

## **Disbanded Questers Chapters**

### **ANNA DALANDER #912**

Chartered June 19, 1979

Madrid

The first settlement at Swede Point (Madrid) was made in 1846. In September of that year, Mrs. Anna Dalander came directly from Sweden with her family of four boys and three girls and settled upon the land where Madrid is now located. Because of the nationality of the settlers, the place became known as Swede Point. There were 20 other Swedish settlements made the same year. Thus the Anna Dalander Chapter took on the name of one of the first women of Madrid.

### **ARTIFACTS AND OLD LACE #524**

Chartered October 6, 1971

Des Moines

If this title sounds vaguely familiar, one might recall the title of a murder mystery "Arsenic and Old Lace." As a play on words, our Quester chapter changed arsenic to artifacts to connote delving into the mysteries of antiques, their origins and their study. The name change also indicated that the chapter wanted to attract potential members without being intimidated by thinking that they would have to be knowledgeable about antiques. In the spirit of the name, "Artifacts" indicates any term that has survived in whatever condition from whatever time period. Thus a whole new range of "antiques" would be a good subject for investigation. "Old Lace" is something that was found in many homes throughout the centuries in the United States. Handmade lace decorated tables, bureaus, windows, clothing and many other items. It was both highly decorative and functional and required great skill to make. Thus a name that was suggested in jest became the perfect descriptive moniker for the group. The chapter has gone on to have two International Quester presidents, as well as the honor of having one of our members suggest the name for the Quester newsletter in Iowa "Hawkeye Tales."

### **BILLY SUNDAY #1050**

Chartered June 27, 1983

Nevada

Billy Sunday was an Iowan of impact. Born in 1862, he was raised by his gospel-singing mother, a Civil War widow, in a tiny log cabin near Nevada. At the age of nine, his impoverished mother sent him to the Soldiers' Orphans Home where good manners and religious fundamentalism were prevalent. In his teens, he returned to the Nevada area to live on his grandfather's farm. He soon came into town to live, finding employment at the home of Col. John Scott, the Lt. Governor of Iowa. Today this home is still standing, at more than 100 years old, and is often referred to as the Billy Sunday house.

Billy went to Nevada High School and performed janitorial duties there. His quiet yet independent personality won him many friends, but it was his prowess on the baseball team that brought him adulation and finally fame and fortune. He played on the Nevada team which was a winning team, but Billy was too good. He was wooed away by the larger, more aggressive town of Marshalltown and from there his great ability took him to professional baseball in Chicago. It was in this city that Billy found a wife, money and a bit too much whiskey. But strong character that he was, Billy gave up his fame and fortune. He became one of the great evangelists of this country. For 25 years, he was an exciting, hellfire-and-brimstone preacher, reaching more than 100 million people. Nevada was proud to have him for even awhile and it is the hope of this Quester chapter that some of his zeal and zest will be ours as we seek more treasures of our past.

### **BLACK DIAMOND FLEET #1005**

Chartered November 17, 1981

Clear Lake

Black Diamond Fleet was a rental boat livery service on Clear Lake around the turn of the century. It was owned and operated by Captain Green. It was located on the Lake near the seawall.

### **BUNDY'S MILL #473**

Chartered November 13, 1970

Indianola

Called "Three Rivers Country" Warren County, Iowa has a natural drainage system in which its main streams, the North, Middle and South Rivers, flow in a general direction to the northeast where they meet the Des Moines River, part of the Mississippi watershed. It is not surprising to find that John D. Parmalee, the first permanent white settler in the county, used this water power and built a sawmill on the Middle River 12 miles southeast of Fort Des Moines, and sawed the lumber for the building of the fort. Eventually expanding his mill to a frame size of 45 feet by 35 feet and three stories high, Parmalee added four burrs for the grinding of corn.

On South River, records show at least three other mills operating in the late 1800s along the Ackworth Mills which were owned by John W. Bundy from 1873 until his death in 1890. The mill ceased operation in 1905. Bundy was born in North Carolina in 1816 and began moving westward with his parents. In 1855, the Bundy family settled in Warren County. Bundy is described in the 1879 edition of the History of Warren County as a man who looks like a pioneer "plain in dress, straightforward in speech, blunt and honest in manner."

In 1873 Ackworth Mills, a steam grist and sawmill combined, was purchased by Bundy, then 57 years old, from the Haworth family, early pioneers in the Quaker settlement of Ackworth. The mill had been erected in 1855, nine years after the founding of the town.

Today in this county, so richly endowed for the construction of mills, there are no traces of Parmalee's mill, or the other mills on the South River or Ackworth Mills. Only in the small community of Ackworth, 1 ½ miles west of its site are the original burrs and an historical marker to remind passersby of Bundy's Mill.

### **CLAUSEN COLONY #848**

Chartered June 1, 1977

St. Ansgar

In June of 1853, a long line of 40 prairie schooners drawn by oxen followed by 200 cattle and one-horse drawn carriage arrived in the valley of the Cedar River in Mitchell County, Iowa. There were 75 men, women and children in this caravan, which is recorded as part of the largest Norwegian-American migration in history. They had traveled from Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, bringing with them all of their earthly belongings, intending to secure property and build homes in a new land. Their leader was Rev. C. L. Clausen, a Danish Lutheran minister, who had traveled to parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa looking for the best site for a colony.

The members of the Clausen colony founded the town of St. Ansgar in an area that had been chosen for its fertile soil, good drainage, pure water, plenty of timber and building stones for homes. These first settlers were well satisfied with their new home and encouraged others to join them. These courageous, industrious and God-fearing men and women have given us a rich heritage.

### **CROOKED CREEK COLLECTORS #813**

Chartered July 15, 1976

Winfield

This chapter is composed of women from Winfield and surrounding areas. Crooked Creek runs on the north and east sides of town and, at one time, there was a covered bridge just north of town over the creek. To include everyone, not just the ladies of the town, the name Crooked Creek Collectors was used. Scott Township in Henry County was first opened for settlement in 1833 when some people from Kentucky came and settled on the south bank of Crooked Creek just north of the present town of Winfield. They chose this spot because of the available timber which was needed both for fuel and building materials.

A log schoolhouse was started in 1836 near the settlement but wasn't opened until the winter of 1842. Classes were held in a home until then. Later this building was moved into town. A Mr. Porter, land agent from the county seat of Mount Pleasant, purchased a large tract of land on the south side of the creek and decided to establish a town in order to make his property more valuable. The township was named Scott after General Winfield Scott so the new town was named Winfield. The town was staked out in 1822, but wasn't incorporated until 1852.

### **CYNTHIA O. DUFF #51**

Chartered on May 24, 1956

## Ames

Mrs. Cynthia O. Duff aka Mrs. Alexander originally purchased the land known now as Ames from the government. On November 26, 1864, she deeded the property to John L. Blair and in July 1864 the first settlement was created. Cynthia had come to Ames from New York where she had been an Army nurse and telegrapher. As an early feminist her daring and energy would take her far. When some of the citizens of Ames objected to the building of the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad, now Chicago and Northwestern Railway, to the west, Cynthia bought up the land on the sly for an "uncle" and then as a smart businesswoman, sold it to the railroad for a profit. This action ensured the economic success and the longevity of Ames. Needless to say, her contemporaries did not hold her in high esteem. Other ventures included a restaurant across from which stood the first post office. Duff Avenue bears her name today. Upon her death, the Reverend William Minchin of the First Congregational Church, which she had helped construct with her own hands, eulogized her as follows, "It is regrettable that the City of Ames and the members of her church to whom she has given so much of herself, should have allowed this woman to spend the last days of her life in charity."

### **DANE 207 #460**

Chartered August 27, 1970

Ames

The railroad was far and away the most important influence in Ames' first decade. It was the railroad that chose the site of the village, the railroad that gave it its name in honor of a railroad builder and the railroad that made it prosper.

The little Dane 207, built for the Chicago Northwestern by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1867, served Ames during that first decade. Dane, as the 207 engine was called, had character. Her shiny steel boiler, gleaming brass bell and big acetylene light made the little coal burner a proud addition to the railroad family.

### **DE MOINE BELLE #40**

Chartered July 15, 1955

Des Moines

Our chapter of Questers was named for a keelboat, the De Moine Belle, which was built in Des Moines in the winter of 1858. A simple definition of a keelboat is a longboat made like the common rowboat but propelled by poles. Its captain was a Mr. Tisdale and the pilot was Joseph Farris. It made one trip to Fort Dodge in 1859 before sinking near Ottumwa in 1860. It was raised by Grant W. Hill who renamed it "The Little Morgan" and commanded it. There is reference made to a De Moine Belle boat under steamboats so there may be been both a steam and keelboat by that name.

The steamboat traffic was greatly affected by the Civil War. In March 1862, Adjutant General Baker made arrangements with the entire line of steamboats running to Des Moines from Ottumwa to carry all wounded, disabled soldiers to their homes. Boats making regular trips were

the De Moine Belle, Des Moines City, Little Morgan (used expressly for Des Moines trade), Nevada, Alice and Clara Hine.

The spring of 1862 was exceedingly wet. The newspaper mentioned that it rained for days and nights before the Ninth General Assembly of Iowa adjourned. The bottoms had gone out of the roads and the stage lines were very uncertain so all the members of the House and Senate who could, went home by boat. Those who could reach home or near home, took passage on the De Moine Belle running between Des Moines and Ottumwa.

After the Civil War, times were bad and trade fell off. The depression of the 1870's collapsed the market. The railroads had been pushing west even before the Civil War. They were faster and served the people better so the flatboat trade on the river practically ended. No more reference to the De Moine Belle was found after this period.

### **DIAMOND TRAIL #1330**

Chartered September 21, 1998

Montezuma

"An open black diamond upon a yellow background and that yellow is just the color of the 1915 Automobile License Number." (Letter to the Iowa Highway Commissioner from R. J. Smith, President, Diamond Trail Association, September 26, 1916). This was the symbol selected to mark the automobile road between Des Moines and Iowa City. It was painted on every fourth telephone pole along the route covering 120 miles. It was reported to be a very well-marked route. The painting of the route and the advertising involved cost the Diamond Trail Association between \$300-500. Part of this route still retains the Diamond Trail name and goes west of Montezuma past Diamond Lake and Lake Ponderosa before connecting with Highway 146.

### **DING DARLING #227**

Chartered November 1, 1965

Des Moines

For nearly 50 years, Jay Norwood Darling's cartoons helped American newspaper readers find something to chuckle at or think about in the headlines. He used his skill at the drawing board to comment on World War I, women's suffrage, prohibition, the Depression, World War II, and the potential of the atomic bomb. Known to most people only as "Ding", he recorded the American scene and thrust his pen at the world situation in some 20,000 cartoons from 1917 to 1949. Jay Darling was awarded the Pulitzer Prize twice for his editorial cartoons. He also penned portraits of nine American presidents.

Ding's drawings, all created at his desk at the Des Moines Register, were syndicated to more than 100 newspapers for nearly three decades. Ding was active in conservation as well. Sometimes called "the best friend a duck ever had", he was founder of the National Wildlife Federation and once served as chief of the U. S Biological Survey. Ding Darling loved life, people and animals and made an important impact upon the development of our country. This is why we chose his name for our chapter.

## **ELISHA BOARDMAN #65**

Chartered April 11, 1957

Elkader

In 1830 Elisha Boardman was floating grain on a large barge down the Turkey River. The Turkey is a small stream winding for 20 miles between high bluffs before it enters the Mississippi. This was perilous going and little did pioneer Elisha dream that an Antique Club would perpetuate his name. Our 12 members range from grandmothers to young mothers, but we have two things in common. We love our homes and the old things we have in them.

Our small county seat, population 1500, may have given us some incentive. Elkader, named for an Arab, chieftain is located in the heart of Iowa's Little Switzerland. It stretches on both sides of the Turkey River, which is crossed by a double-arch keystone bridge. Our courthouse is a lovely square of red brick, complete with high curved windows and white cupola, housing the town clock. The architecture compares with that found in old Philadelphia. We are surrounded with high hills and breath taking views. Off the beaten path are stone houses dating back to the 1850's.

Surrounded by the history of very early days on the Mississippi, we are just north of Dubuque, and east of McGregor and Prairie Du Chien where Marquette and Joliet came down the Wisconsin River to enter the great Father of Waters. This brings us closer to Pre-Revolutionary War days and has certainly stimulated our interest in the beginnings of the west. Many third and fourth generation families remain here, which means our questing is done among old friends and neighbors. When we acquire an old coverlet, a bit of glass or furniture we often hear its entire story. On occasion the stories are more interesting than the article itself.

## **ELLIOTT'S FORD #560**

Chartered June 14, 1972

Grimes

Elliott's Ford is one of the few remaining landmarks of the past history of this portion of Polk County. In the early days, it provided the connecting link between settlements on opposite sides of the river. Across the river, Corydon was once a town of some size where there were several businesses and a trading center. Further to the west, a mill was built on Big Creek and other business drew to a center that was named for President Polk who served in the early 1850's. This town grew to ambitious proportions and narrowly missed becoming the capitol of the state.

The trail following the ridge between the Des Moines River and Beaver Creek was for many years called Ridge Road. The first settlement beyond Lovington where Beaver Creek joined the Des Moines River near Des Moines was Ridgedale where there was a post office, store, church and cemetery. A few miles upstream another cemetery was laid, the first buried in 1856, on land donated by Nathan Andrews. There was another trading post, post office, school and several businesses. The town was named Andrews but we surmise that following the assassination of President Lincoln, it was renamed for him. By 1880, school attendance had climbed to 60. There were two blacksmiths, a Methodist parsonage; the schoolhouse provided the place of worship, a

store and post office. Early in the 1900's, the place was often referred to as Dogtown for a family named Dogget who lived there.

Meantime, there was a need of an interchange between the communities separated by the river and a suitable crossing on the property of Elliott was found where approaches could be negotiated on opposite sides of the river. This crossing known as Elliott's Ford was the precursor of the new long bridge colloquially known as Dogtown Bridge. Roads led to each side of this crossing and it was in common usage long after the Corydon Bridge was constructed in 1887 as it was the convenient shortcut. A flood in 1917 or 1918 cut the bank and the Polk City end of the road was closed.

The cemetery now only marks Ridgedale. Lincoln was but little more; however, recently land development is making it a residential center once again. The Corydon Bridge and the Hanley Bridge upstream are gone. The site of Corydon is now under water. Polk City remains as a business, spiritual and cultural center. The road to Elliott's Ford remains a landmark of other days.

### **FORAGERS #364**

Chartered April 1, 1969

Fort Dodge

Webster defines us as searchers for what is needed or wanted. In a club such as ours, this is surely the method of operation that keeps us in existence. As collectors, we were able to acquire the desired article without "foraging", the zest and fun on which the club was founded would soon wane.

We need challenge to encourage and stimulate our interest. The name of our chapter "Foragers" will always remind us that many times it requires much foraging in researching to fully enjoy our membership in the chapter. Though several members are from outlying towns, we think of Eldridge Junction as "hub or junction" ... a place to meet.

### **FORT DES MOINES #365**

Chartered April 1, 1969

Des Moines

Fort Des Moines was established in 1834 at the fork of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. John Dougherty, Indian agent at Fort Leavenworth, had recommended this location. In 1834, he had written the US War Department suggesting a chain of military posts be established to protect the Indians. The territory was explored and the Des Moines River was surveyed in 1841. The proposed military garrison was established in 1843 when Captain James Allen and his company of First Dragoons arrived here by steamer from Fort Sanford.

In 1845, after the Sac and Fox Indians had relinquished their rights to this territory, the land was thrown open to white settlers and the community of Fort Des Moines was settled. It was not until September 22, 1851, that the town of Fort Des Moines was incorporated. At this time

land was available for \$1.25 per acre and a double log cabin could be built for about \$70. On January 28, 1857, the name of the town was changed to Des Moines. A log cabin stands on the site of the town's earliest settlement and is maintained by the Polk County Historical Society.

### **FRANCIS MARION DRAKE #379**

Chartered April 19, 1969

Des Moines

General Francis Marion Drake was born in Illinois; however, he spent most of his life in Iowa, first in Drakesville and then at Centerville. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was captain of a volunteer company from southern Iowa and served in the western war area. In April 1864, he was severely wounded. After recuperating at home, he returned on crutches to join his command and was then brevetted Brigadier General. The development of railroads became his chief enterprise. Success in business and interest in promoting his church, The Disciples of Christ, with which he was closely identified, made him a prominent leader in Iowa. His connection with politics was short. He was the last of the "Old Soldiers Governors" serving but one term 1896-1898. He was unable to run for re-election because of re-injury to his Civil War wounds. At the time of his death in 1903, Disciples of Christ Church and Drake University had no benefactor as generous as General Drake.

In the spring of 1881, when plans were made to start a new college on a plat of land northwest of the city of Des Moines, the first pledge of \$20,000 was a gift from General Drake. The new institution was to be called Drake University, in honor of the one whose initial contribution made it possible.

Shortly before his death in November 1903, General Drake gave the University president assurance that made the building of Cole and Memorial Halls possible without a burden of debt. A significant tribute was offered to General Drake in January of 1903 when a large delegation from the University, including more than 500 students, went by train to Centerville to the dedication of the Library which General Drake had presented to the city.

### **FRANKLIN H. WHITNEY #962**

Chartered October 30, 1980

Atlantic

Franklin Huntington Whitney founded the town of Atlantic, Iowa in the year 1868. He was born in Mexico, New York in 1832 and traveled west with his wife as a pioneer family to Adair County, in Iowa in 1856. They settled in Cass County in 1857. He was a surveyor, stagecoach manager and farmer in the town he started known as Whitneyville near Massena. He moved again to Lewis where he was a hotel owner, newspaper editor and real estate agent. In 1868, he moved to Atlantic where he was general manager of the Atlantic Town Company. Mr. Whitney organized the First National Bank of Atlantic. He was known as an active, restless man, always in a hurry and always looking for new ways to promote this area and to attract industry, business and people. On October 11, 1896 at the age of 64, Franklin Whitney passed away. His obituary recalled his energy and devotion to the town of Atlantic where he had organized fire companies, started churches, schools and served as mayor without compensation. The Daily Telegraph stated, "It can

be said in truth that the city of Atlantic owes more to Franklin H. Whitney for its advancement and growth than to anyone else and his name will live as long as the city lasts, for its history is not complete unless his acts are enumerated thereof.

**FREDRICA SHATTUCK #447**

Chartered June 5, 1970

Ames

Fredrica Van Trica Shattuck was born November 11, 1883, in Monroe, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Luther and Ann Raymer Shattuck. Miss Shattuck acquired an interest in theater from touring companies of players that often put on performances in her small hometown. She studied speech and drama at the University of Wisconsin graduating in 1905. She began a teaching career that was to span a half-century when she came to Ames in 1907 as an instructor in public speaking. In 1916, she was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Public Speaking. She served in this capacity until 1931 when she decided to devote full time to teaching. During her active years, Miss Shattuck directed both dramatics and debate. She created "The Little Country Theatre" a regular exhibit at the Iowa State Fair from 1921 to 1926 which received national recognition for helping create interest in rural and Community Theater. In 1960, Miss Shattuck was honored at the theatre, now named Shattuck Theatre, at the opening of "Mistress of the Inn." She had given more than a half-century of service to the Iowa State Players which she started in 1914.

To her colleagues and to thousands of students who came under her influence, her name and theatre at Iowa State became synonymous. She founded the Iowa State Players to give students the opportunity to participate in many different kinds of plays. Under her direction, dramatic productions reached a high degree of excellence. When she retired in 1956, Miss Shattuck made the statement, "Iowa State Players have been my whole life." Following her retirement, she was asked to take charge of the newly-created Browsing Library in the Memorial Union where she served as a gracious hostess and friend for four more years to students, staff and visitors.

Professionally Miss Shattuck was a member of the Speech Association of America, having helped found that organization in 1915 when it was called the National Association of Teachers of Speech. She was also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the American Association of University Women, Chi Omega, and a charter member of the Iowa State Chapter of Mortarboard. In 1953 Miss Shattuck was awarded an alumni Faculty Citation. She was included in the first edition of *Who's Who in American Women* in 1959.

**HARLAN #264**

Chartered October 24, 1966

Mount Pleasant

In the Hall of Columns in the nation's capital, there stands the heroic figure of James Harlan, one of Iowa's greatest statesmen.

He is one of the two Iowans chosen to represent the Hawkeye State in Statuary Hall and Mount Pleasant's greatest contribution to history.

James Harlan came to Iowa in 1846 to become principal of Iowa City College. In the first statewide election after Iowa became a state, the Whigs chose Harlan as their candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1852, he was admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court. Soon after that, he moved to Mount Pleasant to become President of Iowa Wesleyan College. In 1854 he delivered the address at the laying of the cornerstone known today as "Old Main."

He was elected United States Senator from Iowa in 1855. He was influential in passing legislation such as the Homestead Law and College Land Grants, and was largely responsible for the railroads leading to the Midwest.

When the Civil War broke out, he strongly supported Lincoln and was appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1864. Senator Harlan escorted Mrs. Lincoln at the second inaugural. Through this close relationship of the Lincoln and Harlan families, Mary Harlan and Robert Todd Lincoln also attended the second inaugural together. The couple married in 1868. The Lincoln and Harlan grandchildren spent their summers at the Harlan home in Mount Pleasant. Mary Harlan was the only child of Senator Harlan to reach maturity, while Robert Todd Lincoln was the only Lincoln child to reach maturity. When James Harlan died in 1899, the entire state of Iowa went into mourning. Flags were flown at half-mast and all school children were dismissed for the day of his funeral.

### **GULIELMA ZOLLINGER #532**

Chartered April 1, 1972

Newton

Gulielma Zollinger, one of Newton's best claims to literary fame, lived and died within the memory of most of Newton's adult population from 1856 until her death in 1917. She was also the first Newton woman to be listed in Who's Who. Gulielma wrote many juvenile stories for boys and girls. Some of her books included "Widow O'Callaghan's Boys", "Dan Drummond" and "Maggie McLanahan."

Miss Zollinger wrote from childhood. When she was 14 years old, her first story was published in the Youth's Companion. "Dan Drummond" was the book that opened literary doors. However, it was not until "The Widow O'Callaghan's Boys" was published in 1898 that she found herself established.

Gulielma is remembered as a small person, "bright of eye", with fire and spirit radiating from her face. She was a good conversationalist and quick at repartee. Jane Addams, the famous social worker, was her friend and classmate.

## **HERBERT HOOVER #251**

Chartered April 27, 1966

Des Moines

In 1850, the first residents of the small community built along the west branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek and known today as West Branch, Iowa, were Quakers from Ohio. Here on August 10, 1874, Herbert Clark Hoover was born to Jesse and Huldah Hoover. Jesse was the local blacksmith and the family consisted of an older brother, Theodore, and one sister, May, six years younger than Herbert. Jesse and Huldah were dedicated Quakers. During the Quaker meeting, anyone who felt the call spoke as his mind and heart dictated. Between speeches, the friends would sit in silence. Sometimes the silence prevailed throughout the meeting if no one felt prompted to speak. Long and sometime silent meetings were quite trying to the restless younger set. However, this helped teach them a lesson in restraint and patience.

Tragedy struck early in the life of Herbert. At six years of age, he was fatherless, and he became an orphan at age eight.

Herbert was sent to live in Oregon with an uncle who was a country doctor. Herbert's schooling began in Iowa, continued in Newberg, Oregon at Quaker Academy, then in 1891, he enrolled at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. In 1895, he was in Stanford's first graduating class, receiving his degree in Geology. His first engineering job was in Australia. In a visit to the United States in 1899, he married Stanford schoolmate Lou Henry from Waterloo, Iowa. Immediately following the wedding, they left for China. Herbert Hoover built a reputation for skill in operating mining properties, and before he was 40, his engineering practice carried him to every part of the world. This work established a competence which enabled him to give more than 40 years of public service without accepting any remuneration for himself. His efforts in distress relief led to his administering relief programs all over the world. Herbert Hoover was elected the 31<sup>st</sup> president of the United States in November 1928. President Hoover's two sons, their families and the First Lady did not relish the glitter and pageantry of that office. On leaving the White House in 1932, Hoover resumed his activities on behalf of Stanford University, The American Children's Health Fund, The Belgian-American Children's Health Fund, UNICEF and other organizations.

West Branch and the State of Iowa are proud to honor and enshrine the birthplace and resting place of a truly great humanitarian and the 31<sup>st</sup> president of the United States.

## **HERITAGE CARETAKERS #1272**

Chartered February 25, 1995

Urbandale

When Heritage Caretakers' chapter of Questers was formed, we were a group of women from Des Moines, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights and Urbandale, who came together in response to a newspaper notice. Most of us did not know one another. It was soon discovered that though some in the group had lovely collections of antiques, our common bond was the desire to learn about and to preserve both the memories and items of the past. Those first meetings at

the historic Olmsted-Urban House in Urbandale showed us how through the efforts of interested people, historic sites could be restored and preserved. Our name, Heritage Caretakers, just seemed to reflect our common interest.

### **HERITAGE SEEKERS #474**

Chartered November 18, 1970

Scranton

A group of people interested in the study of antiques met in the home of Alice Monthei of Scranton, Iowa. There were 14 present organizing into a permanent group. Our name, Heritage Seekers, was selected because we wanted to find the origin of antiques we owned or were interested in.

The first elected officers of the Heritage Seekers were Mrs. Lynn Monthei, President; Mrs. Russell Miller, Vice President; Mrs. Rex Monthei, Secretary; Mrs. Skip Carlson, Treasurer. Mrs. Cassius Cadden served as Historian.

### **I.O.A. #268**

Chartered November 1, 1966

Des Moines

As a Des Moines chapter name, the use of "IOA" stems from the approved postal cancellation in use in the State of Iowa from the mid-1860's through the early 1890's, a span of about twenty-five years. As more and more territories entered statehood, the use of abbreviations became necessary and a uniform system was devised. "IA" was reserved for Indiana and the acceptance of "Ioway" as a pronunciation by early settlers made "IOA" a logical abbreviation.

The most accepted version of the name Iowa evolved from an Indian term which, to tribes in these areas, meant "gray snow." The rich, deep soil of Iowa and the winds of the plains made and still make this truly a land of drifted snow covered by a film of rich Iowa soil. In the late 1890's it became evident that the true state name, very nearly an abbreviation in itself, would be practical and the state began the current practice of using "Iowa."

In the study of our chapter name, we uncovered lost towns with fascinating Indian names. We also learned that early correspondents rarely bothered to pay postage on their letters, with the assumption that the recipient would be all too happy to pay his "postage due" in the interest of learning the content of his letter. This was an amusing and enviable standard practice. While no one in our present group is a philatelist, this name is a tribute to our hardy, early settlers in whose lives the receipt of a letter was a privilege well worth paying for. Each member has secured an early cover with our "IOA" cancellation, and will remember these early people who sent few but cherished letters "stampless" from their land of "gray snow."

### **KARL KING #733**

Chartered January 14, 1975

## Fort Dodge

Karl L. King was born on February 21, 1891 in Paintersville, Ohio. His boyhood was spent in Xenia, Cleveland and Canton. He sold newspapers on the streets and with his own hard-earned money, bought a cornet and joined the Canton Marine Band at age 11. He taught himself to play the cornet and began writing his own music. The need for money led him to accept a position as proofreader on the Canton newspaper, but he spent his spare time pouring over books of musical theory and band music. His newspaper career ended abruptly when a marching band went by the shop. He couldn't resist going outside to watch and was fired.

He was only 14 when he wrote his first march and 17 when he sold his first composition for publication. At age 18, he began trooping with Robinson Circus as a baritone player. In 1912 at 21 years of age, he joined the Barnum and Bailey Circus Band. It was that year he wrote "Barnum and Bailey's Favorite" a tune that is still his most popular march. Karl became the bandmaster of the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1917 at age 26.

In 1916, Karl married an Ohio girl and she joined him on the circus route, playing the calliope in the parades. They enjoyed circus life, but decided to seek more stable ties. He was hired as leader of the Grand Army Band of Canton, Ohio. Following the birth of their son in 1919, the King family moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa. He became bandmaster of the Fort Dodge Municipal Band, a position he maintained until his death in March 1971 at the age of 80. For ten days of every summer from 1921-1959, he led the band at the Iowa State Fair.

Karl King received many honors and awards during his lifetime. He was a stately, dignified, humble gentleman, recognized as the "March King of America." He composed more than 400 marches, waltzes, overtures and serenades that are still played around the world. Among them are "Hawkeye Glory" for the University of Iowa and signature marches for several universities. His name is on a \$2 million dollar bridge spanning the Des Moines River in Fort Dodge. He will remain in the hearts of many for years to come.

### **LAKE SARAH #1275**

Chartered March 28, 1995

Newton

Lake Sarah #1275 was named after a small lake (in reality, a large pond) located in the southwest corner of Newton. Most of the Lake Sarah chapter founding members' homes are in this area of town. Lake Sarah was probably named after Sarah Jane Carrier who with her husband Abram Carrier owned the farmland on which the pond was located. They purchased the land in 1865. In 1920, part of this land became the "Elm Park Addition" to the city of Newton. A copy of the original Plat of Elm Park dated July 2, 1920 shows Lake Sarah located on the east edge of the subdivision. Lore has it that the lake was a favorite spot for neighborhood children to play and fish in the summer and ice skate during this winter. Eventually Lake Sarah was filled in and houses were built on the property.

### **MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIAMS #465**

Chartered October 11, 1970

Fort Dodge

Major William Williams, the pioneer tradesman and founder of Fort Dodge, was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania in 1796. Until he migrated west, he was a banker. William arrived in Muscatine in 1848 and came to Fort Dodge with his son James in 1850. A fort had been established here to protect settlers from hostile Indians. Troops vacated the fort in 1854 at which time Williams bought the land, buildings and improvements from the government and platted the town of Fort Dodge. The next year he moved the rest of his family to Fort Dodge. In 1856 at the age of 60, Major Williams organized and led eighty men on a relief expedition following the Spirit Lake Massacre. Major Williams was the first settler, mayor and postmaster of Fort Dodge. In 1874 he died at his home. He was survived by his wife, sons James and William, and daughter Mrs. J. F. Duncombe. Some of his descendants still live in the Fort Dodge area. The history of early Fort Dodge and Webster County was written by Major Williams and portions of his diary are on display at the Fort Museum. Any monies realized by the William Williams Chapter are donated to the Fort Museum for restoration and preservation.

### **OAKES AMES #283**

Chartered March 30, 1967

Ames

John Blair, an easterner and promoter agent for the CR & Missouri Railroad had the privilege of naming each station. One, located in a settlement between the Squaw Creek and Skunk River in central Iowa, he named after his much-admired friend, Massachusetts Congressman Oakes Ames. In appreciation, the congressman sent a fine, large bell for the belfry of the Congregational Church, the only church in town. The bell is still in use over a century later. The first train arrived in Ames, Iowa the same day President Lincoln was assassinated: April 15, 1865.

### **OKOBOJI #899**

Chartered February 15, 1979

Spirit Lake

As far back as there is any record, our Okoboji Lakes area located in the upper northwestern corner of Iowa, was among the favored locations for the many Indian tribes that lived in and migrated through mid-America. In 1804 when Lewis and Clark made their exploration of the Missouri River, the "Dakotahs" also known as the "Lakotahs" were found here. They were only one of some twenty tribes, were known as "The Plains Indians." The Indians gave distinction to lakes, rivers and meeting places by naming them for some event, circumstance or physical feature. Names were often composed of a cluster of words, each having a separate meaning. The fur traders and others, trafficking with the Indians, learned the names and continued their usage.

The University Library at Columbia, Missouri had the huge volume entitled "Grammar and Dictionary of the Dakota Language." Collected by members of the Dakota Mission, edited by Reverend S. R. Riggs, A.M., published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington City, June 1851. From this reference: O - Ki = through the middle; Oboza = rush (noun and verb). Combining these, Okioboza translates "through the middle (of the) rushes."

There is a natural crossing between East Okoboji and West Okoboji where fields of rushes used to grow. In pioneer times, those traveling the north-south trail through the lake area floated their wagons across this narrow stretch of water between the lakes. Early photos show a succession of bridges progressing to the swing bridges used during the steamboat traffic era by a variety of boats making regular stops at the many resorts and at private docks. The early trail is now U.S. Hwy 71. Widening of this highway and increased boat traffic between the lakes has removed all traces of the field of rushes. The "Okobojis" is now a vacation area whose shores are lined with cottage homes, resorts and condominiums. Several towns and communities serve its people.

#### **PLEASANTIQUE #434**

Chartered April 10, 1970

Mount Pleasant

The name Pleasantique was compiled from two words. The last part of the name of our town, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, combines with the word antique. A former member, Mrs. Robert McKim, suggested that we combine or intertwine the words in such a way as to make the word Pleasantique. It is a pleasure to seek antiques. There is no history with the name, just an idea.

#### **PRAIRIE GEMS #1343**

Chartered July 21, 1999

Paullina

The chapter derived its name from the motto of the town in which it is located. It states that Paullina is the "Gem of the Prairie."

Gems are literally a group of 90 minerals which are a subgroup of the 2,000 minerals in the world. Some of the gemstones included in this group are diamonds, sapphires, rubies, and emeralds. To be considered a gem, the mineral must be a stone, and must have certain characteristics such as beauty, durability, rarity, demand, tradition, and portability.

Gem has also developed a secondary meaning and refers to anything that is valuable, beautiful, and highly prized. In naming Paullina, the founding fathers saw the beauty of the surrounding area and its durability on an immutable landscape. They probably also found it a place where enduring traditions would be established. Unintentionally they fell upon the qualities which make both Paullina and the State of Iowa gems of both the prairie and of the United States.

#### **RED CEDAR #238**

Chartered February 1, 1966

West Branch

Before the time of the white men in Iowa, a river flowing from the northwest almost to the Great River before turning south to join the Iowa River was called "Mosk-Wah-Wak-Wah" meaning Red Cedar by the Indians. The upper reaches of the river were heavily timbered by red cedar trees which outlaws cut and rafted down the Mississippi River. A great deal of the land drained by the Red Cedar was included in the "Black Hawk Purchase of 1832" an act which extinguished the Indians' title to a strip about 40 miles wide and extending north and south on

the west bank of the Mississippi. Under the jurisdiction of Michigan Territory, this land was divided into two counties, Des Moines and Dubuque. At the second meeting of the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature, the northern county Dubuque was divided into eleven counties. One of them was given the name of Cedar from the name of the river that flowed through its boundaries. This was in 1837 after white settlers had already established homes on the banks of the lovely winding river.

Although there were settlers on the west bank of the Cedar River before 1839, it was not until 1844-45 that the first Quaker families arrived and by 1851 there were enough of them to establish a meeting. These Quakers were said to have been members of Red Cedar Meeting in Ohio. The Ohio Quakers declined to give the western families a minute to allow them to establish a meeting so three couples: Moses V. Butler, Stephen Dean and Laurie Tatum and their wives, leaving their farms and their crops, drove in a wagon to Salem, Iowa in the southern part of the state to attend the first Quarterly Meeting held in Iowa and to request a minute. The Salem Meeting which had been opened by Indiana Friends in 1849 granted the request and Red Cedar Meeting was opened.

The meeting was held in a house about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of where Springdale is presently located. Red Cedar Monthly Meeting was incorporated under the laws of Iowa in 1853 and since there were two other meetings, the three: West Branch, Springdale and Honey Grove made up the Monthly Meeting. Located within a few miles of each other, the three received within the next three years, by certificate and request, 670 members.

Due to confusion of names and locations, Springdale meeting was held at the town of West Branch and West Branch of the Red Cedar Meeting at Springdale, the members voted in 1863 to change the names so that each met in the proper place. West Branch took its name from the expression used by the Friends, that it was the West Branch of the Red Dear in Ohio.

It seems to us as new Questers, that these early settlers in the Springdale-West Branch area had many of the qualities of the sturdy trees where their homes were located. They were adventurous, coming a long way to a new country as the cedar seedlings spring up, wind-born, far from the parent tree. They were persistent in declaring for their rights and as hard to displace as the trees. They were frugal, making the most of what they had, even in rocky soil. They were courageous and upright, standing tall in their beliefs and making shelter for the weak and helpless, even as the trees sheltered them on their arrival. Abolitionist John Brown and his men were among their honored guests. With these characteristics in mind, we chose to be called Red Cedar Chapter of Questers.

### **SACAJEWEA #90**

Chartered July 21, 1958

Sioux City

Four of us had been meeting for several months for coffee and the discussion of antiques. We enjoyed the association and appreciated the knowledge we gained. Mrs. H. W. Griffiths of Des Moines, the state organizer for Questers, contacted us and told us about the national group organized in April 1944 by Mrs. William George (Jesse Elizabeth "Bess") Bardens with headquarters in Pennsylvania. After hearing more about the national organization, we decided to form a chapter. We received our charter in July 1958. We are the 90<sup>th</sup> chapter in the United States and the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter in Iowa. We organized with eight members and limited membership to twelve.

### **SEEKERS'70**

Chartered June 5, 1970

Des Moines

Our chapter was formed with seventeen members in 1970. Seekers '70 was the name chosen and rightly so, as Seekers we are. We are continually seeking and gaining information about antiques, historical places and our heritage, especially here in our state of Iowa. In May, we have our annual outing to visit the antique shops, historical sites and last but not least, good eating spots in various areas of Iowa. Yes, Seekers '70 is a great name for our group. Only by seeking and gaining knowledge, can we continue to learn and grow as individuals and Questers.

### **SERENDIPPERS #459**

Chartered August 27, 1970

Newton

A serendipper is a person who has the gift of serendipity or the ability to find interesting items when searching for something else. Serendipity is a word coined by Horace Walpole in 1754 in "Three Princes of Serendip", the heroes which make such discoveries. Horace Walpole (1717-1797) the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole is remembered primarily as a matchless letter writer and the "chronicler of his century." He had a genius for friendship and was intimately connected with the intellectual like of his time. He was born in London, was a member of the House of Commons and later the House of Lords. His father, Sir Robert Walpole, was the most influential politician in England during the first half of the 1700s. He governed Great Britain for 21 years (1721-1742).

### **SHEBANG COUNTRY #1112**

Chartered June 19, 1986

Earlham

The "Shebang" country store was one of Earlham's first business establishments. In 1868 Martin Cook, Earlham's first businessman, moved his country store from the outskirts of town into the new town of Earlham. It contained a little bit of everything from household supplies to supplies for the railroad gang. Our Quester chapter chose the name "Shebang Country" because we collect a "little bit of everything."

### **SIOUXVENEERS #371**

Chartered April 1, 1969

Sioux City

"Siouxveneers" is a homograph of the word 'souvenir' described by Webster as "the act of remembering, to come up with, to bring to mind, as something that serves as a reminder."

A homographic bisection of our chosen name then consists of two words:  
Sioux- The title name the founding fathers of our fair city chose in 1853 to indicate geographic location in the heart of the Sioux Indian territory.  
Veneer- A layer of wood of superior value or excellent grain to be glued to an inferior wood; to face with a material giving a superior surface. Hence, our surname, Sioux was an obvious choice. Our bonding name in the homograph, Veneer is a humorous and very hopeful description of our wish to be worthy of acceptance as members of Questers International. Since receiving our certification of membership in April 1969, we have been able to truly structure our search for real knowledge of the priceless souvenir of our heritage. We thank you for making our "inferior grain" of knowledge grow to almost "superior" quality by our melding and organization devoted to the like of The Siouxveneers.

**SPENCER'S GROVE #597**  
Chartered December 29, 1972  
Spencer

Early settlers did not search for the most fertile land. It was everywhere for the taking. They sought timber and water for on the prairie there was no building material other than sod and no fuel other than prairie hay. In a party of surveyors in the 1850s was a young man named George Eliphaz Spencer. He became so enamored with the stand of timber southeast of the present site of Spencer that others in the party named it "Spencer's Grove." Lots were laid out. For years the early postmasters here received letters from eastern investors, inquiring about the town lots in Spencer's Grove.

Mr. Spencer later became a U.S. senator from Alabama. As he was born in New York State, and educated in Montreal, Canada, he was a northerner and violently hated being in the south during the so-called reconstruction days. Mr. Spencer was tagged with such epithets as "opportunist" one of Sherman's "bummers", and was said to have been "violently hated." Mr. Milo B. Howard, Jr. director of the Alabama department of archives and history said, "Spencer was a carpetbagger of the more odious character."

From The Diary of Romanzo A. Coates: "July 3, 1867 my birthday, 26 years old. I have received notice of an appointment of a post office here and my appointment as postmaster. We expect the mail to commence running here this month. (Prior to this I had drawn up a petition, had it signed by the postmasters at Peterson and Estherville and sent it to Washington asking for a post office in our midst). This petition called for an office at Spencer Grove but I was informed there was already an office of that name in the state so we must choose another. We then decided to drop the "Grove" and be "Spencer" and so the town received its name. The department sent me a key with which to unlock the mail pouch, necessary papers for registering, etc. My post office equipment was a small stand, the drawer of which I fitted with a lock to hold the pouch key and valuable letters."

This stand and Mr. Coates' certification are still in existence and are owned by the Parker Historical Society of Clay County and may be viewed at the Clay County Museum, 300 East Third Street, Spencer.

**SPIRIT LAKE #865**  
Chartered November 18, 1977  
Spirit Lake

The summer resort town of Spirit Lake founded in 1879 is located in the Great Lakes Region of northwest Iowa. It is bordered on the north side by Spirit Lake. The largest lake in Iowa covering some 5,675 acres and was known by the first white men as Las d'Espirit. The Sioux name of Spirit Lake was Minne Mecoehe Waukon or "Lake of the Spirit."

The area is best remembered by the Spirit Lake Massacre which took place in March 1857 led by a renegade Wahpekute Sioux Indian called Inkpaduta. For six days settlers were murdered, livestock was killed and anything of value was destroyed. Upon leaving, the Indians took with them three young wives and a girl. Only two ever again reached safety: Mrs. William Marble and Abigail Gardner. Abbie Gardner returned to Spirit Lake and lived many years in the very cabin where at age 14 she had witnessed her family murdered. As a result of the Spirit Lake Massacre, a monument was dedicated to their memory in July 1895 during a ceremony attended by 5000 people. The monument still stands today near the Abbie Gardner Log Cabin which has been restored and made into a museum.

### **STEAMBOAT LADIES #1214**

Chartered April 8, 1992

Burlington

In 1823 the first steamboat, the Virginia, proceeded past the land that became Burlington. In the years that followed, the steamboats made the Mississippi the main artery of transportation in the territory. One means of attracting immigrants to particular settlements along the river was to have a steamboat carry the name of that community. The first steamboat named Burlington was built in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1838.

The Golden Age of Steamboating was from 1870-1890. Ladies of the steam boating era were the Josephine, Libbie Conger, Eloise and Helen Blair. Today the Delta Queen and the Mississippi Queen recreate the atmosphere of the passenger boats as they travel the Mississippi River between New Orleans and St. Paul, making regular stops on the Burlington waterfront. For a short time in the 1900s, the luxury gambling steamboats, Emerald Lady and Diamond Lady took us from the present to the past.

From the majestic steamboat ladies of the past to the present steamboat queens of the mighty Mississippi River came the inspiration for our Quester chapter's name "Steamboat Ladies."

### **STEPHEN H. TAFT #749**

Chartered May 14, 1975

Humboldt

When the Questers chapter of Humboldt, Iowa was organized, the members chose for their name "Stephen H. Taft Chapter" after the founder of our town. Taft Street, Taft Park, a Taft school and many structures which he actually helped build are still in use.

One of the names considered was "Springvale" which is what Mrs. Taft named the settlement, for the many springs along the west fork of the Des Moines River. Taft reluctantly agreed to change the name to "Humboldt" after a famous German explorer in 1873 when it seemed that Springvale and the adjacent settlement, Dakota City, might merge under a new name. They did not.

Stephen H. Taft was a Unitarian minister who headed a colony of religious liberals from New York State who came west to avoid the religious conflicts in which they became involved in the east. In his Martinsburg, New York church, Taft had spoken out strongly against slavery, offending some of the church members so much that he resigned his pastorate. Born in a log house on a farm in New York, Taft received his early education from his mother and was an avid reader of historical and biological works. When he was 18, he began teaching school and at the age of 20, he was a licensed Wesleyan Methodist minister. He later joined the Christian Union movement which subsequently led to his moving west and settling the town of Humboldt. He was independent and an individualist, a man of enthusiasm and ambition to accomplish things, as evidenced in the performance of the many grueling tasks he faced in establishing a town. He performed manual labor on many of his projects, building dams, mills, culverts and streets, laying stone for business buildings (many of which are still in use) and Unity Church, cutting wood and clearing land. He worked tirelessly to raise funds for Humboldt College, to lay out and plat the town, and faced the hardships, deprivation and danger of pioneer life. He built and operated Humboldt's first hotel (out of necessity), published and edited Humboldt's first newspaper and was involved in every important activity in the town until he moved to California in 1896 seeking a better climate for his wife's health.

Mr. Taft suffered setbacks and financial losses and disappointments in Humboldt, destruction of his dams by flood waters, criticism and censure by detractors, but his driving ambition and perseverance carried him on to the realization of many of his dreams. He has been an inspiration to all who have had a part in the progress of our community.

### **STORM LAKE PRAIRIE #110**

Chartered November 9, 1959

Storm Lake

This was the part of Iowa that was surveyed in the mid-1800s. About 85% of the land was in prairie. Few trees could be seen and they were mostly willows along the streams. It is said that one could walk 60 miles away from Storm Lake and not see a big tree. Today few prairie remnants remain. There are patches along railroad tracks, in old cemeteries and a few public and private areas.

### **TILEYARD HILL #995**

Chartered August 27, 1981

Minburn

Tileyard Hill was the name chosen for the chapter. T. M. Hill, his wife Gussie and their children moved from Indiana to Minburn in February 1903. Milt (T.M.) Hill and an older brother had been operating a tile factory at Barnard, Indiana. Milt answered an ad in a Brick and Tile magazine in which John McFarland of the Minburn plant advertised for a partner. The following year Harry and Maggie Hill along with their daughters came from Indiana, and Harry bought McFarland's interest in the factory. The brothers made brick and tile and ran the sawmill 1 ½ miles west of Minburn for several years. It was located at the top of a hill, the reason for naming the area Tileyard Hill.

The tile made by the Hill Brothers is still draining many farms today in the area. The tile factory was dismantled and the sawmill was sold in 1915.

**TOOL'S CHAPEL #961**  
Chartered October 12, 1980  
Newton

The early history of the Methodist circuit rider and the development of the country run side by side. With the foundation of this government, Methodism came on the scene and as rapidly as the boundary was pushed westward, and in some instances before, the friendly face of the Methodist circuit rider was seen in his work spreading the gospel of Jesus of Nazareth. The first religious service held in this section was in the home of Brother Tool in 1849 in a ten-by-twelve foot log house. J. A. Tool gave the site for the building of a church that to be erected in 1866 under the direction of the pastor, Rev. I. O. Kemble. A chapel was erected, twenty-six by thirty-six feet, costing \$1,425. It was dedicated in 1867 and named "Tool's Chapel" by Pastor Kemble. In 1899 it was remodeled and rededicated and reseated in 1904.

**TROLLEY TRACKERS #1113**  
Chartered June 19, 1986  
Cedar Falls

After beginning as a Waterloo horse car line, the Waterloo Cedar Falls & Northern became one of Iowa's largest and finest interurban lines. The Waterloo Street Railway Company began in the fall of 1885 as a single-track line except for one passing track across the Cedar River. In 1895 the Waterloo Street Railway was acquired and became the Waterloo & Cedar Falls Rapid Transit Company. In May 1896 the horse car operations were suspended and work began on new standard gauge tracks. Service was provided by three open cars for summer use and two closed cars for winter use, all Pullman-built.

In 1897 construction began on an eight-mile interurban line from Cedar River Park to Cedar Falls. Service began on June 9, 1897. In December of that year, service between downtown Cedar Falls and the State Normal School, now the University of Northern Iowa, began. Cedar Falls service was improved with the opening of a new line on Walnut Street in 1912. Bus service in addition to the street cars, began operating between the two cities in the late 1920s. During WW II military training programs at Iowa State Teacher's College provided additional patronage. Extra cars were assigned on weekends.

On May 18, 1941, all local service was converted to buses. By the late 1940s, the cars were in very bad shape. Three cars were purchased from an abandoned streetcar system in Knoxville, Tennessee and arrived in March 1948. One of these cars was lost in a fire in 1949 but the two remaining cars were able to maintain the sparse schedules with little trouble. The end of the era as an electric interurban was brilliantly signaled by a fire which broke out in a pit of the Waterloo roundhouse on Sunday morning, October 31, 1954. From 1954 to 1957, Streetcar #382 continued to fly back and forth between Waterloo and Cedar Falls while the Waterloo Railroad sought permission to abandon the entire line. Service consisted of a few trips each early morning and late afternoon on weekdays only. On August 1, 1958 over sixty years of electric rail transportation in the Waterloo area came to an end.

With such a rich history of interurban service in our area and since members live in both Waterloo and Cedar Falls, our Quester group chose Trolley Trackers as our chapter name. Some of the Trolley Trackers remember riding in the open cars. Car #382 is now on exhibit in Mount Pleasant.

### **TRUVER #185**

Chartered February 11, 1964  
Linn Grove

A group of ten ladies who were interested in visiting about antiques met on September 12, 1962 at the home of Hazel Wunder. They organized a club and chose as its name "Truver" which is French and means "to seek."

### **WESLEY REDHEAD #57**

Chartered July 20, 1956  
Des Moines

The name "Wesley Redhead Chapter of the Questers" was selected by our group because we believe that the Honorable Wesley Redhead was a true quester at heart. Born in Penrith, England in 1825, he arrived in Montreal, Canada with his parents, brothers and sisters in 1829. Two years later, the six children were orphaned and sent to relatives in the United States. Wesley Redhead and his brother were sent to live with an uncle in the east. After some years of being shifted about from one home to another, Wesley decided to face life on his own, so he ran away from his uncle's home. Mr. Redhead's varied career included farmer, canal boy in New York, dipper boy at Congress Springs, and cabin boy on a Mississippi River steamboat. It was while he was working on the steamboat that he arrived in Muscatine, Iowa (then known as Bloomington) in 1841. He proceeded to Iowa City to visit a brother and decided to stay there. He also was a printer's helper and it was in this capacity that he helped to print the Constitution of the State of Iowa. He learned the tailoring trade in Des Moines.

In 1851, Wesley arrived in Des Moines, Iowa. He began work as a store clerk and in 1853, he was appointed postmaster for Des Moines by President Fillmore. He served in this post for nine years. Mr. Redhead established the first bookstore in Iowa, furnishing all the books for the children. He had the fourth largest wallpaper business in the United States. He sunk the first deep shaft coal mine in Iowa and established the first coal business in Des Moines. The first bicycle west of the Mississippi River was brought over by Mr. Redhead and it is now in the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

Wesley Redhead was active in so many affairs of the state and city. He was elected and served in the House of Representatives. He was intensely civic-minded and spent much time and money in promoting the selection of the permanent location of the Iowa State Fairgrounds. He was noted for his integrity and complete honesty. Wesley was a deeply religious man who felt the need of giving spiritual help to his community so he started a Sunday School in his barn and later gave the ground on which the church (the outgrowth of this beginning), Asbury Methodist was built. This church still stands today to minister to the needs of the community.

Mr. Redhead served on the school board as director; he also issued the first fire insurance policy in Des Moines. The second piano west of the Mississippi was brought here by Wesley and placed in the lovely old mansion built in 1868 for his family. The old home was across the street from a little park given by Wesley Redhead to the city and for whom it was named. He was a brother-in-law of the wartime governor, Samuel Kirkwood. Wesley Redhead was a man of whom it was said, "He had three loves: love of God, love of home and love of his fellow men." From this account of his life, we feel sure you will understand why we named our Chapter Wesley Redhead.

### **WHITAKERS PIER #953**

Chartered July 28, 1980

Clear Lake

In 1895 an ambitious and wealthy restaurateur Isaac Whitaker came from Kansas City and purchased a large resort hotel on the shores of Clear Lake. Several years later, he decided to build Whitakers Covered Pier and Pavilion out over the lake in front of the hotel. This was a very innovative idea for the times. The pavilion measured 144 feet square with promenade decks completely circling the large dance hall and theatre on the upper level. There were pagoda-type platforms where musicians played at the four corners. A bowling alley and concession stand were on the lower level. Unfortunately it had been built at a low water time and when the lake began to rise, the lower levels were flooded and it eventually had to be completely removed from the lake. However, long-time Clear Lake residents still fondly recall what a feat of engineering it was and how grand the Covered Pier was.

### **WILD ROSE #579**

Chartered September 20, 1972

Des Moines

The wild rose that beautifies the Iowa landscape in the month of June was adopted as the state flower of Iowa on May 7, 1897. You can see why we felt the name is appropriate for our chapter.