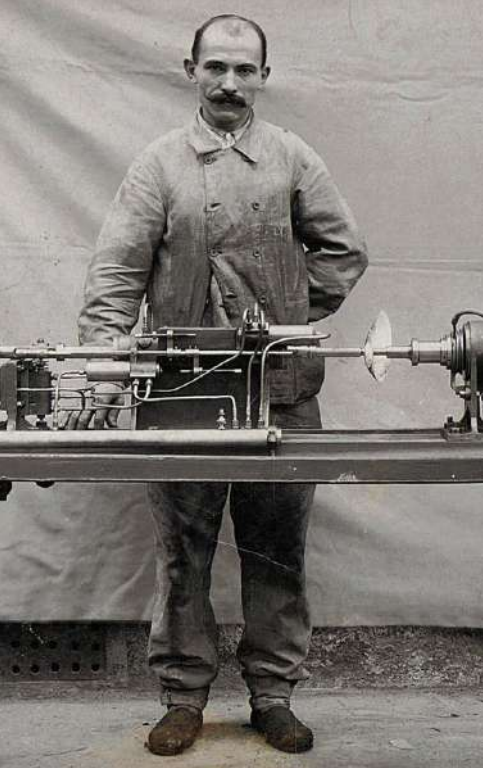


Think Like John F. Boepple

- John F. Boepple added new technology to his factory. How do you think this impacted the amount of buttons that could be produced? How would it impact the quality?
- Why would Boepple be interested in helping the U.S. government to study propagation, or breeding, of mussels?
- The pearl buttons were made out of mussel shells, which are natural resources. How would overfishing, or catching too many mussels, impact the pearl button business?



John Frederick Boepple (1854–1912)

John F. Boepple was born near Hamburg, Germany, where he learned the family trade, making buttons from horn, ocean shell and other materials.

However, taxes were raised and put him out of business; he set out to find another location to make pearl buttons. He remembered that his father received a box of mussel shells from a location that was 200 miles west of Chicago. He immigrated to the U.S. and searched for a location to build his new factory. After a couple of failed attempts, he found Muscatine's plentiful mussel beds and set up a factory in 1891. As Boepple added more technology, like making the transition from foot-powered lathes to machines connected to a steam engine by line shafts, it became apparent that the supply could meet the demand. Muscatine became known as the "Pearl Button Capital of the World."

Think Like Edward T. Devine

- Edward T. Devine believed that “...child labor would come to an end in a twelvemonth [one year] if there were no money to be made in the exploitation of child labor.” Discuss this statement. What do you think he meant by that?
- The 1924 Child Labor Amendment was passed, but never ratified (it was not added as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution). Discuss reasons why you think this was never ratified.
- The National Child Labor Committee continued its work into the 1990s. Why do you think this was necessary?



Edward T. Devine (1867-1948)

Edward Thomas Devine was born on a farm near Union, Iowa. He graduated from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from University of Pennsylvania. It was through his work with economics and his interest in social work that he recognized that children were being exploited and used as cheap labor in factories, mines and other industries. He was part of a group, the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC), that started in 1904. The NCLC had a mission of "promoting the rights, awareness, dignity, well-being and education of children and youth as they relate to work and working." The group focused on fighting for more and better state and federal legislation. In 1924, the Child Labor Amendment was passed, but never ratified. The amendment is still pending today.

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?



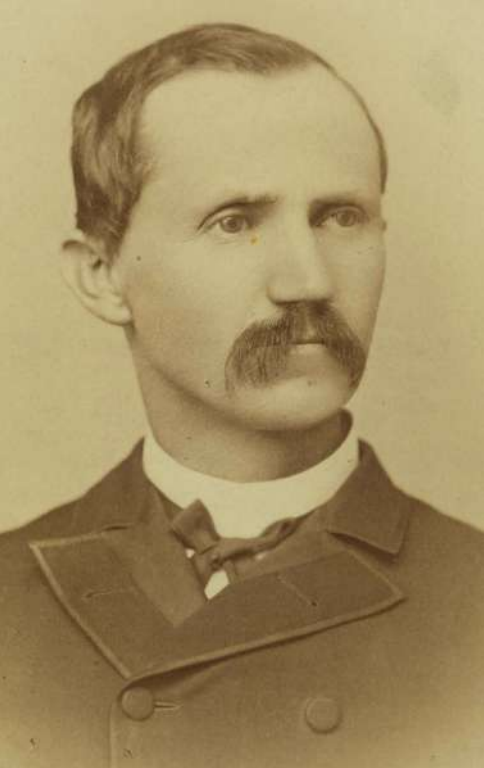
Ira Cook (1821-1902)

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.