

Heartland Christmas labels – draft 7/10/13

Iowa Heritage

Who do you think were the first people to live on the land we know today as Iowa? The truth is, we don't know. Many people immigrated to North America and Iowa. Historians believe that the first people to immigrate to North America came from Asia. Then the descendants of those first peoples made up the many tribes of American Indians. After the Europeans came to colonize in the 16th and 17th centuries they were followed by more newcomers from France, Spain, Netherlands, and England. Then in the 19th century immigrants arrived at American shores at an increasing rate. America became a haven with an endless supply of land. As America expanded West immigrants were hired to build, for example the railroad companies hired Irish and Chinese immigrants. Scandinavians came to America seeking land ownership and a better life. Mexican workers came from the south to labor in the fields.

In the late 1800s new immigrants were generally from northern and western Europe and from Great Britain, Norway, Germany, Sweden and Denmark. The largest immigrant groups to settle in Iowa were from the British Isles (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland).

There were many reasons why people came to Iowa; typically they were looking for freedom of speech and religion, land ownership, and new opportunities. Once immigrants settled in Iowa they often wrote letters back home to friends and family and boasted of the great land. These letters often influenced others to immigrate to Iowa.

In the last two decades of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th century there was an increase in immigrants from eastern and southern Europe. Italians, Bohemians, Czechs, Poles, Greeks, and Russians began finding their way to the Midwest.

Iowa descendants of the 19th century immigrants consider themselves Americans and have kept cultural traditions, while many others have forgotten most of their European heritage.

People today continue to make new homes in Iowa. The state has become home to thousands of refugees from Europe and Asia as well as Africa. A large number of new Iowans came from Mexico and Latin America, becoming the largest immigrant group in Iowa.

Rockwell Collins

Since its founding as Collins Radio in 1933, Rockwell Collins and its products have been recognized for distinctive quality and state-of-the-art technology. Collins Radio Company, founded by Arthur Collins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, initially designed and produced short wave radio equipment. The company grew and attracted world attention when Collins supplied the equipment to establish a communications link with the South Pole expedition of Rear Admiral Richard Byrd in 1933.

Over the next 30 years, Collins continued to expand its work in all phases of the communications field while broadening its technology thrust into numerous other disciplines. New developments such as flight control instruments, radio communication devices and satellite voice transmissions created great opportunities in the marketplace. Collins Radio Company provided communications in America's space program, including equipment for astronauts to communicate with earth stations and equipment to track and communicate with spacecraft. Collins communications equipment was used for the Apollo, Gemini and Mercury programs, providing voice communication for every American astronaut traveling through space. In 1973, the U.S. Skylab Program used Collins equipment to provide communication from the astronauts to earth.

In 1973, Rockwell International, a diversified high-technology company, acquired Collins Radio Company. Today, Rockwell Collins, Inc. designs, produces, markets and supports electronic communications, avionics and in-flight entertainment systems for commercial, military and government customers worldwide. Rockwell Collins-brand aircraft electronics are installed in the cockpits of nearly every airline in the world and its airborne and ground-based

communication systems transmit nearly 70 percent of all U.S. and allied military airborne communication. The company is well-positioned for the future with significant avionics content on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and the Airbus A350XWB. In addition, the company is expanding its military offering to the ground market while continuing to be a leader in providing aviation solutions across domains.

Grant Wood

Grant Wood was born in 1891 on a farm near Anamosa, Iowa. As a boy he loved walking barefoot in the fields and feeling the soft, warm soil between his toes. When Wood was 10 his father died and his mother moved the family to her parent's house in Cedar Rapids.

After Wood graduated in 1910, he did many different things. He took art classes, taught art, made jewelry, learned carpentry, decorated people's houses, sculpted and cared for his mother and sister Nan. The Brucemore mansion in Cedar Rapids has a sleeping porch that Grant Wood painted. He also decorated store windows at Armstrong's in Cedar Rapids and was commissioned to complete a stained glass window for the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids. Wood's skills were even used when he joined the army during WWI; he painted camouflage on tanks and cannons. After visiting Europe Wood realized that the scenes, people and places he knew growing up were just as beautiful and important as anything else in the world. Wood thought the Great Depression was good for American art because it made American artists who could not finance a trip abroad to rely on their own traditions for inspiration.

After *American Gothic* made an appearance, in 1930, Grant Wood was suddenly a national and international celebrity.

His Sister Nan, who lived with her brother and mother in a tiny apartment and studio in Cedar Rapids later recalled, "Strangers now considered the studio a public space rather than the home where we lived. Our door was never locked, because we (especially Grant) were always forgetting keys. Now people walked in without knocking and touring the

studio....Once they caught me in bed. A group arrived while we were eating, and one of them said, 'You just go on eating; that's perfectly all right'."

Additional information if we get this work loaned to us: *Sketch for The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover* is a preliminary drawing for Grant Wood's oil painting, *The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover*, which he also completed in late 1931. A group of businessmen approached Wood in 1931 to paint the birth home of then the most famous Iowan, President Herbert Hoover. Hoover used his small birth home to cultivate a modest, mid-western image during his 1928 presidential run. What most interested Wood most about the mythology of subject of the painting, was the setting. Soon, the cottage became a national shrine. While the painting was rendered in autumnal colors, the purpose of the sketch was to develop the structure of the image. Wood began the composition of his sketch with a graphite pencil underdrawing. Then, he added volume to the elements in the work by shading with charcoal and highlighting with white chalk. Wood also employed the tan color of the paper as a medium value. This drawing technique has been used by artists, including Michelangelo, for centuries. The most obvious difference between the sketch and the painting is the inclusion of the small house in the lower left corner of the sketch. This element was not included in the painting.

Iowa Music

When most people think about Iowa, famous musicians may not be what come to mind. However, circus music, musical scores, jazz, rock and folk have all been created, sung and made famous by Iowans. Out of the countless musicians, three have been selected to represent their peers on this tree.

Karl King joined the *Robinson's Famous Circus* as a baritone player when he was 19. King was a master at writing music to match the acts. With his talent he quickly gained leadership positions in some of the most famous circus bands in the country, including *Buffalo Bill* and *Barnum and Bailey*. In 1920 King relocated to Fort Dodge, Iowa and decided to stay there for the rest of his life. There he operated his own publishing company, the K. L. King Music House and assumed leadership of the municipal band. King became a valued member of the community and was awarded membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters. During his lifetime, King

composed at least 291 works, including 185 marches, 22 overtures, 12 galops, 29 waltzes and works in many other styles. His music continues to be performed worldwide by bands of all experiences levels.

Meredith Willson was born in Mason City Iowa in 1902. He began playing flute as a child and by high school he was playing semi-professionally. After studying at the Damrosch Institute of Musical Art (now Julliard School) and learning from world-class flutist Georges Barrere, Willson became first flutist in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Later he moved on to radio works and then became musical director at NBC. Willson had radio programs and wrote theme songs-including the University of Iowa fight song. Willson has become best known for *The Music Man* which opened on Broadway in 1957. The cast album won the first Grammy Award ever presented. *The Music Man* also won eight Tony Awards with Willson winning Best musical Author and Best Composer and Lyricist. Then in 1962, *The Music Man* came to the big screen and became one of the most successful musicals ever filmed. Meredith Willson died in Santa Monica on June 12, 1984 at the age of 82, and was buried in his hometown of Mason City, Iowa

Growing up in Davenport, IA, Bix Beiderbecke had few piano lessons and was self-taught on cornet. He developed an unorthodox technique by playing along with recordings. Learning pieces by ear allowed him to forego intensive training, but as a result he couldn't read music. Beiderbecke became one of the greatest jazz musicians of the 1920s and he became a legend even before he died. He had a beautiful, distinctive tone and a outstanding improvising style. Beiderbecke's only competitor among cornetists was Louis Armstrong, but since their style and sounds were very different, they could not be compared. Unfortunately Beiderbecke developed a taste for Prohibition era alcohol, which was often made with poisonous contaminants. As his career thrived so did his addiction and Beiderbecke died at the age of 28. Today his restrained and reflective style of music serves as a model for countless followers.

Universities

The state of Iowa is home to 60 universities and colleges. The first one, Loras College, was founded seven years before Iowa was a state and later attended by baseball great, Red Faber. The three public universities of Iowa are the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa.

The University of Iowa is the oldest public university in the state. The university was founded just 59 days after Iowa became part of the union. In 1855 there were 124 students and nine departments offering ancient languages, modern languages, intellectual philosophy, moral philosophy, history, natural history, mathematics, natural philosophy and chemistry. The original campus consisted of the Iowa Old Capitol building and the 10 acres of land around it.

Iowa State University located in Ames, Iowa is a public land grant and space grant research university. ISU was formed as the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm In 1858. The original farm of 648 acres was prefaced for the price of \$5, 379. Iowa State created the nation's first state veterinary medicine school in 1879. The university was also the home of the first electronic digital computer that helped launch the world's computer revolution.

University of Northern Iowa was founded out of the need to care for orphans of Civil War veterans and the need for a public teacher training institution. When care for orphans was no longer needed the Iowa State Normal School was started. The first school building opened in 1869 and it contained classrooms, common areas, a living facility for most of the students and the principal's home. The school went through many name changes before it became the University of Northern Iowa in 1967. Today UNI has more than 90 majors.

Baseball Legends

You may be familiar with the movie line, "Is this heaven? No, it's Iowa!" from the 1989 movie, *Field of Dreams* that stared Kevin Costner. However, building a baseball field in a cornfield in Iowa happened long before Ray Kinsella heard the voice.

Bob Feller of Van Meter, IA was known for his “windmill windup”. Feller’s father was his biggest supporter. He played catch with him despite the danger- when Feller was eight one of his pitches broke three of his father’s ribs. One summer Feller’s father built their own field of dreams. Feller recalled, “we cut down about 20 trees and made them into fence posts”. Farmers thought his father was crazy, but players came and the Feller family constructed bleachers and charged each person 25 cents to watch games played by some of the best athletes in the area. During that time a 13 year old Feller was pitching to 30 year old men. No other teen has been able to match Feller’s explosive debut in the major leagues. At seventeen he headlined papers when he struck out eight St. Louis Cardinals in three innings in July 1936. This event was followed by many others like it and “Rapid Robert” was “on the tongue of millions” according to the *New York Times*. Fame grew and Feller’s graduation from Van Metter High School was even broadcasted live on NBC radio. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Feller was the first major leaguer to enlist in the military and that only magnified his glory. By the time he retired in 1956, Feller had won 266 games, hurled 3 no hitters, and earned a place in baseball’s Hall of Fame.

Another baseball legend was Red Faber from Cascade, Iowa. Known for his spitball, this right-handed played his entire 20 year major league career with the White Sox. During that time Faber won 254 games.

In the late 1800’s Faber’s family Hotel Faber in Cascade and were considered one of the town’s most affluent citizens. The family sold the hotel in 1944, but the building still stands. Born the second of four children to Nicholas and Margaret Grief Faber, he was Luxemburg descent and German was spoken at home.

Faber played ball during childhood and thought seriously about a career in baseball when he was 16 and the Dubuque Tigers paid him to pitch games. Then in 1911, Faber had a career changing experience when teammate Harry Peaster taught him the refining points of throwing a spitball. Faber perfected his pitch for the next 2 ½ seasons, after which White Sox owner Comiskey bought Faber’s contract for the 1914 season. Following an unexpected successful off-season, Faber joined the 1914 White Sox for his rookie season. In June Faber won his first career victory with a three-hit shutout of the Yankees. Though Faber was known for his spitball he also had a

fastball and curve. He said that just the knowledge that he could unleash a spitball was enough to keep most batters guessing. Faber had a long and successful career. By 1933, Faber celebrated his 20th season in the majors. Faber was the American League's oldest player and its last "legal" spitballer (A Grandfathered National League spitballer). He closed his career in 1934 with a 254-213 record.

Then there is Norway, Iowa baseball where the Norway High School baseball team won twenty Iowa state titles from 1965-1991. Recently, the movie, *Final Season* was made about the Norway baseball team.not sure if we should include Norway....

Iowa Food

Iowa food is more than corn.

Eskimo Pie was created by Christian Nelson, a ice cream vendor in Onawa, Iowa. After a child demanded a ice cream sandwich and a chocolate bar Nelson was inspired to make Eskimo Pie. After much trial and error he froze chocolate around ice cream by coming up with the right mix of chocolate and cocoa butter that would stick to the ice cream. Eskimo Pie was introduced to Iowa in 1920. At first the bar was called "I-Scream-Bar" and then he got it patented and teamed up with Russell Stover to produce Eskimo Pie. Eskimo Pie was an overnight hit and at the height of its popularity more than 1 million sold daily.

The Maid-Rite sandwich was born in 1926 when Fred Angell, a butcher from Muscatine, worked to get the right combination of ground meat and spices. The story is that a delivery man who tasted Angell's new creation said, "This sandwich is made right", and that is how the sandwich got it's name. Angell opened his fist restaurant in Muscatine and later opened another restaurant with his son that had a "car hop" (or drive-in service). This was the first of its kind in the United States. A&W and White Castle later replicated the service. The franchisee tradition that started back in 1926 included individual owner/operators who were well liked in the community. Many of the original franchises from the 20s are still in operation. There are third generation family members that operate family owned Maid-Rites.

Happy Joes was started by Joe Whitty who was determined to follow his idea of pizza and ice cream. On November 16, 1972, the first location opened in the Village of East Davenport. Joe never imagined that he would have more than one restaurant but now there are nearly 60 locations across 6 states. Happy Joe's is well known for its two signature pizzas, The Happy Joe's Special (that has Canadian bacon and sauerkraut, which Joe invented using leftovers at a relative's home) and Taco Pizza (which Joe created in response to the franchisee's request to add tacos to the menu). Other than pizza and ice cream, Happy Joe's also gives back the community. In honor of the company's 40th anniversary a Happy Joe's Kids Foundation has been established to help improve the lives of children with special needs as well as their families and support groups.

Blue Bunny was founded as a dairy in 1913 in Le Mars, Iowa by Fred H. Wells. Wells bought a horse, wagon and milk route for \$250. In 1935 the Blue Bunny brand was born when Wells and his brother Harry sponsored an ice cream naming contest in the Sioux City Journal. In 2006, Wells sold its milk and yogurt holdings to concentrate on ice cream and frozen novelties. Today, Blue Bunny ice cream is in 50 states and Mexico with nearly 500 tasty Blue Bunny ice cream flavors, frozen dairy desserts and delectable novelties.

Jolly Time popcorn was founded in 1914 by Cloyd Smith and his son Howard. From their basement in Sioux City, IA they shelled, cleaned, and packaged the first branded popcorn in the United States. In 1924 Jolly Time began packaging popcorn in a metal can developed by the American Can Company that sealed in the product's freshness. Microwave popcorn was introduced in 1984. The one billionth bag of microwave popcorn was produced in 2003.

Maytag Dairy Farms is a manufacturer of blue cheese and other cheeses based in Newton, Iowa. It was established in 1941 by Frederick Louis Maytag II. The process for making blue cheese was discovered by two ISU microbiologists Clarence Land and Bernard W. Hammer. The process uses a time consuming method of hand making cheese in small batches, using fresh sweet milk from local farms. Each batch is monitored over months while the cheese ages in their curing caves. Once the peak flavor is reached the cheese is sold. The ownership of Maytag Dairy Farms is now in the third and fourth generation of the Maytag family.

Famous Iowa Men -Amanda

Iowa is home to many talented men, ranging from hobbits, to superheroes. Many of them got their start on television, while others launched straight into movies. Johnny Carson was the host of *The Tonight Show* from 1962 to 1992. His introduction “Here’s Johnny,” was the trademark of the show. Jerry Mathers starred in the classic show *Leave it to Beaver*. The Man of Steel was portrayed by George Reeves in *Adventures of Superman*, who also made a cameo in that role on *I Love Lucy*. Ashton Kutcher, who got his start as the clueless Kelso on *That 70’s Show*, has starred in several movies, and is currently starring on the show *Two and a Half Men*.

Other Iowa men are known for their work in movies. The quintessential cowboy, John Wayne starred in over 170 Westerns. Tom Arnold now hosts TV shows, but most famously played alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger in the movie *True Lies*. Elijah Wood took the ring to Mordor in the role of Frodo Baggins in Peter Jackson’s *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Musical talent also comes from Iowa in the form of Andy Williams. He and his brothers first formed a quartet. Later, Andy would later break away from his brothers and have a successful solo career. He also opened a theater called the “Moon River Theater” after his trademark song.

Famous Iowa Women- Amanda

Iowa was home to many talented women, ranging from racecar drivers to advice columnists.

Many leading ladies hail from Iowa. A classic soloist, Lilliam Russell dazzled the audience in Broadway and Vaudeville shows for 40 years from 1879 to 1919. Cloris Leachman is best known for her role as the pesky landlady in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and her roles in Mel Brooks films. Harriet Nelson is known for her role as herself in *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. The show started as a radio show in 1944, but was switched to television in 1952. It ran until 1966, and holds the record for the longest running live-action American sitcom. Donna Reed is best known for her role as Mary Bailey in the holiday favorite *It’s a Wonderful Life*.

Iowa women are also groundbreaking. Janet Guthrie was the first woman to compete in the Indianapolis 500 and Daytona 500 races.

Lou Henry Hoover was born in Iowa, but she is not the only First Lady with roots here. Mamie Doud Eisenhower served as First Lady from 1953 to 1961. She was well known for her beautiful dresses and jewelry.

Twins Pauline Phillips and Eppie Lederer gave advice to the world. Born Pauline Esther and Esther Pauline Friedman, both took up writing advice columns, Pauline wrote “Dear Abby,” and Eppie wrote under the name of Ann Landers. The two columns were two of the most syndicated advice columns in the world.

Iowa Wine and Spirits

Iowa’s tradition in wine making goes back to European settlers that brought their traditions with them. The first commercial vineyard was established in Iowa in 1857, however because of unfortunate events in the 1800s prohibition and pesticides; Iowa’s wine industry didn’t thrive. Today, as more wine varieties have been developed the wine industry has been able to grow rapidly. Iowa has benefited from new grape breeds that are strong enough to withstand cold winters and are resistant to disease. Each Iowa winery is unique, some use other fruits and flowers to make their wines, others pair wine with specialized cuisine, or music. Vineyards and wineries are only expected to increase in Iowa as more people become familiar with wine. Today there are over 350 commercial vineyards in Iowa.

Along with wine there are many micro-breweries and distilleries establishing in Iowa. Prohibition also had an effect on breweries. Before prohibition there were 138 in the state and after there was only one small brewery left. Today breweries and distilleries are exploding out of recovery along with wineries!

A few local companies have shared their merchandise for this exhibit. The Stone Cliff Winery is in Dubuque, Iowa and operates out of the Historic Star Brewery Building. The Mississippi River Distilling Company in LeClaire, Iowa, was started by two brothers that wanted to create home grown, handmade spirits

Hoover

When questioned at the age of 84, the first Christmas that Herbert Hoover remembered took place in Iowa when he was six or seven years old.

I had been taken by an Uncle Allan and Aunt Mille into their home on a farm near West Branch, IA. They had a boy and a girl near my age. The light of that household was Aunt Mille. She was a superb cook. The farm produced all the calories, carbohydrates, proteins and fats that a small boy could stuff himself with. That Christmas began when Uncle Allan took us with his wagon to the woods along the Cedar River where he chopped a pine tree and we gathered nuts. Black walnuts and hickory nuts require an anvil. Uncle Allan brought a sledge hammer into the kitchen as an anvil. Aunt Millie told us we must make all the decorations for the tree, that we could not have anything from the store as the mortgage took everything. (It was some years later that I learned the mortgage was not some fearsome man.) Aunt Mille superintended our popping of corn in a skillet and taught us how to sew it into long strips for snow on the tree. We had no sugar but the farm produced sorghum molasses and with this we molded popcorn balls for candy.

According to Hoover, Christmas Eve was always an occasion for a party with friends and neighbors and Christmas day was reserved for family. Hoover was very fond of spending time with friends and family. In his honor we have decorated this tree with items of the Hoover's favorite pastimes.

Quakers Oats

In the mid-1800s Iowa was one of the biggest wheat producing states in the nation. Towns along large rivers became big milling centers as the milling industry expanded. Davenport was a major clearing house for grain that was shipped around the United States and even to Europe. In 1873 the North Star Oatmeal Company was impressed by the quality of oats that local farmers were producing and decided to open an oatmeal mill in Cedar Rapids. Quaker Oats Company was founded in 1901 when four oat mills merged. One of those four mills was a cereal mill in Cedar

Rapids, Iowa that was owned by John Stuart, his son Robert and their partner George Douglas. However, the Quaker brand was established in 1871 by Henry Seymar of the Quaker Mill Co. in Ravenna, Ohio. In 1908 Oat Cakes was the first oatmeal cookie recipe to appear on the Quaker Oats package. Quick Oats were introduced in 1922 and Instant Oatmeal made an appearance in 1966. In the 1970s the company financed the making of the film Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, which granted the license to use the products mentioned in the movie for candy bar names. Today Quaker Oats has moved beyond oatmeal and sells over 100 different products. In 2001, Quaker Oats was bought by PepsiCo, but the Quaker Oats sign still remains on the building in Cedar Rapids.

Iowa Olympians-

Many Olympians have been born in Iowa or claimed Iowa as their home, from Frank Irons to Shawn Johnson. The state is full of talented, athletic individuals that want to represent their country.

Frank Irons from Des Moines Iowa competed in the 1908 and 1912 Summer Olympics. He won gold at 1908 Games in the long jump. He also participated in the exhibition baseball tournament in the 1912 Olympics, where baseball was made its first experience at the Olympics.

Morgan Taylor was an American hurdler that won three Olympic medals. He grew up in Sioux City and participated in track and field and football when he attended Grinnell College. In 1924 at the American trials he broke the world record in the 400m hurdles, twice. He then broke his record in Paris with a margin of 1.4 seconds to win the gold. However, he did not become the world record holder because he knocked over a hurdle and that disqualified him from the title. Taylor qualified for the 1928 and 1932 Olympics where he won a bronze medal both times. During his third Olympics he was honored for his achievements by being chosen to carry the American flag during the opening ceremony.

Nancy Metcalf is one of the most accomplished volleyball players from Iowa and she has been on the Team USA indoor volleyball team since 2000. In 2004 she attended the Olympics in Athens, where the team came in 4th place.

Natasha Kaiser-Brown native of Des Moines has been struggling with stress fractures in her feet since the mid 90s after she won gold and silver in the Olympics as a member of the women's 4x400 relay team. Today she coaches at Drake University

Sabin Carr took part in the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928. He won gold in the men's pole vault. He was born in Dubuque and after finishing his Olympic career he moved to Oakland California and became president of the Sterling Lumber Co.

Amanda Weir started swimming at a young age and set her first record at the age of 12. Born in Davenport she moved to Minnesota, Georgia and California on her journey to the Olympics. She participated in the 2004 and 2012 Summer Olympics, winning silver in the 400m freestyle relay and in the 400m medley relay and bronze in the 4x100 meter freestyle relay.

Dan Gable was an Olympic gold medalist in 1972, coached 12 Hawkeye Olympians and was the US Olympic Head Coach in 1980, 1984 and 2000. "I'm a big believer in starting with high standards and raising them. We make progress only when we push ourselves to the highest level. If we don't progress, we backslide into bad habits, laziness and poor attitude."

Shawn Johnson from Des Moines won gold and silver in the 2008 Olympic Games. She won gold in individual balance beam and silver in individual all around, individual floor exercise or exercise, and team. She also competed in 2009 and 2012 on the ABC show *Dancing with the Stars*.

Lolo Jones is from Des Moines qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics team. She specializes in the 60 and 100 meter hurdles. She was favored to win the 100m hurdles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics but she tripped on the penultimate hurdle and finished seventh place. Lolo has now been named to the U.S. national bobsled team and is looking to make an appearance at the 2014 Olympics.

Star Trek

What does Star Trek have to do with Iowa? Well, Riverside, Iowa is the future birth place of Captain James T. Kirk. The commander of the Starfleet vessels USS Enterprise and USS

Enterprise –A. He is one of the chief defenders of the United States Federation of the Planets. Kirk was born to George Samuel Kirk and Winona Kirk and he spent his childhood in Iowa before joining the Starfleet Academy as a teenager. Kirk a.k.a. The Captain was portrayed by William Shatner in the original Star Trek television series and several Star Trek movies.

Every year the Riverside Area Community Club hosts its annual “TrekFest” during the last weekend of June. The celebration features many activities and a parade. There is also the Voyage Home –Riverside History center that contains a museum and gift shop dedicated to exhibiting items related to riverside and Star Trek.

Hy-Vee

A helpful smile in every aisle

In 1930 a little grocery store opened Beaconsfield, Iowa. Charles Hyde and David Vredenburg wanted to provide “good merchandise, appreciative services and low prices” to the area. The store was only open a few weeks before the stock market crash of October 1929. However, the two men pursued and their operation was called Hyde & Vredenburg. Over the next 10 years the company grew, operating a office, warehouse, mill, meat plant and bakery in Lamoni, Iowa. In 1938 the gross sales totaled over \$1 million. The Hy-Vee name was adopted in 1952 as the winning entry of an employee contest. Today Hy-Vee is made up of 234 supermarkets located in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Hy-Vee employes over 60,000 people and is the largest employer in the state of Iowa. Quite a change from the tiny store that Charles and David first opened!

Ringling Circus- Diana

Iowa is a state filled with surprises such as laying down the foundations to one of the *Greatest Shows on Earth*, the Ringling Bros. Circus. Born in McGregor, Iowa, the Ringling family moved to Baraboo Wisconsin. By 1879, five out of the seven Ringling brothers developed an interest in

the circus. They first started out doing shows in the town's opera house gathering enough money to purchase suits and top hats. As their circus grew, they ventured out to smaller towns but quickly realized that having a life in the circus is quite difficult. The defining moment for the brothers would happen in Cascade, Iowa. With little to no money, a prominent citizen named RJ McVay helped them financially to put on a show and get them back on their feet. The show was a huge success and the Ringling Bros. Circus was born.

By 1895, the circus had traveled to major areas establishing a reputation making them equal competitors to the ultra successful Barnum & Bailey Circus. By 1907, the brothers had enough money to purchase Barnum & Bailey keeping them as separate circuses until they eventually united them in 1919 becoming the Ringling Bros. Circus- *Greatest Show on Earth*.

Due to their success Charles and John Ringling settled upon Sarasota, Florida and decided to invest in the future of the vast land. Over the years it became the home of many traveling circuses, and artists from around the world, which became known as Circus City, USA. Today, Sarasota houses their personal home, the John and Mable Museum of Art, the Ringling Museum of Art and Tibbals Learning Center to the Circus Ring of Fame. The Ringling Bros. Circus still remains strong today, touring the country and entertaining worldwide.

RAGBRI

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, better known as RAGBRI, is an event that many Iowans look forward to every year. RAGBRI is a week long ride that takes place the last full week in July. It starts on Iowa's western boarder and ends on the eastern border; the route averages 472 miles with start, stop and overnight locations hosted by every year by communities. The ride was started by John Karras (avid bicyclist) and Don Kual (author of the Des Moines Register's "Over Coffee" column), they decided to ride across Iowa and write columns about what they saw. After the idea was agreed upon, friends were added to the riding party and the party grew year after year! Now on its 41st year, RAGBRI attracts worldwide attention as newspapers, television stations and magazines increase coverage of the ride yearly.

Because of its popularity the ride is now limited to 8,500 riders to maintain safety. Over 275,650 people have pedaled over 17,000 miles and passed through 80 percent of the incorporated towns in Iowa. Teams and charters have become a fun part of RAGBRI, the teams provide a support system and gives a non-cycling dimension to RAGBRI. Teams tend to customize old school buses and vans to provide transportation to and from the ride. The buses and vans are also used as clubhouses and sleeping quarters. Some buses are also equipped with sound systems, roof mounted platforms, bike racks, bathrooms, drinking water, and showers. Charters consist of bicycle clubs and for-profit companies that provide weeklong support for riders, such as, transport, secure camping sites, camping gear, bicycle repair, and evening social activities. In 2007 and 2008 Lance Armstrong organized a LIVESTRONG team of about 200 riders and each rider raised at least \$1000 for the fight against cancer.

Iowa State Fair- Amanda

Few things are more Iowan than the Iowa State Fair. Started in 1854 in Fairfield, the fair has traditionally included events based around animals and agriculture. Since 1854, the fair has been moved to a permanent location in Des Moines and is usually held in early- to mid-August. Now, over 1 Million people attend every year to see competitions such as pigeon rolling and the lawn chair toss. They also come to sample the foods, which include over 50 foods on a stick, making them convenient to carry around while looking at booths, or seeing the butter cow, sculpted by Sarah Pratt.

In the years 1896, 1922, and 1932, people flocked to come see the train collisions arranged by Iowan “Head-On” Joe Connolly. In these events, repeated around the country, two locomotives would be placed on a track, pointed at each other. Engineers would start the trains and get them up to speed at 40 mph before jumping to safety. The trains would then collide and burst into flame, creating a spectacle that 40,000-70,000 people came to see at the fair. In the 1932 collision, Connolly attached a passenger car to the back of each locomotive filled with flammable materials. Because of the election happening that year, on the side of these cars were the names “Roosevelt” and “Hoover.”

The State Fair also brings many entertainers to the state. Acts that have performed at the fair include Johnny Cash, The Jackson 5, Sonny & Cher, Elton John, Metallica, Christina Aguilera, Def Leppard, Sheryl Crow, Miranda Lambert, Rascal Flatts, and the Band Perry. The fair has been an annual event since its start, only being canceled three times: once because the World's Fair was nearby in Omaha, once because of the Spanish-American War, and once during World War II, when the fairground was used by the Army to store equipment. It is a tradition that will continue for generations to come.

Farming- Diana

The first people to arrive in Iowa in the 1830's were farmers. They were able to cultivate the land and produced corn, beans, squash and pumpkins. They also raised chickens, hogs and cattle. Everyone in the family including the children helped with household chores in addition to farming since the seeds were planted in spring and were harvested in the fall. As the railroads stretched out and new technology and machinery were invented, it provided families the ability to expand and sell their product to others.

One of Iowa's most famous farmers is Henry A. Wallace, whose passion for science and farming led him to create one of the first hybrid corn strands known as copper cross. His political affiliations would later garner him a spot as the vice president for Franklin Roosevelt in 1940. His contributions to the farming community were evident when the Great Depression hit, banks closed not allowing farmers to borrow money to grow their crops. Wallace implemented government programs by paying farmers not to farm portions of their land, controlling the surplus of crops. A year after his untimely death in 1965, due to Lou Gehrig's disease, he was awarded the Iowa Award, which is the highest honor Iowa bestows on a citizen.

Today there are around 94,000 farms averaging about 340 acres each. Farmers today are using better conservation methods. During hard times, the government programs still distribute money to help. In addition, Iowa officials are finding ways to sell the product and find other resourceful uses for it such as, using corn to make ethanol.

Capitol- Diana

The old capitol was once located in Iowa City, where it stood as a symbol of pride and excellence, its original cornerstone was laid on Independence Day in 1840. It was in Iowa City, where Iowa made its transition into statehood becoming the 29th state to enter the Union. The University of Iowa was founded in the old capitol where it served as a place for classrooms, offices, library and a chapel. Today it serves both functionally and symbolically to the community, in addition to housing a museum.

As Iowa's population grew, the State Assembly decided to move the capitol to Des Moines, a more central location for the state. In 1856, construction began on the structure, which became known as Old Brick Capitol. This structure served as Iowa's capitol for 26 years until it was destroyed by a fire in 1892. Efforts were made by the General Assembly to rebuild it with a capitol commission to not exceed \$1, 500, 000. John C. Cochrane and A. H. Piquenard were chosen as the main architects. Unfortunately, due to severe weather damage, a second cornerstone was put in place in September 29, 1873. By this time Cochrane had resigned but Piquenard continued until his death.

In an effort to modernize the building, a third commission was set by the General Assembly. In 1904, the building suffered a fire which destroyed much of the House Chamber, Supreme Court Chamber in addition to other offices. The commission set helped restore the damaged areas; in addition it helped purchase paintings, mosaics to finish the decorative aspect of the building. The overall cost of the building was \$3,296,256.