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Raymond A. Smith, Jr

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Sports and Games in Western Iowa in the Early 1880s

by Raymond A. Smith, Jr.

At the end of the decade of the 1870s, western Iowa was clearly in a time of transition. Council Bluffs was the only major town in the area; it had a population of 18,063 in 1880. Des Moines, in the center of the state, was a bit larger with 22,408 residents, but Sioux City had a population of only 7,366. By 1880 the last of the Iowa frontier had disappeared although there might have still been a few acres which had yet to feel the prairie-busting plow. During the decade of the 1880s, however, changes occurred and patterns were set which would remain constant for almost the next century. Des Moines was to become the largest city in the state. Sioux City was to increase in size five times over in the 1880s and by 1890 it would be almost twice as large as Council Bluffs. Council Bluffs, unable to match the growth of its neighbor in Nebraska — Omaha — would have only 21,474 people in 1890 to Omaha's 140,452. And the little towns in western Iowa remained little towns in the 1880s and thereafter. Missouri Valley managed to double its size in the decade of the 1880s but it began at 1,154 and ended at only 2,797. Some towns like Dunlap, Bedford, and Hamburg actually declined in size.

Generally, the early 1880s were years when western Iowa towns were relatively small and had relatively stable populations. Only Sioux City's size would increase rapidly in the 1880s while Council Bluffs, in the course of the decade, would be noticeably surpassed in almost

everything except pride by *both* Sioux City and Omaha.

Western Iowa was essentially rural in the early years of the 1880s and would basically remain so in the years that followed (except for the presence of the three peripheral cities on the make: Sioux City, Omaha, and Des Moines). The sports and games of the region were those of a newly settled rural society at the moment of the frontier's passing. Urban and rural are not quite the proper terms in this setting. It might be better to refer to the sports and games of town and country in western Iowa.

But setting is only one factor which must be addressed in dealing with this subject. One might well ask what is meant by sports and games or amusements or entertainments or even by leisure. To cut through a great deal of possibly tedious argument, and also to be a little contentious, one might well define a sport as a competitive test of one's person or one's properties on which one not only can, but most generally will, make a wager. In short, a sport is something you can bet on. It would seem to follow, then, that a game is something generally not worth betting upon. One competes in games but without staking much if anything on the outcome. Thus a sport and a game may be the same thing simply done by different people under different circumstances. Professional football players engage in a sport while players on a city lot or in a city park or on a junior high school team really only play games. It might be

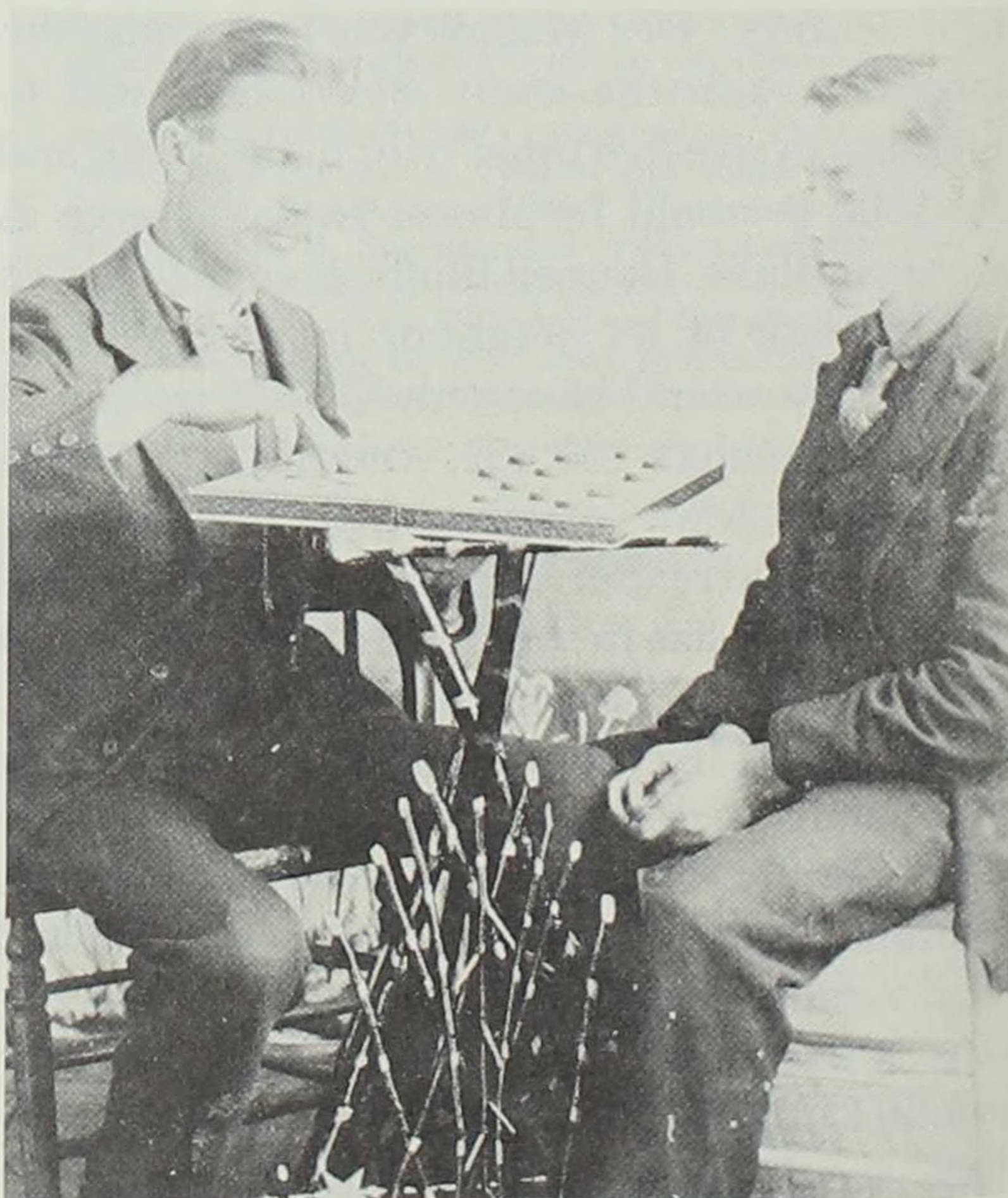
suggested that amateurs play games while professionals engage in sports. In the nineteenth century one definition of a professional was someone who performed before spectators who paid an admission fee.

The phrase "modern sport" is often used, but it seems that the adjective "modern" may have less to do with urbanization or the rise of spectator sports than with the felt need for the kind of organization and regulation which precludes any acknowledgement that gambling is a way of life for most Americans and that every sport is liable to be corrupted in an "open market, free enterprise, laissez-faire" environment. Pre-modern sports required little in the way of organization or regulations. Pre-modern sports generally involved a great deal of gambling. Moreover, pre-modern sports were generally tainted since they were engaged in by "sporting men." Modern sports tend to be highly regulated and strive for the maximum in essential cleanliness, or so their proponents would have us believe. If a modern sport is not clean, as boxing, for example, seldom ever was or is, then the demand for reform is on the lips of "sportsmen" everywhere. Note well that the use of "sporting man" has fallen from favor, but almost anyone will accept the cognomen, "sportsman."

The question then essentially becomes what sorts of competitive amusements existed in western Iowa in the period just after the close of the frontier? There were a number of agrarian sports and games traditionally associated with the rural scene. There was a great deal of shooting. Competitions included shooting at both live pigeons and glass balls and involved both individuals and clubs. Matches between towns were common as shooting clubs existed in many places. The culminating tournament each year was the state competition which in 1880 was dominated by competitors from Council Bluffs who took first, second, and fourth places in the tournament. The first prize

winner carried away a gold medal worth \$50 and a double-barrel shotgun worth \$200.

In addition to shooting there was also much hunting. There were nimrods aplenty who sought out ducks and geese, deer, and even wolves. For those who sought the more plentiful game of the prairies, Nebraska was close by. Wolf hunts were common in southwestern Iowa at the beginning of the decade but it took the English colonists in Woodbury and Plymouth counties to elevate the wolf hunt into a proper social affair. In 1882 one finds accounts of the Merville Fox Hounds with Mr. Patrick as master but, in mid-season, the Merville Fox Hounds became the Merville Wolf Hounds and the hunts were so successful in the winter of 1882-83 that plans were made for a kennel club to be formally organized, complete with uniforms for the hunters. It might be pointed out that hunting in western Iowa was slightly different than in Merry Old England. Each hunter following the Merville Wolf Hounds had to carry a claw hammer so that the lead man at



Checkers expert Ed. Berner and a friend from Newell, Iowa, match wits in a game. (SHSI)

any moment in the hunt could carefully take down any wire fences which might be encountered and the last man at that moment in the hunt was required to put the wire fence back up after the hunters had passed. (It doesn't sound much like those wonderful scenes from *Tom Jones*.)

There was a great deal of horse racing also in western Iowa in the early 1880s but horse racing was already popular as a spectator sport and was no longer capable of being characterized simply as an agrarian contest between local rivals.

There were a large number of sports indulged in in western Iowa towns (both large and small) in the early 1880s. There were the saloon games (or sports) such as billiards. There were a few bowling alleys scattered throughout the western half of the state. There were some games which might really have been sports if one accepts the earlier definition. The most prominent of the game/sports was checkers, which could be played for fair amounts of money and for titles of various kinds. In March 1880 a checker match for the championship of Iowa was played in Council Bluffs between a Mr. Baldwin and a Mr. Spencer. It was to be a fifty-game match although only twenty-two games were played before Mr. Spencer became ill and withdrew. At that moment the score stood Spencer 5, Baldwin 3, with 14 draws. In a return engagement the following year, Mr. Baldwin took the state championship, winning 13 games to Spencer's 3 in a twenty-five game match.

Town activities in the early 1880s included some roller skating, but this activity, which fluctuated wildly in its appeal throughout the last thirty years of the century, didn't seem to catch on among residents of the western Iowa slope. There were also a number of those heady individuals in the area who performed acrobatic feats of one kind or another, walking tightropes or slackropes between buildings.

There was a bicycle craze in Omaha and Council Bluffs in 1881 and 1882 which led to bicycle races in the latter year. There was, as one might expect, a bit of cockfighting and some rat-baiting. There was little boxing, however. The sport of boxing was in disarray and disrepute in the early 1880s, at least until John L. Sullivan won the heavyweight crown from Paddy Ryan in early 1882. Even then it was not until 1883 that Sullivan began to popularize the sport with his national tours on which he sparred with members of his entourage and challenged locals to join him in more serious exhibitions. On 14 December 1883 Sullivan's combination played the Dohany Opera House in Council Bluffs before a standing room crowd. There were occasionally local fights which might, at times, have been termed prizefights, but only one other sparring match, that between Billy Madden and William McCune in 1880.

Town sports, between 1879 and 1882, were highlighted by such questionable activities as footracing and pedestrianism. Footraces came in a variety of types. There were playful races associated with the celebration of the Fourth of July, including Fat Men's Races, Sack Races, Women's Races, and Children's Races. There were also challenge races which often led to a great deal of money changing hands. A typical description of such a challenge race appeared in the *Daily Nonpareil* of 4 June 1880:

AVOCA, June 3, 1880.—The foot-race here today between Mr. Stowe of Walnut, and Fred Fuller of Council Bluffs, was largely attended, fully eight hundred people being on the fair grounds. A good deal of money changed hands, pools selling rapidly with Fuller for the first choice. Fuller won the race in 10¼ seconds, beating Stowe easily by eight feet. The race was 100 yards, for \$50 and gate money.

Footracing was a sport full of peril for both bettors and racers, however. Salted races were common. By running heats, one could use a crude form of pressing with much misinformation scattered about, and terrible results could ensue. A *Hamburg Democrat* news item indicated the seriousness of the risks involved in the sport in the 1880s:

Many of our readers and citizens remember a foot racer named Cozad, who was here some years ago, and during his stay ran several races, one against a horse a short distance. The races were run on the ground now occupied by the fair ground and the Phelps farm. We had lost track of him for several years, but he turned up at Denver, Colorado, a month or two ago, induced friends to bet on his winning a race of \$18,000. The day arrived, the race was run, but Cozad acted in bad faith the same as he done here and other places; his backers lost, he threw the race. A friend who had lost \$9,000 on his winning stepped to the front and drawing a navy, shot him dead, remarking that he would not play his game on any one else. It appears that he had been making big money in that way for several years, and while east threw away several races in which friends had backed him heavily. It didn't pan out in Colorado. Sporting men want those they bet on to be square.

Pedestrianism was a fairly popular sport in Council Bluffs in the early 1880s. It was largely an indoor sport and also took a number of forms. A walking match took place in Omaha in 1879 which involved sixteen walkers and lasted four hours. In 1879 and 1880 Council Bluffs had a black pedestrian, General Forest, whose best race seemed to be a twenty-mile one. He generally raced for \$100 a side and was undefeated through 1880. Women pedestrians were also common in the last quarter of the nineteenth

century. The citizens of Council Bluffs had the opportunity to watch a Madame Dupree on several occasions in 1880 and 1881. Her finest local victory was undoubtedly in 1880 when she defeated a gentleman named Stewart in a fifty-hour contest by completing 185 miles and 22 laps to Stewart's 168 miles and 12 laps.

A footrace might draw a crowd, a pedestrian match or a sparring exhibition might occasionally fill a house, but there were three sports which were truly spectator sports in the early 1880s in western Iowa: horse racing; firemen's competitions; and baseball. The time was such that people turned out in great numbers for one sport that was still essentially an agrarian sport, for one sport which was (and continues to be) a true town sport, and for the national pastime (which is most often discussed as an urban sport).

Horse racing was connected with fairs, as at Avoca or Glenwood, or with holiday celebrations, such as the Fourth of July, or with meetings of a regular type, such as occurred in Council Bluffs or Atlantic or LeMars where some sort of Jockey Club or Trotting Association held sway. There was the Trotting Association of Avoca; there was the Botna Valley District Speed Ring Society; there was the Atlantic Driving Park and Fair Association; and there were the Jockey Clubs of Council Bluffs and LeMars. Similar organizations staged meetings in other western Iowa towns in the early 1880s. Meetings might last anywhere from two to four days. There were cases, however, where races were held outside the regular meeting dates because of challenges offered and accepted. Two of the most interesting challenges of the period involved a match race between two equestriennes, Mrs. Nellie Burke of Omaha and Miss Lizzie Pinneo of Colorado, which took place at the Council Bluffs Driving Park in early September 1881, and a pair of races between the trotters Elm-



Women equestriennes at the Iowa State Fair, c. 1890. (ISHD, Des Moines)

wood Chief and Hampton Girl in Sioux City in July and August of 1882. The women met in a ten-mile race, each rider limited to ten horses, with changes taking place at the end of each mile. There was supposedly a purse of \$5,000. Actually, Miss Lizzie Pinneo was substituted at the last moment for her sister, Miss Minnie Pinneo, and Mrs. Burke won the race easily. The crowd was estimated at 10,000 and the gate receipts totaled \$1,739.05.

The latter challenge, between Elmwood Chief and Hampton Girl, was for a trotting race of two-mile heats, best three out of five for \$2,000 initially. The August 1882 challenge grew out of races held in 1881 in which Hampton Girl had bested Elmwood Chief. There was much money bet on the 1882 race with the purse set at \$1,000 a side. It proved to be no contest, however, with Elmwood Chief winning in three straight heats before an estimated 2,000 spectators. The owners of Hampton Girl issued a challenge for another race, to be held under similar conditions, for a purse of \$600. That race was run about a month later with similar results but before far fewer

people. Shortly after her second defeat Hampton Girl was raffled off by her owners.

Council Bluffs was clearly the racing capital of western Iowa and perhaps of Iowa itself in the early 1880s. A driving park was planned and started in 1880 under the aegis of the Council Bluffs Driving Park and Agricultural Association and, in 1881, a very fine mile track was opened with a meeting which provided both flat racing and trotting. The track was often described as the finest west of Chicago.

With the sizable English colony in northwestern Iowa, horse racing at LeMars included not only flat racing and trotting but hurdle racing as well. Englishmen and others raced for such prizes as the West Fork Plate, or sought victory in the Hail Columbia Stakes, or the Grand International Hurdle Race.

But the popularity of horse racing was easily matched in the early 1880s by the popularity of firemen's sports. The big event of the year for firemen was the state tournament, which in 1879 took place in Cedar Rapids, in 1880 in Marshalltown, in 1881 in Council

Bluffs, and in 1882 in Muscatine. Western Iowa teams did well in all these state tournaments. Teams from Council Bluffs in the 1879 tournament included the Bluff City No. 1, the Rescue No. 3, and the Phoenix Team Hook and Ladder No. 2. The results were rewarding. As noted in the *Nonpareil*:

The teams went to the Tournament with full determination to put in their best licks, but they scarcely felt equal in a contest with the oldest and best fire organizations in the State, and the fact that Council Bluffs won the first prize and the State Championship belt, was an achievement altogether unexpected. The Council Bluffs boys not only did this but they also captured two other good prizes.

There were a variety of competitions for the firemen. In 1881, when the state competitions were held in Council Bluffs, the Iowa Firemen's Association included members from forty departments and eighty companies. Teams from outside the state participated as well. A quasi-professional team, the Bates Hose team from Denver, competed in Council Bluffs in 1881, and simply broke up after the tournament with its members going their own separate ways. A special match race was held that year between the host team, the Rescues of Council Bluffs, and the Rescue team of Decatur, Illinois. It was a special hose-team race for a purse of \$1,000. Unfortunately, the Iowans did not win. The Phoenix team from Atlantic won a second place prize in the hook and ladder trials in 1881 and it won that event



The champion Malvern Volunteer Fire Department Running Team, c. 1890-1895. (Allen Wortman Collection, SHSI)

"The Champion Second Nine of Calhoun County of 1901," at Farnhamville, Iowa. (SHSI)



in Muscatine in 1882. Crowds at these competitions tended to be very large. It was estimated that 15,000 were on hand as participants or spectators in Council Bluffs in 1881.

Finally there was baseball. Horse racing was provided in the early 1880s with a fairly permanent organization in the Council Bluffs Driving Park and Agricultural (or Fair) Association and in the Jockey Club. The initial investment in the Driving Park insured that in ensuing years there would be a certain civic involvement which would insure meetings and races. Organizations such as the volunteer fire companies gave a measure of continuity to the efforts of the firemen as well and thus their competitions remained popular year after year. Baseball, however, seemed to lack the solid and continuous backing which could put teams on the field year after year. Serious baseball had been played as far back as 1869 in the Council Bluffs area, for example, but it tended to be played intermittently. A team had been fielded in 1870. Another had been put together in 1872 which managed to stay together as the Council Bluffs Quicksteps until 1876. In 1879 Council Bluffs even managed to field a professional nine which played teams from Dubu-

que, Rockford [Illinois], and Omaha, without much success. Their lack of success may have been responsible for a falling off of baseball interest in 1880 but the fever struck other western Iowa towns in 1881. Atlantic and Glenwood ventured as far east as Des Moines to play, and then returned to southwest Iowa to vie for what they claimed was the championship of the state.

In 1882, however, baseball burst splendidly upon the scene with all sorts of teams. There were the Stars and the Scoopers from Sioux City, as well as the Our Boys and the Shoo Flies. There were teams representing Sergeant Bluff and LeMars and Sloan. There were the Malvern Moonshiners and the Silver City Efforts. There were teams at Dunlap, Glenwood, Dow City, and Woodbine. The *Nonpareil* described how a "baseball craze seems to have affected every young man and boy in Council Bluffs. These days when you see a number of boys assembled in one place it will be perfectly safe to conclude a game of baseball is in progress." Teams in 1882 not only represented towns but other organizations as well. A Union Pacific freight office team from Council Bluffs took on a similar team from Omaha; a pair of teams known only as the Coons and the

Pale Faces did battle; black employees of the Pacific House used a curve ball pitcher named Oscar Johnson to defeat the black employees of the Union Pacific depot; the Garry Owens played the Swamp Angels; the Ogden House played the Austins; the waiters at the Ogden took on the waiters at the Pacific; and the Omaha Telegraphers played the Council Bluffs Brass Pounders.

In 1882 the association team which represented Council Bluffs, the Bluffers, had a long, complex, and very successful season as they met teams from Glenwood, Omaha, Leavenworth, Dubuque, Kansas City, Quincy, in addition to the Spaldings of Chicago, the St. Louis Red Stockings, and the Leadville Blues. Interest among the fans was high, and the team played to good crowds. By 1882, obviously, baseball had caught on in southwestern Iowa. Passions ran high, as evidenced in the conclusion of a *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* account of a hotly contested game between the Union Pacifics of Omaha and the Council Bluffs team:

Umpire—Brandt.

Time of game—Two hours and ten minutes.

DIAMOND DUSTINGS.

If Brandt bet on the game he could not have been expected to umpire it fairly, and in that event his several unfair decisions are not to be wondered at.

.....
Brandt claimed \$5 for umpiring the game yesterday. If reports are true he made more than that betting.

The decisions yesterday were in favor of Omaha in almost every instance, and many of them bad ones.

.....
A game of 5 to 6 under such circumstances is nothing to be ashamed of.

Brandt acted as though he was umpiring the game under instructions from some one. At one time when a foul was

knocked in place of promptly calling foul, he told the catcher the ball was over 'his head,' thereby giving him a double chance to catch it.

Ah, wagers! Ah, sports! Ah, corruption! But then baseball was no freer of evil than horse racing, as the *Sioux City Journal* noted in 1882:

It must be confessed that heretofore the Sioux City track has not enjoyed the best reputation for square work, and simply because at races heretofore, there has been no close adherence to established rules, but a leaving of detail to the last moment, and then permitting them to be arranged by interested horsemen as the exigencies of the hour might seem to demand in the interest of those having the best opportunity to manipulate matters to their side.

And there were those paid runners, those professionals who sometimes proved to be of questionable morality themselves. Even the firemen were not safe. In a world of three-card monte, how many gamblers really believed in a fair shake?

Before closing this account of sports and games in western Iowa, however, there is one last area which must be touched upon: the connection between ethnicity and sports and games in the early 1880s. The connection is seen most prominently in the northwestern section of the state where a large English colony had been in existence since 1877. The Close brothers had holdings in Crawford, Woodbury, Plymouth, and Cherokee counties and it was their holdings which formed the base for the English colony. That colony laid a definite imprint on the sports and games in the area because the colonists brought their sports and games with them. The racing meetings in northwestern Iowa, especially at LeMars,

Office of the State Historical Society

CALL FOR SHSI BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS

All members of the State Historical Society of Iowa are encouraged to participate in the annual election process for the State Historical Society's Board of Trustees. Nominations are now being accepted for four positions on the board. The terms of Edgar V. Epperly (Second Congressional District), Glenda Riley (Third Congressional District), Louis A. Haselmayer (At Large), and George W. McDaniel (At Large) will expire on 1 July 1984.

The Board of Trustees works to further understanding of Iowa history and to promote activities that help Iowans better understand their heritage.

Trustees serve three-year terms and must be members of the Society. Any Society member may make a nomination. If you wish to make a nomination, send a one-page letter including the name, address, and a brief biographical sketch of the nominee to:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS

Office of the State Historical Society

402 Iowa Avenue

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Your nomination *must* be received before 16 March 1984.

William Cochran Leaves Society Staff

It is with deep regret that William Cochran's departure from the State Historical Society of Iowa's staff must be announced. As Administrator of the Society after July 1982, Bill worked closely with the staff of the Society and with Society members to insure that the programs of the State Historical Society were viable ones, that the Society maintained a high-quality public image, and that the Society's mission "to be a useful, responsive, cultural agency devoted to Iowa history" was best fulfilled.

A person well-known to Society members, Bill was actively involved in several major projects, including the planning and promotion of many of the Society's 125th Anniversary ceremonies, and the Society's two most recent annual banquets — in Des Moines in June 1982 and in Ames in June 1983. Members will also remember Bill's frequent contributions to *News for Members*.

During the spring of 1982 the Society published Bill's "The Public Library and Local History" as number 15 in its series of *Technical Sheets*. Its publication coincided with Bill's survey of local history materials available in Iowa public libraries, the results of which will, hopefully, be published in the near future, despite his unexpected departure from the Society.

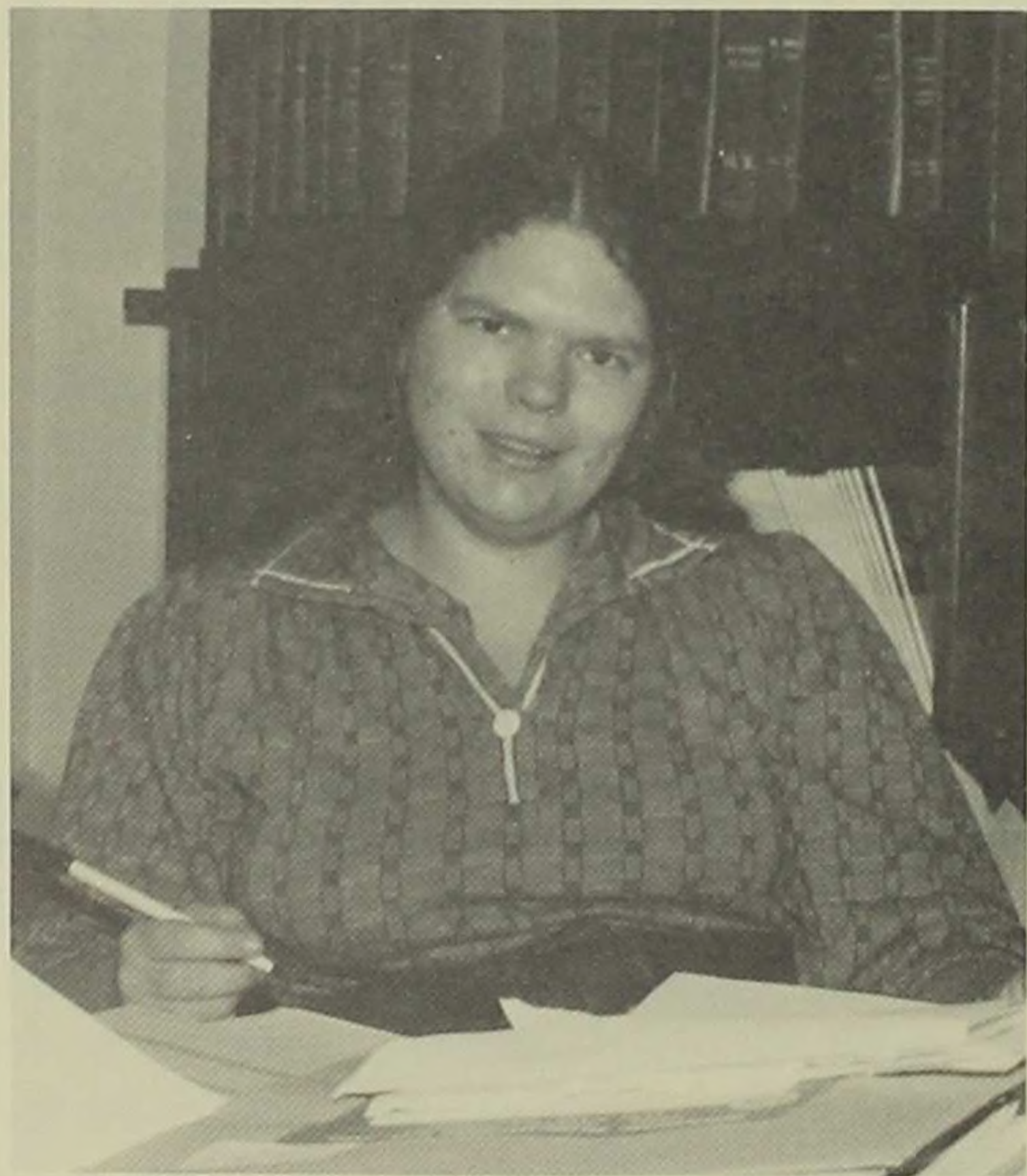
Bill received his master of arts (library science) degree from the University of Iowa in December 1983. The staff at the Society wishes him all the best.



Roger B. Natte Would Like to Hear From **You!**

The chairman of the Society's Board of Trustees, Roger B. Natte, would like to hear from longtime Society members as part of an effort to learn more about the Society's supporters and the history of the Society itself. If you have been a member of the Society for longer than forty years would you take a moment to drop Roger Natte a short note or a postcard? Let him know who you are and how long you've been a member. Contact Roger B. Natte at 2340 19th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501.

Director of Publications Named for ISHD and *Annals of Iowa* Moves to Iowa City



Christie Dailey, editor of the *Annals of Iowa* since 1980, has been named director of publications for the Iowa State Historical Department. In her new position Christie assumes the responsibilities associated with the production of all department publications. These responsibilities include everything from supervising the program area's budget, marketing efforts, and contracts for the printing of department publications, to being actively involved in the design and editing of all department publications.

As director of publications, Christie will insure the continued high level of quality publications Society members (and people familiar with the work of the Iowa State Historical Department) have grown to expect, whether in the department's regular magazine publications (the *Annals of Iowa*, the *Palimpsest*, and the *Goldfinch*) or in special publications such as books, informational brochures, or guides to

department library and museum collections.

As part of the reorganization of the Iowa State Historical Department publications program area, Christie relocated her office from the Historical Museum in Des Moines (home for the *Annals of Iowa* for ninety years) to the State Historical Society's Centennial Building at 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City. The location of department publications staff at one site should benefit the ISHD, as it will eliminate the duplication of tasks inherent in separate publications activities and allow for comprehensive planning and administration of the department's program area. "A united annual plan can be enlarged to consider the wide scale of historical interests of the state's citizens and can produce a variety of publications to meet differing needs," suggested Christie in thinking about the ways the department's program can better serve Iowans.

Christie will continue to edit the *Annals of Iowa*, the ISHD's quarterly journal of history, in addition to handling her duties as director of publications. The *Annals* contains scholarly studies of Iowa, regional, and midwestern history. It serves both an academic audience and people interested in local and regional history generally.

Christie brings to her new position considerable experience in the local history field. Her academic background includes a B.A. degree in museum studies from Michigan State University and an M.A. degree in history from Iowa State University.

"Woodworking in the 1870s" Workshops

Living History Farms, Des Moines, is hosting a series of three-day workshops during February and March 1984 for anyone interested in late nineteenth century woodworking. "Woodworking in the 1870s" involves three-day apprenticeships, guided by master cabinetmakers, in the restored 1870 carpentry shop at Living History Farms. Participants are invited to build their own small dovetailed cases while learning nineteenth century methods of wood joinery. Each class will be limited to six students. The workshop schedule is: (Session 1) February 2-4; (Session 2) February 9-11; (Session 3) February 16-18; (Session 4) February 23-25; (Session 5) March 8-10; (Session 6) March 22-24; (Session 7) March 29-31. There will be a charge of \$35.00 per student. For more information about "Woodworking in the 1870s," contact Veneta Worthington, Education Coordinator, at (515) 278-5286.

Have You a Lecture About a Famous 19th Century Woman?

The Iowa Chapter, Victorian Society in America, is organizing a series of lectures about famous nineteenth century women. The lectures will be given in Des Moines in late 1984 and early 1985. Expenses and honoraria will be paid. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should send a prospectus and vita to Patrice K. Beam, P.O. Box 78, Indianola, Iowa 50125, by February 15, 1984.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS, 1984

- January 21 Iowa Chapter, Victorian Society in America, Des Moines
 March 8-10 Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, Nebraska
 March 10 Iowa Chapter, Victorian Society in America, Council Bluffs
 March 15-16 Center for Great Plains Studies Eighth Annual Symposium, "European Influences on the Visual Arts of the Plains," Lincoln, Nebraska
 April 4-7 Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California
 April 11-13 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, Phoenix, Arizona
 April 13-14 Dakota History Conference, Madison, South Dakota
 April 14 ILHMA meeting, Des Moines
 April 25-29 Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Loren N. Horton's Winter Schedule of Public Lectures

Loren N. Horton, historian and field services representative for the Iowa State Historical Department/Office of the State Historical Society, regularly maintains a busy schedule of public presentations. Society members are more than welcome to attend all of these lectures. Admission is free. For more information about any of the following lectures, contact Loren N. Horton at the State Historical Society, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Or give him a call at (319) 338-5471.

- January 21 "Life on the Mississippi," Iowa Chapter, Victorian Society in America, Des Moines
 January 25 "Iowa's Architecture," Iowa Valley CC, Marshalltown
 January 26 "Interpreting Historical Photographs," Senior Citizens' Center, Marshalltown
 January 31 "Migration Patterns on the American Frontier," Iowa City Genealogical Society, Iowa City
 February 2 "Iowa History Through the Civil War," Public Library, Davenport
 February 15 "Iowa's Architecture," Public Library, Davenport
 February 21 "Iowa's Architecture," Muscatine CC, Muscatine
 February 25 "Interpreting Iowa's Past Through Its Material Culture," Public Library, Davenport
 February 28 "Iowa History Through the Civil War," Hawkeye Institute of Technology, Waterloo
 March 13 "Iowa's Architecture," Hawkeye Institute of Technology, Waterloo
 March 15 "Interpreting Historical Photographs," Muscatine CC, Muscatine
 March 28 "Interpreting Historical Photographs," Poweshiek CHS, Montezuma
 April 19 "Architecture of the Mississippi River Valley," Federated Womens' Clubs, Davenport

Public Archaeology Programs: Society Members Invited

A number of fine public archaeology programs are being sponsored by the Iowa Archaeology Society, and funded by the Iowa Humanities Board and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Members of the State Historical Society are encouraged to attend these programs — and to bring your friends too. Admission is free.

- February 8 "In Search of Ancient Peoples in Iowa," by Gary Valen, Science Building, Central Iowa Community College, Fort Dodge, 7:00 P.M.
 February 19 "Land is a Feeling," by Robert Bunge, Sanford Museum and Planetarium, Cherokee, 2:00 P.M.
 February 25 "Fieldwork in a Foreign Land: An Archaeological Project in East Africa," by Tom Chadderdon, Anthropology Lab, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, 7:00 P.M.
 February 28 "Archaeology of the Southwest. The Anasazi," by Duane Anderson, Putnam Museum, Davenport, 7:30 P.M.
 March 13 "Exploring Buried Buxton: Archaeology of an Abandoned Iowa Coal Mining Town with a Large Black Population," by David M. Gradwohl, Sanford Museum and Planetarium, Cherokee, 2:00 P.M.
 March 20 "Uncovering the Past in Clayton County," by Clark Mallam, Osborne Conservation Center, near Elkader, 7:30 P.M.
 March 24 "The Cherokee Sewer Site: An Investigation of One of the Earliest Indian

- Sites in Iowa," by Richard Slattery, Anthropology Lab, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, 7:00 P.M.
- March 25 "Frontier Iowa," by Roger Natte, Shelby County Historical Museum, Harlan, 2:00 P.M.
- March 27 "Geology and Man in the Quad-Cities Area," by Richard Anderson, Putnam Museum, Davenport, 7:30 P.M.
- April 9 "Exploring Buried Buxton: Archaeology of an Abandoned Iowa Coal Mining Town with a Large Black Population," by David M. Gradwohl, Brenton Student Center, Simpson College, Indianola, 7:30 P.M.
- April 11 "Upper Paleolithic Cave Art from the Caves near Les Eyzies, France," by Loree Rackstraw, Science Building, Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, 7:00 P.M.
- April 24 "The Charles W. Cooper Site: An Oneota Outpost in the Central Illinois River Valley," by Duane Esarey, Putnam Museum, Davenport, 7:30 P.M.
- May 29 "Cahokia: The Ancient Capital of the Midwest," by Melvin Fowler, Putnam Museum, Davenport, 7:30 P.M.

H. Roger Grant to Speak at Oelwein

H. Roger Grant, a frequent contributor to the *Palimpsest*, will give a public lecture at Oelwein on Thursday, 8 March 1984. Grant is a professor of history at the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, and his new book has just been published by Northern Illinois University Press, *The Corn Belt Route: A History of the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company*. Grant's lecture, "Oelwein and the Chicago Great Western Railroad," will be given at the Oelwein Public Library at 7:00 P.M. An autograph party will follow.

AASLH Gives Prestigious Local History Achievement Awards to an Iowan and an Iowa Foundation

On 3 October 1983 Dr. Robert R. Hardman of Cedar Falls and the Living History Farms Foundation of Des Moines won national awards for their work in state and local history.

Dr. Hardman won a Certificate of Commendation for producing the multimedia productions "Ice Harvesting" and "Ice Cutting on the Cedar."

The Living History Farms Foundation won an Award of Merit for excellence in the field of preservation and interpretation of the technology of Midwest agriculture and rural life.

The American Association for State and Local History conferred the awards at its annual meeting in Victoria, British Columbia. The association's awards program is the nation's most prestigious competition for local history achievement.

A national selection committee, chaired by Michael J. Smith, director of the Putnam Museum in Davenport, Iowa, and composed of leaders in the history profession, reviewed 143 nominations. Thirty-seven awards of merit and fifty-five certificates of commendation were awarded to individuals, institutions, and historical organizations across the United States and Canada.

Nominations originate at the local level and are screened at the state and regional levels by a national network of judges. Only those nominations approved in these preliminary competitions are considered for national honors.

The American Association for State and Local History, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, has given awards to local historians and historical agencies since 1944. A nonprofit educational organization with a membership of more than 8,000 individuals and institutions, AASLH works to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local history in the United States and Canada. It publishes books, technical leaflets, and *History News* magazine and holds seminars, workshops, and other educational programs for professional and volunteer workers in the field of state and local history.

Dr. Loren N. Horton will represent AASLH at an official awards ceremony to be held for the presentation of Dr. Robert R. Hardman's Certificate of Commendation and the Living History Farms Foundation's Award of Merit.

Meet Carol Scott, the Society's New Membership Clerk

Carol Scott is the person Society members deal with when it is time to pay annual dues, change addresses, or order Society publications. She is the Society's membership clerk. It is a job with a variety of responsibilities, although the most important part of the job is keeping the membership records up-to-date.

Carol joined the staff of the State Historical Society in August of last year and has proven to be a valuable addition to the staff. She corresponds with lowans curious about the Society and its role in disseminating Iowa history, maintains the up-to-the-minute inventory of Society publications — both old and new, handles the Society's cash deposits, and makes certain that outgoing and incoming mail is processed efficiently.

Carol will be a key person in the changeover from the Society's reliance on the University of Iowa's computer system to the new State Historical Society computer system. She will also be the person most directly affected by the changeover, perhaps. Carol will be able to process any changes in the membership records or publications inventory immediately, and take best advantage of a new computerized billing system to be implemented shortly.

A native of Columbus Junction, Carol graduated from Columbus Community High School in 1981. Between the date of her graduation and the time she joined the Society's staff, Carol worked in the bookkeeping department of Peoples National Bank, Columbus Junction, and studied accounting at the American Institute of Commerce, Bettendorf. While Carol does not currently plan to pursue a college degree in accounting she enjoys working with figures — and handling money.

Carol admits to having known very little about the State Historical Society of Iowa before joining its staff, but she enjoys her job so far, even with the lengthy, daily commute between Columbus Junction and Iowa City. She finds the job challenging and likes working with Society members.

In her spare time, Carol enjoys reading historical novels, bowling, playing softball, and eating pizza. She is also busy making plans for her May wedding.



New Research Fees Adopted by ISHD/OSHSI

The Iowa State Historical Department/Office of the State Historical Society has adopted a new research fees schedule. The new research rates became effective on 1 January 1984. Responding to out-of-state genealogy reference letters will now cost \$5.00 as compared to the old rate of \$3.00. The fee includes up to one-half hour of staff research time and up to five photocopies. The cost of all library staff research time after the first half hour — based, of course, on staff availability — will be \$6.00 an hour, compared to the old rate of \$4.00 an hour.

Symposium on the History of Soil and Water Conservation

The Agricultural History Society, University of Missouri-Columbia, and the Soil Conservation Service will hold a multidisciplinary Symposium on the History of Soil and Water Conservation at Columbia, Missouri, May 23-26, 1984. Among the speakers will be agricultural economist Sandra Batie, agronomist Chris Johannsen, historian Harold Pinkett, Canadian research officer J.W. Morrison, and British experts on conservation in Africa Norman Hudson and Michael Stocking. For program and registration information contact Susan Flader, Department of History, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211, or Douglas Helms, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013.

New Search for Iowa County Land Ownership Maps and Atlases

The Iowa county land ownership maps and atlases on the following list are believed to exist but they have not been located yet. Michael Conzen, an associate professor of geography at the University of Chicago, has developed the list based on George A. Ogle's register. Ogle's company was active in making land ownership maps at the turn of the century and in order to prevent duplication of another company's mapmaking efforts, and as part of a marketing strategy, he developed a register which listed where and when land ownership maps were made.

The State Historical Society's library staff is in the process of organizing the pre-1940 land ownership atlases for a microfiche project. The staff is actively looking for the following maps and atlases and would like to borrow any that you might have so that they might be included in the filming project. If you know of the whereabouts of any of the maps and atlases on the list please contact Map Librarian Nancy Kraft at the State Historical Society of Iowa. — Nancy Kraft

Iowa Maps and Atlases Believed to Exist, But Not Yet Located

County	Date	Map/Atlas	Company
Adams	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Allamakee	1914	Atlas	Webb Pub. Co.
Audubon	1883	Map	Davy, Gillen & Chandler
Audubon	1914	Map	Audubon Advocate, Audubon, IA
Black Hawk	1886	Atlas	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Black Hawk	1901	Map	Waterloo Courier, Waterloo, IA
Boone	1891	Map	J.A. Worcester, Boone, IA
Boone	1912	Map	Kenyon Co. & News Republican, Boone, IA
Boone	1916	Atlas	Anderson Pub. Co.
Bremer	1907	Map	Bremer Co. Independent, Waverly, IA
Bremer	1913	Map	Bremer Co. Democrat, Waverly, IA
Buchanan	1910	Map	Midland Map Co., Knoxville, IA
Buena Vista	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Buena Vista	1895	Map	F.A. & F.G. Harriman
Buena Vista	1927	Map	American Litho. Co., Des Moines, IA
Butler	1875	Map	Townsend & Palmer
Butler	1906	Atlas	Times Republican, Marshalltown, IA
Calhoun	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Calhoun	1906	Map	B.E. Stonebraker + Rand, McNally, Rockwell City, IA
Carroll	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Cedar	1895	Map	Coulton Smith, Mt. Vernon, IA
Cerro Gordo	1881	Map	Shepherd, Co. Auditor, Mason City, IA
Cherokee	1883	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Cherokee	1895	Map	J.S. Pingrey, Cherokee, IA
Cherokee	1903	Map	Kenyon Co. + Cherokee Times
Cherokee	1907	Atlas	Geo. A. Ogle + Co., Chicago
Cherokee	1917	Map	Cherokee Times, Cherokee, IA
Clarke	1907	Atlas	P.C. Hennessey + Co.
Clarke	1922	Atlas	R.W. Ritchie, Osceola, IA
Clay	1926	Atlas	W.W. Hixson + Co., Rockford, IL
Clinton	1894	Atlas	Turner
Clinton	1908	Atlas	McGrath Abstract Co.
Crawford	1904	Map	Denison Review
Dallas	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Davis	1891	Atlas	Geo. A. Ogle + Co., Chicago
Delaware	1883	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Delaware	1915	Atlas	G.W. Anderson, Mason City, IA
Dickinson	1898	Map	Beacon Newspaper, Spirit Lake, IA
Emmet	1910	Atlas	Vindicator + Republican, Estherville, IA
Franklin	1894	Map	F.G. Harriman, Hampton, IA
Greene	1880	Map	Andrew Watts
Greene	1914	Map	C.C. Vail
Grundy	1897	Map	Simpson + Co.
Grundy	1904	Map	W.W. Gaston, Reinbeck, IA
Guthrie	1881	Map	Allen & Co., Council Bluffs, IA
Guthrie	1916	Atlas	G.W. Anderson

Guthrie	1927	Atlas	W.W. Hixson + Co., Rockford, IL
Hamilton	1883	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Hamilton	1911	Map	Freeman Pub. Co., Webster City, IA
Hardin	1903	Atlas	Gardner + Co.
Howard	1898	Map	M.W. Smith, Reedsburg, WI
Humboldt	1915	Atlas	Snyder & Pritchard
Ida	1900	Map	G.W. McWilliams, Ida Grove, IA
Iowa	1900	Atlas	Huebinger Map Co., Davenport, IA
Jefferson	1894	Atlas	Geo. Walg, Fairfield, IA
Jefferson	1894	Map	Geo. Walg, Fairfield, IA
Johnson	1881	Atlas	J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago
Keokuk	1902	Atlas	Richardson + Kullien, Sigourney, IA
Lee	1902	Map	Hunter + Van Valkenberg, Rockford, IL
Linn	1872	Atlas	Harrison + Warner
Linn	1881	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Linn	1922	Atlas	Anderson Pub. Co., Des Moines, IA
Lucas	1896	Atlas	Kace Pub. Co.
Lucas	1912	Map	Midland Map Co., Knoxville, IA
Lyon	1888	Atlas	C.H. Scoville, Omaha, NE
Lyon	1902	Map	"local man"
Madison	1893	Atlas	unknown
Mitchell	1887	Map	E.E. Prime
Mitchell	1898	Map	S.G. Gardner, Osage, IA
Mitchell	1901	Map	Ellsworth + Graves, Osage, IA
Monona	1896	Map	Barton Bros.
Montgomery	1925	Atlas	W.W. Hixson + Co., Rockford, IL
O'Brien	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
O'Brien	1899	Map	W.H. Bloom
O'Brien	1901	Map	"Bell," [Primghar?]
O'Brien	1904	Map	West Engineering & Pub. Co., Humboldt, IA
Osceola	1889	Atlas	Geo. A. Ogle + Co., Chicago
Osceola	1896	Map	Sibley Herald, Sibley, IA
Plymouth	1884	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Plymouth	1897	Map	Sentinel, LeMars, IA
Plymouth	1919	Atlas	R.H. Fuller, Emmetsburg, IA
Pottawattamie	1915	Atlas	Rand, McNally + Co., Chicago
Poweshiek	1878	Map	E.E. Tucker
Poweshiek	1914	Map	Kenyon Co., Des Moines, IA
Sac	1883	Map	Chandler, Gillen + Davy, Chicago
Sac	1896	Map	Ott, Ferris + Parks
Sac	1908	Atlas	Geo. A. Ogle + Co., Chicago
Scott	1911	Map	Kenyon Co. + Daily Times, Davenport, IA
Scott	1924	Atlas	Sac Sun, Sac City, IA
Shelby	1899	Atlas	Geo. A. Ogle, Chicago
Shelby	1905	Map	"Foley"
Shelby	1927	Map	American Litho. Co., Des Moines, IA
Sioux	1883	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Sioux	1895	Map	Alton Democrat, Alton, IA
Sioux	1901	Map	Orange City Herald, Orange City, IA
Tama	1909	Atlas	Midland Map Co., Knoxville, IA
Taylor	1914	Map	"Surveyor"
Wapello	1915	Map	S.H. + F.H. Burton, Ottumwa, IA
Washington	1911	Map	Seymour Leader, Seymour, IA
Webster	1883	Map	Warner + Foote, Minneapolis
Webster	1895	Map	C.A. Snook, Ft. Dodge, IA
Webster	1922	Map	Reynolds + Prosser, Ft. Dodge, IA
Woodbury	1897	Map	R.S. Ripple, Sioux City, IA
Worth	1904	Map	Walters, Ft. Dodge, IA
Wright	1905	Map	W.A. Monroe, Clarion, IA

Information about any of these maps and atlases will be most welcome. Please contact Nancy Kraft, Map Librarian, State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

And So They Came

A new history of Bloomfield Township, Winneshiek County, has recently been published. *And So They Came* covers the period from early settlement to the present day and includes chapters about the businesses, farms, churches, schools, and cemeteries of the township. For more information about the book, contact Milton Koenig, RR 1 — P.O. Box 57, Castalia, Iowa 52133.

CALL FOR SHSI BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS

All members of the State Historical Society of Iowa are encouraged to participate in the annual election process for the State Historical Society's Board of Trustees. Nominations are now being accepted for four positions on the board. The terms of Edgar V. Epperly (Second Congressional District), Glenda Riley (Third Congressional District), Louis A. Haselmayer (At Large), and George W. McDaniel (At Large) will expire on 1 July 1984.

The Board of Trustees works to further understanding of Iowa history and to promote activities that help Iowans better understand their heritage.

Trustees serve three-year terms and must be members of the Society. Any Society member may make a nomination. If you wish to make a nomination, send a one-page letter including the name, address, and a brief biographical sketch of the nominee to:

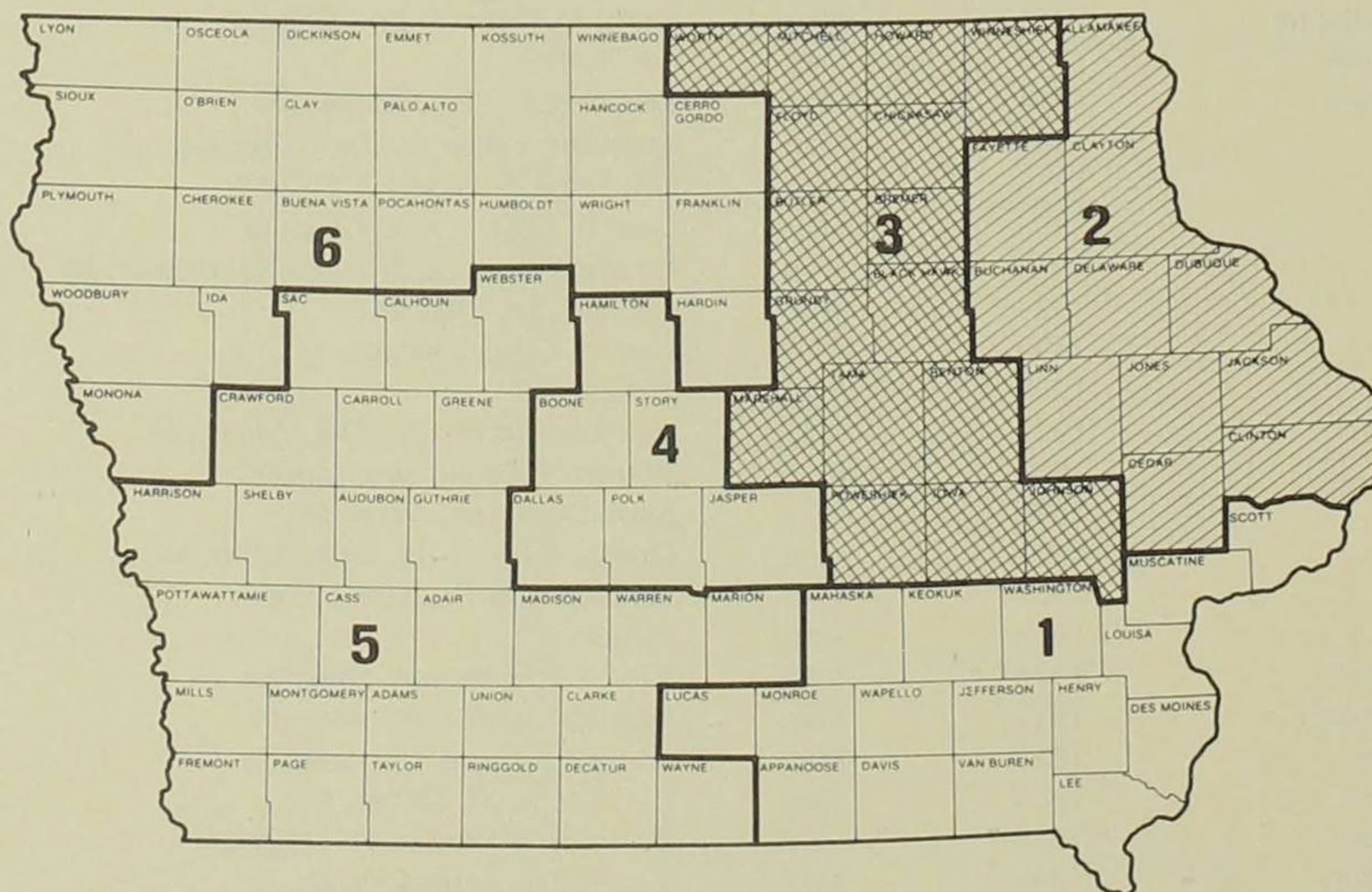
BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS

Office of the State Historical Society

402 Iowa Avenue

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Your nomination *must* be received before 16 March 1984.



often had hurdle races in addition to flat races and trotting races. Certain races were limited to horses owned and ridden by English colonists. Paper chases on horseback had been introduced by the English early on, but they quickly gave way to wolf hunts and stag hunts which proved almost as enjoyable as fox hunting for the colonists. Moreover, the English colony brought cricket with them to northwestern Iowa. There is evidence that a cricket club had been established in Council Bluffs as early as 1863 with W. H. M. Pusey as president. But serious cricket was played in northwestern Iowa in the early 1880s with teams from West Fork, LeMars, and Portlandville. Teams from Minneapolis and St. Paul offered competition to the LeMars Cricket Club at this time. (In a slight digression, it might be pointed out that cricket was not as rare as one might think in the American West. In the mid-1880s the Butte Cricket Club was issuing challenges to the Salt Lake Cricket Club and clubs existed in Omaha and Kansas City in the 1890s. Cricket seems to have sprung up in places where there was a large influx of Englishmen who simply brought the game with them. In Butte, for example, the game was played by English miners. It would be interesting to know how much the demise of cricket was caused in the second generation by the peer and schoolyard pressures which might have been exerted on the sons of cricket players. In any case, baseball was certainly the national pastime and cricket was not a serious contender for any such honors in the 1880s or 1890s.)

As a second indication of the impact of ethnic background on sports and games, one can note that Turnvereins were organized in both Sioux City and Council Bluffs in 1882. It was not the English alone who brought their games with them from the old country.

The late 1870s and the early 1880s were a time in western Iowa when the frontier was gone and when the adjustment was being

made to a society with a basically agricultural focus serviced by a number of relatively stable and relatively small market towns scattered through the area with three larger distribution and manufacturing centers on the periphery (Des Moines, Sioux City, and Omaha/Council Bluffs). In such a configuration of forces, sports and games developed in no consistent pattern. Agrarian sports continued to interest agrarian people even if those agrarian people found themselves living in small towns or even moderately sized cities. Town sports developed perforce and town spirit thrived on the competition which resulted from town teams whether they were made up of firemen or baseball players. But at the same time the larger cities were developing the spectator sports which would be more neatly a part of urban development. Baseball was in the forefront, and the early 1880s were not far from those moments when minor league baseball would take firm root in urban America, particularly in the West.

In the period prior to the 1880s there had been more hunting, more shooting, and more horse competitions of one kind or another in western Iowa. In short, there were more sports and games of interest to men and women close to the land. Western Iowa, however, moved steadily away from such agrarian sports in the early years of the twentieth century toward sports and games which were more highly organized, more "modern", and which reflected the increasing impact of urban values on the rural scene. □

Note on Sources

Most of the information in this paper was drawn from newspapers of the period, with particular use being made of the *Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil* (1879-1882) and the *Sioux City Daily Journal* (1881-1882). The *Eleventh Census* (1890) was used for population data. Roscoe L. Lokken's *Iowa Public Land Disposal* (Iowa City, 1942) and Earle D. Ross' *Iowa Agriculture: An Historical Survey* (Iowa City, 1951) were consulted about the end of the frontier in Iowa. Jacob Van der Zee's *The British in Iowa* (Iowa City, 1922) provided information about the sports and games of English colonists in northwestern Iowa.