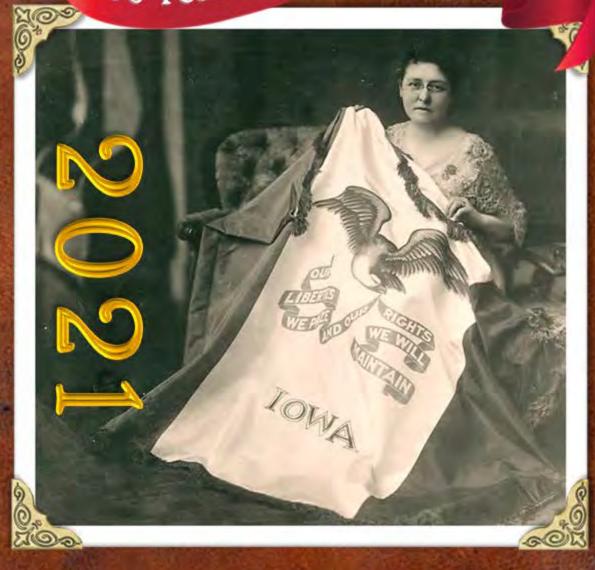


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175 Years · Iowa Statehood 100 Years · State of Iowa Flag



Annual Comprehensive Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

### Cover: Dixie Cornell Gebhardt with the State of Iowa Flag Cira 1917

Handwritten note by Dixie Cornell Gebhardt, "One picture is worth a thousand words. Original photo was taken by Hostetter Des Moines, upon request of Iowa's Governor. Flag used in above [front cover photo] is the Iowa flag presented by Iowa D.A.R. to Historical Society after World War I and never been replaced".

Dixie Cornell Gebhardt Scrapbooks, Volume I, inside cover, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. Cira 1917.

### Symbolism of Iowa's State Flag

The State of Iowa was almost 75 years old when the General Assembly adopted an official state flag. On March 29, 1921 the Iowa Legislature accepted the design, made by Mrs. Dixie Cornell Gebhardt of Knoxville, Iowa, as the official Iowa State Flag.

Mrs. Gebhardt was asked to explain the significance of its symbols. She responded that she felt the flag should reflect the teachings of the Stars and Stripes, and, at the same time embrace the history of



Iowaland from the Indian Era, its discovery by the French, its purchase from Napoleon by President Jefferson, its admission to the union and its present grandeur.

It should be so simple that every school child could recognize its symbolism and know that it meant "IOWA".

Blue, white and red are the colors. Those were the hues of France's Tricolor, the insignia of Iowaland until the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. And in reverse, of course, they are the colors of America's flag.

In Iowa's flag, a vertical blue panel is at the left and a red panel is at the right. For the sake of symmetry and clarity, the white panel at the center is twice as wide as the red and blue stripes and forms the background for the central design.

### **Inspired By Seal**

For this design, Mrs. Gebhardt obtained inspiration from the Great Seal of Iowa. From that seal she selected the soaring eagle, our national bird, bearing in its beak blue streamers with Iowa's state motto - "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain". Beneath in large crimson capitals, the name "IOWA", so christened by the Indians, meaning "Beautiful land".

"Thus", Mrs., Gebhardt explains, "we have a state flag of blue, white and red, with perhaps if we so desire, a touch of gold. As in our national emblem the red is for courage, zeal and fervency; the white for purity, clean living and rectitude of conduct; and the blue for loyalty, devotion, friendship, justice and truth".



ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

GOVERNOR: Kim Reynolds

PREPARED BY:

Iowa Department of Administrative Services – State Accounting Enterprise

### STATE OF IOWA

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