

Iowa Ag History Collections—Southeast

This resource includes information from historical societies and organizations from Southeast 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.

Amana Heritage Society

705 44th Ave, Amana, IA 52203

<https://amanaheritage.org/>

Museum Open Regular Hours, Appointments Requested for Researchers

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.

Central Community Historical Society & Museum

628 6th Ave, DeWitt, IA 52742

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

Museum Open Regular Hours, Also by Appointment

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, Broad sides, 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"

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

Open During Clinton County Historical Museum Hours

Regional Focus: Clinton

Time Period Focus: none specified

Thematic Intersections: none specified

Types of Archival Materials: Farm Organization Records, Posters, Broadsides, 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

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

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

3 | Iowa Ag History Collections (Southeast)

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

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>

Douds Historical Preservation Association, Inc.

301 Henry Street, Keosauqua, IA 52565

[Online Guide to Sites](#)

Open During Public Events or by Appointment

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.

4 | Iowa Ag History Collections (Southeast)

Fair Field Productions

Fairfield, IA 52556

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

Production Company, Contact for Information

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. "A Place to Grow," a film about the history of agriculture in Southeast Iowa, is available for screening. Contact via email.

Friends of Morris Park

10938 Timber Rd, Stockport, IA 52651

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

Tours by Appointment from April–October

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

5 | Iowa Ag History Collections (Southeast)

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

Regional Focus: Van Buren County

Time Period Focus: 1920–present

Thematic Intersections: Gender History

Types of Archival Materials: Farm Organization Records

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

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

University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections & Archives

125 W. Washington St, Iowa City, IA 52242

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

Open Regular Hours

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>
