

# Think Like Alexander Clark

- Do you think Alexander Clark's involvement in the Civil War encouraged him to become a suffrage advocate for African-American men? How?
- Following the Civil War, African-American men were given the right to vote in Iowa. Why do you think women were not allowed the right to vote at this time?
- Clark is known for his civil rights advocacy in Iowa history. What do you think is his greatest accomplishment? Why?



## **Alexander Clark (1880-1969)**

Born in Pennsylvania in 1826 as the son of a formerly-enslaved person, Clark was encouraged to pursue an education. When he was 16, he moved to Bloomington (now Muscatine) and opened a barber shop. He petitioned to repeal discriminatory laws and organized the first unit of African-American soldiers to fight in the Civil War. In 1867, the Muscatine school board said Clark's daughter, Susan, could not attend the same public school as white children. Clark sued and in 1868, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in his favor, stating all children could attend a common school. Clark also was instrumental in having the word "white" struck from the Iowa Constitution so all men could vote. His son became the first African American to graduate from the University of Iowa's law school, and Clark himself graduated five years later. Clark was appointed U.S. minister to Liberia.

# Think Like Sue M. Wilson Brown

- Sue Wilson Brown fought tirelessly for the rights of all African Americans, but especially for Black women. Discuss reasons for this focus combined with her fight for women's suffrage.
- The NAACP pledged "to promote equality of rights and eradicate caste or race prejudice among citizens of the United States ... to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for their children, employment according to their ability." Why do you think Brown and her husband would want to open a chapter in Des Moines?



## **Sue M. Wilson Brown (1877-1941)**

Sue Wilson Brown was born in Virginia but she graduated from Oskaloosa High School, and later moved to Des Moines. Brown dedicated her life to improving the status of African Americans on both a state and national level and to the women's suffrage cause. She founded the Des Moines League of Colored Women Voters in 1912 and the Des Moines Mary Church Terrell Club, named for a nationally known African American suffrage and civil rights activist. As president of the Iowa Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1915 to 1917, Brown worked with the Polk County Suffrage Association to further the cause. She and her husband established a Des Moines chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Brown became the first female president of this chapter in 1925.

# Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?



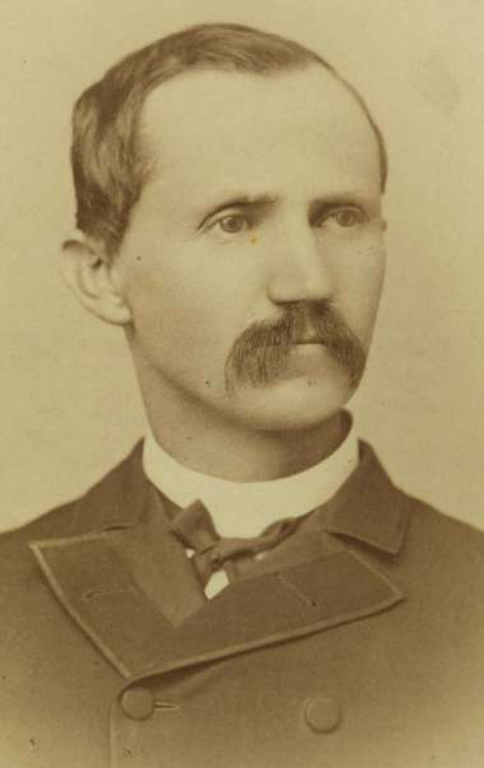
## **Ira Cook (1821-1902)**

Much like how a geographer studies the land, a land surveyor is someone who measures land areas in order to determine boundaries for settlers to purchase. Ira Cook was one of many lowans to receive a contract from the government to be a land surveyor when Iowa territory had to be measured. Cook endured tough conditions, long journeys by foot and wagon and harsh weather from 1849-1853 as he crossed the state measuring the land. He was elected mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1861 and later moved to Washington, D.C., to become Deputy United States Revenue Collector in 1864.

# Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the ways people make a living.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.



## **Voltaire Twombly (1842-1918)**

Voltaire P. Twombly was elected Treasurer of Iowa in January 1885. The treasurer officially oversees the state's revenue and finances. He served three terms in the position before stepping down in 1891. Not only was Twombly financially savvy, he also was a war hero. During the Battle of Fort Donelson during the Civil War, he picked up and carried his regiment's national colors after three other members of his regiment were killed or incapacitated by Confederate fire while attempting to secure the flag. Twombly received a Medal of Honor in 1897 for his heroic deeds during the battle.



# Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change? Who didn't? Why?



## **Louise Noun (1908-2002)**

Louise Frankel Rosenfield Noun spent her life preserving and sharing Iowa history. She was born in Des Moines to Meyer Rosenfield, owner of the Younker's department store, and Rose Frankel Rosenfield, a suffrage-supporting mother. Noun and Mary Louise Smith, the former chair of the Republican National Committee, worked together to found the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa Main Library. The archives include important manuscripts and papers which record women's history in Iowa. Louise Noun also authored numerous books and papers regarding feminist history in Iowa.

# Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?



## **George Gallup (1901-1984)**

A native of Jefferson, Iowa, and graduate of the University of Iowa, George Gallup invented the now famous Gallup Poll. The Gallup Poll is a method of survey sampling (asking different people the same question for their answers) to help figure out public opinion. Polls are important for elections and helpful for political scientists. The first instance of using the Gallup Poll for politics was the 1932 campaign of Gallup's mother-in-law, Ola Babcock Miller, who successfully ran for Iowa Secretary of State.

# Think Like a Journalist

A person who tells others about the story.

- What are the major headlines of this historical topic?
- What people would you want to interview? What questions would you ask?
- What details are needed to tell this particular story to people not from this area?
- Why is it important to share news about what is happening at this time period or this location?



## **George Mills (1906-2003)**

There was not a story developing within the Iowa Capitol's hallways or chambers that George Mills did not cover for *The Des Moines Register* newspaper. Mills covered events and political news at the capitol building from 1943-1971 and later served as a reporter for television station WHO-TV. From 1943 to 1954, Mills was also the Iowa correspondent for *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune* magazines, writing Iowa stories for a national audience.