

IOWA

HISTORY

Native nations, French explorers, lead miners and farm families each helped build Iowa.

The First Peoples

People have lived in Iowa for at least 12,000 years. The Ioway farmed and hunted here, and the state is named for them. The Dakota lived in the north. In the 1700s, the Sauk and the Meskwaki moved in from the east. They grew corn, hunted bison and dug lead to trade.

Explorers and Lead Miners

In 1673, the French explorers Marquette and Jolliet paddled down the Mississippi and stepped ashore in Iowa. France claimed the land. In 1788, the Meskwaki let a trader named Julien Dubuque mine lead on their land. In 1803, the United States bought the land from France in the **Louisiana Purchase**.

Fort Madison and Black Hawk

The Army built Fort Madison beside the Mississippi in 1808. Sauk warriors and their allies attacked it more than once. In 1813, the soldiers burned the fort and left. In 1832, the Sauk leader Black Hawk led about 1,000 people back across the river to their old town in Illinois. Soldiers and **militia** fought his band that summer and beat it. In the **treaty** that followed, the Sauk and Meskwaki gave up a strip of eastern Iowa about 50 miles wide.

Territory and State

Settlers crossed the Mississippi in 1833 to claim farms. Congress made Iowa a **territory** in 1838.

Slavery was not allowed here. In 1839, the territory's top court ruled that Ralph, a man who had been enslaved in Missouri, was free in Iowa. In 1842, the Sauk and Meskwaki sold the rest of their Iowa land and agreed to move west. Iowa became the 29th state on December 28, 1846. In 1857, a Dakota band led by Inkpaduta attacked settlers' cabins near Spirit Lake and killed more than 30 people. That same year, Meskwaki families bought land near Tama. The Meskwaki own and live on that land today.



Building Iowa

Farm families plowed the prairie and built towns, schools and mills. In 1856, the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi opened at Davenport. By 1867, trains crossed the whole state to Council Bluffs. They carried Iowa corn, hogs and cattle to cities in the East. More than 70,000 Iowans fought for the Union in the Civil War.

New Ideas

In 1892, John Froelich built one of the first gasoline tractors in a small Iowa village. In 1926, Henry A. Wallace started a company in Des Moines to sell a new kind of seed corn that gave bigger harvests. Around 1940, John Atanasoff and Clifford Berry built one of the first electronic computers at Iowa State College.

IOWA THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Black Hawk	Sauk war leader. Spent his last years in Iowa.
Carrie Chapman Catt	Grew up near Charles City. Led the fight for women's votes.
George Washington Carver	Plant scientist. Studied and taught at Iowa State.
Grant Wood	Born near Anamosa. Painted American Gothic.
Norman Borlaug	Born near Cresco. Won the Nobel Peace Prize.

WORDS TO KNOW

Louisiana Purchase	the 1803 sale of a huge area of land by France to the United States
militia	citizens who serve as part-time soldiers
treaty	a written agreement between nations
territory	land run by the United States that is not yet a state