

IOWA'S BEEKEEPING HISTORY

1839 – Iowa Honey War – over a border dispute and **three** honey trees.

1860 – First Italian bees to Iowa by *Edward Krethmer*.

1866 – First queens shipped to Stockton CA from Iowa in a cage of wire cloth, suspended on comb, a patent was obtained.

1879 – Iowa State Fair was moved from Fairfield to Des Moines.

1886 - There were estimated 6,000 beekeepers in the state of Iowa.



From William Elmore, Iowa state bee inspector

1904 - Ag Building completed at the Iowa State Fair, balcony is added 10 years later
Unknown is the location of the apiary division before the balcony was added.

1912 - Iowa Governor *Beryl F. Carroll*, appointed the first **State Bee Inspector**, *Frank Chapman Pellett*. The office name was later changed to **State Apiarist** as suggested by *Frank Pellett*. This office is currently appointed by the **Secretary of Agriculture**

1912 - **Iowa Beekeepers Association** formed, and from the start, the priorities were: control of foulbrood, securing funding for inspection, education and securing a place of beekeeping at **Iowa State College**.

1912-1961 - The **Inspection Service (State Apiarist)** was under the **Extension Office, Iowa State College** in Ames, Iowa and in 1962 the office was changed to under the **Iowa Department of Ag**. The **State Apiarist** would publish the yearly "**State Apiarist Report**".



Governor of Iowa, Beryl F. Carroll - 1912

1914 - It was reported there were 137 paid-up members.

1915 - The organization was incorporated under the name of **Iowa Beekeepers' Association.**

Apiary Exhibits at the Iowa State Fair:

1907 – Display of comb honey of not less than 300 pounds
Extracted honey of not less than 100 pounds.

1915 - *Class No 114- Honey, Bees, Etc.*

White clover extracted honey in glass, **not less than 24 pounds**

Linden extracted honey in glass, **24 pounds or more**

Best 300 pounds comb honey, quality & manner of putting up for market considered

Beeswax, **10 pounds**

Most perfect brood combs, **not less than 3.**

1916 - Convention secretary reported 232 paid members

1917 - Convention secretary reports 278 paid members, *Frank Pellett* asks to be relieved of his duties as **State Apiarist**

1918 - *Mr. F Eric Millen* was appointed as **State Apiarist**, and also became President of the **State Association.**

1919 - *Professor F. B. Paddock* came to Ames, at which he was appointed **State Apiarist**, a position which he held for a period of 40 years until 1959

1919 – 2 pound package w/untested queen was \$4.75

1920 - Honey was sold for 25¢ a pound.

Report of State Apiarist - 1937



Left to right, Frank C. Pellett, O. W. Park and F. B. Paddock



Some of the colonies under test at the Pellett Gardens, Atlantic IA



1937 - Texas officials inspecting resistant stock from the Iowa Substations, Pellett Gardens, Left to right, C. J. Burgin, Apiary Inspector; S.W. Clark, Entomologist at Weslaco Substation; Dr. F. L. Thomas, State Entomologist and C. E. Heard, Chief Apiary Inspector.

- 1935 – Average honey per colony was 225 pounds and 301 colonies were inspected in the state.
- 1959 - *Professor F. B Paddock* served on a semi-retirement basis, during which time summer activities were directed by *Glen Stanley*. Prior to this *Mr. Stanley* served with the inspection service from 1949-1961.
- 1961 - The office of **State Apiarist** was moved from **Iowa State College** to the **Iowa Department of Agriculture**.
- 1961 - *Glen Stanley* is appointed by the **Secretary of Agriculture** as **State Apiarist**.
- 1990 – *Bob Cox* is appointed by the **Secretary of Agriculture** as **State Apiarist**.
- 2000 – Total cost to prepare and mail “**The Buzz**” for a year - \$7,245.00
- 2001, - July 19 **Iowa Department of Ag** will no longer will print “**The Buzz Newsletter**” due to budget cuts in the **Apiary Program**. Printing is taken over by the **Iowa Honey Producers Association**.
- 2001 – August 16, total cost to print & mail “**The Buzz**” for the month - \$280.40.
Yearly membership dues - \$5.00
- 2001 – Package prices: 2 pound - \$30.00 / 3 pound - \$39.00
- 2001 – December, after **80** years of having a **State Apiarist**, the **Iowa Department of Ag**, with budget cut and recommendations from the **Secretary of Agriculture**, *Patty Judge*, the **State Apiarist** position(*Bob Cox*) and the entire **Apiary Department** is **eliminated**. A total of **17** lost their jobs. *Mr. John Haanstad*, the **State Entomologist**, was appointed by the **Secretary of Agriculture** to do a minimal number of inspections.
- 2005 – July, **Apiary Inspectors** are approved by the **Iowa Department of Ag & Land Stewardship. (IDALS)**, but not a **State Apiarist**
- 2008 – February, the **State Apiarist** position is re-instated by **IDALS**.
- 2008** – *Andrew Joseph* is appointed by the **Secretary of Agriculture** as **State Apiarist**.



A store building is converted into a honey house by Earl Robinson, Oelwein, IA - 1943

Iowa Beekeeping Leaders who Influenced the State and Nation

A. J. Smith	Decorah- 1861 State Agricultural Society of the Apiarian Society -Chairman
E. K. Rug	Iowa City - 1861 State Agricultural Society of the Apiarian Society Secretary
C. G. McNeil	Tipton - 1861 State Agricultural Society of the Apiarian Society plants
E. L. Briggs	Fairfield/Mt Pleasant – received Italian queen from L.L. Longstroth
Wm H. Furman	Cedar Rapids – agent for the American Bee Journal
J. M. Price	Buffalo Gove – frequent contributor to the ABJ
Z. C. Raker	Springdale - frequent contributor to the ABJ
A. W. Pratt	Solon - frequent contributor to the ABJ
E. Schulz	Brownsville - frequent contributor to the ABJ
S. L. Richardson	Webster City - frequent contributor to the ABJ
Mrs. Emily F. Ives	Iowa City - frequent contributor to the ABJ
Samuel May	Eddyville - frequent contributor to the ABJ
Jas Mc Mullen	Oskaloosa - frequent contributor to the ABJ
G. A. Wright	Osage - frequent contributor to the ABJ
Paul Lattner	Dubuque - frequent contributor to the ABJ
A. Faul	Council Bluffs - frequent contributor to the ABJ



The extracting plant of John G. Jessup, Perry IA was a busy place in the fall of 1945

Frank Chapman Pellett - 1879–1951

He was born about 1879 in Iowa, near Atlantic. Frank C Pellett was the first **State Apiarist**, and President of our organization, **the Iowa Honey Producers**.

Legislature passed the law providing for bee inspections in 1912, due to the influence of the local beekeepers in the Sioux City area under the leadership of *C.A. Meredith*. When the legislature passed the law, *Mr. C. A. Meredith*, representative from Cass County and close friend of the Governor, recommended *Mr. Frank C Pellett* as the first official **Bee Inspector** and President. *Mr. Pellett* disliked the title **Bee Inspector** and chose **State Apiarist**, and felt the office should be devoted primarily to education rather than police control. He also proposed that the law be changed to place the work in the **Extension Service to Iowa State College of Ames** in an educational program which would include the teaching of beekeeping and research programs on behalf of beekeeping and extension activities.

In 1917 the suggestion was adopted and the name was officially changed.

In 1916 *C.P. Dadant* hired *Frank C. Pellett* as staff correspondent to the **American Bee Journal**. *Frank Pellett*, in 1925, became designated field editor, associate editor and editor. He was the author of 13 books on beekeeping, honey, flowers, and others on horticulture and other nature subjects. His greatest contribution to beekeeping was "*American Honey Plants*"(1920). He also co-authored the 1946 and 1949 editions of the "*Hive and the Honeybee*".

Mr. Pellett maintained very close contact with the association activities and the correlated activities of the **Iowa State College**. With great pride from the organization of the meeting in 1912 until his death, only two meetings were held that he was not present. He was in close contact with the early developments of horticulture in Iowa thru his association with Silas Wilson. His farm in Atlantic, IA for 40 years was set aside and developed into the **Honey Plant Test Garden** in conjunction with the **American Bee Journal**.



Ada and Frank Pellett

Professor F B. Paddock

In the spring of 1918, at the invitation of a **State Entomologist** of Texas, *Frank Pellett* attended a series of meetings over a 7- week period. It was there he meet *Floyd B. Paddock* and formed a friendship which lasted through the years. When *Millen* resigned as Apiarist the following year, *Pellett* wrote to *Paddock* asking if he was interested in coming to Iowa. Within a few weeks *Paddock* had

received the Iowa appointment and moved to Ames. *Mr. Paddock* carried the duties of **State Apiarist** from 1919 – 1960.

F. B. Paddock as **State Apiarist** supervised the field work, but gave most of his time to instruction in the college.



**F. B. Paddock (center) receiving the Award of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association
Newman I. Lyle (left) and John G. Jessup (right) 1952**

1860 - First Italian bees came to the United States by Mr. Parson of Flushing Long Island and in the fall of that year, the first Italian Queens crossed the Mississippi and into the state of Iowa to a Mr. Edward Kretchmer, who later became a commercial queen breeder in 1866.

1866 - First queens were shipped to Stockton California from Iowa in a cage of wire cloth, which was suspended a small frame which contained comb. At that time it was believed that bees could only be shipped on combs, which must always be perpendicular. For this reason, a patent was obtained.

1850 – 1880, the associations of Iowa beekeepers came into existence.

1861 - The first report of any effort of organization was when a meeting of beekeepers was held on the 3rd day of the State Fair at Dubuque. This was held in the name of the **Iowa Apiarian Society**. Shortly thereafter the call was issued for a meeting of **Northwest Beekeepers** at Lyons, with *C. V. Gardner* of Marengo becoming president. The **Central Iowa Association** held its meetings at Cedar Rapids, and the **Southern District of Beekeepers Association** held its meetings at Oskaloosa. Many other county associations were also formed during this time.

1875 -The first attempt to organize a state association was when *Edward G. Kretchmer* was elected president. This effort only lasted 2 years due to lack of state wide support.

1883 - They tried again to organize with *O. Clute* as president. It was an active organization until 1893.

1890-1891 - *Mr. Eugene Secor* served 2 terms as president.

1911 - "The call" for this meeting was made by Iowa's members at the Tri-State Meet at Sioux City on December 29. The present organization was **complete in Des Moines on December 12-13, 1912** at the **Savery Hotel in Des Moines**. Attendance for the first meeting was between 40 or 50 and a very enthusiastic meeting developed.

The real need for an association was to support a foulbrood control program and obtain funds from the legislature. The association developed a comprehensive program at its first meeting to develop a research and educational effort in cooperation with Iowa State College. A group of beekeepers in the vicinity of Sioux City were also responsible for securing the passage of a bill establishing bee inspection in Iowa early in 1912. Shortage of funds and finding the identity of Iowa beekeepers beyond their local acquaintance was a big issue. During this time there was a lack of using standard equipment and much experimentation of equipment.

The officers elected at the first convention were:

Frank C. Pellett, President;

J. W. Stine, Vice President;

S.W. Snyder, Secretary;

C.H. True, Treasure

-Directors-

Hamlin B Miller, Dr A.F. Bonney and E. C. Wheeler

Sweet Clover in Iowa

1860 - There use to be a law providing **a fine** for disseminating (passing out or spreading about of something: circulation, dispersal, dispersion, distribution) the noxious weed—**sweet clover!** Much prejudice was against the plant despite articles in the **American Bee Journal** in July 1867 as its effect that it had a high character both as a honey source and as a forage crop.

During the 1880's and 1890's unpleasant situations developed because farmers resented the sowing of sweet clover by the beekeepers. In several states laws were passed outlawing sweet clover as a noxious weed and providing a penalty for planting or cultivating it. It was many years before it finally was removed from the list of weeds in some of the states. At the turn of the century, *Frank Coverdale*, of Delmar Iowa, was a successful farmer and cattle feeder whose large scale use of sweet clover did much to break down the prejudice against the plant.

First Case of Adulterated Honey for Public Attention

In 1870 *Charles Dadant* sold honey for .17 cents a pound to a dealer named *Perrine*, and later he found on the shelves of a local grocer in his town of Hamilton, honey by the same dealer in glass jars at .16 cents. *Dadant* saw at once that there was something wrong when a packer could sell honey in small containers for less than he paid in barrels. This seems to be the first case of honey adulteration called to public attention. He found the jars of honey with glucose added.

The **Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa Beekeepers' Society** met at Burlington, Iowa on May 8, 1878 and to this convention *Dadant* went with his sample and his information. The attendance of the convention decided to petition Congress to enact a law against the adulteration of honey, as they felt the industry was at stake.

1900 – 1915 marks years of expansion of beekeeping and beekeepers. It was also during this time that beekeeping in the city was commonly referred to as “back lot “beekeepers. Comb or section honey was mainly produced.

1915 – 1945 a period of transition. Beekeeping up to this period had been mostly conducted in a one-story 8 frame hive and gradually changing to a one-story 10 frame Langstroth style hive. During this time begin the first use of using a two-story 10 frame hive. It is possible that World War I accelerated some of the changes in beekeeping and especially in the type of hive which was used.

As a result of the war requirements, the demand for honey greatly increased, causing an almost immediate shift from section honey production to extract honey production. Also as a result of going to a two story hive - queens and packages in the spring became more in demand.

Sioux Honey Association was founded in 1921. Five beekeepers located near Sioux City, Iowa got together and formed the **Sioux Honey Association**. They shared equipment, marketing and processing facilities. In the early days honey was marketed under the "**Sioux Bee**" label, but the name was changed in 1964 to "**Sue Bee**" to reflect the correct pronunciation more clearly.

Sue Bee Honey was born. The rest is history.



1921 - Eagle Apiary near Sioux City, IA

Iowa Beekeepers that help form this Organization

Mrs. Ellen Tupper and husband came to Iowa in 1853 settling near Brighton IA. She immediately obtained a colony of bees. Upon careful study, she wrote an essay, which was accepted by the Department of Agriculture. It was published in their report in 1865 and she was paid \$300.00. Shortly after this she was operating 100 colonies for honey production. She also became a reporter for the following : ***Iowa Homestead of Des Moines; Beekeepers Journal of New York; The Prairie Farmer of Chicago; The Rural World of St. Louis and The hearth and Home***. In 1865 *Mrs. Ellen S. Tupper and Mrs. Annie Savory* organized the ***Italian Bee Co*** in Des Moines. They sold queens extensively in Iowa and generally throughout the United States until **1872** when a destructive fire made it impossible to continue the company. She was present and gave support to the early efforts to organize an **Iowa Beekeepers' Association** and in 1875 she became associate editor to **the American Bee Journal**.

In one of *Mrs. Ellen S. Tupper* writing, expanding on the 'invention of the honey extractor', or as the Germans called it a 'honey slinger'; she stated - "*It's introduction is a great advance in beekeeping, greatly increase honey yields and comb is preserve - at present this honey does not sell as well as honey in the honey-comb, but as it is more widely known it will find favor*".

Eliza Gallup gained attention as a beekeeper after the Civil War. He was located in Osage in Mitchell County, Iowa. He attended the **First American Beekeepers Convention** in Cleveland, March 1860. He wrote regularly for the leading beekeeping magazines, especially the **American Bee Journal**. Eliza also wrote on introducing Italian queens in 1866. His contributions covered the entire field of beekeeping operations. He wrote literally hundreds of letters to beekeepers who wanted information in the days when facts could not be so easily obtained. *Gullup's* common expression was "bushels of bees". He taught the importance of the queen in good beekeeping. *G. M. Doolittle*, called the "father of queen rearing" was one of *Gallup's* early pupils. *Gallup* moved on to California in 1878 to spend his later years there in actual honey production.

O. O. Poppleton from Chickasaw County followed closely after *Gallup*. He was a frequent contributor to the beekeeping magazines, especially the **American Beekeeping Journal**, from 1877 to 1882. He was also active in the **Iowa Association** affairs and **North American Beekeeping Association**, representing Iowa. His influence was felt in beekeeping circles over a period of time. His judgment was considered beyond dispute. His last years were spent in Florida in rather extensive production.

Reverend O. Clute of Keokuk made his first contribution to beekeeping literature in 1877. He was a frequent visitor with beekeepers through his articles on beekeeping in trade journals and farm papers. With great enthusiasm, he was able to popularize beekeeping as few had done up to that time. He move to Iowa City in 1879, where his operation became quite extensive, producing both section and extracted honey. In 1883, his enthusiasm led to the formation of the **Iowa Beekeepers Association**, with his leadership as president for three years. Meetings were held in a tent on the State Fair grounds. He also served as superintendent of the apiary exhibits at the fair. *Reverend Clute* became president of the Michigan Agricultural College in 1891, until his death in 1902.

Eugene Secor became interested in bees in 1867 and in 1881 became correspondents to magazines. He was a student of bee activities, their relationship to agriculture, especially horticulture. His ambition was maximum production per unit. He was very interested in good stock, successful wintering, good unit development and good care of that unit. He made a careful study of honey plants from the frontier territory in Winnebago County where he lived at that time.

He was a highly respected business man and in 1886 became **Vice President of the North American Beekeepers Association**; 1887-1889, **Vice President of the Iowa State Horticultural Society** and in 1890-1901 the **President**. He assumed duties of manager of the **Union of Beekeepers** in 1897; meet with Iowa beekeepers at the State Fair in Des Moines and in 1890 became President of the **Iowa Association** for 3 years. They met in tents at the state fair, and the enthusiasm in attendance made up for the lack of numbers of members. The convention program was held in conjunction with the **Apiary Exhibits** at the State Fair. He was also chosen to serve as a judge of **Apiary Exhibits** at the **Worlds Columbia Exposition** in Chicago in 1893. Eugene's writings also included the famous poetry:

A swarm of bees in May is worth a ton of hay

A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon

A swarm of bees in July isn't worth a fly

Edward G. Kretchmer, helped organized the **Iowa Beekeepers Association** in 1875, but at the time the professional beekeepers or beekeepers who kept a large number of colonies were very few, and hence attendance was very limited. Farmers who had a few colonies could not be induced to attend.

After holding two meetings, it was decided the organization was premature and was dropped. He also wrote *"The American Beekeepers Guide"* and wrote a book on his activities in a paper *"Fifty Years of Beekeeping in Iowa"*, which was contained in the **State Apiarist Report for 1914**. He kept very accurate records on plants and flows and colony performance. Later he became interested in the manufacture of beekeeping supplies. His factory was established at Coburg first, then to Red Oak, and finally moving to Council Bluffs. His plant was purchased November 20, 1919 by the **A. I. Root Company of Iowa**.



1921 - Demonstration apiary of Arthur Funk, Fonda IA

Business Ads in the 1993 "Buzz" Issue

Russell Stephenson	Williams, IA
Autumn Apiaries	Des Moines, IA (<i>Gordon & Bev Powell</i>)
Spencer apiaries	Cambridge, IA
A. I. Root	Medina, OH
B & B Honey	Houston, MN
Glenn Apiaries	Fallbrook, CA
Howard Weaver & Sons	Navasota, TX
Dadant	Sioux City, IA
Kallas Honey Farm	Milwaukee, WI
JRSK	Dallas, TX
Mann Lake Supply	Hackensack, MN
Gib Sellers	Central City, IA
Draper's Super Bee	Auburn, NE



1914 - Mr. Shipton installing package bees in the Adams County demonstration

Role of the “Iowa State College” With Our State Association

During the first convention in 1912, the objective was to secure a place for beekeeping at **Iowa State college of Agriculture**. *Frank Pellett* proposed that the law be changed to place the work in the **Extension Service to Iowa State College** in an educational program which would include the teaching of beekeeping and research programs on behalf of beekeeping and extension activities. This was soon accomplished by the addition of beekeeping as a class subject under *Prof. C. E. Bartholomew* and lectures by *C. H. True* in farmers’ institutes and other winter meetings. This was a temporary arrangement until *F.E. Millen* was brought to Ames from Michigan was secured full time. Also at the first convention *Prof Kennedy*, head of the **Extension Service at Iowa State**, promised every cooperation and in March 1913 **Extension Bulletin No II** entitled “*Beekeeping in Iowa*” was published and a second one in July, 1914 titled “*Wintering Bees in Iowa*”.

In hope of stimulating interest highlighting the problems of beekeepers, as part of the college, the **Iowa Beekeepers Association** decided to hold its third convention at Ames, November 17, 18 and 19, 1914.

In 1914 President *Bartholomew* announced the establishment of an experimental apiary at the **State Agricultural Experiment Station** and a course in apiculture would be offered for the first time at the beginning of the next college year of 1916. *F. Eric Millen* was brought to the college and in 1917 Millen announce the first correspondence course in beekeeping would be offered.

1918 - Voted that the secretary-treasurer of the **Iowa Beekeepers Association** should be permanently connected with the staff of the **Iowa State College** instead of elected from the membership.

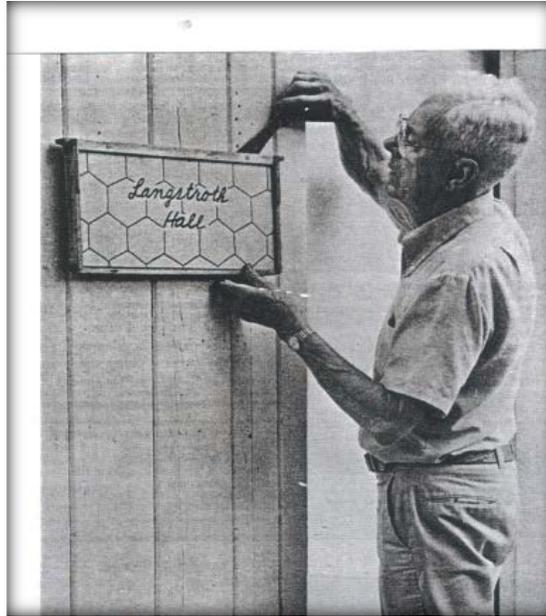
1919 – There were 145 meetings held in 29 counties, with 6,000 attending. 172 beekeepers enrolled in the correspondence courses and 10 local associations were affiliated with the state society.

1922 – A total of 47 demonstration apiaries were located throughout the state under supervision of the **Extension Service**, having held a total of 430 meetings at their locations. Five men were full time working in beekeeping at **Iowa State College**. *F. B. Paddock*, **State Apiarist** supervised the field work

but gave most of his time to instruction in the college. He was assisted by *John G. Jessup*. Courses were offered for both collegiate and non-collegiate work. Sixty five students were enrolled.

In the words of *F. B. Paddock* - "*the education on honey, disease, honey plants and research projects has been offered to the industry of the state and to other states is fundamental in placing Iowa in the lead among the states in the union for service to the beekeeping industry*".

1987- Due to lack of funding, marked the end of 12 years of **Entomology 222**, also known as "**Langstroth Hall**" of the **Entomology Department** at the **Iowa State Campus**. It was taught first by *John G. Jessup* and then *Richard F. Trump*. They had a total of 431 students from 73 departments for the eight-week course, consisting of 16 lecture hours and 32 laboratories hours.



1987 - We put it there with a hammer, but why not take it down with a hive tool? Richard F. Trump

Early Forefather and Promoters of the "Iowa Honey Producers Association"

Mrs. Ellen S. Tupper	Brighton	Harry Pease	Shenandoah
Eugene Secore	Forest City	A. D. Worthington	Ames
J. L. Strong	Clarinda	N. I. Lyle	Sheldon
A. F. Bonny	Buck Grove	Dr. Louis H. Pammel	Iowa State College Faculty
Hamlin B. Miller	Marshalltown	C. E. Bartholomew	Honorary Life Member 1916
Rev. R. P. Grantham	Wiota	Aaron Tackaberry	Cantril
J. C Stocks	Grinnell	Orin Stanley	Lamoni/Gilbert
E. E. Townsen	Fort Dodge	Frank Cloverdale	Maquoketa
J. P. Blunk		William Bronson	
A. P. Chamberlain	Des Moines	E. Eric Millen	State Apiarist-Sept. 1, 1917
J. H Paarmann	Davenport	Dr. Eliza Gallup	Osage
Frank. C. Pellett	Atlantic	H. R. Werner	
S. W. Snyder	Center Point	J. W. Bittenbender	Knoxville
N. Williamson	Bronson	F.W. Hall	Colo
Edward G. Brown	Sergeant Bluff	Glenn O. Jones	Atlantic
Harry Pease	Shenandoah	O. O. Poppleton	Chickasaw County
A. D. Worthington	Ames	Reverend O. Clute	Keokuk
N.I. Lyle	Sheldon	Edward Kretchmer	



1914 - Some of the beekeepers in attendance at the Ames meeting in November.

The majority of information here is in thanks to: *Frank Chapman Pellett, Professor F. B. Paddock, Glen Stanley, Bob Cox, Peter Coyle, Richard F. Trump and many others.*
Thank you for your time spent gathering, preserving and searching to preserve the stories and history of the “Iowa Honey Producers Association”.
For your efforts - we are grateful!

