

IHJ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Education without even a smattering of history short-changes the individual by failing to provide a necessary background that serves to help one understand the roots from which he sprang. - Roger Shipp, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Dear Mr. Swanger, I was interested in your editorial comments in the January/February issue of *Iowa History Journal* regarding the Iowa History Advisory Council and your interest as you participate with this group.

Many years ago, during my fourth grade year at Rippey Consolidated School, we studied Iowa history for the year with the aid of a booklet and telephone connection with a professor from then Iowa State Teachers College.

I think somewhere from fourth through eighth grade is the opportune time for Iowa history to be part of the curriculum. Students and teachers should be encouraged to pursue first person accounts of local and state history.

In my part of the state, coal mines were an important part of life into the late 1940s. There are still many people around who remember the mines, including mining accidents and those who worked in the mines.

County and local historical museums should be an integral part of this curriculum. As part of the Greene County Historical Society's program, Dave Bohnet, a teacher at Greene County School in Jefferson, brought his eighth grade students to the museum, and with the help of society members, encouraged students to select a county history item and do further research and also to volunteer at the museum. One young man researched a mining accident in the Greene County Coal Mine near Rippey and wrote an interesting report on his work. The students and families were invited to the museum for a special program to present their findings.

For example, veterans from World War II and succeeding military conflicts have interesting stories to tell. I think this type of connection makes history come alive to young people and their families.

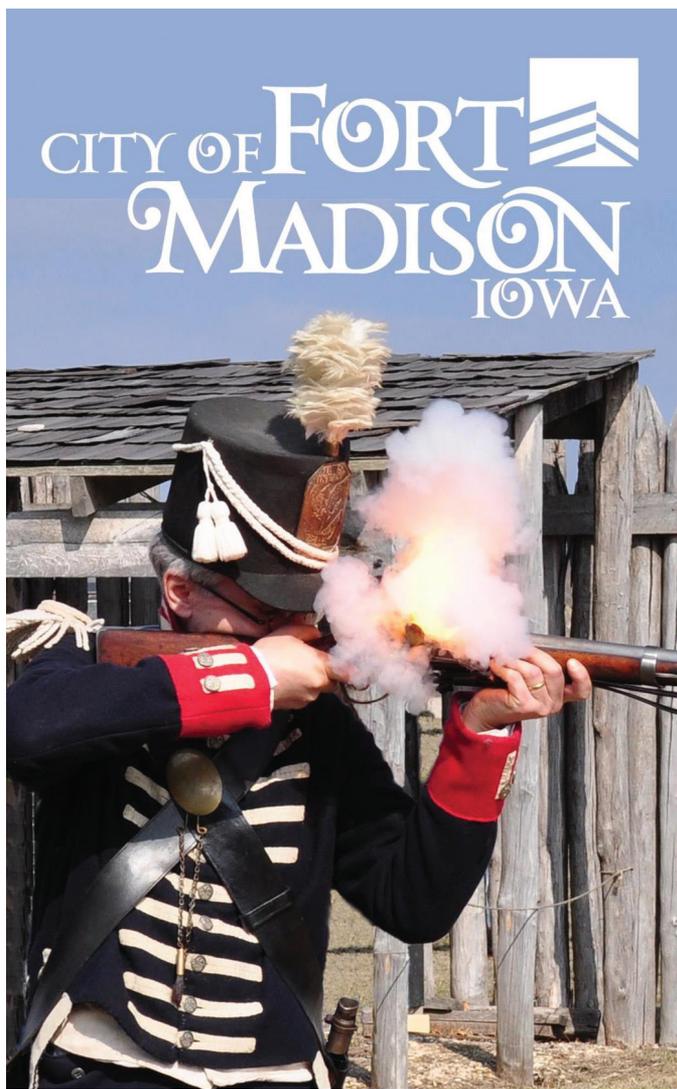
I look forward to learning of the conclusions of the council and hope that local history is an important part of the final report. - Nancy Hanaman, Rippey

Hello, Michael. Loved your article in January/February issue of *Iowa History Journal*.

I'm a child of the 1970s and fondly remember my fifth grade Iowa history lessons. Loved them! It was a large part of the day (or at least what I remember of those days).

Besides the book reading, there was an artist on what is now IPTV that would talk through a story while drawing a picture. At the end of the lesson, he would turn it upside down and it would tie everything together. Great!

I'm glad to be back in the great state of Iowa and would encourage you and your crew to get as much Iowa history back in our schools as possible. Go get 'em! - Mike Mad-dick, State Center



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