2018 Iowa Topics for Conflict and Compromise in History

Civil Liberties

- The Babel Proclamation in 1917
- The imprisonment of Dennis Mahoney
- Conscientious objection to military service in Iowa: First Friends Church Records
- The Neutral Ground, Fort Atkinson and the Winnebago tribe: Joseph Montfort Street correspondence
- Cession of Native American Indian lands in Iowa: Indian Affairs Collection

State Capitol of Iowa

- Relocating from Iowa City to Des Moines

County Courthouses

- County seat disputes in Iowa

Iowa Law

- The Granger Laws: Third Parties in Iowa
- Governor Larrabee and railroad regulations: Albert Baird Cummins Papers
- Struggle to organize labor unions in Iowa: Meat packers in the 1930s

Labor and Management

Topics below provided by the Iowa Labor History Oral Project

- Iowa's “Right to Work Law”
- Pearl McGill and the 1911 Muscatine Button Workers Strike (and Pearl's subsequent work organizing garment workers in Lawrence, MA.)
- The life and organizing of John L. Lewis. Born in Lucas, Iowa, Lewis went on to be the President of the Mine Workers Union and helped organize the Congress of Industrial Organizations
- 1937 Laundry Workers Sit-Down strike in Des Moines
- Maytag Workers Sit-down strike in Newton, Iowa. This could also be linked with more current news that the plant where Maytag used to make appliances has been retrofitted and now manufactures parts for the wind energy industry.
- 1948 National Meatpacking Strike. Many workers in Waterloo were involved in this strike
- 1950 John Deere Strike – multiple sites in Iowa
- Women Breaking the Mold. There are many examples of women union leaders breaking the glass ceiling and gaining rights for women in the workplace
- 1970 Keokuk Teachers Strike
- 1947 “Right to Work” law in Iowa. In response, more than 100,000 people engaged in a work stoppage and protest in Des Moines at the Capitol
- 1967 Des Moines Public Workers “Sick-in”. 700 city workers staged a “sick-in” after city offered only a 10 cents/hour wage increase
- Passage of Public Sector Collective Bargaining Law in 1974 in Iowa
- Cuba Tredwell, UAW member and the first African-American hired in a Deere Machine Shop in 1952
- History of Iowa’s Meatpacking Industry and its effect on immigration to the state

Desegregation

- The “Susan Clark Case” in 1868
- School desegregation (Waterloo, Iowa): James Sage Papers
- Housing segregation: Frazer and Loras Thomason Papers

School Laws

- The Amish School exemption
- Open enrollment
- State regulation versus local control of course offerings
- Consolidation of rural and small district
- Home schooling versus compulsory attendance
- Shared time between parochial and public school

Censorship

- Censoring books, teaching materials in schools and public libraries
- The battle between Governor Sherman and State Auditor Brown in 1885
- Agri-business versus the “Family Farm”

Voting Rights for Women

- Carrie Chapman Catt: Iowa Women’s Suffrage Collection and Joseph Dugdale correspondence

Iowa Boundaries:

- The Honey War
- The Farmer’s Holiday Association during the Great Depression: Milo Reno Papers
- The Mormon Trail: Edgar Rubey Harlan on Mormons in Iowa

Conflicts in Iowa

- The Cow War
- Scientific Farming
- Blue Laws in Iowa

Third Parties in Iowa’s History

- James Baird Weaver and James Bellamy Weaver
• Robert McCaull Papers
• Leonard Brown Papers
• Albert Baird Cummins Papers
• Iowa State Grange Records
• Henry Bohlman Papers

Rights of Assembly and Free Speech:

• Ku Klux Klan: Ku Klux Klan Newspapers and Albert Baird Cummins papers
• Abortion protests in Iowa (1970s)
• School attendance and days off from work
• Religious holidays and music in public schools

Land Protection

• Denominational rivalries in local churches
• Theological and doctrinal differences among church members
• Conflicts between ethnic groups over local political control
• Adoption of English language in ethnic churches and schools