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## **Home Front in Iowa explored**

The Sioux City Public Museum has received funding from Humanities Iowa, a private, non-profit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to host a presentation called, "**The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1940-45**" by Dr. Lisa Ossian on Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Museum. A cultural resource for Iowans since 1971, Humanities Iowa offers many cultural and historical programs and grants to Iowa's communities.

Ossian is an associate professor of history at Des Moines Area Community College. She will also be signing copies of her recently published book, *The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1939-1945* from the University of Missouri Press.

Ossian's presentation explains how the home front contributions of Iowans and Americans are divided into four historical fronts: the farm front, the production front, the community front, and the kitchen front. Food for Freedom directed American farmers in the all-out production needed for the war effort and the Allies' relief, and Iowa farmers lead the nation in crop and livestock production. Iowa's small businesses and industries such as Maytag added to the "Arsenal of Democracy" by filling many military sub-contract orders while the two newly constructed ordnance plants in Burlington and Ankeny produced thousands of bombs and millions of machine gun bullets. Iowa's small towns and cities matched and exceeded records in the eight War Bond Drives as well as the numerous scrap drives for iron, paper, rubber, and tin, and Iowa's women met the rationing and production requirements demanded from the federal government in all home kitchens.

Ossian earned her master's degree in women's studies at Eastern Michigan University and her doctorate at Iowa State University in agricultural history and rural studies. She has conducted research on Iowa during the early Depression era along with the WWII home front years. She also did a national survey of children's experiences during the Second World War. She has been elected twice to the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees as well as the Herbert Hoover Presidential Education Committee and also serves on the National Education Association's review panel for its academic journal *Thought and Action*. She participates in the Organization of American Historians' Speakers' Bureau and its Committee on Community Colleges.

Housed in the historic John Peirce Mansion at 2901 Jackson Street, the Sioux City Public Museum offers monthly Tuesday Twilight Talk programs featuring topics of regional historic interest. For more information, call the Sioux City Public Museum at 712-279-6174 or visit [www.siouxcitymuseum.org](http://www.siouxcitymuseum.org). Admission is free.