

SANCTUARY:

The ownership of the former St. Paul's United Church of Christ, formerly German Evangelical built in 1887, was transferred to the Society on Dec. 27, 1972, with the understanding the sanctuary remain intact and said building be maintained as a permanent home for the County Historical Society, its files and museum.



SEWING ROOM

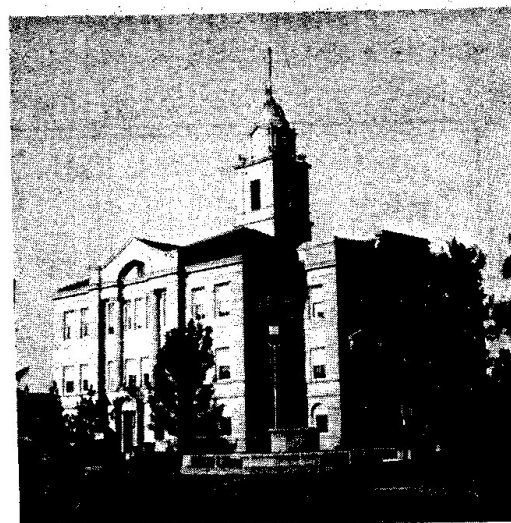
Dressmaking artifacts

Some Facts About Keokuk County Historical Society

- Keokuk County was named after Chief Keokuk who signed the treaty to give the whites possession of the territory - 1842
- The southeast corner of the county was first opened to white settlement in 1838
- The balance of the area was opened in 1843
- Chief Wapello died in Rock Creek, Jackson township in March 1844
- Richland, the oldest town, was laid out in 1841
- Hedrick is the youngest town
- There have been altogether 60 towns or villages in the county. Sixteen now exist
- There are six county parks - Belva Deer, Griffen, Covered Bridge, Yen-Ruo-Gis, Manhattan and Bond Hill
- The first ice cream was sold in Keokuk County in 1858
- There are 75 cemeteries and burial plots in the county. The Shockley cemetery is one of the oldest of these. The first burial was that of Peter Besser
- The county was first organized in 1844, with Sigourney the county seat
- In 1846 the county seat was moved to Lancaster.
- After 10 years of litigation and controversy, the county seat was returned to Sigourney
- The first school in the county was taught in a log schoolhouse 3 1/2 miles northeast of Richland
- There are seventeen townships in the county
- The What Cheer Opera House and the Delta Covered Bridge are listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- The 4-H clubs of Iowa had their inception in Keokuk County under the leadership of Cap E. Miller
- The population of the county is approximately 14,000

PURPOSE:

- to create and keep alive local and state history
- to discover, collect and preserve books, genealogical information, portraits, relics, manuscripts and other articles of historic value
- to promote display of above articles
- to ascertain and mark historical sites
- to cooperate with Iowa State Historical Society and the Iowa State Department of History and other such agencies.



KEOKUK COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Built of Bedford stone. Dedicated September, 1910. Murals in the dome were recently cleaned and restored, portraying pioneer life in four stages of development.

PROGRESS:

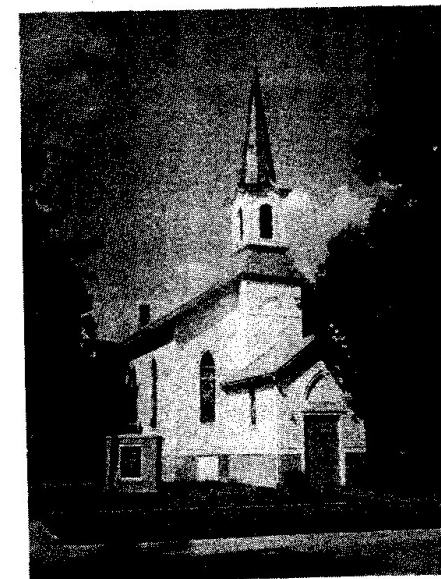
- Centennial Books - all 100 year towns
- Many historical books, pamphlets and clippings are on file
- Many old maps and photographs are being preserved
- Listing of known graves in 75 cemeteries are on file
- A fast growing obituary file, all records current 28,000 now on file
- All these are being added to constantly
- Marriage returns 1879 - 1920

FINANCIAL STATUS:

This organization is operated and maintained by membership dues, aid from donations from individuals and business firms, tax fund, memorial donations, and interest from endowments.

Keokuk County Historical Society

Incorporated 1962



Located at Corner of
Elm and East Streets
Sigourney, Iowa

641-622-3005

Meetings Held 3rd Monday
Night Of Each Month

Building Open To Visitors
Each Wednesday 9 To 4
Each Thursday 9 To 4