a millionaire and a true philanthropist. Together with this wife, they gave the city of Ames the site for the present library. Another contribution to the city of Ames was money to build a Chautauqua auditorium. On July 23, 1915, Captain Greeley announced that he would build a hospital for the city to be known as the Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital in memory of his late wife. On February 15, 1917, Captain Greeley passed away. At the time of his death, he had just completed a two-story building at the corner of Douglas and Fifth.

Our chapter chose the name Captain Greeley because of the great contributions he made to the city of Ames during his lifetime.

### **CHAUTAUQUA CIRCUIT #889**

Chartered July 29, 1978

Mason City

A Sunday School Teachers' Assembly held at Fair Point, New York in 1874 was the beginning of the Chautauqua movement in the United States. In 1877, the name of the post office was changed to Chautauqua and every outdoor summer assembly that so rapidly developed throughout the country was called Chautauqua. The Chautauqua idea grew until it stood for judicious amusement and wholesale entertainment.

The spirit of the original Chautauqua was spread to hundreds of small towns villages, one of which was Clear Lake, Iowa. In 1876, a Chautauqua Assembly was organized at Clear Lake, two years after the establishment of the Chautauqua at Fair Point, New York. It became a mecca of religious and popular instruction, a favorite spot for out-of-door recreation and pastimes, and a meeting place for kindred spirits from a wide territory. This assembly flourished for a period of ten years and then dropped out of existence. The Clear Lake Chautauqua of later years was an outgrowth of old camp meetings. An octagonal-shaped tabernacle was built in 1876 with a seating capacity of more than 1,000. People living within 20 miles drove to and from the meetings with a horse and buggy. People traveling greater distances came by train. An electric streetcar connected Mason City and Clear Lake which were seven miles apart. Camp meetings usually extended from 10 to 14 days. By 1902, Clear Lake Park had become historic because some of the noted preachers in America spoke there. The Clear Lake camp meetings originally were strictly Methodist but soon drew attendance from other denominations. During the years from 1906 to 1910, the camp meetings went by the names of The Clear Lake Chautauqua Assembly, the Clear Lake Chautauqua and the Clear Lake Chautauqua Association.

In 1911, for the first time, there was not enough support for the Chautauqua to open. Another attempt to reestablish the Chautauqua was made in 1913. The final Clear Lake Chautauqua was held in 1914. The Clear Lake Chautauqua always maintained high ideals by the presentation of enabling programs. The public spirited citizens of the area reluctantly yielded to the inevitable. They realized that the new economic and social forces which were taking hold could not be overcome. The Clear Lake Chautauqua ceased its existence while still maintaining high standards. By 1932, the Circuit Chautauquas had folded their tents for the last time.

**CHER CHER '68 #326**

Chartered April 26, 1968

Des Moines

Our chapter name is "Cher Cher '68." It is a French word that means To Seek, To Try to Find, Search, and '68 is the year that the chapter was organized.

**CHICAUQUA #1067**

Chartered April 27, 1984

Mount Pleasant

As the newest Quester group in Mount Pleasant, Chicauqua was chosen as the name in honor of the Chicauqua (Skunk River) which runs through Henry County. As early as 1806, Meriwether Lewis mapped the Skunk, calling it by its alternate name "Pole Cat Creek." In 1808 Beltrami referred to it as Polecat and "Stinking Beast." Then in 1836 Albert Lee, a government map maker, reported "North of Burlington, we passed near head of Skunk River - given to me in Sac Tongue as Chicauqua, this is a modification of Pottawatamie's "Chicago" (interpreted to mean "something powerful" which is less repulsive than Pole Cat or Skunk)."

Further research points to the name of a Sac Indian Che-Kaw-Que (Skunk) who had signed a treaty at Agency, Iowa in 1842. The headwaters of the Skunk River were once noted for vast quantities of wild onions growing nearby. Chief Wapello died near the site of the Skunk River Bridge in Keokuk County. The variation in definitions is an interesting note to Questers who often find conflicting spellings and definitions of early Native American names due to the white man's translation of a language which had no written alphabet.

**CHIEF KISH-KE-KOSH #683**

Chartered April 1, 1974

Oskaloosa

Chief Kish-Ke-Kosh was a popular Indian chief of the Fox Tribe who presided over approximately 251 Indians living on the bank of the Skunk River in White Oak Township of Mahaska County from 1837 to 1841.

He lived in White Oak township, Section 18, on what is now the Oscar McCurdy farm overlooking the Skunk River. Near the village were found shallow graves of Indians. The Indian mound near the village site can be seen today. Many evidences of the Indian village such as arrowheads and beads were found here when the white settlers moved into the bark huts left vacant by the Indians.

The name Kish-Ke-Kosh signified "the man with one leg but this was not descriptive of the person for he was not deficient in that respect. He was tall and straight as an arrow, had a fine intellectual head, and an eye that delighted in humor. His family consisted of his wife and three children. The mother of Kish-Ke-Kosh was also living and claimed to be 100 years old. The white people sometimes called him *George Washington Kish-Ke-Kosh*. He usually sported an ebony cane with a large brass head which he twirled in his fingers in a most elegant style. When sitting, he would rest his chin and lips on the cane like a "fine old English gentleman."

In 1837, General J. M. Street, who was the Indian agent at Agency City, conducted a party of Sac and Fox Indians to Washington, DC. The party included Keokuk, Black Hawk, Poweshiek, Kish-Ke-Kosh and 15 other chiefs of the Sac and Fox tribes. On all occasions, Kish-Ke-Kosh won popular favor with his witticisms, especially among the ladies. After Kish-Ke-Kosh returned from the east, he made a hard effort to inaugurate some reforms among his people. He taught his warriors that it was wrong for them not to assist their wives in the drudgery of the camp and raising the corn crop. Although he set a good example by helping his wife in her toil, his advice and example had little effect on his people. A short time after the Treaty of 1842, this group of Indians moved westward and occupied several different encampments on the Skunk River in Jasper County, on the Des Moines River in Marion County, and in the vicinity of Fort Des Moines. Here they remained until 1845 when they were conveyed in government wagons to their reservation ten miles southwest of Kansas City. At one time, the General Assembly of Iowa sought to honor the memory of Kish-Ke-Kosh by giving his name to one of the counties in the state of Iowa, but for some reason the name was changed to Monroe County.

### **CHIEF MAHASKA #505**

Chartered May 12, 1971

Oskaloosa

Ioway is probably the most important Indian tribe in the history of our county and town. The name of their greatest chief, Mahaska I (1784-1834) has been given to our county. This and other land in the Des Moines River Valley comprised a great portion of the powerful Ioway's tribal territories. Mahaska was always concerned for the needs of his people. He helped them in learning agriculture and peaceful ways. In 1824, Chief Mahaska and his wife, Rantchewaime, traveled to Washington, DC, to visit with President Monroe. Mahaska was given a medal and received acclaim by the president for his leadership.

When Mahaska was approximately 50 years old, some of his braves went to war against another tribe. Mahaska wanted them to let the government settle their disagreement. When they persisted in fighting,

he turned them over to federal authorities. Angry with Mahaska for their arrest, they vowed revenge. When two escaped from prison in Kansas, they returned to the tribe and killed their chief in 1834.

A group of Mahaska's braves carried their murdered chief to a spot where he always enjoyed hunting and fishing near the mouth of the Des Moines River about one mile east of the mouth of the Raccoon River. It now lies within the city limits of Des Moines.

In 1880, a group of men digging gravel pits for the Burlington and Quincy Railroad unearthed the tomb of Chief Mahaska. The dress, trinkets, war paint and medal bearing the name and inscription of President Monroe made it seem authentic. Chief Mahaska II, his 24-year-old son, rose as the new chief of his tribe. He promised to continue in the ways he been taught by his father. The tribe continued to be friends of the white settlers.

In 1838 his tribe was the first to sign a treaty with the federal government for the sale of land. By 1842, another purchase called "The New Purchase" negotiated further sale. It called for all the Indians to be relocated by 1845, thus opening this land for white settlement. This relocation was to land across the Missouri River or on reservations in Kansas. From that time on, little was heard of the once powerful nation of Ioways.

While memories of the tribe of Indians known as the Ioways may have dimmed with years, this is not so with their brave and loyal Chief Mahaska. He is remembered because our county is named after him. A statue of stone and bronze was dedicated on May 12, 1909, and stands in the city part. The following inscription may be found on the four bronze plates which circle the base:

WEST Mahaska

SOUTH: Mahaska for whom Mahaska County was named was a chief of the Ioway tribe of Indians. He lived at peace with the white man and was slain by an Indian in 1834 at the age of 50 years in what is now Cass County, Iowa

EAST: Present to the city of Oskaloosa by James DePaw Edmundson in memory of his father William Edmundson who settled in Iowa in 1836 and was sheriff under appointment by the Territorial Legislature which had charge of organizing Mahaska County on May 13, 1844.

NORTH: The Ioways, a powerful tribe of Indians for which the State of Iowa is named, and who inhabited the southeast portion of the territory which now constitutes the State of Iowa, and within whose boundaries is the county of Mahaska.

### **CHILCOTE #1092**

Chartered August 22, 1985

Washington

Built in 1875, the three-story brick house was the home of Dr. Alexander Chilcote and his wife Jane. As a widow, Jane A. Chilcote willed the home to the City of Washington, Iowa for its first public library when she died in 1901. It served this purpose for fifty years from 1902-1954.

It had been Mrs. Chilcote's habit for many years to write, not for publication, but to satisfy a yearning for expression: diaries, journals, essays, meditations, nature rhapsodies, religious musings and a little

book "The Morning Will Dawn" for private circulation. She bought many books and also gave away many books. Mrs. Chilcote so loved books that she became interested in creating a free public library. It pleased her to think the character of her house would change from domestic to public use where books would be its household goods. There all people, old and young, rich and poor, could come to read and study for years to come.

When Mrs. Chilcote willed her home, it was the first public benefaction made to Washington. Extensive remodeling was done to make the house a functional library and on October 23, 1901, the press proclaimed, "Books would be moved and everyone was welcome to bring books from home to add to new shelves." By 1952, the Chilcote house was in a state of disrepair and the library was outgrowing the house. The board decided to build a new library on the site of the Chilcote house.

### **CIRCA '64 #234**

Chartered December 10, 1965

Des Moines

In the fall of 1964, several women met in the home of Mrs. Gwen Znerold for the first of a series of antique classes. At the end of a very enjoyable and informative ten-week session, these ladies realized they wanted to continue meeting and studying this wonderful world of antiques. For several months, they met in their homes and continued their study.

Later they decided to join the National Quilter Organization. This called for the selection of a name for the group. After some discussion, "Circa '64", a name submitted by Mrs. Ruby Cherry, was chosen. "Circa" was one of the first words learned regarding antiques and '64 stood for the year in which the group began classes.

### **CITY OF HILLS #1329**

Chartered August 17, 1998

Burlington

Just as the city of Rome, Italy is built on several hills, Burlington, Iowa is a "city of hills" and finds its Tiber in the Mississippi. The noble river bounds it on the east. The towering bluffs which command the northern and southern approaches to the city, give to the site a picturesque charm.

Burlington is situated upon not one but several hills, and it is true that the town grew up on hills surrounding a basin. Gradually as population increased, the hills - North, South and West Hills - became the residential centers.

St. Matthew wrote that a city set upon a hill cannot be hidden. He also wrote, when speaking of the cities on hills, that they were "the light of the world." Many residents share that view.

## **DAISY AND BUTTON #637**

Chartered May 10, 1973

Des Moines

Chapter #637 selected the name "Daisy and Button" from one of several names put to a vote by its members. The name is catchy as well as very significant in the study of old pressed glass. Our chapter members are mostly women and have come to Iowa from out of state. All our members have expressed the desire to own a piece of old Daisy and Button and will "quest" to that end. This is all the more exciting as nearly all our members are new to the field of antiques. If we should lose some of our members through transfer to another location, they will still be searching for a piece of Daisy and Button.

## **DAY SPRING #1454**

Chartered August 2006

Decorah

Decorah is called the City of Springs because there are many natural springs in the area. Day Spring is a very historic site in Decorah, for it marks the exact spot where the William Day family of nine built their home. Arriving in Decorah on June 10, 1849, the Days were the first family to settle here after traveling for a year in their covered wagon from Virginia. The spring had been a Winnebago Indian campground and the Days built their 16 x 16-foot cabin just above the spring. Before winter they added an additional 20 x 25-foot structure, which became a place for travelers to stay. This first building and addition was known as the Winneshiek House. The town's first store which began in 1851 was associated with this place; its small inventory was in the Days' smokehouse. In 1905, the original structures were torn down and replaced by the grand Winneshiek Hotel. In 2000, the Hotel Winneshiek, a totally-renovated structure patterned on the 1905 hotel, opened for business. Today an historic marker, dedicated in Decorah's centennial year 1949, commemorates the site of the Days' first home. This historic spot is located behind the John Cline Elementary School.

## **DEXFIELD #604**

Chartered April 1, 1973

Redfield

New Ireland in southwest Dallas County, Iowa was laid out and planned by Patrick, Thomas and Michael Cavanaugh in 1853. In 1860, the name was changed to Redfield in honor of James Redfield who owned the land and led the 39<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers in the Civil War. Lieutenant Colonel Redfield was wounded at the Battle of Perkins Crossroads and later killed at the battle of Altoona, Georgia in 1864. Redfield was strategically located at the fork of the South and Middle Raccoon Rivers and on the Milwaukee Railroad, making it an important trade route in the early days. Dexter, located in the far southwest corner of Dallas County, Iowa, was surveyed and platted in June 1868 by M. J. Marshall and A. Kimball. Dexter was located 7 miles southwest of Redfield on the White Pole Road, now known as Highway 6. It was originally

known as Marshalltown, but learning that another town in the state had that name, it was changed to Dexter in honor of the famous racehorse by that name.

Dexfield Park was a recreational area located on the south shore of the South Raccoon River between the towns of Dexter and Redfield. It was the focal point for entertainment including a swimming pool, baseball games, skating rink, dance hall, picnic area, concessions, carnival rides and band concerts. It was also the scene of the bloody battle between the Barrow Gang and area law officers in July 1933. Bonnie and Clyde terrorized a local family and stole their car to make their getaway. Stories are still told of the capture of Buck, Clyde's brother, and his wife Blanche. The name Dexfield is still associated with the area. The combined schools are known as "Dexfield Community Schools. When the Dexfield Quester Chapter was organized, members resided in both towns of Dexter and Redfield.

### **DRAGOON #426**

Chartered April 1, 1970

Fort Dodge

Dragoon - What's in a name? With the expansion of settlement beyond the Mississippi and the Indian-Settler conflicts a new kind of soldier was needed to protect the settlers. Established by the 1833 Congress, Dragoons were soldiers that both rode horses and fought hand-to-hand. Unlike the cavalry who were trained in horse combat, the Dragoon was trained to ride the horse to the site and fight on foot. They were patterned after a regiment of soldiers under Napoleon's command.

The Dragoon was equipped with a saber, two pistols and a musket carving. They were trained in St. Louis at the Jefferson Barracks. In order to be a Dragoon one had to be male, ages 20-35, stand at least 5 feet tall and weigh no more than 150 pounds. The personal size was to protect the horse. There were 71 men in each company. The companies were all assigned different colored horses to allow the Dragoon to find his company after or during battle.

The Dragoon uniform was formal in order to impress the Indians. It was made of dark blue wool with a jacket trimmed in gold fringe with sky blue trousers. The cap had a welt in the top and was round in shape. A chinstrap was used to keep the hat on during riding. A neckerchief was worn tied around the neck and used to cover the mouth when needed to protect from dirt or snow. Leather leggings were worn over the trousers to protect them. The wide belt was used to assist with back support and to hold weapons. The back of the belt held bullets for the pistols.

In 1835 the Fort Dodge Dragoons were sent to explore the northern and western parts of Iowa to determine where posts might be needed. A post was built on Lizard Creek near Fort Dodge in 1850 and was issued ten Dragoons and infantry.

1833 Congress, Dragoons were soldiers that both rode horses and fought hand-to-hand. Unlike the cavalry who were trained in horse combat, the Dragoon was trained to ride the horse to the site and fight on foot. They were patterned after a regiment of soldiers under Napoleon's command.

The Dragoon was equipped with a saber, two pistols and a musket carving. They were trained in St. Louis at the Jefferson Barracks. In order to be a Dragoon one had to be male, ages 20-35, stand at least 5 feet tall and weigh no more than 150 pounds. The personal size was to protect the horse. There were 71 men in each company. The companies were all assigned different colored horses to allow the Dragoon to find his company after or during battle.

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### **DUCK CREEK #570**

Chartered August 24, 1972

Bettendorf

Duck Creek rises in Blue Grass ten miles west of Davenport, passes east through the entire length of Davenport and on through Bettendorf, emptying into the Mississippi River at the southwest part of Pleasant valley, five miles above the city of Davenport. Its course being upstream parallel with the Mississippi and only 1-2 miles distance from it. Duck Creek afforded an ample supply of water for livestock when farms dotted its banks, being fed by numerous springs along its course. The Indians called it Si-ka-ma-que Sepo, or Garcreek.

At Devil's Glen Park in Bettendorf, the creek affords one of the most relaxing atmospheres available anywhere. It is bordered on one side by a grassy lawn and on the other by a natural rock cliff stretching almost 100 feet in height.

Duck Creek figures prominently in the records of the area. The first bushel of wheat purchased and shipped out of Scott County was raised near the mouth of the Duck Creek in 1839 and sold for 45 cents. This was the beginning of the produce business in the area. The first sawmill in the county was erected near the mouth of Duck Creek in the town of Buffalo in 1836. This was the first town in the county. It was from this mill in 1843 that the oak was hewed or sawed to build the second school house erected in Davenport.

Captain Roberts Headquarters of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was established in July 1863 on Duck Creek near Oakdale. Later it was called Camp Kinsman and the buildings were turned over to the Orphans and Soldiers Home in Davenport.

## **ELDRIDGE JUNCTION #1393**

Chartered May 21, 2002

Eldridge

In the late 1860's prosperity meant being close to a railroad. In 1868, a group of Davenport capitalists incorporated the Davenport and St. Paul Railroad Company. The promoters planned a railroad between Davenport Iowa and St. Paul Minnesota. It was to meander through Iowa according to the direction of the economic winds. The company depended on local support for financing. Stock in the newly formed railroad was purchased by residents of Scott County and larger amounts by capitalists in Frankfurt, Germany. Construction was soon underway and the right-of-way through what was to become Eldridge Junction was acquired in 1869. By 1870 the line was built through Scott County.

The line's main and only junction was located at Eldridge. We have chosen the name of Eldridge Junction as our Questers chapter. In forming this group we have met in Eldridge even though several members are from outlying towns. We think of Eldridge Junction as "hub or junction" ... a place to meet.

## **EVERLASTING #1209**

Chartered February 12, 1992

Bondurant

As Many Thoughts and Ideas were Tossed About For A Chapter Name, We Kept Wanting a Lasting "Enduring-Through-All-Time" Name.

Captured In Our Hearts and Minds Is Our Love Of The Past.

Because We Want To Share Our Friendships (Old and New)

Traditions and Treasures

As Well As Moments In Time,

We Have Chosen The Name of **"EVERLASTING"**

## **FRAGILE TREASURES**

Chartered May 12, 2001

Northwest Iowa

Our chapter Fragile Treasures is composed of residents of Plymouth and Woodbury counties in northwest Iowa and located in the foothills of the Loess Hills. These hills are unique to only two areas of the world, China and Iowa. Formed by wind-blown soils after the last ice age, the hills became known as loess. Loess means silt-sized particles deposited by wind. These sometimes sharply etched bluffs, created by running water and erosion, harbor thick forest and hilltop prairies. The book "Fragile Giants" a natural history of the Loess Hills by Cornelia F. Mutel, refers to them as Iowa's "world treasure ... our best-kept secret."

Just as the hills require our efforts to preserve them, so our chapter values our families' histories, treasures in our homes, and landmarks in our communities. These histories and treasures in our homes are memories, whispers of the past, a fragile heritage worthy to be passed on to our families and future generations and thus Fragile Treasures.

### **FUNTIQUE #574**

Chartered September 6, 1972

Waterloo

The name of our chapter is Funtique and has no historical meaning, just expressing the thought that collecting and studying antiques is fun.

### **GANDYDANCERS #1240**

Chartered July 26, 1993

Boone

The city of Boone grew up around the railroad tracks. The railroad maintenance workers often raised their families in flimsy shacks along the tracks. These men filled gullies, tamped track and drove spikes. They were called track walkers, section men or gandy dancers. The latter name was derived from the rhythmic motion and sounds of the swinging picks, sledgehammers and tools manufactured by the Gandy Tool Company of Chicago. The name "Gandydancers" pays tribute to Boone's long railroad history.

### **GENERAL JOSEPH WARREN #832**

Chartered January 10, 1977

Indianola

Warren County, Iowa was named for General Joseph Warren, a Revolutionary War patriot. Twelve counties in the United States bear his name. Since the General Joseph Warren chapter was organized in 1976, the bicentennial year, it seems fitting to name the chapter after this Warren county namesake and patriot. Joseph Warren was a graduate of Harvard, taught for one year and decided to become a physician. He became acquainted with John Adams through a smallpox inoculation. Soon after he became immersed in politics and was a close ally of Samuel Adams and John Hancock. He was one of three chosen to draw up "A state of rights of colonists," after the Boston Massacre. Joseph was also one of the leaders in the Massachusetts Congress and engaged in a multitude of public affairs. As crisis approached, he abandoned his career and joined the Army. It was he who dispatched Paul Revere to Lexington to warn of danger. Warren was offered command of the troops by General Putnam, but declined saying that he had come to take a lesser role of a veteran soldier in the art of war. Because he

had not yet officially received his commission as Major General, he fought as a volunteer. The British killed him at Breeds Hill.

### **GEORGE MIFFLIN DALLAS #244**

Chartered June 1, 1966

Waukee

The name of the county in which our chapter is located is Dallas County. It derived its name from that of the vice president of the United States in 1846 - George Mifflin Dallas. This was apropos because Iowa became a state during his tenure in office. As the first Quester group in Dallas County, our chapter adopted his name.

Dallas was born in Philadelphia on July 10, 1792. He was the son of Alexander J. Dallas who was Secretary of the Treasury from 1814-1816. George traveled abroad for a year as a private secretary to Albert Gallatin who was on a diplomatic mission to Russia. Subsequent to that experience Dallas worked for his father, Alexander, at the Department of Treasury and with the legal staff of the Second Bank of the United States. Later he entered Pennsylvania politics by first completing an unexpired term as US senator (1831-1833) and then serving as minister to Russia (1835-1839). He was also to become vice president under President James K. Polk and minister to Great Britain (1856-1861).

### **GEORGE YATES #276**

Chartered January 24, 1967

Des Moines

George Yates was an early pioneer of serial news photography who successfully combined the fascinations of the camera, the airplane, and the newspaper into a most distinguished of lifetime professions. As teacher and lecturer, as well as practicing photographer, he inspired many a budding photo student to a career of camera journalism. The credo by which he lived and preached was, "A good news photographer is more than just a picture snapper. He should be a trained newspaperman as well as a trained technician. A picture can and should tell a story even more graphically than words." Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Yates developed the use of the "Machine Gun Camera" for football action pictures. He devised a type of aerial football picture that would lend itself to easy diagramming. Under his direction, the Des Moines Register and Tribune pioneered in this field and published more football action pictures than any other newspaper in the country. Mr. Yates was said to have been the first newspaper photographer to use cut film instead of glass plates. Also, he was among the first to set up a central darkroom where all negatives taken by staff photographers are developed and printed.

Born July 3, 1890 in Lancashire County, near Manchester, England, Mr. Yates was educated in the English public schools. He studied law for two years and spent five years at a desk before he decided to leave England in 1912. Mr. Yates was undecided as to whether to go to Canada or Australia, so he solved

his problem with a flip of a coin. Heads were up and the decision was Canada. From that start, Mr. Yates went forth to one of the most exciting lives any young man could imagine.

In Canada, George Yates worked as a railroad photographer for the Grand Trunk Line. Later he went south to Kansas and then his travels took him on to South Dakota where in 1916, he sold his cameras and enlisted in the National Guard to be called to service on the Mexican border. It wasn't until after the United States entered World War I that he became a citizen of the United States. Before he went overseas he married a Des Moines girl, Nancy Darrow. He served as a special investigator with the American Experimental Force in France.

Returning to Des Moines in 1919, Mr. Yates took a temporary job with the Des Moines Register and Tribune. He was the sole cameraman and did all of his own developing printing. He became the dean of Iowa news photographers, heading his own staff of 15 cameramen.

During the early 1920's, Mr. Yates scored many photographic scoops by use of the airplane. One such was a photo of Babe Ruth's home run in the St. Louis series. He had his photo back in Des Moines, printed, and in the paper on the street hours before the St. Louis papers.

Mr. Yates said the greatest thrill he ever had in the air came in 1929 when he photographed the Graf Zeppelin as that German dirigible passed over southeast Iowa on its around-the-world flight. Again he scooped the two other Des Moines papers. His awards were many. As a life member of the National Press Photographers Association, he received numerous national awards in photography, among which was the 1949 A. Sprague Memorial Award for an aerial view "Life on the Farm in Winter." He was the first news photographer to receive the University of Missouri award for distinguished service in journalism in 1947.

After serving with the Des Moines Register and Tribune for more than 48 years, he left a legacy of great pictures. The last photo that was in George Yates' camera was of the street he knew so well, looking past the Register and Tribune Building and on up the street to the Iowa Capitol.

At their October 1967 meeting, the charter members of George Yates Chapter #276 enjoyed an evening with George Yates as their guest speaker. He delighted us with these tales of his life and career behind the news cameras. It ran the gamut from a choirboy snapping a local socialite's wedding picture to a mop-and bucket janitor taking a photo of a felon in a guarded hospital room. Wherever he went, he always had two or three cameras handy for the next news story.

### **GIBSON GIRLS #649**

Chartered June 14, 1973

Cedar Rapids

Charles Dana Gibson and his immortal Gibson Girl were synonymous with the 1890's. He not only recorded the manners, morals and mating habits of the era with perception, commentary and fantastic style, he also managed to create and contribute to the very way in which that decade chose to act and look.

Better than any written historical record, Gibson's pen left us with a vivid picture of life in America during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup>.

In the present day of women's liberation, we might well thank Mr. Gibson for being one of our first supporters. Although compared to our life now, the Gibson Girl was most restrained to say the least. However, in her time, she was a subtle pioneer. For the first time, she represented women as actually being able to ride a horse with skill, hold her own on the tennis court and sometimes even think! The Gibson Girl represents the beauty of women. Gibson believed in the eternal loveliness of women. Although his Gibson Girl was always beautiful to look at, she also radiated many traits that seemingly came from within. She was aloof but tender, naughty but adorable, and delicate but strong. In essence, she was a composite that was the American woman.

The Gibson Girls chapter of Questers likes to think that like Gibson, our group will see the beauty in each of its "Girls" and encourage the worth and importance of what each individual member has to offer.

### **GLEANERS #387**

Chartered May 14, 1969

Davenport

Gleaners means to "collect little by little and with great patience." In our chapter, we hoped to collect information from the records from which historians glean their knowledge. This could include both actual antiques and also the written records concerning them and their history. We realize that this study would take place over a period of years and after great diligence and many forays into several areas of study.

This is similar in our minds, to our national motto: "Out of many, one." In our case with the bits of knowledge collected over a long period of time, we would begin to visualize a greater picture which is the history of the United States in records and antiquities.

### **GODEY LADIES #412**

Chartered November 30, 1969

Des Moines

The Godey Ladies Chapter was organized in Des Moines, Iowa in November 1969. The name "Godey Ladies" came from the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century fashion magazine called "Godey's Lady's Book" published by Louis A. Godey. We chose this name feeling it was particularly as this statement from the magazine indicates:

"THE LADY"

The aim of a real lady is always to be natural and unaffected and to wear her talents, her accomplishments and her learning, as well as her newest and finest dresses, as if she did not know she had them about her.

## **GRANT WOOD #89**

Chartered June 10, 1958

Des Moines

"American Gothic", the picture of an austere father and his serious daughter standing in front of a white frame farmhouse, is the first painting that comes to mind when thinking of the artist Grant Wood. Its style reflects what was to become known as the symbol of American painting. Wood, having been born in Anamosa, Iowa in 1891, depicted the things that he knew best, such as farms with their hardworking farmers and their livestock. His landscapes typified the Midwestern panorama with its fields planted in prolific crops.

Grant graduated from high school in Cedar Rapids and went on to study art in Minneapolis, Iowa City and Paris. But in the end he headed home to Iowa where Doctorates were conferred upon him by four universities for his paintings which were earthy and universal in appeal.

He was also an enthusiastic collector of antiques and enjoyed an enviable collection of majolica, cut glass and furniture, giving him a kinship to Questers.

## **GREENE GALLUP #1220**

Chartered June 16, 1992

Jefferson

Greene Gallup Questers' name is a combination of their county name, Greene, and the name of George Gallup, founder of the Gallup Poll.

George Horace Gallup, son of George Henry and Nettie Davenport Gallup, was born in Jefferson, Iowa, on November 18, 1901. He graduated from Jefferson High School in the class of 1919. In 1923, Gallup received a bachelor's degree from Drake University and remained at the University as an instructor in journalism. During that time he continued his studies, which earned him a Master's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in journalism. His doctoral thesis A New Technique for Objective Methods for Measuring Reader Interest in Newspapers began his work for measuring public opinion which eventually became known as the Gallup Poll.

At the end of two years as head of the Department of Journalism at Drake, Dr. Gallup accepted a year's professorship in journalism and advertising at Northwestern University. Meanwhile the theories of reader interest evaluation were being tested in surveys he conducted for several newspapers, including the Des Moines Register and Tribune, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Two results of his early investigations were the use of comics for advertising and the publication of LOOK Magazine by the Des Moines Register and Tribune. George Gallup accepted a position with Young

and Rubicam advertising agency in New York City as research director in 1932. In 1937 as company vice president, he worked out methods of measuring the public's reaction to the firm's products.

The Gallup polls were inaugurated in 1935 with the founding by Gallup of the American Institute of Public Opinion which was responsible for originating questions, gathering answers and organizing the results.

Gallup is the author of many articles and several books. He held honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Northwestern University, Drake University and Boston University. He also had honorary doctorates from Tufts College and Colgate University. Syracuse University conferred on him an award for distinguished achievement and in 1951, the University of Missouri presented him with the Missouri Honor Award. He founded Quill and Scroll, an international honorary society for high school journalists. Our Jefferson High School students strive to earn the right to become members of that society. George Gallup has been described as a friendly man with a "comfortable" personality. His hobbies were genealogical research, horseback riding and reading historical novels. He married Ophelia Smith Miller, daughter of a newspaper publisher of Washington, Iowa in 1925.

### **GWEN ZNEROLD #608**

Chartered April 1, 1973

Des Moines

The Gwen Znerold Chapter is named in her honor. She is a woman of infinite charm and knowledge who has been conducting classes for the study of antiques in Des Moines since 1963.

Born, reared, educated and married in South Dakota, Gwen has always loved history and people. Her love of history led to the discovery of antiques. As a bride she bought and refinished Victorian walnut pieces of furniture, some of which still grace her lovely home today.

Gwen and Winton, her husband, have three children, two sons and a daughter. Their children are also antique-minded. Her love of antiques was never forced on them, but they responded to the environment in which they were raised. Before moving to Des Moines, the family lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota where Gwen organized the second Quester chapter in the state.

Her love of people led to the idea of teaching about antiques. The 15 ladies who were in her first class started Quester chapter "Circa '64" when they completed the course. Gwen is also responsible for the formation of several other chapters in the area. Gwen appraises antiques and conducts seminars throughout the state of Iowa, Los Angeles and other cities in southern California. In September 1971 and again in 1973, she conducted her own Antique Tour of Europe. A current project is working on a book about the funny and interesting things that happen in the collecting world.

Gwen's aim in teaching is to instill an awareness and appreciation of things of the past and of new things that will become the antiques of the future. We, the grateful students of her interesting and stimulating classes, are so pleased to honor her in starting this chapter and know that all the countless antiques she has educated join us in the tribute.

### **GYPSUM CITY #931**

Chartered November 10, 1979

Fort Dodge

Millions of years ago Iowa was twice covered with glaciers. A great arm of the sea reached up from the south of Fort Dodge, Iowa and when the sea receded, the rich gypsum beds were left. Gypsum was first discovered in 1856 southeast of Fort Dodge and has since been a major industry in the community. Gypsum had proved valuable in the construction of foundations, cellars, walls, pavements and buildings. Our gypsum mills, and plasterboard made from it, are known all over the United States.

### **HANNA LOU #497**

Chartered April 19, 1971

Waterloo

The Hanna Lou name is a combination of Mary Melrose Hanna and Lou Henry Hoover, two women who were well known in Waterloo.

Mary Melrose Hanna was born in Edwards County, Illinois on June 9, 1821. She came to Waterloo by an oxen team in 1845 with her husband, two children, and her brother. They made their camp in a prairie schooner the first night and forded the river the next day. She lived in Waterloo and Waterloo Township until her death in 1912. At that time she was the oldest resident in Black Hawk County. Mrs. Hanna was the first white woman to permanently locate in the area and the second white woman to visit this section. It is perhaps due to the prophetic vision of Mrs. Hanna that the original town site of Waterloo was located on the west bank of the river. The beauty of the Cedar River, the rolling prairie, and the mighty oaks when they made their first camp in the wilderness, struck Mrs. Hanna. Mrs. Hanna's vision in her own words was "Boys, don't stop here. This seems to me to be the river of life and over yonder is Canaan; let us cross over." It was then that Mrs. Hanna made a prophecy which has been fulfilled a thousand times. "Boys, if you live long enough you will see a fine town grow up on those hills over there." Mrs. Hanna was a tough pioneer woman who could take care of herself and her family. The life of Lou Henry Hoover, who became the 31<sup>st</sup> First Lady of the United States, all began in Waterloo. Lou Henry was born on March 29, 1874. She was a thin child and considered rather plain, but she had a kind of glow about her and inner strength which sustained her through the years. She had a love of nature and bicycling. She was the first bicycle enthusiast to become acquainted with the low safety model bicycles that came along, and she often pedaled along the dusty country roads outside of Waterloo. Lou Henry enrolled in a course in geology while attending Stanford University in California. It was in this class that she met her future husband Herbert Hoover.

Lou Henry Hoover traveled the world with her metallurgical engineer husband improving upon her already considerable language skills. They lived for years in China, Borneo, Russia, the Malay Peninsula and England. In England, while her husband was beginning his long career of public service, Lou Hoover organized a Woman's Relief Committee to help stranded Americans get home in 1914 and the early days

of World War I. She also organized the Food Administration Club as a tearoom and boarding house for the women employees of her husband's department. When she was First Lady, she became the National President of the Girl Scouts. Lou Henry Hoover died on January 7, 1944 in New York City. Lou Henry was a child of pioneers, a product of an age of new beginnings. Her philosophy was "People are like plants. I am always finding that some person is so well situated with sunshine and wind and all the conditions right, and that another is too crowded and is reaching gaspingly for light and air, that this one needs a trellis or string to climb on, and that one is growing all over the place and needs pruning. Only it is harder to make opportunities for people than plants."

### **HAZEL DELL #522**

Chartered September 9, 1971

Newton

Since one of the primary purposes of any chapter of Questers is acquiring knowledge of the past for us and passing it on to future generations, it seemed appropriate that this Newton chapter should take its name, Hazel Dell, from the first private institution of learning in Newton.

Hazel Dell Academy was founded in 1856 by Professor Darius Thomas and was dedicated to providing better education for the young people of Newton. The academy was located in the area of the present Sunset Park and was named Hazel Dell because of the hazel bush thickets and the character of the terrain upon which it was located. At first the primary, as well as the higher grades, was taught but as the public school system became more fully developed, the primary classes were dropped, and the academy became an intermediate step between common school and college. Having been a cabinetmaker, Professor Thomas built the three-room school as well as the furniture. The school was enlarged several times and at one time accommodated a hundred or more students, many of whom roomed in the building, carried their own wood and cooked their meals.

For over half a century, Hazel Dell and its successor Newton Normal College trained teachers and gave others a chance to prepare for college or their life's work.

### **HIGH BRIDGE #1241**

Chartered August 4, 1993

Boone

High Bridge was chosen for the name of our chapter after the Kate Shelley Memorial High Bridge, the Chicago Northwestern (now Union Pacific) Railway's High Bridge west of Boone, Iowa. This landmark of Boone was built by the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. It spans one of the most picturesque spots in the Des Moines River Valley. Located four miles west of Boone, the bridge of 2,685 feet long, 185 feet above the water and 27 feet wide. This double span was begun in 1899 and finished in 1901 at the cost of one million dollars. It is the highest and longest double track railroad bridge in the world.

The bridge was officially named in honor of a Boone heroine, Kate Shelley, to commemorate her courageous act of July 6, 1881. Kate crawled across a bridge in a serious cloudburst and storm to the

Northwestern Railroad's depot in Moingona about 5 miles south of Boone. Kate knew the passenger train must be stopped or tragedy would result. Earlier a locomotive had plunged through a wrecked trestle into flooded Honey Creek in front of Kate's farm home and two crewmen had been killed, two others stranded in the flood waters.

Boone uses the image of the Kate Shelley Memorial High Bridge to symbolize the community.

### **HOOK & EYE #992**

Chartered July 7, 1981

Story City

The town of Story City was first platted by an engineer, one Mr. Blair, an advance man from Des Moines & Minnesota Railroad during the 1870's. The trains provided transportation of goods and people which greatly helped Story City to grow and prosper. The Des Moines & Minnesota Company finished laying track in January 1878 using narrow gauge track. This gave Story City rail connection to the outside world in the Chicago & Northwestern at Ames and a direct route to Des Moines.

The Iowa Central Railway, later known as the Minneapolis & St. Louis, completed track for Marshalltown into Story City in 1882. Seventy years later, the last passenger train and mail train rolled into town. Now only freight and grain trains from the Chicago & Northwestern line still stop in Story City. One curiosity from the railroad years in Story City was the turntable at the east end of the Iowa Central line. Permission to extend the track west across the Des Moines & Minnesota track, which ran north and south, was never granted so all trains coming into town from the east met a dead end. They would have to use the turntable to get turned around. Thus, the name: The Hook & Eye Line.

### **HUBBELL-TERRACE HILL #209**

Chartered September 27, 1965

Des Moines

Benjamin Franklin Allen, an early banker in the city, erected Terrace Hill on Grand Avenue in Des Moines in 1869 in time for the Allen's 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This magnificent red brick mansion is said to have cost \$250,000. Sixteen mule teams hauled the building materials across the prairies to Des Moines, then a town of 7,000 inhabitants. Fine walnut, rosewood and mahogany were used in the construction of the high arched doors and windows and eight Italian marble mantels topped the fireplaces of the three-story house.

The home was put up for sale when Allen met with financial misfortune and was adjudged bankrupt in 1875. For almost a decade the twenty-room home stood vacant; then in 1884, Frederick Hubbell, Mr. Allen's friend and attorney purchased it. Frederick Marion Hubbell had come to Des Moines from Connecticut in 1855 when he was a penniless sixteen-year-old. This determined young man was destined to become the following: the wealthiest Iowa in the state's history, a founder of the Equitable Life Insurance Company, a railroad financier and builder, a public utilities magnate, a leading lawyer, and

probably the most spectacularly successful investor in real estate that Iowa has ever seen. Terrace Hill became a happy family home for the Hubbell's and the social center of Des Moines. Through the years, the Hubbell's modernized the home and filled its rooms with treasures brought back from their world travels.

Grover Hubbell, son of Frederick M. Hubbell, became the occupant in 1924 along with his family. The last family resident of the stately home was Mrs. Grover (Anna) Hubbell, who in 1957 moved from the house to a contemporary Des Moines apartment building. F. M. Hubbell died in 1930, but Terrace Hill was maintained by the Hubbell Trust for over 40 years.

In 1971, the Hubbell family donated Terrace Hill to the State of Iowa to be used as the governor's home. Renovation began in 1973 and finally in 1976, Governor and Mrs. Robert D. Ray and their three daughters became the first governor's family to occupy the residence.

### **HULDAH SAUNDERS #414**

Chartered April 1, 1970

Mount Pleasant

Huldah was the young daughter of pioneer parents who came from Kentucky to Iowa, settling in the small village of Mount Pleasant. She was born near Chillicothe, Ohio on March 25, 1817 to Isaac and Rhoda Bowen. The Bowens had lived in Ohio, Maryland and Kentucky before moving west where they permanently settled in Mount Pleasant.

In 1837, Huldah was a happy, attractive, resourceful young lady, who at the age of 20, became the second wife of Presley Saunders. He was the founder and sponsor of Mount Pleasant. Presley's first wife died shortly after their arrival in the village leaving him with three small children to raise. The marriage of Huldah and Presley was the first solemnized within the bounds of Henry County.

Upon his arrival in 1835, Presley Saunders established a store. He soon became a most successful merchant and banker with Huldah at his side. They both possessed temperate and frugal ways, industry and integrity. With unbounded pluck and perseverance, he acquired an ample fortune in due time. Huldah was a devoted member of the Christian Church and an active supporter of all worthy affairs in the progressive little community. Her husband was the most eminent pioneer of Henry County. He steadfastly refused all political offices that he was asked to hold. Happily married for over fifty years, they became the leading citizens of the county.

Their union was blessed with two boys: Smith and Alvin, and two girls: Eliza and Etna.

As an illustration of the changes that took place during their lifetime, it is cited that Huldah and Presley's first child was born in the Territory of Michigan, the second in the Territory of Wisconsin, third in the Territory of Iowa and their last child in

the State of Iowa. During the time period of their children's births, they lived on the same quarter section of land, an extraordinary incident probably without parallel.

Huldah lived until the age of 85, passing away on July 28, 1902. She rests beside her husband who predeceased her in the beautiful city cemetery at the edge of their beloved Mount Pleasant.

When Chapter #414 was organized, it seemed so fitting that it bear the name of Huldah Saunders whose pioneer spirit, foresight and goodness helped build a community that has continued to flourish through the years.

#### **HUSTON'S PLOT #1485**

Chartered February 2010

Dallas County

"The cemetery in the middle of the road" has been a landmark in eastern Dallas County, Iowa for more than 150 years. It is enclosed by an iron picket fence and is located at the crossroads of two streets, until recently gravel roads.

In 1847, the first burials were two small daughters of the Harper family on their way to California by wagon train. J. B. Huston, the first Dallas County Attorney, ran the Stagecoach Inn and Post Office nearby and the stage route ran past the cemetery. The line was abandoned in 1867 when the railroads came in. Part of the house was used by the Underground Railroad. The cemetery was the private cemetery of the Huston family where the last burial took place in 1872. The Huston Cemetery is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from our Edgewater Retirement Community so we feel it is appropriate to call our chapter "Huston's Plot".

#### **ILLOWA #581**

Chartered October 20, 1972

Bettendorf

The name of this chapter is a contraction of the words Illinois and Iowa, thus chosen because there are members from both states.

It also implicitly emphasizes the location of both states along the Mississippi River which was a great highway of commerce throughout the area as well as the country. It is the economic success which ensued from this commerce that was to guarantee that cities, such as Bettendorf, would be alive and thriving today. In a more subtle way, the members coming from both states also reflects the development of the United States as a nation. Potentially land on either side of the great river could have been made into separate countries. Since they joined instead as one nation, this did not happen. Free and equal access to both sides is guaranteed. Thus bridges easily span the river which could have divided Illinois and Iowa, and therefore guarantee cultural communication by groups such as the Questers.

**INDIAN CREEK #619**  
Chartered April 5, 1973  
Cedar Rapids

Indian Creek is a local stream winding in and out of the city limits of Cedar Rapids. It winds through residential areas, a golf courses and the local countryside. It is so named because it is said to have been along the trail followed by the Sac and Fox Indian tribes. Early settlers (approximately 1837) built cabins near Indian Creek, cutting its nearby timber for logs and burning lime mortar along its banks. Not only has Quester Group #619 chosen to remember Indian Creek, but even more recently a group of interested citizens has set out to erect an Indian Creek Nature Center. Trails along the creek will be preserved and marked and e nature center will serve as an instruction building. Many of the Indian Creek Questers are helping with this endeavor.

**JOHN DENISON PARMELEE #663**  
Chartered October 26, 1973  
Indianola

John Denison Parmelee, a native of Vermont, started his journey to Iowa in 1840 while he was employed by a fur-trading company. He became enamored with the beautiful Des Moines River valley and established a place in Wapello County about 150 miles upstream of the river's mouth. Later he moved his trading post to where the Raccoon River meets the Des Moines River. Letters to friends in the east give glowing reports of the beauty of each season, his speculations on the coming civilization, and the transformation of the country into farms, gardens, orchards and settlements. He confidently expected that in his lifetime white settlers would occupy the Des Moines valley. After a disagreement with the fur trading company, Parmelee contracted with Captain James Allen, commander of Fort Des Moines, to build a lumber mill to supply the fort. The 45' by 35' by 3 stories high mill "as fine a building as any size that you can see in Vermont" was situated near what is now Carlisle in Warren County. With that accomplishment, John Denison Parmelee became the first white man to permanently settle in Warren County until 1845.

Parmelee's lumber mill helped the settling of other pioneers, some that stayed and some that moved on. He was well regarded as a good natured, industrious, and smart man who always was ready to help the needy and encourage the despondent, for he had endured years of loneliness as the sole inhabitant a day's ride from any other.

It is unfortunate that the name John Denison Parmelee is not connected with the county by town or township name to honor this pioneer who so well deserves to be remembered. The Parmelee Log Cabin was donated to the Warren County Historical Society and has been relocated to the fairgrounds.

**JULIEN DUBUQUE #1328**  
Chartered June 18, 1998

## Dubuque

The beautiful city of Dubuque which is rimmed by bluffs and sits on the Mississippi River takes its name from a lead miner who was the first white settler in Iowa, Julien Dubuque. He was born in 1762 in Quebec Province, Canada. By the time he was 26 and living in Iowa, Dubuque approached the Mesquaki Indians seeking permission to work lead mines on the Indians' lands in the area later to be known as Dubuque. Prior to meeting with the Indians, Dubuque wanted to potentially secure the upper hand in any negotiations and had prepared by pouring turpentine on a small area of the river. When the Mesquaki balked at granting him permission, Dubuque ignited the water and terrified them into an agreement. From that time on the Mesquaki Indians thought Dubuque possessed great spiritual powers. They gathered together to mourn Dubuque's death in 1810 as they would have a great Indian chief.

The Julian Dubuque chapter got its name not only from Mr. Dubuque's name but also from the symbolic sense of adventure and curiosity he displayed which carries over into our study of antiques and history.

### **JUNCTION COLLECTORS #1185**

Chartered October 6, 1990

Wilton

"Junction Collectors" is the name chosen by and for our chapter. The railroad has played a large part in the history and development of our town Wilton. Wilton was indeed a junction joining the Rock Island Railroad that passed through the neighboring town via a third train, affectionately called the "Old Plug." Although it was never official, Wilton has been called Wilton Junction for years.

### **KALAWEQUOIS #748**

Chartered May 13, 1975

Keokuk

For many years what is known as the Half Breed Tract, land that lay between the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers at what is now Keokuk in southeast Iowa, was a favorite camping ground of the Sac and Fox Indians. In 1834 a garrison of U. S. soldiers was established at the head of the Mississippi rapids near what is now Montrose. The fort was named Fort Des Moines. In the spring of 1837 the fort was abandoned. Speculators from Illinois purchased the surrounding land and built a settlement. The development included family homes, a boarding house, and a newspaper. Mr. Thomas Gregg, editor of the "Western Adventurer" published there, wrote that he was fortunate to frequently meet Fox and Sac Indians who peacefully visited the area and who seemed innocently curious about white ways.

At this time, there was living in her wigwam nearby, a Sac squaw named Me-Ko who was about 60 years of age, the widow of a French fur trader. She devoted herself entirely to the care of her 18-year-old daughter who was wasting away from consumption. The Sac-French maiden was named Ka-La-We-Quois. The unremitting attention and delicate care that was the mother's duty emitted much sympathy among

the local whites. On August 10, 1837, the lovely young woman finally died. A prominent man of the town hired a carpenter to make a coffin immediately, then unfolded a curious blend of two cultures in grief and the burial of a body both worlds cared about. Mr. Gregg, the newsman, colorfully reported the event in his newspaper which was sent back east. The article caught the attention of Lydia Sigourney, a Connecticut poet. She wrote a long romantic piece invoking beauty, grief, humility and great affection titled, "The Indian Girl's Burial", which she sent to Mr. Gregg to publish. No monument was erected until years later, first a wooden cross and now a granite marker, near Highway 61 and Iowa Road Y near Montrose.

The name "Ka-La-We-Quois" is probably a combination of the Greek word "Kala" meaning beautiful and "E-quah-O," a Saulee word for female. The language of the Mississippi Valley Indians had the remarkable feature of employing words having the same sounds and meaning as Hebrew, Latin, Greek and French tongues, perhaps grafted upon their languages by the earliest voyagers along the big river.

**KATE SHELLEY #163**  
Chartered April 23, 1962  
Des Moines

Kate Shelley (1865-1912) was 15-years-old when her deed of heroism near Boone, Iowa made her a legend. On July 6, 1881 Kate witnessed a thunderstorm that washed out a railroad trestle and caused a locomotive to plunge into a creek in front of the family farm home. That night during another cloudburst, Kate crawled across another bridge to the Northwestern Railroad Depot in Moingona to warn that an oncoming passenger train must be stopped to avert another tragedy. The highest and longest double track railroad bridge in the world, built over the Des Moines River about 5 miles north of the incident site, was named for her.

**KEEPSAKE #951**  
Chartered July 7, 1980  
Laurens

A keepsake is a treasure, not only the past;  
It could be something very new, when loved will last and last.

It could be Aunt Nell's doilies, which were tatted way back when,  
Or maybe Mamma's spooner, which was polished now and then.

Or Dad's old railroad watch of gold, his lantern, bright as steel.  
Grandma's painted china dish or stately spinning wheel.

A patchwork quilt with colors gay, or pearls sparkling white.

A candlestick or pewter lamp which cast a yellow light.

A chatelaine or bracelet, a wedding band of gold.

A china doll with big glass eyes, which at a sale was sold.

A commode of oak, a pitcher and bowl used every icy morn.

A lacey gown with ruffles galore, a hanky colored and torn.

It could be Grandpa's mantel clock, which chimed the years away.

A crystal dish or trunk so old with handles worn and frayed.

Perhaps a sewing basket which served its purpose then.

Or Bible holding the family tree of deaths and births within.

Maybe a rusty rifle which brought home game galore.

Or coffee grinder which ground up beans bought at the country store.

What about the tintype of uncle on the wall?

Or tiny fan or kewpie doll won at the carnival.

A sewing chair or baby cap hidden in a cobweb nook.

A keepsake might be a dandelion pressed in a favorite book.

"Keepsake chosen by our chapter as representative of individual preferences yet common interests.

### **Kishekosh Collectors #1450**

#### Osceola

The land that is now known as Clarke County (of which Osceola is the county seat) was once known as Kishekosh. George Washington Kishekosh was a Fox chief whose last name is interpreted as "cut teeth" or "savage biter". Kishekosh was one of the band of tribal leaders who accompanied Chief Black Hawk in a tour of eastern United States cities following the Black Hawk war of 1832. The tribesmen were technically prisoners of war but were also a curiosity and were entertained in hotels and several social gatherings. As a result of this exposure to American-European culture, Kishekosh developed an appreciation for the habits of cleanliness and the social customs he observed. When he returned to his people in Iowa he attempted to implement reforms, such as encouraging the men to become farmers. But the braves insisted that this work was for squaws and his efforts were largely unsuccessful. Kishekosh was particularly fastidious and insisted on the highest standards of cleanliness. The story is told of one visit to a white man's home where he observed the lady of the house neglecting to wash her hands before making the bread. Kishekosh left the home abruptly without eating. Kishekosh also developed an appreciation for good manners and would demonstrate by serving the women first at formal dinners before serving himself.

As Questers we share with Kishekosh an appreciation for "finer things". And like Kishekosh we hope to share ideas and stories with others in hopes that we all may be enriched.

**L. M. SHAW #353**

Chartered October 22, 1968

Denison

Leslie Mortimer Shaw was born November 2, 1848 in Vermont. He graduated from Cornell College in 1874 and from law school in 1876. After graduation, he settled in Denison, Iowa where he practiced law. Mr. Shaw served as Governor of Iowa from 1897 to 1901. He was said to be the most conspicuous citizen that Denison has given the world. He was one of the great statesmen of his time.

L. M. served as Secretary of the Treasury for President Theodore Roosevelt for four years and later was president of the Carnegie Trust Company of New York. He was a man who made good in everything he attempted. His pet phrase was "Bless everything that helps to make us better."

The house where Mr. and Mrs. Shaw lived in Denison is still occupied today and is owned by one of our Quester members. The Shaws are buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Denison. Our Quester chapter helps with the upkeep of the mausoleum.

**LAUDERDALE #380**

Chartered April 23, 1969

Fort Dodge

Miss Maude Lauderdale was the curator of the Webster County Historical Museum and Webster County Recorder. She was better acquainted with the early history of the area than any other resident. The earlier settlers came in the 1850's but Maude's family did not move here until 1881. The Lauderdale family was long prominent in the city and county. Maude Lauderdale was truly a pioneer in spirit, if not in years.

A dedicated historian, she was also a thorough and authoritative one. Through the careful compiling and cataloging of thousands of items and facts regarding the area's earlier days, Maude made a valuable and everlasting contribution to her community. Maude was a charter member of the Webster County Historical Society and served as curator of the museum when it opened on May 15, 1931. She served in that capacity without remuneration.

The museum, located in the public library, was open each Saturday. She conducted school classes and other groups on special museum tours during the week.

In 1950, Maude Lauderdale wrote "A History of the Webster County Bar" covering a period of 100 years. This work appeared in the "Annals of Iowa." In appreciation of her work on the manuscript, the Webster

County Bar Association made her an honorary member, the only woman to ever be so honored. Upon her death Maude's portrait was hung in the gallery beside those of other deceased members of the Webster County Bar Association.

### **LIBBY'S LEARNERS #1055**

Chartered September 13, 1983

Des Moines

In the spring of 1983, an adult education course was offered with Libby Yapp as the instructor. Her knowledge of antiques and the exciting way in which she presented the subject caused many in the class to want to learn more. Seven members of the class decided to organize a Quester group and invited eight of their friends to join them. When it was time to make a decision for the name of this chapter, those who had been in the class felt it would be a nice way to recognize the one who had stimulated the formation of this chapter; thus, the name Libby's Learners.

### **LIK-SKILLET #812**

Chartered July 15, 1976

Van Meter

The town of Van Meter was first known as Lik-Skillet when it was nothing more than a mere cluster of cabins. It acquired its name from a railroad conductor who, when passing by this small settlement, happened to see an old trapper outside his cabin cleaning his skillet by the easiest method possible: licking it clean!

### **LINCOLN HIGHWAY #1248**

Chartered March 28, 1994

Ogden

The idea of a highway stretching across the nation lured many with the promise of adventure. Although several entrepreneurs proposed the idea, Carl Fisher, impetus for creations such as the Indianapolis Speedway and Miami Beach, was the first man with the means to finance the project. Fisher targeted automobile manufacturers for support of the highway. He was convinced that better roads meant better sales for the companies. Originally this road was named the Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway. By 1913, Carl had gathered enough support to form the first Lincoln Highway Association. Promoters of the effort saw a link between President Abraham Lincoln's efforts to unite the country and coasts. Supporters felt that renaming the road after Lincoln would increase support for the idea as well as stir the country's patriotism. The Lincoln Highway joined the existing roads across the nation.

Ogden, Iowa has a rich heritage in farming, coal mining and railroading. However, the Lincoln Highway has been and continues to be a vital part of the history of this community. On October 31, 1992, Lincoln Highway enthusiasts from across the United States gathered in Ogden to found the Lincoln Highway Association replacing the association which was chartered in 1913 and disbanded in 1920 when the federal government took over the national road system. Today the Lincoln Highway is U.S. Hwy 30.

At the meeting, Gregory Franzwa, a Tucson, Arizona author and publisher who has done extensive research and published a book on the Lincoln Highway, stated that he was particularly excited about the Lincoln Highway through Ogden's main street, saying "It still has the original paving and is paved to the full width of the sidewalks. It's worn to an almost pearly look now. It's a real piece of history."

We are extremely proud of our Lincoln Highway history and our part in the founding meeting of the Lincoln Highway Association.

### **LOG CABIN #455**

Chartered July 24, 1970

Ainsworth

The log cabin from which this Washington County Chapter chose their name was built in 1940 by Alexander Young. Originally standing four miles from the town of Washington, it has served as a home, church, school and a meeting place for neighboring pioneers.

By 1912, there were only two Young family members remaining. As a memorial to all pioneers, the Young family gave the cabin to the DAR. The cabin was torn down piece by piece for authentic restoration and rebuilt in Washington's Sunset Park, a piece of land the Alexander Young family had once owned. Over the cabin door is a bronze tablet inscribed with:

This cabin erected by Alexander Young on the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 34-76-8. Presented to the Washington Chapter of the DAR. Restoration by this chapter in 1912.

The cabin was furnished by the DAR with a representation of an earlier era. It also serves as a museum for many gifts from local people including a walnut cradle, a walnut organ, a hand spinning wheel, a curtain fluter, a butternut dyed quilt and a Starr Calvary rifle are a few of the furnishings. The ornate fireplace, the rickety stairs leading to the upper room, the scrubbed bare floor, and the lack of conveniences available stuns our youth of today.

### **LOU HENRY HOOVER #496**

Chartered April 7, 1971

Waterloo

Lou Henry, daughter of Charles Delano Henry and Florence Iva Weed, was born in Waterloo, Iowa March 29, 1874, in the Henry House at West 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington Streets. A bronze plaque now marks the site of the old Henry House. In 1868, Charles Delano Henry settled in Waterloo and was later engaged as a bookkeeper at the First National Bank. Waterloo, originally named Prairie Rapids Crossings, was first settled in 1845 and incorporated in 1868.

Lou Henry was a quiet, reserved girl. She enjoyed the outdoors and had a deep interest in nature study as well as enthusiasm for cycling along the country roads in summer and skating on the ponds in winter. Her mother had to encourage an interest in homemaking skills.

In 1888 at the age of 13, Lou Henry moved with her parents to Whittier, California. While studying geology at Stanford University, she met a former Iowan, Herbert Hoover, and they were married February 10, 1899. A day after their wedding the couple set sail for Tientsin, China where the future president would work as a mining engineer. Caught in the Boxer Rebellion, the bride was unflappable. She strapped on a revolver for self-defense, ignoring flying bullets and carried on. Lou Henry Hoover worked alongside her husband in Australia, Russia, Mandalay, England and France. Their family consisted of two sons, Herbert Jr. and Allan Harry.

Mr. Hoover became the 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States. In March 1929, Lou Henry Hoover took over the arduous duties of First Lady for four years. Lou Henry Hoover catalogued the White House antiques and restored furniture at her own expense. The Girl Scouts were her chief interest and she served as their president.

Lou Henry Hoover died suddenly at their Waldorf Towers' apartment in New York City on January 7, 1944. She is buried at West Branch, Iowa, the site of the Herbert Hoover Memorial.

**LOVE'S CABIN #1140**  
Chartered May 19, 1988  
Manchester

If the walls could speak, the old Love family cabin constructed in the period around 1850 and perhaps the oldest building in the area, could tell a wonderful story of Manchester and Delaware County. It was named for one of our pioneer families Allan Love. Allan left his home in Glasgow, Scotland and with his family settled in a sparsely inhabited area still controlled by the Indians. When his daughter Jeannie married William McIntosh, a Scottish stonemason whom she met on the ship that brought them to America, they set up housekeeping in the little log structure. The historic cabin once occupied by the first family to settle in the Manchester area, has been preserved and is now situated in Denton Park in Manchester.

**MAMIE EISENHOWER #357**  
Chartered December 10, 1968  
Boone

In a small bungalow at 718 Carroll Street in the city of Boone, Mamie Geneva Doud was born on November 4, 1896 to Elivera Carlson Doud and John Sheldon Doud. Soon the family moved to Cedar Rapids and when Mamie was six, her family moved to Colorado.

Mamie met 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Dwight D. Eisenhower of Abilene, Kansas while vacationing in Texas in 1915. He had just graduated from West Point and was stationed at nearby Fort Sam Houston. On Valentine's Day 1916 the couple announced their engagement and were married July 1, 1916 in the Doud family home in Denver.

Their eldest son Dwight died in infancy. Their younger son, Lt. Colonel John Sheldon Doud Eisenhower, was a West Point graduate like his father. Mamie and Ike had four grandchildren. Eisenhower, a 5-star general, had an exemplary military career.

After commanding our troops in Europe during World War II, he won the Republican Party's nomination for President in 1952. During that political campaign, Mamie wore a gold bracelet with an "IKE" good-luck cloverleaf and she tried to display it whenever she was photographed.

General Eisenhower was elected President in 1952 and served eight years in the White House. When the presidential years were over, Mamie and Ike retired to their farm near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the only home they ever owned. Occasionally the couple visited her uncle Joel Carlson who resided in Boone into the 1970's. Dwight D. Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969 and Mamie continued living on the Gettysburg farm until shortly before her death on November 1, 1979. Both are buried at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Abilene, Kansas.

Mamie's birthplace home in Boone was moved to 709 Carroll Street and restored in the 1970's to a museum and library and was dedicated in June 1980. A number of items in the museum were donated by Mamie and her family. This unique historical and education resource is a source of great pride to the Boone community.

### **MARCELLUS MILL #1043**

Chartered April 16, 1983

Spencer

In selecting a name for our group, members searched for an old landmark, historical and peculiar to Spencer. The mill was the first industry established in what was then a pioneer settlement. The first permanent settlers, Civil War veterans and their families, came from Wisconsin in the fall of 1865. Their grain crops were hauled 30 miles across bare unbroken prairie to a gristmill in Estherville to be ground.

Garret D. Marcellus and the wife Martha, natives of Ohio, came to Spencer in 1869 and soon established the mill and dam. The four-story mill was erected at great expense. Prices of lumber and machinery were high and materials had to be transported overland.

The state issued a water right to Mr. Marcellus to build the dam in the Little Sioux River and to raise the water level 8 feet to power the water wheels. Wild willows, abundant along the riverbanks, were cut and made into bundles and then placed in the bed of the stream. Stones and dirt placed on the branches held them so the water would not wash them away. This method was used until the dam was completed.

The mill furnished large quantities of flour and feed to the farmers and inhabitants of the community but there were problems. At first the mill relied wholly on waterpower as a propelling force, resulting in days of idleness caused by low water. In early spring immense quantities of ice floated down the stream, preventing operation of the mill.

The Marcellus Mill was on the north side of the river north of where St. Luke's Home now stands. After Garret Marcellus' death in 1888, the mill was described as a "substantial and sound structure." New owners updated the machinery and auxiliary power and the mill continued to serve the community. Long after it was gone, the piling on which it was built could still be seen. The Marcellus home was built north of the mill. It was a square two-story ginger-trimmed house with eight rooms "a very palatial home for this new country." Built in 1870, the lumber was hauled by oxen from Fort Dodge. It had a cupola on top, a place from which to watch for stagecoaches, prairie fire and Indians. There were also large barns and a carriage house. The house is still standing but has been judged not structurally sound enough to restore.

### **MARGARET STANTON #310**

Chartered October 11, 1967

Ames

As we pondered the choice of a suitable name for our chapter of Questers, our thoughts turned to an outstanding woman whose life and work dominated the early days of Iowa Agricultural College, now Iowa State University. She was Margaret McDonald Stanton.

Margaret was born in New Concord, Ohio on October 22, 1845, where she spent the first eighteen years of her life. This was a time of great national peril and in a region where thoughts on the slavery question ran high. This young woman was strongly influenced by these events and was led to a hatred of injustice and oppression in any form which remained with her always. Moving to Mount Pleasant, Iowa with her family, Margaret completed her college education at Mount Pleasant Seminary with honors. Her career as a teacher began in the public schools. In 1870 she accepted the position of preceptress and teacher of rhetoric and French at Iowa Agricultural College where in 1872, the first class graduated. These were pioneer days at the school to which women as well as men were admitted and all students were required to earn part of their expenses by actual labor. Margaret McDonald's wise management was largely responsible for the success of co-education and the acceptance of women students on the same basis as men. She was the first Dean of Women at the college. One historian wrote, "How much the counsel of this noble, unselfish, brave and tactful woman was worth in those trying days, it would be impossible to tell." The story of Margaret's life would be incomplete if we failed to mention the man who became her husband and the father of their four children. In 1877, Margaret McDonald wed Edgar William Stanton, a member of the first class to graduate from the new college. Their living quarters were located in Old Main where there were rooms for all students, dining rooms, classrooms and business offices. In 1879, the Stanton's moved into "The Maples" a red brick house still in use and known as Music Hall. This was home to Margaret and Edgar for the rest of their lives. The Stanton's were devoted to their home, four children and the college. Both were teachers, counselors and friends to hundreds of students. Professor Stanton served the college in many administrative capacities, including acting president on three occasions.

Shortly before the untimely death of Margaret McDonald Stanton in 1895, a new building was completed for women. The Board of Trustees voted to name it Margaret Hall in her memory. Two years later, Dr. Stanton helped choose the location for a tall graceful tower, the Campanile in which was placed his gift to his wife's memory, a set of ten bells. Upon his death, the Stanton children added 26 additional bells and formed a musical instrument known as the Edgar and Margaret McDonald Stanton Memorial Carillon.

In 1956, the trustees of the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation purchased 13 additional bells, bringing the total number of bells to 49. The bells of Iowa State are played daily at 8:00 a.m. and shortly after 1:00 p.m. each weekday.

## **MARTHA WASHINGTON #1032**

Chartered August 24, 1982

Washington

We chose the name Martha Washington for our chapter for two reasons. The first is in honor of our county and city which are both named Washington. The second reason is in honor of Martha Washington, the wife of George Washington, father of our country. As a young widow with two children, she met George and after falling deeply in love, married him in 1759.

During the eight years of the Revolutionary War, Martha acted as his helpmate and traveled to be with George and his army at their winter camps. When he became the President, she became the First Lady. Martha is quoted as saying during difficult times "I am still determined to be cheerful and to be happy in whatever situation I may be: for I have also learned from experience that a greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions and not upon our circumstances." George and Martha remind us of our heritage from the very beginning of our United States. Martha is a worthy, honorable historical symbol which leads us to search for our beginnings. Honoring Martha points us to the quest of finding the ways and treasures of our past.

## **MARY HARKER #1225**

Chartered October 10, 1982

Storm Lake

Mr. James Harker, a successful businessman in milling and merchandising from Jefferson, Iowa built a fine new home in Storm Lake at 328 Lake Avenue. Soon after the family moved into the home in 1875, Mrs. Mary Allison Harker gave birth to the couple's fifth child, Truman. The older children were James J., Sybil, Nora Belle and Mary, also known as Mame or Mae Harker. In Storm Lake, Mr. Harker joined a real estate firm and later added banking to his business interests.

The Harker house is a French mansard cottage style featuring abundant fancy woodwork around many long windows, several porches and a flat "widow walk" roof. It was the first brick house in Storm Lake built of locally-produced brick and was painted (on record) in 1886. The builder was Mr. James M. Russell who had established a sound reputation in the early "70's" as an expert craftsman. A receipt signed by Russell for Harker's payment of \$500 for construction costs on the house has been preserved. The two men became fast friends and their daughters, Grace Russell and Mary (Mae) Marker maintained a lifelong friendship into the 1950's.

Unfortunately James Harker suffered ill health and died suddenly in his lovely home in July 1883. His wife Mary Allison remained in residence until her death in 1927. Young Truman drowned in 1900. The older children had married and moved away and only Mae, the youngest daughter, stayed on in the Harker House, mostly summers. She visited relatives in the winters. Mae died in a Fort Dodge rest home in 1951.

The eldest son, James Harker, residing in Estherville, made plans for the 75-year-old home's repairs but he too died before they could be made. The responsibility then passed to his daughter Marie. Marie and

her husband Bennett Marshall were determined to restore and preserve the grandparents' beautiful home and after lengthy restoration, lived there until 1981. By her will and desire Marie Harker Marshall has provided funding through an estate fund for continuing preservation of the house and its original contents.

**MARY NEVADA #955**

Chartered July 28, 1980

Nevada

In October 1853, Theodore E. and Hanna Alderman and their son Oscar moved from Ohio to Iowa. They built a one-room cabin which served as the first house, store, post office and inn in Nevada. Their second child, Mary Nevada, named for the Sierra Nevada Mountains, was born the following January. She died in December of the same year.

The Alderman cabin whose site is now occupied by the Story County Courthouse, housed the town's first birth, death and marriage.

**MAW-WAOQUOI #411**

Chartered November 19, 1969

Keokuk

Maw-waoquoi was the Indian wife of Samuel C. Muir, a brilliant young surgeon and founder of Keokuk. Dr. Muir was the son of Rev. James Muir a noted clergyman from Scotland and a lifelong resident of Alexandria, Maryland. Dr. Samuel C. Muir became a physician and was appointed a surgeon's mate in the Army in April 1813.

It would seem that it was while Samuel was located at Fort Edwards, now Warsaw, Illinois, that he married an Indian maiden of the Fox tribe under romantic circumstances. The story is told in [The History of Joe Daviess County, Illinois](#).

A beautiful Indian maiden, the daughter of a chief, whose name was Maw-waoquoi, visited the post where Dr. Muir was stationed. In her dreams she had seen a white brave unmoor his canoe and paddle it across the river directly to her lodge. According to the superstitions of her race she knew full well this was to be her future husband and came to the fort to find him. Meeting Dr. Muir she instantly recognized him as the hero of her dreams which she with child-like innocence and simplicity, related to him. Her dream indeed proved prophetic; for the doctor, charmed with Sophia's (her Anglo-Saxon name) innocence and devotion, honorably married her. After a while, the sneers of his brother officers, led Samuel to desert his bride when his regiment was ordered down the river. He supposed she would either not attempt to discover his retreat or would fail in the effort. Maw-waoquoi with her infant child started alone in her canoe to find her truant husband. After many weary days on her lonely journey of several hundred miles, she finally reached her husband. Emaciated after her journey, she said "I was all perished away, so thin." Dr. Muir, so touched by such daring devotion took her to his bosom and until his

death treated her with marked affection and respect. Samuel regretted his cruel abandonment of sotrue and devoted wife. Maw-waoquoi always presided at his table and was respected by all that knew her. She never, however, discarded her native dress.

It was this marriage to this noble forest maiden that led to Dr. Muir's retirement from the army and settling in the region of her people. He built the first few cabins at the place which is now Keokuk. Dr. Muir died on September 24, 1832 during a cholera epidemic. Maw-waoquoi and their four children: Louise, James, Mary and Sophia survived him.

It is the brave and faithful wife, steadfast in her devotion to her husband and her courage and strength to hold onto her dream that led the Maw-waoquoi chapter of Questers to honor her as our namesake.

### **MAY'S ISLAND #792**

Chartered April 24, 1976

Cedar Rapids

Originally the Island was platted May's 1<sup>st</sup> addition for Major May owned the island midstream in the Cedar River and a farm southwest of the island. Shaped like a battleship and four blocks long, May's Island originally was sandy at the low upper end and higher downstream with elm and cottonwood trees growing. At the time Cedar Rapids was laid out a few houses and stores were clustered near the center of the island. Eventually a roller coaster and a switchback railroad were on the island and an iron bridge was built to connect the river shores. Later the city purchased the property, named it Municipal Island, and developed it into the City and County center of government. On the island today are Memorial Coliseum, City Hall, Linn County Courthouse, County Jail, City Courts and Plaza. Only two islands in the world have city offices on an island: Cedar Rapids and Paris, France.

### **MILITARY TRAIL 1839 #438**

Chartered April 21, 1970

Monticello

To connect Dubuque with Iowa City the site of the territorial capital, a trail was blazed in 1839 by Lyman Dillon using two yokes of oxen.

Soon coaches, emigrants' wagons and troops of dragoons filled the trail leaving from Tim Fanning's Log Tavern, the northern terminus of the Old Military Road. A stopping place was the log cabin of Daniel Varvel, a Kentuckian, who built and formed a settlement called Monticello, now a flourishing community. The "Old Military" provided the opening wedge for western expansion.

### **MOINGONA #29**

Chartered March 4, 1954

Des Moines

Father Marquette on his voyage of discovery in June 1673, wrote on his map the name of the river "Moingona" derived from an old Indian word for "River of the Mounds." This was also the name of an Indian village. The river's name and a town have remained the same. "Des Moines" is believed to be a French adaptation of Moingona.

**NATHAN BOONE #359**  
Chartered December 28, 1968  
Boone

Captain Nathan Boone left his name well imprinted upon the map of Iowa; a county, a river and a city were named in his honor. Captain Boone, youngest son of Daniel Boone, first came to Iowa in 1830 to survey land in northern Iowa. He surveyed land called the Neutral Strip which was 40 miles wide extending from the mouth of the upper Iowa River west to the Des Moines River. The land had been purchased to serve as a barrier between the Sioux, Sac and Fox Indians who were frequently warring with each other. During 1835 Captain Nathan Boone of Company H, First Regiment United States Dragoons, was in the expedition which marched from old Fort Des Moines where Montrose in Lee County now stands, to Winona, Minnesota along the divide between the Des Moines and Skunk Rivers. The purpose of the expedition was to make peace with the Indians along the way. The Company H Dragoons must have made a deep impression upon the Indians as they rode through the wild country.

Captain Boone continued to serve his country until 1863 when he resigned and returned to his family. Members of his company and his fellow officers held him in high esteem. He was brave and honest and our people have good reason to feel proud of the many after whom their country was named. After ten years of private life, he died at his home in Ash Grove, Missouri in 1863 at the age of 81.

**NETA SNOOK #882**  
Chartered June 24, 1978  
Ames

We all know of the traditional things which make up little girls. Our chapter became very fascinated by one little girl who loved mechanical things while most little girls loved dolls. At an early age Neta Snook, born and reared in Ames, made a little mechanical automobile with an electric motor, and it did run.

Neta attended Iowa State College in Ames. In 1917, Neta left college to attend the Curtiss Aviation School at Newport News, Virginia, the only girl to be admitted. After completing school Neta returned to Ames and bought an old wrecked airplane. She built it in the backyard of her family home on Wilson Avenue. Later that year, the neighbors watched as she flew the plane.

In 1920, she took the plane to California and flew near Long Beach. While there, Neta met Amelia Earhart, world-famous lady of the skies. Neta became Amelia's flying teacher. Besides teaching, Neta also had charge of the wing department of Davis-Douglas Aviation Company when that company was building motorized amphibious craft.

Neta was the first woman on the Pacific Coast to attempt an altitude record, attaining a height of 15,000 feet.

In 1921, Neta gave up flying and married. She had a son named Curtiss named for an aviator she greatly admired, Glenn Curtiss.

### **NISHNA VALLEY #535**

Chartered April 1, 1972

Atlantic

Our chapter is located in the beautiful Nishnabotna River Valley. There were many Indian settlements along this valley and white man's permanent history here goes back to 1850. We have many buildings and belongings of historical value in our area and one of our goals as Questers is to help preserve them. We used the name Nishna Valley because we wanted our locality known by our name but we didn't want to narrow our membership to a particular town.

### **OCTAGON BARN #722**

Chartered October 28, 1974

Iowa City

Strength and convenience characterized early American barns. Today they still dot the countryside and as they fall into disuse, they slowly disappear. Of the many types of barns still built by the carpenter-farmers, the octagon barn was an experiment that failed.

The octagon barn followed the round barn which utilizes the idea that a circle encloses maximum amount of floor space with minimum amount of wall. The octagon barn was meant to offer perhaps more strength than the round barn. The octagon barns were first built around 1830 and are still seen here and there. Our chapter was organized in 1974 just a stone's throw from an octagon barn erected in the 1880's. The barn is located on the farm of Wayne Roberts whose wife Emily is a charter member of the Octagon Barn Questers.

### **THE OKOBOJI QUEEN #1489**

Chartered November 2010

Okoboji

The Okoboji Queen arrived back in 1884 as a transport vessel. Originally launched on Spirit Lake, she was moved to West Lake Okoboji toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century because there had been a drought and people feared Spirit Lake was drying up. By the time the steamboat was moved, the area was already becoming a destination for people to both live and visit. The steamboat ran seven days a week from as

early as it could after the spring thaw until late in the fall. When she first arrived, she had only one floor. A second level was added later.

In 1973 the Queen left the waters of West Okoboji after its owner sold the steamboat to Adventureland in Des Moines, Iowa. The people of the area were very, very sad to see it go. They tried to stop it by getting an injunction. Their attempts were futile however, and the Queen ended up on display in a pond at Adventureland for several years until it fell into disrepair and was removed.

In 1985, the Queen II was purchased as an excursion boat with funds raised in the community under Historic Arnolds Park, Inc.. The Queen II has been a fixture on West Lake Okoboji every summer since its maiden voyage. Tours begin each year in May and continue through part of September.

### **OLD CAPITOL #136**

Chartered November 15, 1960

Iowa City

The Iowa Territory selected a spot for a territorial capital on a charming frontier spot overlooking the Iowa River Valley. In 1839 the ground for the construction of a new building was cleared. On July 4, 1840 Robert Lucas, the first governor of the Territory of Iowa, laid the cornerstone for Old Capitol before a crowd of white settlers and Indians. The new government seat was established in a grand structure made of limestone, featuring Greek lines and a central spiral staircase that went from the basement to the second floor. Old Capitol was designed by Francis Rague.

Although it took fifteen years to complete Old Capitol, it was first used in December 1842 when it served as the last capital of the Iowa Territory. On December 28, 1846 when Iowa was admitted to the Union, it became the first capitol of the State of Iowa. Old Capitol was where Iowa's governor was inaugurated and six general assembly's met. Also in 1847, just 59 days after Iowa received its statehood, the state assembly created the State University of Iowa. In 1857 Old Capitol became the first permanent home of the University of Iowa.

Located in the heart of Iowa City at Clinton Street and Iowa Avenue, today Old Capitol is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Our chapter developed from the first adult education class on antiques held in Iowa City in 1960. The teacher was a local dealer who became a charter member. "Old Capitol" was chosen for the chapter name.

### **OLD DUDLEY #1221**

Chartered June 16, 1992

Carlisle

The town of Dudley was founded in 1851 on the banks of the Des Moines River in Polk County by Jeremiah Church. Shortly after settlement, a devastating flood overflowed the town site. The town was then moved southwest to higher ground and was renamed Carlisle because Mr. Church came from Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Dudley no longer exists except in the history of present-day Carlisle which is now located in Warren County.

## **OLD OAKEN BUCKET #1116**

Chartered February 21, 1987

Story City

An old oaken bucket was such a common item around households of years past that it was taken for granted, an item of lesser importance. But for every household, rich or poor, the old oaken bucket was the link to fresh water at the bottom of the well. An old oaken bucket could be found in the well at the east side of the Farm House which was built in 1861. It was part of an experimental farm and was the first building at what is now known as Iowa State University. The Farm House itself was used as a stop for the mail and stagecoach which ran three times a week. The old Mormon Trail was also once routed through Ames past the Farm House. Weary stagecoach travelers and pioneers on the trail were refreshed by sweet, cool water from the old oaken bucket.

Year after year people from all backgrounds shared their dreams, hardships and experiences while drinking from that well bucket. As the old oaken bucket quenched the thirst of all that came to the well, we take "Old Oaken Bucket" as our chapter name. We hope that through this group our thirst for knowledge of things of yesteryear will be quenched. Also as the old oaken bucket shared the cool well water, we hope to share our knowledge and experience with other travelers who look into the past.

## **OLIVE JANE LAMB #750**

Chartered May 14, 1975

Newton

A long bumpy covered wagon trip from Virginia brought Olive Jane Kennedy to Iowa in 1842 as the 14-year-old bride of Caleb Lamb.

This young lady of Irish extraction was to become one of Newton's most beloved pioneer women known by everyone as "Aunt Jane." She is the only woman who received the honor of having a street named for her. In 1957 the Newton Women's Club named her one of the ten Women of the Century.

When Aunt Jane arrived in what was to become Newton, it was only a settlement consisting of 13 families. Olive and her husband Caleb received a land grant and settled the area on which the present junior high stands. Later the ground owned by the Lambs was donated to the town for a site on which to build a school. It was the first school house in Newton.

In early 1860 the Lambs began building a brick home, the first brick home in Newton. The bricks were hauled by ox team from Clinton which had the only brickyard in the state. The construction of the home was abruptly stopped by the Civil War. A roof was hastily put on the unfinished house and in true patriotic fashion, both Mr. and Mrs. Lamb along with their two sons went off to war. Mrs. Lamb followed her Captain Caleb through the long conflict as a cook and a nurse. The Lambs survived the war and upon their return to Newton, they added a second story to their home. The cost of the house was \$10,000, a stupendous amount in the 1860's. This home was the pride of Newton and was used as the nurses' home by Skiff Hospital. The house was torn down when the last addition was made to the hospital. Olive Jane

was a woman of magnificent moral and physical courage. The fact that Mrs. Lamb was a woman of strong conviction is readily observed when she literally destroyed a "Blind Pig" in Newton in 1855 with the help of a dozen friends. Mrs. Lamb also demonstrated her powers of conviction in helping her family with the Underground Railroad stop at her father's livery. After the Great Fire in Chicago, Olive organized provisions and rode the first train into the stricken city. She stayed for several weeks taking care of the injured and the homeless. Olive Jane Kennedy Lamb, a vital and significant woman of her time, lived to be 82 years old. She is buried in the Newton Union Cemetery.

### **ONEOTA #1446**

Chartered 2005

Decorah

Oneota is an archaeological term that was used to describe a type of pottery found along the Upper Iowa River (formerly called the Oneota River) in northeastern Iowa.

The Oneota people appeared in about 1000 A.D. and inhabited the upper Midwest until around 1630. The Decorah area of northeast Iowa with deep valleys, spring-fed rivers and streams, wooded hillsides, limestone bluffs, and cultivated fields is often called by the name Oneota.

The ties to history and the beauty of the area make Oneota an appropriate name for our chapter.

### **ONONDAGA #1200**

Chartered June 2, 1991

Ames

A tribe of Iroquoian Indians were known as the Onondaga. They inhabited the region of Onondaga Lake, a salt lake in central New York State. This lake and county are located southeast of the present city of Syracuse. There is also an Onondaga Indian reservation in the area. Onondaga was the dialect of the Seneca language spoken by these Indians.

Cynthia and Alexander Duff were two of the first pioneers in Ames. Main Street in Ames was once named Onondaga after the county in which Cynthia was born. She wanted the city of Ames to carry the Onondaga name as well, but the founder of Ames, John Blair, named it after a friend of his. Onondaga Street was later shortened to O Street and by 1891 became Main Street. The Onondaga Quester Chapter in Ames is a reminder of the city's early roots.

**ORCHARD CITY #1206**  
Chartered December 11, 1991  
Burlington

In the spring of 1829, two carpenters from the east came to rebuild a fur trading post that had burned. Simpson S. White and Amzi Doolittle were so impressed with the beautiful valley of wild flowers and the many hills loaded with full blooming wild fruit trees, they thought it should be a town site! In 1836 Mr. Henry Avery came to this town. He is chiefly responsible for the title of "Orchard City" being bestowed on the city of Burlington. Mr. Avery set out a large orchard which was known throughout the nation and later became the largest nursery in Iowa.

His orchard had 300,000 fruit trees of which 160,000 were apple trees. He also developed a vineyard which covered 125 acres. In 1854 Mr. Avery was recognized as a leading nurseryman in the Midwest by his superior exhibit of fruit at a convention in Chicago. Burlington was chosen for the next convention site.

The editor of the newspaper suggested Burlington be known as "Orchard City" a name which immediately took hold. Even the city band was known as the "Orchard City Band."

**P.I.A. #1002**  
Chartered October 15, 1981  
Ida Grove

We love antiques: hunting for them, finding them, learning about them and we enjoy reading about them. So we are: People Into Antiques (P.I.A.).

**PARLOUR CITY #543**  
Chartered April 1, 1972  
Cedar Rapids

The name Parlour City was chosen because of historical significance. At one time Cedar Rapids was nicknamed the Parlour City because it was said to be as clean as a mid-Victorian parlour. Wholesale grocers had canned goods and other merchandise labeled Parlour City. Business establishments included The Parlour City Hotel and a furniture company bearing the name. Even after World War II in the 1940's, city-owned vehicles such as the garbage, snowplow and dump trucks still bore the name Parlour City. If you talk to older Cedar Rapidians, they will sometimes refer to our city as the Parlour City of Iowa.

## **PEARLS OF WISDOM #1186**

Chartered October 30, 1990

Muscatine

This chapter derived its name from Muscatine's former status as the pearl button capital of the world. The use of pearls and mother of pearl took a specific place in the history of the button. Originally the Crusaders brought such buttons back from the Middle East. The aristocracy and nobility used pearl buttons as a statement of fashion.

It was not until the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that buttons became available on a widespread basis due to the Industrial Revolution and the mass manufacturing that resulted. Such production ensured that many people would use pearl buttons. During these centuries the button became more subdued. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century more refined fashion dictated that pearl buttons were the order of the day. People used them extensively up until World War II when they switched to synthetic materials such as plastic because the natural materials became scarce. "Pearls of Wisdom" also has the double entendre of "words coming out of one's mouth which are worthwhile paying attention to." This presumably would be the goal of the chapter in its research of antiques.

## **PHEBE SUDLOW #1352**

Chartered March 17, 2000

LeClaire

In the history of education in Iowa, Phebe Sudlow of Davenport made headway for women in a profession largely dominated by males. Among her accomplishments, she became this nation's first female school superintendent in 1874.

In 1845 at age 29, she became the country's first female school principal and balked at the salary offered as it was much less than that of her male predecessor.

"Gentlemen, if you are cutting the salary because of my experience, I have nothing to say, but if you are doing this because I am a woman, I'll have nothing more to do with this," was her response.

The gentlemen hired Ms. Sudlow at the appropriate salary and she was credited with persuading school boards throughout the Midwest to make female teachers' salaries more comparable to male teachers. In 1886 she founded the Davenport Ladies Industrial Relief Society. In reality it was a home for poor women alone. This organization provided a home, sewing and cooking lessons, and self-confidence to a group of women out of the mainstream of society.

Who says equal pay for equal work and women's shelters are a new idea? Phebe Sudlow retired as a professor from the State University of Iowa at the age of 50 because of ill health yet lived to be a vigorous age 91.

After retirement she reminisced about teaching in a time when education for women was thought by some to be ruinous to their health, and the realization that the Davenport School in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century brought to women the unquestioned privilege of employment in the public school and secured equal pay

for equal services. "Prepare yourselves well. I know you will be more interested in becoming rather than having. Being rather than doing is the better part - not for self but for service," said Phebe Sudlow. A fine example for an exemplary purpose.

### **PLUM GROVE #948**

Chartered July 1, 1980

Iowa City

Plum Grove located in Iowa City was the home of Robert Lucas, who served as the first governor of the Territory of Iowa from 1838-1841. The red brick house was built by Lucas in 1844, three years after leaving office of Governor. It remained his home until his death December 7, 1853. Plum Grove was so named "in honor of the able and colorful Lucas."

Over the years the property was owned by several people after the death of Governor Lucas. Eventually it was purchased by the State of Iowa and turned over to the Conservation Commission for restoration and administration of it as an historic shrine. The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Iowa assisted with the furnishing of the home in the period in which it was occupied by Lucas and his family. His wife's name was Friendly.

Restoration proceeded slowly but on November 2, 1946, Plum Grove was dedicated as one of Iowa's most significant and historic shrines.

### **PRAERI RAIL TRAIL #964**

Chartered November 14, 1980

Roland

While pondering the selection of an appropriate name for our chapter, the members wanted one which would reflect the Scandinavian heritage of our community and the history of central Iowa. At the same time our chapter was being organized, the Story County Conservation Commission dedicated an area which was reclaimed from an abandoned railroad line. The area was called the Praeri Rail Trail which was the original Norwegian spelling. We felt the name fit both our requirements. The land was unbroken prairie and marshland only a little over 100 years ago. It was purchased for right-of-way in 1881-83 by the Iowa Central and Northwestern Railway Company. Shortly after the turn of the century, the line was incorporated into the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Co. and picked up the nickname "The Hook and Eye" line. Some residents of Story City can still remember the old steam locomotives that chugged across the trestle over the Skunk River south of town.

By the 1950's the railroad had become the property of Chicago and Northwestern. The old steam engines were gone and traffic on the line was scarce. The tracks were in poor condition. The line was abandoned in the mid-1950's. The land around the line was intensely farmed, but the 100-foot right-of-way held on

to the native prairie plant community from which it had been made so many years before. In the late 1970's the conservation board negotiated with the C&NW Co. and acquisition was made. The name was chosen through a contest in area schools and our Quester group chose to also adopt the name for our chapter.

**PRAIRIE SCHOOL #1095**

Chartered August 22, 1985

Mason City

The name Prairie School is derived from the architectural school which existed in Mason City by that same name. This school was part of the Frank Lloyd Wright legend and many examples of the Prairie School architectural style still exist in Mason City.

**RACCOON VALLEY #981**

Chartered May 1, 1981

Adel

This chapter was named for the Raccoon River which flows through Adel and the surrounding county. Many chapter members live throughout Dallas County where the North, Middle and South Raccoon Rivers join and flow into the Des Moines River.

**RIPPLING WATER #1161**

Chartered August 25, 1989

Ottumwa

Rippling Waters is the Indian interpretation of "Ottumwa."

**ROBERT LUCAS #314**

Chartered November 1, 1967

Iowa City

Robert Lucas was born April 1, 1781 of Quaker parents in Pennsylvania. He was governor of Ohio from 1832-1836 and was appointed the first governor of the Territory of Iowa by President Van Buren. He arrived in Burlington, Iowa, the location of Iowa's territorial government, on August 15, 1838 to start his three-year term as governor.

He retired in Iowa City in 1844 where he built his home "Plum Grove" and remained active in public affairs until his death February 7, 1853.

He was buried in Iowa City. His home is maintained as a museum of historical interest.

### **ROMANZO A. COATES #960**

Chartered September 6, 1980

Spencer

The Romanzo A. Coates Chapter of Questers International derived its name from one of Spencer, Iowa's founding fathers. Romanzo Coates and his wife Lephe Welles Coates were among an early party of people coming west after the Civil War. They traveled from Wisconsin to Spencer's Grove where they settled on July 2, 1866.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Coates being a very industrious and well-educated person, became the county superintendent of Common Schools and was a leading force in the organization of this early settlement. On July 3, 1868, Romanzo's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, he received an appointment from the government to be Spencer's first postmaster. The word Grove was dropped because the government already had another Spencer's Grove registered in Iowa; thus the official beginnings of Spencer commenced. Later, feeling it his duty to enter the ministry, he began preaching in schoolhouses and was ordained a minister of the Free Baptist denomination succeeding his father, Rev. David Coates.

Spencer's past, present and future generations are grateful to Romanzo A. Coates who at the age of 82, nearly blind and an invalid, reviewed and released his diary "The Diary of Romanzo A. Coates" preserving a glimpse of day-to-day experiences of the early settlers in what is now Spencer, Iowa.

### **ROSE HILL #498**

Chartered April 19, 1971

Iowa City, Iowa

When we speak of Rose Hill, many things come to mind; a home, an area of northeast Iowa City, a family and a legend dating back to the very beginnings of our town. It is a fitting name for our Quester chapter.

Rose Hill, located at 1415 East Davenport Street, is a brick structure built in the Greek Revival style. It is what is known as a "Bank House" with three stories and a walkout basement one-third above ground. The entrance with transom and vertical lights is typical of many Iowa homes built between 1840 and 1860. The symmetry is carried inside where a central staircase runs straight through the house with two rooms on either side. A kitchen has been added to the rear of the house where there once was a

cowshed. The parlor fireplaces were constructed with only 3" openings to accommodate a small stove; only the one in the basement is a log-burning fireplace. The thick brick walls secure the structure. Since the home has suffered multiple fires and vandalism in recent years, new interiors have been built as meticulous duplicate of the original.

The present Rose Hill was built by Captain Frederick Irish around 1850. His large tract of land extending over much of the northeast side of town was known as Rose Hill after the wild roses that grew there. A retired seaman, Captain Irish loved the constant breeze at the site. The vision of the tall grass blowing in the breeze reminded him of the ocean waves. In 1631, John Irish and his wife Elizabeth emigrated from England to Duxbury, Plymouth Colony. Having volunteered and fought against the Pequods, John Irish received government land in Rhode Island in 1637. Elizabeth and John had six children, including John Jr. and Frederick Macy Irish.

Knowing the dangers of the sea and resolving that her sons would have no part of the hard and often tragic life, Elizabeth moved the family to an inland village in central New York. However Frederick and his brother John slipped away on voyages lasting three years. Frederick went aboard the Nantucket two decades before Herman Melville put to sea on the same ship. The leviathans of the deep that Melville would describe were hunted with harpoons and lances, some of which Frederick used and are at Rose Hill today. Frederick was on the first boat to land missionaries in Hawaii and later in Iowa, he would weave tales about this voyage.

Learning of his brother's death at sea upon his return, Frederick did not go to sea again. Marrying a Quaker from New York, Elizabeth Robinson, he became a captain for the Dry Dock Company piloting vessels entering and department the port of New York City and thus earned his title Captain. Growing restless, he set off for Terre Haute, Indiana, where he stopped long enough to lose his money in a plow manufacturing business that went broke. Sending his family back to New York, he used his last \$20 and a horse to go westward. Swimming across the Mississippi River at Burlington, Iowa (formerly Flint Hills), he found Governor Lucas and a commission preparing to start out to seek a site for the future capital and joined the party.

Irish had in mind a knoll overlooking the valley of the Iowa River. Agreeing with him at a meeting on December 31, 1839, the Commission relocated the Johnson County seat of justice from Napoleon to Iowa City. In response to an acute housing shortage in Iowa City, Irish established the first hotel "Lean Back Hall". It was the scene of official county and city business. By 1859 Irish built his cabin and the next year, sent for his family. The family farmed the land around Rose Hill. In later years the boisterous and popular Captain Irish became totally blind but his interest in everything around him continued. He died after he was thrown from his sleigh in heavy traffic on Dubuque Street and was taken to the Iowa State Press where his son was the editor. Another son, Gilbert and his wife Josephine Strawbridge, subsequently moved to and farmed Rose Hill. Gilbert's daughter Jane, who never married, moved to Rose Hill and died there in 1963.

An auction on April 4, 1964, disposed of much of the property. In order to declare it an historic landmark, a citizens' group tried to get the city to buy Rose Hill after many years of vandalism nearly destroyed it. This was unsuccessful. The Waldon Construction Company bought it and 30 surrounding acres and sold parcels of land to become the present-day Rose Hill subdivision. Subsequent to this, the

Goetz family who bought the house located many of the missing household items and restored the house over many years.

**SARAH SHEPERD #921**

Chartered July 31, 1979

Cedar Rapids

In 1837 Osgood Sheperd built a 16 x 20 log cabin on the east bank of the Cedar River. The site was to become the original plat of Cedar Rapids. After building the cabin he went east for his family. His wife, two children and elderly father arrived in 1838.

The log cabin was known as "Sheperd's Tavern." A natural stop for travelers fording the river, it provided shelter and spirits for solid citizens as well as some of the area's less reputable citizens. There are descriptions of Osgood's character and physical appearance, but there is little regarding Mrs. Sheperd. She had a third child while living in the log cabin. She is among the Linn County women of the period described as "...devoted to their families, shirking no hardships..."

In the fall of 1842 the family moved to Wisconsin. After her husband was killed in a railway accident, Mrs. Sheperd married a man named Carpenter and returned to Linn County near Center Point.

**SATURDAY EVENING GIRLS #1224**

Chartered October 8, 1992

Ankeny

Saturday Evening Girls was organized in September 1992. We meet the third Thursday of every month September through May. Saturday Evening Girls is the name of a brand or type of pottery made in Boston, Massachusetts, by a group of women in the early 1900's (1908-15). A group of girls gathered to learn skills in the craft of pottery and in business and also to "get the girls off the street" on Saturday nights.

They worked eight-hour days and only half a day on Saturday. They had a paid vacation and the best working conditions of women in that day and age. The pottery is marked with the initials S.E.G. We chose this name because the subject of the speaker at our first meeting was S.E.G. pottery.

### **SHO-QUO-QUON #322**

Chartered April 4, 1968

Burlington

Sho-Quo-Quon is an Indian word meaning Flint Hills. The four main hills on which Burlington now stand, as well as the surrounding area, were once rich in the flint which the Indians used in making fire starters and arrow points. Because of this the area was neutral ground for all Indian tribes particularly the Sac and Fox. No Indian battles were ever fought here. It was the Indians who gave the name Sho-Quo-Quon to these steep rocky bluffs overlooking the mighty Mississippi and the earliest settlers used both the Indian name and its English translation.

The name Burlington was made official in 1834 but both Sho-Quo-Quon and Flint Hills are still frequently used throughout the community.

### **SIOUAN #36**

Chartered June 15, 1955

Sioux Rapids

The Sioux chapter of Questers was named after the Indian tribes who lived in this area. The name Siouan was given to a group of Indian tribes. The Sioux were the most prominent in the general area of Siouxland. Many Indian artifacts have been found in the region.

### **SOLDIER'S CREEK #764**

Chartered August 23, 1975

Fort Dodge

Our chapter was named after a small creek that washes the north line of the town plat of Fort Dodge, Iowa. It was named by the officers stationed at the fort because of the fact that along the creek was a favorite hunting ground for the men when off duty. It was also used by the soldiers for drinking, washing, etc. from 1850-1853. The fort itself was located near Williams Street which is now 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North.

### **SPIRIT OF '76**

Chartered August 26, 1975

Newton

It was difficult for one person to express the true feelings of an entire group of 24 people in covering the name choice of our Quester group in Newton.

The emphasis on the bicentennial of this great nation at the time we were chartered made us aware of this theme. It is in honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States of America that we became the

"Spirit of '76". One of our first programs was appropriately called the "History of Old Glory" a fine beginning program for our group.

### **STURGIS FALLS #487**

Chartered April 1, 1971

Cedar Falls

William Sturgis, his brother-in-law E. D. Adams and their families were the first settlers of Cedar Falls. They arrived by wagon train in March 1845. Two other white men came in the spring of 1837 but did not stay but moved further west. Thus the village was known by the name of Sturgis Falls until the year 1849 when it was given the present title of Cedar Falls.

In the summer of 1845 the two settlers made a division of land, Sturgis taking a tract on the north side of the river including the mill site and the water power, and Adams taking the land south of the river from the James Round farm to Dry Run. Two other families moved to this area in the summer of 1845, the Hanna and Virden families. They settled to the southeast near Black Hawk Creek. The next spring Jackson Taylor and family constructed a cabin on what is now Main Street. The area population was then 12.

The summer of 1846 brought considerable growth to the new village and by the next spring, it is recorded that there were ten families residing here.

In December 1847 J. M. Overman and John Barrick arrived and immediately bought the waterpower and land owned by Sturgis. The millrace and then a sawmill were put into full operation turning out timbers for building better homes in the village. Soon they had made the first gristmill in this part of the state from the boulders which lined the riverbank. In the summers of 1851-52 people came from far and near with their wheat and other grains to have it ground at the Cedar Falls mill. Often 60 to 75 teams would line up near the mill waiting their turn. At this time the census showed the population as 135, 75 males and 60 females. The town was organized in 1851 and J. M. Overman was the first pioneer mayor. O. E. Mullarky claims the honor of being the oldest living white child born on the Cedar Falls town site proper. He was born in 1851. His father was Andrew Mullarky who came from Freeport in 1850 and built a store building in 1853 where the Burr House later stood, and which is now the location of the Black Hawk Hotel. Andrew Mullarky succeeded Mr. Overman as postmaster when the latter was the first lawyer to come to the area.

The town was incorporated in 1865 and has continued to grow, now having a population of more than 32,964 with many home-owned shops and industries, lovely homes, banks, churches, schools and the University of Northern Iowa.

### **SUNBONNET #713**

Chartered August 19, 1974

Newton

The "Sunbonnet Babies" have become a popular collectible. The young girls and overall boys were painted without faces and date back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The first colored pictures were believed to have been done circa 1902. The heartwarming young girls are reproduced now on a greeting card line as well as gift items. The Royal Bayreuth China Company of Germany made a complete line of dishes decorated with Sunbonnet Babies.

Questers Chapter #713 became a reality after the majority of members were in an antique class together and all became interested in the Sunbonnet Babies. After we became a Questers group, it seemed only fitting that we would become "The Sunbonnet Chapter."

### **SWEDE POINT #657**

Chartered August 15, 1973

Madrid

The first settlement at Swede Point was made in 1846. In September of that year, Mrs. Anna Delander came directly from Sweden with a family of four boys and three daughters and settled upon the land where Madrid is now located. Because of the nationality of the settlers, the place became known as Swede Point. Some twenty other settlements were made in this same year of 1846.

### **THOMPSON MILL #694**

Chartered April 1, 1974

Elkader

Beautiful hills, a river, a majestic bridge, all set the scene for this history of Elkader.

Settlers traveled from ridge to ridge in search of a spot to build a town. John Thompson, Tim Davis and Chester Sage founded this great town in the year 1846. They laid it out and set the stage with muscles and brains and shovels and picks. Because John Thompson was one of the three men who was responsible for laying out Elkader as a town, our new group decided that by picking Thompson as our club name, we were continuing to keep his name before the town people, and keeping an awareness of our early settlers in mind.

Thompson built a gristmill on the Turkey River at Elkader that was completed in 1847 along with the new dam for power. He and his other two business partners built a saw mill in 1844 and the first Elkader store which is a limestone building still used today as a store on Main Street. John Thompson was also responsible for building the large historic Motor Mill outside of Elkader which is now owned by the State of Iowa and is a famous tourist attraction.

Thompson Mill Questers first met in the spring of 1974 concerning the establishment of another Quester group in our town of 1600 people because interest was high. In the fall of 1974 the year of monthly meetings began with 12 members and has continued.

**THREE RIVERS #1101**  
Chartered November 29, 1985  
Indianola

The term "Three Rivers Country" was used during Iowa's territorial years to describe an area in the central part trisected by three rivers that are now known as the North, Middle and South Rivers. The first settlement in Three Rivers Country began in 1843 when John D. Parmalee and Captain James Allen constructed a dam and sawmill on the Middle River approximately 12 miles southeasterly from Fort Des Moines. This settlement was known as Three Rivers, and initially produced lumber for soldiers' cabins at Fort Des Moines.

After Iowa became a state in 1846 the legislature determined the county boundaries and a sizeable portion of the Three Rivers Country became Warren County where the town of Indianola was established three years later.

The name "Three Rivers" was chosen to reflect the fact that we draw our membership not only from Indianola, but from the rest of the Warren County/Three Rivers area as well.

**TLOBEDO #485**  
Chartered April 1, 1971  
Odebolt

We chose the name Tlobedo for the name of our chapter as it is the name of our town Odelbolt spelled backwards. Odebolt is unique in that it is the only place known in the world by this name, as far as can be determined.

**WAHKONSA #12**  
**IOWA'S FIRST CHAPTER**  
**WAHKONSA #12**  
Chartered July 10, 1953  
Fort Dodge

This chapter was named for a friendly Native America who was very helpful to the early settlers of Fort Dodge, Iowa. Wahkonsa means "one who will be heard from."

Wahkonsa was a handsome, intelligent young Indian who was a close friend of James B. Williams, son of Major William Williams, founder of Fort Dodge. It was said that Wahkonsa could draw a map of the whole country north and west of the early fort in the sand or the dirt with a stick! He was very

trustworthy and contributed to the welfare of our early settlers. During the hard winter of 1854-1855, he, his sister and their tribe visited Fort Dodge. They slept on the group floor of the early inn bearing his name.

Today Fort Dodge has an elementary school, a township and a hotel, in addition to our Quester chapter that bears his name. Prior to become Questers, our group had formed a club in the mid-1940's to research, discuss and search for provenance of antiques. We used "Questers" as our original name after a member read a column using the name. Later we learned Bess Bardens of Ambler, Pennsylvania had organized another group called Questers. Bess invited us to join the eleven other existing chapters. In applying for a charter, we changed our name to "Wahkonsa".

### **WALLACE #1205**

Chartered November 29, 1991

Des Moines

The careers of the Wallace family are synonymous with the growth of Iowa as a primary agricultural state.

"Uncle Henry" Wallace, patriarch of the family, is credited with linking the Wallace name with progressive farming methods. In 1888 "Uncle Henry" moved from Adair County to Des Moines to become editor of the Homestead Magazine and later, as editor of his own farming magazine Wallace's Farmer. "Uncle Henry" helped establish Iowa State College and the Iowa State Extension Service. In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the Country Life Commission. This Commission was charged with investigating the conditions in rural America and making recommendations for reform to President Roosevelt.

Henry Agard Wallace, his grandson, is remembered chiefly as the New Deal Secretary of Agriculture, an office he held twelve years after his father. He served as Secretary of Agriculture during the most creative era in farm policy and was elected Vice President of the United States for FDR's third term. His political contributions culminated in 1948.

He developed the strain of seed corn that was to change farming techniques and farm products significantly. In 1926, he was one of the founders of the Pioneer Hi-Bred Company.

### **WALNUT CREEK #1517**

Chartered March 19, 2018

Clive

This chapter is comprised of residents living in a beautiful senior living community entitled Walnut Ridge located in Clive, IA. Our community took its name from Walnut Creek which meanders through much of the city of Des Moines and its suburbs. Walnut Creek has been instrumental in shaping the development of this area. Our community of Walnut Ridge sits adjacent to the walking trails that follow a languid stretch of Walnut Creek which is dotted with small islands where deer, geese, and other wildlife swim

and rest. We thought is appropriate to recognize the influence this beautiful creek has for our community.

### **WALNUT CREEK STATION #866**

Chartered November 18, 1977

Walnut

Our chapter's name, Walnut Creek Station, was chosen as symbolic of the town's beginning about 1870 when it was known as Walnut Creek Station.

The Rock Island Railroad built its line through the town in 1869 with the depot being built in 1870 or 1871. With the advent of the railroad, settlers flocked in from all directions and the depot soon became a Cambellite church meeting house with seats made of planks stretched across beer kegs. The name was later changed to Walnut and the first election was held in October 1873.

### **WARRENOLA #577**

Chartered September 20, 1972

Indianola

The name of the 577<sup>th</sup> chapter of the national Questers organization was formed by combining the name of our county, Warren, with the last syllable of the name of our city, Indianola, both of which are rich in historical lore.

In south central Iowa is beautiful Warren County, named for Major General Joseph Warren (of the Massachusetts troops) who in the Battle of Bunker Hill gave his life at the age of 34 as one of the first martyrs in that struggle for independence. General Warren had sent Paul Revere on his famous midnight ride, was one of the leaders in the congress of the Colony of Massachusetts, and had planned and won the battle of Lexington on the historic 19th of April 1775.

It is especially fitting that this spot in the newer west "should be named for one of the first patriots who recognized the greatness of the future of America and was willing to lay down his life to make that future assured and possible."

Warren County was gained by peaceful negotiation with the Sac and Fox Indians, and we have a rich historical background regarding the organization and development of our county, which was officially named, with defining boundaries, on January 13, 1846. In 1849, a county government was organized. Warren County was directly affected by the California gold rush, as one line of the California trail passed directly through the county. The History of Warren County contains a vivid, fascinating account of this phenomenon.

The other half of our name "ola" was taken from the name of our county seat, Indianola, a beautiful, rapidly growing residential area with approximately 9,000 residents. Indianola, founded in 1850, was

named after Indianola, Texas, after the town commissioners saw the name in the New York Sun. We feel, with our Indian heritage, the name is both appropriate and beautiful.

Our citizens take pride in Indianola, with its attractive Simpson College campus centrally located near the business square, our prosperous business community, and our well-kept homes. We are proud of our cultural advantages, our heritage, and the spirit of friendliness which prevails in our small city.

It was in this tradition of friendliness that a group of neighbors organized a neighborhood potluck supper club over forty years ago and offered a \$5 prize for the best name submitted. Elsie Davis, a member of a pioneer Warren County family, suggested "Warrenola" which became the name of a social club that was active for forty years. With the growth of many dozens of organizations and clubs and with the changing social structure of our city, the neighborhood club became inactive. The name, however, will be proudly carried on through Warrenola Questers who are proud of their county, their city, and their rich heritage.

## WHITE POLE ROAD #511

Chartered June 1, 1971

West Des Moines

The White Pole Road acquired its nickname (its original name was the *Great White Way*) from the painted white bands 5' or 6' wide on telephone poles along the route, or lacking telephone poles, on signs which also occasionally indicated a dangerous turn. It was the first marked road across the state from Davenport to Council Bluffs. The second road across Iowa was known as the River to River Road. Both roads were "dragged" roads. The farmers adjacent to the roads got out with a team (mules in the worst of the mud) and dragged behind them a sort of flat apparatus resembling a large barn door, which originally may have been just that, which flattened out the mud or the dust, lending at least the appearance of a good road. To the young daredevils of the early 1900's, the freshly dragged roads were irresistible.

The various marked roads were largely newspaper promotion projects. The Des Moines Daily sponsored the cause of the River to River Road in the minds of Des Moines people at least, and later the state gave it precedence over the White Pole Road which was sponsored by the valorous attempts to lead the way from Davenport to Council Bluffs, and eventually lost out to its better publicized rival, the River to River Road.

The River to River Road was 380 miles long and the White Pole Road as it proudly proclaimed, a few miles shorter. The White Pole Road also claimed that it went through a more populous area. It's towns were larger and the previous census was quoted to prove it. In March of 1910 Governor Carroll issued a call to a Good Roads Convention and 200 delegates responded, coming by train or horse and buggy. A few brave souls who lived nearby ventured to arrive in the newfangled horseless carriage. This laid the foundation for the Highway Commission which until then was nonexistent. These men organized their counties and began to improve their section of the highway. Roads at this time were not even graded, much less surfaced and with few, if any, bridges.

Now the ambitious road builders commenced constructing grades in the worst of the low spots, raising the road to prevent flooding. Spurred on by the clamor of local sports, and businessmen who envisioned profits in having the cross-state road pass their doors, various ideas were advanced for a cross-state run, the winner would prove the true merit of his particular road. The first major event of this contest was inevitably between the White Pole and the River to River. The big race was held principally to promote the two rival contestants for the official cross-state road, and to proclaim to the world that Iowa between Christmas and New Year's had raced automobiles across the state at an unheard-of-before speed, a tribute to our hard dirt roads. In December 1912, Don McClure of Oskaloosa and Peter C.

Peterson of Davenport met at 6:00 a.m. to undertake the drive to Council Bluffs between dawn and dark. McClure would drive the White Pole Road. Warnings were sent out by word of mouth and posters that roads were to be cleared of all vehicles to allow drivers to exercise their tremendous speed. The day was sharp and cold, 32 degrees at 6:00 a.m. All the riders wore big goggles and dusters since the cars were open. Both contestants seemed to have met with accidents along the way, their time lost being comparable. Don McClure won by a bare margin with an hourly average of 37.4 miles.

## **WILLIAM B. OGDEN #1247**

Chartered March 21, 1994

Ogden

Our town and chapter were named for a prominent executive and capitalist. Mr. Ogden was born in New York State in 1805 and died in 1877. It was said he lived the American dream. He was forced to leave school at an early age because of his father's ill health. In his teens he began work in the family sawmill. He was convinced that although he lacked formal education, he could prosper by hard work. Later in life he remembered saying when he was 14, "I can do anything I turn my hand to, nothing is impossible' and ever since I've tried to prove it with some success." He became postmaster of his hometown and served in the New York State Senate. In 1835 he moved to Chicago to join his brother-in-law in his real estate venture. He made his personal fortune in the 1840's. He became the first mayor of Chicago after its incorporation and remained a great booster of the city all his life. He had a vision of a great network of rail lines connecting distant points with Chicago as the hub. He himself shaped the railroad map north and west of Chicago. When the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Line was formed, he served on the board of directors and was the first president. This is the line that goes through Ogden, Iowa. The town was named for him in 1866. Two years later Mr. Ogden resigned his position with the railroad in preparation for his retirement. The company gave him great recognition for his distinguished service.

## **WILLIAM HENRY COOP #1102**

Chartered November 29, 1985

Fairfield

Fairfield, Iowa is one of the many small picturesque towns in the Midwest. It represents the pioneering and adventurous spirit of its early settlers.

On any day of the year a group of people or an occasional passerby can be seen resting his hands on a beautiful bronze sculpture in Central Park. The sculpture was produced by Chris Bennett who had been commissioned by the Fairfield Art Association. The two figure sculpture is of William Henry Coop as he appeared at the age of 70, and a modern-day youth. They symbolize the old and the new, the awareness of one generation to another and the experiences, beauty and learning which can be shared. The quest of adventure, a better life and for personal freedoms settled our great country. From these adventures came the events of the stories that have become history. The Black Hawk Purchase was opened to settlement on July 1, 1883. With the availability of rich government land at the price of one dollar and a quarter an acre, the dreams of our early settlers drove them from eastern states and foreign lands to settle in what later was to become Jefferson County. David Koup and his brother fled Germany to escape military service. Shortly after arriving, the American Revolution broke out and David Coop (like many settlers, he changed the original spelling) enlisted in the American army. He served as a guard to General Washington as he accepted Cornwallis' surrender. After the Revolution, David Coop moved to Green County, Virginia where his son, William Greer Coop, was born in 1805. William and his family moved several times during his growing years. He received little formal schooling other than from his parents and his pioneering spirit. While visiting in Kentucky in 1829, he met and married Nancy Harris. They later settled in Macoupin, Illinois. He served as a colonel in the Black Hawk War and was later promoted to

Major General of the Illinois militia. He developed a mutual respect and lifelong friendship with Chief Black Hawk, possibly sparking his interest in the beautiful land west of the Mississippi that the chief had lost.

Coop and his family came to what is now Jefferson County in June 1836. It was on July 13, 1836 that their son, William Henry Coop was born in a wagon bed, the first white child to ever be born in the area. His birth was assisted by an Indian midwife and several other women neighbors. The day he was born, a band of Sac and Fox Indians left their village and moved to Oskaloosa except for their chief Powesheik. He and his wife continued to live close by in their wickiup. The chief's children and the Coop children spent many hours playing in the woods. Several years later the chief and his family moved, but before they left they stopped at the Coop cabin and the chief's wife laid her hand on William's head and chanted a sad farewell, no doubt realizing his important part of history.

William continued to reside in Jefferson County. He was a farmer and a familiar figure at area settlers' gatherings and parades. There are still many Coop descendants living in Jefferson County, including one of our members.

### **WILLIAM J. WAGNER #405**

Chartered October 7, 1969

Dallas Center

William John Wagner was born in Porterville, California, in 1915. When he was four or five years old the Wagner family returned to Iowa to live in Pella where his mother's family was living. Bill began sketching when he was very young. Each Sunday in church his parents would give him paper and pencil with the admonition, "draw something and keep quiet!"

Bill graduated from Iowa State College in Ames with a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering and later earned his Masters of Art degree from Drake University. After graduating from Iowa State in 1939 Bill started to work with the architectural firm of Wetherell & Harrison in Des Moines. In 1942 when construction came to a virtual standstill because of the war, he went to Bermuda and worked in the field of hydrography, concentrating on dredging of naval harbors. While in Bermuda, Bill met and married a teacher from England named Jeanne Wilkerson in 1944. Bill returned to his job in Des Moines and after much red tape, Jeanne was able to join him. Bill and Jeanne moved from Des Moines to their new home in Dallas Center near the Raccoon River. While in Des Moines, Bill had been the architect for several of the public schools and devised the remodeling plans making the old Ford plant into the Des Moines Technical High School. Having long been deeply interested in the restoration, reconstruction, and preservation of historical sites, Bill was the prime motivator in the formation of the Iowa Society for Preservation of Historical landmarks in 1956. He has been closely connected with the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library at West Branch, Iowa, both as an architect and as a trustee. His first reconstruction effort was the Hoover Blacksmith Shop. Perhaps the finest professional honor Bill has received was being named a Fellow in The American Institute of Architects in 1965. This honor has been conferred on less than 4% of the nearly 17,000 A.I.A. members.

Bill has traveled throughout the world keeping his sketchbook and pen close by. Bill is a busy person doing the things he enjoys with great enthusiasm and tireless energy. The William J. Wagner Questers are pleased that he consented to allow them the honor of using his name.

### **WILLSON ALEXANDER SCOTT #141**

Chartered February 16, 1961

Des Moines

The great-grandfather of Willson Alexander Scott emigrated from Scotland in 1725 and settled in York County, Pennsylvania. Scott's parents migrated from place to place, finally settling in Illinois where his father became influential in the community. At age 25, Willson Alexander Scott came to the territory of Iowa with his brothers. He became a trader, a farmer, a speculator and an opportunist. He was brave and generous in making contributions to the city of Des Moines and our state, which influenced the way both developed.

In 1843, Scott purchased five hundred acres on the east bank of the Des Moines River and now this is the principal part of the east side of Des Moines, including the state capitol grounds. He built a double log cabin south of what is now Capitol Hill. Two cabins were connected by a kind of breezeway, one side for the family and the other side for the animals.

As the town developed on both sides of the river and the migration across Iowa increased, Alex's cousin J. B. Scott began operating the first ferry on May 1846 and Alex also put on a flatboat ferry. The cost of the ferry was 5 cents for a man, 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents for a man and a horse, and 37  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents for a wagon with horses. As business increased, the rates rose. Some estimate that 600 horses and as many people used the ferry in one day. The town of Fort Des Moines was platted in 1849. The Iowa Star reported additional land was brought into the city and Scott was part owner of this land. Scott erected several dwellings, among them a large brick house, in the new addition of East Des Moines. He traded with emigrants, bought and sold grain and over the years, enjoyed wealth and success.

Iowa became a state in 1846 with Iowa City as the capital. Soon however, people wanted the capital to be in a more central location and in 1855, Des Moines became the site. The directive said a building should be put up within a mile of the junction of the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers. The next question was, should it be on the east or the west side of the Des Moines River? The citizens of the west side donated 20 acres with the offer of more land to add to it. The east side was favored, possibly because the feasting and feting of the five commissioners who would make the choice. Scott and Harrison Lyon donated 10 acres to the state. This was to be the land of the permanent capital and is the land now in use.

The panic of 1857 depressed land values and Scott's finances were in a bad state. He had been generous but although broke, he was still young. He organized and joined an expedition to Pike's Peak with the hope of regaining his wealth. Near Fort Kearney, Nebraska, Scott became seriously ill and died of cholera on June 23, 1859.

Scott had always admired the hilltop of East Des Moines and standing near the present site of the state capitol one day, he said, "When I die I want to be buried here where we stand." He was buried on November 1, 1859 in East Des Moines at a point overlooking the wide valley of the Des Moines River. Scott was a pioneer, trader, farmer, ferryman, traveler, businessman and a man of influence. He was quick to take advantage of possibilities and crowded into a short life what most men would be happy to accomplish in a lifetime.

### **YESTERDAY'S HERITAGE #809**

Chartered June 19, 1976

Cedar Falls

After considering many landmarks and local family names, Yesterday's Heritage was chosen to best express the founders' feelings of pride in all area names and talents contributing to today and future generations.

### **ZOLA ANDERSON #1044**

Chartered April 21, 1983

Spencer

Much thought was given to choosing a suitable name for the third chapter of Questers to be organized in Spencer, Iowa. The name chosen was "Zola Anderson."

Mrs. Anderson's life was ever a busy one devoted to family and home, and her outside interests were many and varied. No movement for the beautification and betterment of our town and community was ever conceived without her aid. Zola Anderson earned Spencer national recognition for the planting of the flowering crabapple trees on the boulevards. At one time she held the office of vice president of the Iowa Garden Club. She was on the Beautification Committee in Spencer and later was a park board member.

Zola's tireless energy was always directed towards our Clay County Fair. There she helped to raise funds for the building of the grandstand and was superintendent of the Floriculture Building.

Zola's native ability and directness of purpose, her boundless enthusiasm and kind leadership made possible accomplishments that were the marvel of those who saw them; church and school, parks and gardens, clubs and fair exhibits, all claimed her energy and devotion. For many years, the altar of her church was Zola's special care and every Sabbath the beautifully arranged flowers from her garden added a spiritual note to the service. Zola's many community activities have built for her memorials that will endure the test of time and give assurance she will not soon be forgotten.