

This list is an impressionistic, subjective selection of standard works in Iowa history. It has evolved as a resource for new staff members of the State Historical Society of Iowa. We've picked those selections we believe to be seminal works in various areas in state history, recognizing that others could also be included. We've assigned categories, also recognizing that many articles appear on this list largely because they cross boundaries and make connections among several fields of inquiry.

This is a growing, changing list. If you have suggestions for additions or deletions, please let us know.

GENERAL

Sage, Leland. *A History of Iowa*. (Ames, 1974). The current standard college-level overview textbook. Detailed picture especially of political and economic trends.

Schwieder, Dorothy, ed. *Patterns and Perspectives in Iowa History*. (Ames, 1973). A collection of articles highlighting important subject areas in Iowa history.

Schwieder, Dorothy. "Iowa: The Middle Land." In *Heartland: Comparative Histories of the Midwestern States*. (Bloomington, Ind., 1988). Summarizes in one chapter the key themes to Iowa's past. If you read only one general work, read this one.

Wall, Joseph. *Iowa: A Bicentennial History*. (New York, 1978). A personalized essay on Iowa development. A briefer look at important themes.

SUBJECT HISTORIES

State and local history:

Gardner, James B. and George Rollie Adams, eds. *Ordinary People and Everyday Life: Perspectives on the New Social History*. (Nashville, TN 1983).

Marry, Myron and David Kyvig. *Nearby History*. (Nashville, TN 1982).

Agriculture:

Bogue, Allan. *From Prairie to Cornbelt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century*. (Chicago, 1963).

Friedberger, Mark. *Farm Families and Change in Twentieth Century America*. (Lexington, KY, 1988).

Sage, Leland. "Rural Iowa in the 1920s and 1930s: Roots of the Farm Depression," Dorothy Schwieder, "Rural Iowa in the 1920s: Conflict

and Continuity," and Joseph F. Wall, "The Iowa Farmer in Crisis, 1920-1936."

All in the *Annals of Iowa* 47 (1983): 91-127.

Town building:

Atherton, Lewis. *Main Street on the Middle Border*. (1954; reprint; Bloomington, Ind., 1984).

Morain, Thomas. *Prairie Grass Roots: An Iowa Small Town in the Early Twentieth Century*. (Ames, 1988).

Modernization:

Danbom, David. *The Resisted Revolution: Urban America and the Industrialization of Agriculture, 1900-1930*. (Ames, 1979).

Kirschner, Don. *City and Country: Rural Responses to Urbanization in the 1920s*. (Westport, Conn., 1970).

Indians:

Bataille, Gretchen; David Gradwohl, and Charles Silet, eds. *The Worlds Between Two Rivers: Perspectives on American Indians in Iowa*. (Ames, 1978).

Green, Michael. "'We Dance in Opposite Directions': Mesquakie (Fox) Separatism from the Sac and Fox Tribe." *Ethnohistory* 30 (1983): 129-40.

McTaggart, Fred. *Wolf That I Am: In Search of the Red Earth People*. (1976; reprint; Norman, Okla., 1984).

Women:

Fink, Deborah. *Open Country, Iowa: Rural Women, Tradition and Change*. (SUNY Press, 1986).

Lensink, Judy. *"A Secret to be Buried": The Diary and Life of Emily Hawley Gillespie, 1858-1888*. (Iowa City, 1989).

Noun, Louise. *Strong-Minded Women: The Emergence of the Woman-Suffrage Movement in Iowa*. (Ames, 1969).

Riley, Glenda. *Frontierswomen: The Iowa Experience*. (Ames, 1981).

Politics:

Dykstra, Robert. "Iowa—Bright Radical Star." In *Radical Republicans in the North: State Politics During Reconstruction*. Ed. James C. Mohr. (Baltimore, 1976).

Jensen, Richard J. *The Winning of the Midwest: Social and Political Conflict, 1888-1896*. (Chicago, 1971; especially chapter 4, "Iowa, Wet or Dry?")

Winebrenner, Hugh. *The Iowa Precinct Caucuses: The Making of a Media Event*. (Ames, 1987).

Radical tradition:

Cumberland, William. "The Red Flag Comes to Iowa," *Annals of Iowa* 39 (1968): 441-54.

Scharnau, Ralph. "The Knights of Labor in Iowa," *Annals of Iowa* 50 (1991): 861-91.

Stromquist, H. Shelton. "Town Development, Social Structure, and Industrial Conflict." In *A Generation of Boomers: The Pattern of Railroad Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America*. (Urbana, Ill., 1987).

African Americans:

Bergmann, Leola Nelson. *The Negro in Iowa*. (1949; reprint; Iowa City, 1969).

Schwieder, Dorothy, Elmer Schwieder, and Joseph Hraba. Buxton: *Work and Racial Equality in a Coal Mining Community*. (Ames, 1987).