
Iowa and Midwestern Agriculture Bibliography of State Historical Society of Iowa Articles

This bibliography includes citations from both popular and academic journals published by the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI). Citations are organized by the journal in which they appeared and then organized alphabetically by the author's name. For articles without authors, articles are alphabetized by their title. The journals included in this bibliography are the *Annals of Iowa* (pages 1–10), *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* (pages 11–13), *the Palimpsest* (pages 13–28), and *the Iowa Journal of History and Politics* (pages 28–37). Articles from the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* are not yet available online and therefore include summaries. All other articles are fully available online through the included link.

This bibliography was compiled in November 2022 by Diane Corsones.

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Iowa Journal of History and Politics (1903–1955)

Aldrich, Charles. “The Repeal of the Granger Laws in Iowa.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 3, no. 2 (April 1905): 256–70.

- *Key Words/Themes:* granger movement, railroad transportation, personal narrative
- *Summary:* This article is a personal recounting of an 1877 attempt to change granger laws. It details personal correspondence leading up to the publication of an article about railroad freight transportation in Iowa and the aftermath of the article’s publication.

Anderson, W.A. “The Granger Movement in the Middle West with Special Reference to Iowa.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 22, no. 01 (January 1924): 3–51.

- *Key Words/Themes:* Granger movement, local organizing, Midwest region
- *Summary:* The author studies the Granger movement in the context of the Civil War’s disruptive role in agriculture in the region, focusing on how the movement developed in the 1870s. It situates the movement within the railroad industry, its cooperative dimensions, and its organizational basis and then details the decline of the movement.

Bogue, Allen G. “Pioneer Farmers and Innovation.” *Iowa Journal of History* 56, no. 1 (January 1958): 1–36.

- *Key Words/Themes:* rural life, technological advancement, sociology
- *Summary:* The article is a sociological overview of how rural populations accept new ideas. It seeks to explain how historians can use sociology to help them understand agricultural populations and uses Hamilton County in the late nineteenth century as a case study.

Briggs, John E. “The Grasshopper Plagues in Iowa.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 13, no. 3 (July 1915): 349–91.

- *Key Words/Themes:* entomology, pests, locusts
- *Summary:* The author seeks to describe to the “present generation” the destruction wrought by grasshoppers in previous generations. The article covers the entomology of locusts as well as the different years in which they blanketed the region.

Haefner, John Henry. “Iowa State Department of Agriculture Its Evolution.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 41, no. 2 (April 1943): 113–75.

- *Key Words:* agricultural societies, Department of Agriculture, government bodies
- *Summary:* The article offers an overview of the organization of Iowa’s government, focusing on agriculture. In 1838, the Territorial Government passed an act permitting the development of agricultural societies in any counties with significant population. Agricultural organizations and government departments were developed to further the interests of the (largely agricultural) population. It traces the development of Iowa’s Department of Agriculture from this point until the 1940s.

Hayter, Earl W. “An Iowa Farmers’ Protective Association: A Barbed Wire Patent Protest Movement.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 37, no. 4 (October 1939): 331–62.

- *Key Words/Themes:* local organizing, patent law, protest movements
- *Summary:* The author discusses the development of protest, regulator, and vigilante protective groups, in the face of perceived government inaction. The article follows the patenting of barbed wire fencing, and the legal challenges to these patents to describe challenges to consolidation of agriculture.

Heise, Marjorie Ross. “Two Friendly Farmer Stations.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 42, no. 4 (October 1944): 405–19.

- *Key Words:* seed catalogs, radio, Henry Field
- *Summary:* The article follows the story of Henry Field of Shenandoah, Iowa. He was the operator of a successful seed and nursery company and was able to transfer his success into operating a radio station, KFNF. He skillfully combined a “down home” style, “old fashioned” music, and advertising into a successful radio career. The study also follows the story of Earl May, and his station KMA, also from Shenandoah.

Hopkins Jr, John A. “Economic History of the Production of Beef Cattle in Iowa.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 26, no. 1 (January 1928): 65–143.

- *Key Words/Themes*: beef cattle, commodity production, economic history
- *Summary*: The article argues that beef cattle have been present in Iowa since its territorial founding. It studies the growth in the industry, as a part of a larger economic and agricultural shift happening region and nationwide. Part one of a two part study.

Hopkins Jr, John A. “Economic History on the Production of Beef Cattle in Iowa.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 26, no. 3 (July 1928): 415–60.

- *Key Words/Themes*: beef cattle, commodity production, economic history
- *Summary*: The article argues that beef cattle have been present in Iowa since its territorial founding. It studies the growth in the industry, as a part of a larger economic and agricultural shift happening region and nationwide. Part two of a two part study.

Jarchow, Merrill E. “Life on a Jones County Farm, 1873-1912.” *Iowa Journal of History* 49, no. 4 (October 1951): 311–38.

- *Key Words/Themes*: rural life, gender, family history
- *Summary*: This article follows the story of the Kimball family, who lived in Jones County, Iowa. The author uses the journal of Sarah Jane Kimball as well as personal papers and correspondences to give an intimate portrait of a family and their home, on an Iowa farm.

Jones, Clyde C. “The Burlington Railroad’s Swine Sanitation Trains of 1929: A Case Study in Agricultural Development.” *Iowa Journal of History* 57, no. 1 (January 1959): 23–33.

- *Key Words/Themes*: pork industry, agricultural education, railroad industry
- *Summary*: Railroad companies were interested in cross promotional activities with the agriculture sector in order to boost their own profits. One manifestation of this was the 1929 “Swine Sanitation Train.” The Burlington Railroad disseminated agricultural information through a touring “Swine Sanitation” demonstration throughout Iowa and Nebraska.

Macy, Jesse. "The National University of Agriculture." *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 2, no. 3 (July 1904): 394–98.

- *Key Words/Themes:* James Wilson, Department of Agriculture, agricultural education
- *Summary:* This article follows the work of James Wilson as Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture. Wilson was a professor of Agriculture at Iowa State College in Ames. The study focuses on the educational work of the Department of Agriculture.

Pellett, Frank C. "Some Farm Pests of Pioneer Times." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 41, no. 2 (April 1943): 176–205.

- *Key Words/Themes:* pests, environmental history, Midwest region
- *Summary:* The article discusses the ecological disruption caused by pioneer settlement in Iowa, specifically in regard to pest animal populations. Birds, insects, and animals all helped themselves to the crops the settlers attempted to grow; the article outlines the frustrations felt by the settlers.

Roberts, Richard H. "Economic Effects of the Corn-Hog Program in Iowa." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 34, no. 2 (April 1936): 144–71.

- *Key Words/Themes:* Agricultural Adjustment Act, Great Depression, New Deal
- *Summary:* This article discusses the (at-the-time) recent history of the corn and hog industries being paid to keep production tied to previous year's numbers through the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The US Supreme Court declared this unconstitutional in 1936. The article studies the effects of this short-lived, Depression-era program.

Roberts, Richard H. "The Administration of the 1934 Corn-Hog Program in Iowa: A Study in Contemporary History." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 33, no. 4 (October 1935): 307–75.

- *Key Words/Themes:* Agricultural Adjustment Act, Great Depression, New Deal
- *Summary:* The author outlines the previous three-decades long history of corn and pork production in the Midwest to understand the 1934 Corn-Hog Program, a New Deal program administered through the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Ross, Earle D. “The Evolution of the Agricultural Fair in the Northwest.” *Iowa Journal of History* 24, no. 3 (July 1926): 445–80.

- *Key Words/Themes:* agricultural fairs, agricultural education, technological advancement
- *Summary:* The author describes the evolution of agriculture fairs in the US, which he believes are a “permanent and distinctive institution.” These fairs inspired competition, led to innovation, and spread agricultural education throughout the country.

Ross, Earle D. “The New Agriculture.” *Iowa Journal of History* 47, no. 2 (April 1949): 119–39.

- *Key Words/Themes:* industrial agriculture, technological advancement, farm organizations
- *Summary:* This article is a chapter from Ross’s book on agriculture in Iowa. It defines the period from 1897–1914 as pivotal, providing “progress and security” to agriculture in the region, which allowed for innovation and expansion. “New Agriculture” is defined as “technical, business, and social transformations, ...signif[ied] that agriculture had passed from pioneer existence to modernized economy and living” (119).

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “An Unworked Field in Mississippi Valley History.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 21, no. 1 (January 1923): 94–111.

- *Key Words/Themes:* agricultural history, Midwest region, historiography
- *Summary:* This is a discussion of the relatively novel idea at the time of the importance of midwestern history. The author provides a historiographical account of agriculture and land in the region.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “Some Significant Aspects of the Agrarian Revolution in the United States.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 18, no. 3 (July 1920): 371–95.

- *Key Words/Themes:* technological advancement, population movements, land policy
- *Summary:* Following a four-part periodization of American agriculture, the author examines the period from 1860 to 1890 (the third). He defines this period as an agrarian revolution and tracks the changes in land policy, technology, and population movement that allowed for a period of great expansion and change.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Influence of Wheat and Cotton on Anglo-American Relations during the Civil War.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 16, no. 3 (July 1918): 400–39.

- *Key Words/Themes:* commodity history, Civil War, American-Global trade
- *Summary:* This article is a call to American historians to think about the United States within a global context. Particularly in this case, it examines the reliance of Britain on American crops before and during the American Civil War and the effects this had on Union and Confederate relations and strategy.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Internal Grain Trade of the United States, 1850–1860.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 18, no. 1 (January 1920): 94–124.

- *Key Words/Themes:* grain, economic history, commodity history
- *Summary:* Part one of a detailed economic and commodity history of grain in the United States. This article focuses on 1850–60.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Internal Grain Trade of the United States 1860–1890 (I).” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 19, no. 2 (April 1921): 196–245.

- *Key Words/Themes:* grain, economic history, commodity history
- *Summary:* Part two of a detailed economic and commodity history of grain in the United States. This article focuses on 1860–90.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Internal Grain Trade of the United States, 1860–1890 (II).” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 19, no. 3 (July 1921): 414–55.

- *Key Words/Themes:* grain, economic history, commodity history
- *Summary:* Part three of a detailed economic and commodity history of grain in the United States. This article focuses on 1860–90.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Internal Grain Trade of the United States, 1860–1890 (III).” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 20, no. 1 (January 1922): 70–132.

- *Key Words/Themes:* grain, economic history, commodity history
- *Summary:* Part four of a detailed economic and commodity history of grain in the United States. The article focuses on 1860–90.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Westward Movement of the Corn Growing Industry in the United States.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 21, no. 1 (January 1923): 112–41.

- *Key Words/Themes:* corn, commodity history, economic history
- *Summary:* The study begins with early descriptions of white colonists encountering Native Americans growing corn. It outlines in detail the 300 years of colonists, then Americans, growing corn, with focus on its distribution by state.

Schmidt, Louis Bernard. “The Westward Movement of the Wheat Growing Industry in the United States.” *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 18, no. 3 (July 1920): 396–412.

- *Key Words/Themes:* wheat, commodity history, economic history
- *Summary:* This article follows the history of wheat growing in North America, starting with the colonial period. It focuses on yields and transportation. As the country expanded westward, so too did agriculture.

“Source Material of Iowa History: The Iowa State Fair of 1856.” *Iowa Journal of History* 54, no. 2 (April 1956): 169–84.

- *Key Words/Themes:* primary source, state fair, farm organization
- *Summary:* 1857 report on the first three years of the Iowa State Fair. Detailed accounting of the 1856 Fair, focusing on the grounds, livestock, exhibitions, and the day-by-day goings on.

“Source Material on Iowa History: The Appointment of James Wilson as Secretary of Agriculture.” *Iowa Journal of History* 56, no. 1 (January 1958): 77–88.

- *Key Words/Themes:* primary source, James Wilson, Department of Agriculture
- *Summary:* A 1933 account of the 1897 appointment of James Wilson as the first Secretary of Agriculture from Iowa. Wilson served under three different presidential administrations, and helped to strengthen the department. The article discusses the political wrangling that led to Wilson’s appointment.

Thornton, Harrison John. "Oats in History." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 30, no. 3 (July 1932): 377–94.

- *Key Words/Themes*: oats, commodity history, economic history
- *Summary*: This article is a survey of oats in history, beginning in Classical times. Oats are not indigenous to the Americas; the article discusses their probable movement to the New World with English colonization and then focuses on oat production throughout the United States.

Throne, Mildred. "'Book Farming' in Iowa, 1840–1870." *Iowa Journal of History* 49, no. 2 (April 1951): 117–42.

- *Key Words/Themes*: agricultural education, technological advancement, agricultural societies
- *Summary*: The author follows the slow movement of "the cause of better farming." Technological advancements, agricultural journalism, transportation innovations, local organizations, and state fairs among other things helped spread ideas to conservative farmers.

Throne, Mildred. "Iowa Farm Letters, 1856–1865." *Iowa Journal of History* 58, no. 1 (January 1960): 37–88.

- *Key Words/Themes*: primary source, tenant farming, family history
- *Summary*: Two groups of letters that document hardships seen by tenant farmers in Jones and Delaware Counties. The first set relates to the Panic of 1857 and the second to the Civil War. Letters reprinted as originally written, except for some punctuation changes.

Throne, Mildred. "Southern Iowa Agriculture, 1865–1870." *Iowa Journal of History* 50, no. 3 (July 1952): 209–24.

- *Key Words/Themes*: commodity history, pork, beef cattle
- *Summary*: In general, midwestern agriculture expanded along predictable patterns in the years directly after the Civil War. The only variation in Southern Iowa was the intensification of beef cattle rather than dairy cattle, as well as in pork. The author argues that these two products—beef and pork—became the two most important regional commodities.

Throne, Mildred. "The Grange in Iowa, 1868–1875." *Iowa Journal of History* 47, no. 4 (October 1949): 289–324.

- *Key Words/Themes*: Granger movement, local organizing, agricultural societies
- *Summary*: The Grange movement was one strategy implemented by farms to deal with falling prices, which had seen a post-Civil War spike. The article follows the movement in Iowa until its decline in 1874 and 1875.

Throne, Mildred. "The Repeal of the Iowa Granger Law, 1878." *Iowa Journal of History* 51, no. 2 (April 1953): 97–130.

- *Key Words/Themes*: Granger movement, local organizing, political activity
- *Summary*: The article follows the political and industrial actions that led to the repeal of Granger laws in Iowa. The scope includes legislators, journalists, railroad industrialists, and local activists.

Willoughby, George Wilson. "Cooperation between the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 41, no. 4 (October 1943): 394–420.

- *Key Words/Themes*: Department of Agriculture, federal government, bureaucratic history
- *Summary*: The author argues that though the relationship between the federal and state governments is generally framed as competitive, one avenue where the two tend to cooperate is in agriculture. He details the agreements and actions made between US and Iowa Departments of Agriculture.

Willoughby, George Wilson. "Iowa State Department of Agriculture Its Administration." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 41, no. 3 (July 1943): 225–86.

- *Key Words/Themes*: Department of Agriculture, bureaucratic history, government
- *Summary*: This article detailed the functioning of the Iowa Department of Agriculture at the time of publication: how it was constituted, who it interacted with, how it behaved, what bodies it oversaw, and how it was overseen were all discussed.

Wunderlich, Herbert J. "Foreign Grain Trade in the United States, 1835–1860." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 33, no. 1 (January 1935): 27–76.

- *Key Words/Themes:* grain, commodity history, economic history
- *Summary:* The article focuses on the growth of the American grain industry after 1835, specifically in levels of trade with Europe. It examines change over time and the regional differences in grain exportation in the decades before the Civil War.