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## *Iowa Ag History Collections*

This resource includes information from historical societies and organizations from throughout Iowa that have reported research or museum collections related to Iowa's agricultural history. In addition to contact, accessibility information, and onsite materials, our partners shared their organizations specific regional focuses, time periods with strength, and other thematic intersections. This is not a comprehensive list of all Iowa history organizations throughout the state, but rather a list of those who have chosen to share information at this time. All partners have been listed alphabetically.

This bibliography was compiled in August 2022 by Diane Corsones.

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### **Algona Community School District/Camp Algona POW Museum**

*114 S. Thorington St, Algona, IA 50511*

<https://www.pwcampalgona.org/>

Museum Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Kossuth County, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1943–46

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Oral Histories

Museum is associated with Camp Algona and has some items dealing with agriculture and the impact of wartime labor shortages

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**Algona Public Library**

*210 N Phillips Street, Algona, IA 50511*

<https://www.ci.algona.ia.us/pview.aspx?id=12621&catid=0>

Library Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Kossuth County, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections

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**Amana Heritage Society**

*705 44th Ave, Amana, IA 52203*

<https://amanaheritage.org/>

Museum Open Regular Hours, Appointments Requested for Researchers

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**Regional Focus:** Amana Colonies, Iowa County

**Time Period Focus:** 1850s–1950s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Deeds, Cookbooks, Records from the Amana Society Farms, both during the Communal-era (1855–1932) and after

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

Some items are in English, but most are written in German.

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**Central Community Historical Society & Museum**

*628 6th Ave, DeWitt, IA 52742*

<https://www.centralcommunityhissoc.com/>

Museum Open Regular Hours, Also by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Clinton County

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History, African American History, Indigenous History, Religious History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks, County Maps

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Typewriters

Collections in local genealogy, tools and agricultural equipment, Native American artifacts, military, turn of the century household items, county schools, bridal, local art and Iowa Mutual Insurance memorabilia. The Central Community Historical Society and Museum has the primary mission "To kindle and keep alive an active interest in state and local history"

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**Central School Preservation**

*211 South Center St, Lake City, IA 51449*

<https://www.historiccentralschool.com/>

Museum Open Regular Hours, Appointment Requested for Researchers

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**Regional Focus:** Calhoun County, West-Central Iowa

**Time Period Focus:** late 1800s–1970s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Atlases and Soil Maps

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment

In possession of all of the Lake City FFA's archives from 2000 and have this material available, also a number of production agriculture textbooks from the mid-20th century.

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**Clinton (City) Historic Preservation Commission**

*850 14th Ave S, Clinton, IA 52732*

[http://www.cityofclintoniowa.us/for\\_residents/boards\\_and\\_commissions/historic\\_preservation\\_commission.php](http://www.cityofclintoniowa.us/for_residents/boards_and_commissions/historic_preservation_commission.php)

Open During Clinton County Historical Museum Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Clinton

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Organization Records, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

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**Clinton County Historical Society**

601 S 1st, PO Box 2435, Clinton, IA 52732  
<https://iagenweb.org/clinton/CCHS/index.htm>  
Open Regular Hours and by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Clinton County

**Time Period Focus:** 1880s–Present

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, African American History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Railroad collection, Telephone collection, Military collection, Early toys, General museum

In the process of adding 5,000 sq ft to present display space

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**Davenport Public Library—Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center**

321 Main St, Davenport, IA 52801  
<https://www.davenportlibrary.com/genealogy-history>  
Open Regular Hours and by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Scott County, Eastern Iowa

**Time Period Focus:** late 1800s–present, 1920–1990 strongest

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** small assortment of materials

Online resources: <https://archives.davenportlibrary.com/> and  
<http://www.umvphotoarchive.org/digital/collection/scdpl>

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## **Decatur County Historical Society**

*21875 Pleasanton Rd, Leon Iowa 50144*

[http://iagenweb.org/decatur/Hist\\_Soc/Decatur\\_Hist\\_Society.html](http://iagenweb.org/decatur/Hist_Soc/Decatur_Hist_Society.html)

Currently undergoing renovation (fall 2022). The library and historical documents are available by appointment; artifacts being stored for renovations.

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**Regional Focus:** Decatur County

**Time Period Focus:** 1900–present

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

When the remodeling is complete, DCHS will have records of many organizations in our county such as Garden Clubs, Women’s Organizations, etc. They will also have a great deal of local school system records dating back to 1900.

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## **Dordt University Archives**

*700 7th St, Sioux Center, IA 51250*

<https://dordt.libguides.com/dordtarchives>

By Appointment Only

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**Regional Focus:** Sioux Center

**Time Period Focus:** 1955–present, Strongest from 1970–present, with some materials dating back to 1890s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History, Religious History, Labor History, History of Higher Education

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage

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**Douds Historical Preservation Association, Inc.**

*301 Henry Street, Keosauqua, IA 52565*

<https://villagesofvanburen.com/downloads.html?download=nG0kWaN9MzyfMJkcp3DkZFMICGZIAj%3D%3D>

Open During Public Events or by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Van Buren County

**Time Period Focus:** Mid-1800s–present

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

The Association also holds lots of local history articles and pictures.

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**Dutch American Heritage Museum**

*120 3rd St SW, Orange City, IA 51041*

<https://www.facebook.com/OCDAHM>

Research by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Sioux County

**Time Period Focus:** 1890s–present, strongest 1910–1940

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Directories

**Types of Artifacts:** Tools

Collections focus on the Dutch settlement and development of Sioux County, Iowa. The Museum also holds a military collection featuring men and women from Sioux County, Iowa.

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**Fair Field Productions**

*Fairfield, IA 52556*

<https://www.fairfieldhistoryseries.com/>

Production Company, Contact for Information

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**Regional Focus:** Jefferson County, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** Native American Seedkeepers–present.

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Indigenous History, Gender History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Oral Histories

**Types of Artifacts:** Tools, buildings pictured in film

Films available at [www.fairfieldhistoryseries.com](http://www.fairfieldhistoryseries.com). "A Place to Grow," a film about the history of agriculture in Southeast Iowa, is available for screening. Contact via email.

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**Farnhamville Public Library**

*240 Hardin St, Farnhamville, IA 50538*

<https://www.farnhamville.lib.ia.us/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Calhoun County, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** none specified

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**Fayette Community Library**  
*104 W State St, Fayette, IA 52142*  
<https://www.fayettelibrary.lib.ia.us/>  
Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Northeast Iowa

**Time Period Focus:** 1890–present, but not complete

**Thematic Intersections:** Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Oral Histories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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**Fenton Public Library**  
*605 Maple St, Fenton, IA 50539*  
<https://www.youseemore.com/NILC/FentonPL/>  
Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Kossuth County, with some Emmet, Dickinson and Palo Alto. Some Statewide.

**Time Period Focus:** 1899–present, pre-1950 strongest

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

Small library in a town of 270 people. The library has plat books, town history and county history books, and information dating back to 1899, when Fenton was founded.

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**Friends of Morris Park**

*10938 Timber Rd, Stockport, IA 52651*

<https://www.vbcountyconservation.com/morris-park.html>

Tours by Appointment from April–October

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**Regional Focus:** Southeast Iowa, Van Buren County

**Time Period Focus:** 1830s–1940

**Thematic Intersections:** Immigration History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Posters, Broadsides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

The Park is owned by County Conservation and staffed by volunteers

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**Glidden Public Library**

*110 Idaho St, PO Box 345, Glidden, IA 51443*

<https://www.glidden.lib.ia.us/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Glidden Area, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Deeds, Farm Directories, books, genealogy

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**Grinnell Historical Museum Society**

*1125 Broad Street, PO Box 254, Grinnell, IA 50112*  
<https://www.grinnellhistoricalmuseum.org/index.html>  
Open Regular Hours, Some Larger Items Offsite

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**Regional Focus:** Poweshiek County

**Time Period Focus:** 1870s–mid-20th Century

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools

We have a Randolph Header, a harvesting implement, that was manufactured in Grinnell between 1883 and 1890. It was pulled by horses from behind the threshing mechanism. This was unique as it allowed the threshing mechanism to enter the field first, and not the horses pulling the equipment. Over 10,000 headers were made in Grinnell and transported to farms all over the world. We don't have storage or display room to display the Header, but we are developing a campaign to fund a space for a permanent display.

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**Grout Museum District**

503 South Street, Waterloo, IA 50701

<https://www.groutmuseumdistrict.org/>

Open Regular Hours, Appointments Required for Collections in Storage

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**Regional Focus:** Waterloo/Cedar Falls area (the so-called "Cedar Valley"), Black Hawk County. Oral history collection represents the entire state.

**Time Period Focus:** Prehistoric, 1845–1985, strongest late 19th Century

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History, Indigenous History, Gender History, Religious History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools

The Museum also includes information relating to Henry Wallace and Pioneer Hybrids

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**Hamburg Public Library**

1313 Main St, Hamburg, IA 51640

<https://www.hamburg.lib.ia.us/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Fremont County, IA and Atchison, MO

**Time Period Focus:** 1850s–1980s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Organization Records, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

General knowledge books on agriculture; county and state histories; genealogy, small public library.

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**Heartland Museum**

119 9th St SW, Clarion, IA 50525  
<https://www.heartlandmuseum.org/>  
Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Wright County, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1870s–1950s, strongest 1920s–1960s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broad­sides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks, Photos, Early School Records, 4-H Record Books

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Street scenes (1950s, Depression, Victorian businesses)

Some genealogy assistance is available.

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**Iowa State University — University Archives**

403 Parks Library, 701 Morrill Road, Ames, IA 50011-2102  
<https://specialcollections.lib.iastate.edu/>  
Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Story County is strongest, but materials represent all counties of Iowa via Extension and Outreach and Experiment Stations

**Time Period Focus:** 1868–present

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Organization Records, Oral Histories, ISU Experiment Station, ISU Extension and Outreach, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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**Iowa State University — Extension and Outreach**

*PO Box 456, 20493 Hwy 1, Keosauqua, IA 52565*

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/>

Appointments Required for Records Requests

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**Regional Focus:** Van Buren County

**Time Period Focus:** 1920–present

**Thematic Intersections:** Gender History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Organization Records

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**Iowa State University — Special Collections**

*403 Parks Library, 701 Morrill Rd, Ames, IA 50011-2102*

<https://specialcollections.lib.iastate.edu/>

Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1850s–2010s, strongest 1930s–1980s

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Latino/a History, Gender History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broad­sides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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**Iowa's Dairy Center**

*1527 Highway 150, Calmar, IA 52132*

<https://iowadairycenter.com/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Statewide, Some Midwest-wide

**Time Period Focus:** late 1800s–present

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadsides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Farm Directories

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Dairy Equipment

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**Johnston (Station) Historical Society**

*6161 Northglenn Dr, Johnston, IA 50131*

<http://www.johnstoniowahistorical.org/about/about-us.htm>

Open by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** City of Johnston

**Time Period Focus:** 1900–1980

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Posters, Broadsides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections

Society specifically holds information relating to Henry Wallace and Pioneer Hybrids

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## **Johnston Public Library**

*6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131*

<https://www.johnstonlibrary.com/>

Open Regular Hours — Some Titles May be Checked Out, Some Can Only be Viewed Onsite

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**Regional Focus:** Polk County, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1944– 2000

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, History of Agriculture in Iowa, Some Pioneer Hi-Bred Produced Documents

A modest local history collection includes approximately 300 titles with 20 related specifically to Iowa agriculture.

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## **Kossuth County Historical Society**

*122 S. Dodge St, Algona, IA 50511*

<https://www.facebook.com/kossuthhistorical/>

Open Weekend Hours, Appointments Required for Research

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**Regional Focus:** Kossuth County, Some Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1850s–1980s

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks, Kossuth County History Books

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools

Organization doesn't keep a separate collection area of farm life although primarily we hold personal photos and artifacts together.

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**Le Mars Public Library**

*46 1st St SW, Le Mars, IA 51031*

<https://www.lemarsiowa.com/640/Public-Library>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Le Mars, Plymouth County

**Time Period Focus:** Local newspaper digitized and in microfilm from 1884–2020

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Atlases and Soil Maps, Newspapers

We have a nice collection of historical rural life items for Plymouth County & Le Mars. We do have a current collection of books on "homesteading" and small ag topics such as how to raise chickens, goats, beekeeping etc.

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**Lehigh Public Library**

*241 Elm St, Lehigh, IA 50557*

<http://www.youseemore.com/NILC/LehighPL/>

Open Regular Hours—Some Titles May be Checked Out, Some Can Only be Viewed Onsite

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**Regional Focus:** Lehigh and Webster County, Some Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** Indigenous History

**Types of Archival Materials:** none specified

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## **Liberty Hall Historic Site**

*1138 W Main St, Lamoni, IA 50140*  
<http://personal.graceland.edu/~libhall/>  
Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Lamoni, Decatur County and Spurrier School (Decatur County #2)

**Time Period Focus:** 1870–1906

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks, School Records

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Victorian Era middle class artifacts and one-room rural school

The mission of Liberty Hall Historic Site is to preserve the home of Joseph Smith III and to share his life story and work in the context of his family, Lamoni community, the Victorian Era and the Community of Christ—and to preserve Spurrier School and share the story of Iowa's common school system and educational practices c. 1870–1906.

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## **Living History Farms Foundation**

*11121 Hickman Rd, Urbandale, IA 50322*

<https://www.lhf.org/>

Touring is available May through October, Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.  
November through April offers classes, dinners, and enrichments for schools.

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**Regional Focus:** Statewide, Midwest-wide

**Time Period Focus:** 1700–1920, 1800s–1900s strongest

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History, Indigenous History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Posters, Broadsides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Cookbooks, Maps, building blueprints, organization history. We currently do not have oral histories, but in the next five years plan to develop an archive for such information to collect stories from our visitors and staff.

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

Almost 90% of the collection is accessible to the public during the general touring season, for the other 10% it is available by appointment for researchers or interested public. A portion of the collection is also accessible online, with regular additions throughout the year. The goal is to add an additional 500 records to our online access each year. Living History Farms' collection contains tractors, cars, textiles dating to the early 1800s, home goods, books, newspapers, advertisements, children's toys, store goods, funerary preparation tools, trades tools, and furniture. Interested parties are also able to email or call the curator for further information about the collection. Currently working on a large digitization project to be completed in 3–5 years

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**Loras College/Center for Dubuque History**

*1450 Alta Vista, Dubuque, IA 52001*

<https://library.loras.edu/cdh>

Appointments preferred but not required

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**Regional Focus:** Dubuque and Surrounding Area

**Time Period Focus:** 1830s–present

**Thematic Intersections:** Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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**Madison County Historical Society**

*815 South 2nd Ave, Winterset, IA 50273*

<https://www.historyonthehill.org/>

Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Madison County

**Time Period Focus:** 1850s–1960s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broad­sides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

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**Mahaska County Historical Society**

*2211 Nelson Lane, Oskaloosa, IA 52577*

<https://nelsonpioneer.org/>

Open Regular Hours, Appointments Required for Collection Items Not on Display

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**Regional Focus:** Mahaska County

**Time Period Focus:** 1840–1960; Pioneer Era and Early Mechanization Strongest

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Organization Records, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

The Historical Society is currently in the process of inventorying the collection.

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**Mason City Public Library- History Department**

*225 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401*

<https://www.mcpl.org/services/archives>

Research by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Cerro Gordo County

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Photographs

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**Mitchell County Historical Society**

*18791 Hwy 9, PO Box 51, Osage, IA 50461*

<https://www.mitchellcountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Cedar Valley Memories Site by Appointment, Mitchell County Historical Museum Open  
Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** late 1800s–1960

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** none specified

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Ag Steam Engines, Tractors, Vintage Farm Implements, Tools

Annual Steam Power Show 2nd full weekend in August

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**Monroe County Historical Society Museum**

*114 A Avenue East, Albia, IA 52531*

<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyIowaMuseum/>

Open Regular Hours or By Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Monroe County, but most agriculture exhibits general to Iowa

**Time Period Focus:** late 1800s–present

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** Plat Maps from 1896, periodically

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, and Tools. We also have a log cabin-type structure that was used as a pig house.

Visitors welcome!

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**Mount Mercy University, Busse Library**

*1330 Elmhurst Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402*

<https://www.mtmercy.edu/academics/academic-support/busse-library/index>

Appointments welcomed, not necessary

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**Regional Focus:** Linn County

**Time Period Focus:** early 1800s–present

**Thematic Intersections:** none specified

**Types of Archival Materials:** general Iowa reference; some Linn County history directories

The majority of Iowa history resources are in storage. Pleaes contact for more information.

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**National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library**

*1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404*

<https://ncsml.org/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** none specified

**Time Period Focus:** late 1800s–mid-1900s

**Thematic Intersections:** Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Farm Periodicals, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Books

The library and archival collections have books and periodicals that document farm life, agricultural practices, and animal husbandry from a Czech immigrant perspective

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**Northwestern College**

*101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041*

<https://library.nwciowa.edu/>

Open Regular Hours but Appointments Preferred

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**Regional Focus:** Sioux County, Northwest Iowa

**Time Period Focus:** 1880–present

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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**Orange City Public Library**

*112 Albany Ave SE, Orange City, IA 51041*

<https://www.orangecitylibrary.org/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Sioux County, some Plymouth County, Lyon County, and O'Brien County.  
Some Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1908–2010, strongest 1970–2010

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

The library holds miscellaneous atlases from the period of 1776–1976.

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**Plymouth County Historical Museum**

*335 1st Ave SW, Le Mars, IA 51031*

<https://www.lemarsiowa.com/521/Plymouth-County-Historical-Museum>

Open Regular Hours or By Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Plymouth County

**Time Period Focus:** none specified

**Thematic Intersections:** Immigration History, Religious History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

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**Rockwell Public Library**

*307 Main St E, Rockwell, IA 50469*

<https://www.youseemore.com/NILC/Rockwell/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1900–present

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History, Religious History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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25 | Iowa Ag History Collections (Statewide)

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**Scott County Library**

200 N 6th Ave, Eldridge, IA 52748

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/library>

Open Regular Hours — Some Titles May be Checked Out, Some Can Only be Viewed Onsite

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**Regional Focus:** Scott County, some Clinton and Cedar Counties, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** Early 20th Century

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History

**Types of Artifacts:** Farm Organization Records, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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**Shenandoah Public Library**

201 S Elm St, Shenandoah, IA 51601

<http://www.shenandoah.lib.ia.us/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Page, Southwest Iowa, Some Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1880s–present, strongest from 1960s–present

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Cookbooks, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

Agricultural history materials include a bound copy of a collection of published materials as well as family histories and local histories that have been collected and donated.

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**Tyden Farm No. 6**

*1145 300th St, Dougherty, IA 50433*

<https://tydenfarm.com/>

Open by Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Floyd County

**Time Period Focus:** 1915–1960

**Thematic Intersections:** Immigration History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Household

The man featured at the Farm was a Swedish immigrant, industrialist, inventor, farmer.

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**University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections & Archives**

*125 W. Washington St, Iowa City, IA 52242*

<https://www.lib.uiowa.edu/sc/>

Open Regular Hours

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**Regional Focus:** Eastern Iowa, Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** mid-1800s–present, strongest in 20th century

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History, Latino/a History, Gender History, Religious History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks

A page titled "Rural Life in Iowa: An Iowa Women's Archives Resource Guide" is available at this URL, citing the majority of resources available in the Iowa Women's Archives:

<https://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/c.php?g=1250461>

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**University of Northern Iowa — Special Collections & University Archives**

*Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa, 1227 West 27th Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-3675*

<https://scua.library.uni.edu/>

Open Regular Hours or By Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Statewide

**Time Period Focus:** 1920s–1970s

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Personal/Family Collections, Deeds

Materials are available to the public by appointment, walk-in hours, or digitally upon request. <https://scua.library.uni.edu/location-and-hours>. Our strongest collections supporting agriculture research are [the Farm Crisis collection](#), [the Hearst Family Papers](#), and [the Miller Family papers](#).

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**Vesterheim the National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School**

*520 W. Water St. Decorah, IA 52101*

<https://vesterheim.org/>

Appointment Required for Research

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**Regional Focus:** Winneshiek County, State and Region wide

**Time Period Focus:** 1700s–1980s, Strongest mid–late 1800s–early 1900s

**Thematic Intersections:** Cultural History, Immigration History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

Vesterheim's collection includes objects, library materials, and archives materials related to Norwegian and Norwegian-American culture and history.

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28 | Iowa Ag History Collections (Statewide)

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**Winnebago Historical Society**

*PO Box 27, Forest City, IA 50436*

<https://whsiowa.org/>

Hours Vary by Location, Contact for Appointment

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**Regional Focus:** Northern Iowa, but also have extensive gas tractor and steam tractor exhibits, as well as other equipment common throughout the Midwest.

**Time Period Focus:** mid-1800s–mid-1900s

**Thematic Intersections:** Political History, Cultural History, Indigenous History, Religious History, Labor History

**Types of Archival Materials:** Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

**Types of Artifacts:** Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

A diverse variety of collections from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s are held by WHS at Heritage Park of North Iowa including machinery/implements, equipment, tool displays, a working steam powered saw mill, black smith shop, functioning train, relocated & one site buildings (68 buildings on 92 acres). We also grow and harvest crops with equipment. Please contact with additional questions.

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