

**Augustana Endowment Society**  
**Historical Reflections from Nov. 2019**  
**by Janet Moline**

**John Hauberg's Legacy**

This month celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Henry Hauberg's birth. John Hauberg was born on Nov. 22, 1869 on his father's farm just north of Hillsdale, IL. At the age of eleven he was forced to quit school because he was needed on the farm. He continued to teach himself by memorizing documents and reading as many books as he could. In 1890, at the age of 21, he headed west, working on a logging railroad crew in Missouri, at a sawmill in Arkansas, and as a cowboy in Wyoming. Returning home three years later, he would graduate from Duncan's Business College in Davenport, Northern Indiana Normal College (present Valparaiso University), receiving a B.S. and a B.A., and finally law school at the University of Michigan. He would travel in Europe before returning to practice law in Moline.

He met Susanne Denkmann through a mutual interest in Bethany Home and after their marriage he went to work at her father's business, the Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann Lumber Company. Both John and Susanne Hauberg were actively involved in many civic and church activities, including the work of the YMCA and YWCA. Both were active in youth work. For adults he established the Black Hawk Hiking Club, Black Hawk State Park, now Historic Site, the Rock Island County Forest Preserve System, the Rock Island County Historical Society and organized and finance the Labor Day Pow-Wow with the Meskwaki from Tama, among others.

He was on the Board of Directors of the Augustana College and Theological Seminary for 37 years. He was recognized in June 1930 with an honorary LLD (Doctor of Law) from Augustana. He served at the vice president of the Handel Oratorio Society. Most of his papers, interviews and photography are housed in the Augustana College Special Collections.

He died on Sept. 13, 1955 at the age of 85. Conrad Bergendoff wrote "he loved the Mississippi---the mighty river flowing through the heart of America... He knew its trees, its flowers, its ravines, its hidden paths. He knew its history."

To learn more about the Haubergs, the Hauberg Civic Center, their home, will host "John Hauberg: A Photo History" by Emma Saito Lincoln from the Augustana Library Special Collection on Thursday Nov. 21 from 7-8:30 p.m. and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> a birthday celebration from noon to 4 with guest speakers Mark Schwiebert and Hauberg descendant, Susanne Kayyali. A hike on Saturday, Nov. 23 by the Black Hawk Hiking Club completes the birthday celebrations.