

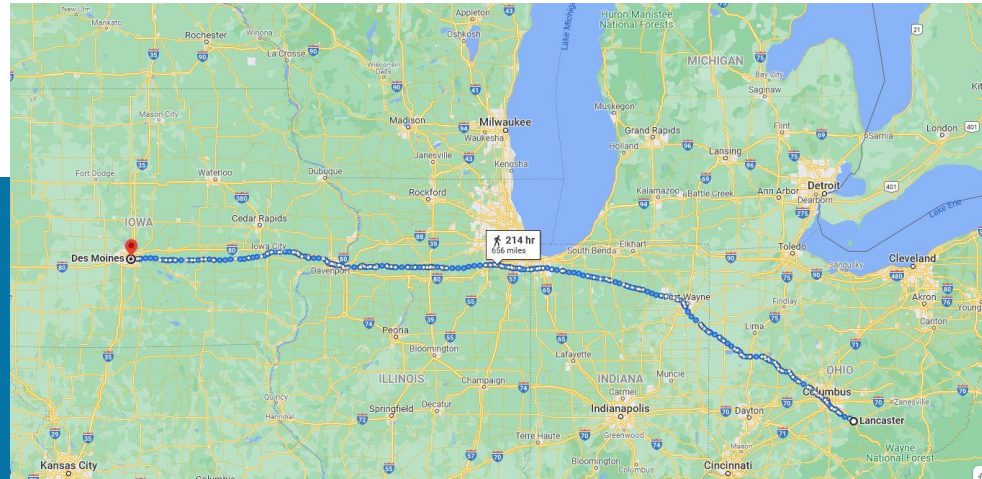
HOYT SHERMAN VENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN

The positive impact of migration on the
development of Des Moines

QUESTION

Why would Hoyt Sherman choose to leave his home in Ohio and move to a new place he knew little about?

HOYT SHERMAN'S DECISION TO MOVE WEST



Manifest Destiny was a widely held cultural belief in the 19th century United States that American settlers were destined to expand across North America. The development of railway made this even more possible.

- His father passed away when he was a child. One of 11 children he learned he had to make his own way in the world.
- The West was full of opportunity including inexpensive land, job opportunities and adventure. See: Manifest Destiny.
- In 1848, at 20 years old, he left Ohio and made his way to Des Moines, IA, then called Fort Des Moines (Name change was in 1857).
- There were only **127** residents in Des Moines at the time.

HOYT SHERMAN'S SUCCESSES AND IMPACT ON THE CITY OF DES MOINES

- Hoyt became a **lawyer** by teaching himself the law and passing the Iowa BAR in 1849. *Many lawyers were self-taught during the 1800s.*
- In 1849, he becomes the **Post Master** in Des Moines. He helps build the first **post office, bank, street railway, public school and college** in Des Moines.
- In 1850, he purchases land for \$105.00, which would become the future site of Hoyt's home (Hoyt Sherman Place).
- In 1854, **Bank of Hoyt Sherman and Company** established and in 1858 merged with State Bank of Iowa.
- In 1855, Hoyt goes back to Ohio and marries Sara Molton. They have 7 children in Des Moines (5 survived to adulthood).
- In 1860, **Major Sherman** becomes the **Paymaster** during the Civil War, for the Union Army.
- In 1867, he joins with other community leaders and forms **Equitable Of Iowa Life Insurance Company**.
- In 1877, he builds his beautiful home. "Society Showplace on the Grandest Scale".
- In 1893, Hoyt rents his home to the Sisters of Mercy. They run the first Mercy Hospital out of the home for 2 years while they plan and construct a permanent hospital.



A FAMILY OF LEADERS

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SHERMAN FAMILY WERE LOCAL AND NATIONAL

- Hoyt's brother, John Sherman, created the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890. He was also a U.S. Senator for Ohio and Secretary of Treasury.
- Another brother, General William Tecumseh Sherman, was a famous **Civil War General**.

During a visit to see Hoyt in Des Moines in 1878, many veterans lined up to meet General Sherman at the Hoyt's home. He greeted each soldier and it took hours to get everyone through.

- Lampson Sherman, another brother, also came to Des Moines and started one of the first newspapers (The Gazette) and was the third mayor of Des Moines. Lampson and his wife, Susan, had 8 children but only 5 of them survived to adulthood. Many children died during the 1800s due to sanitation problems and disease, before better sanitation practices and the invention of vaccines and antibiotics.

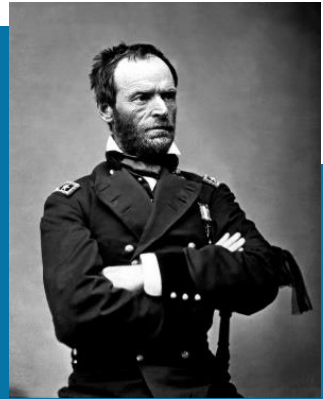


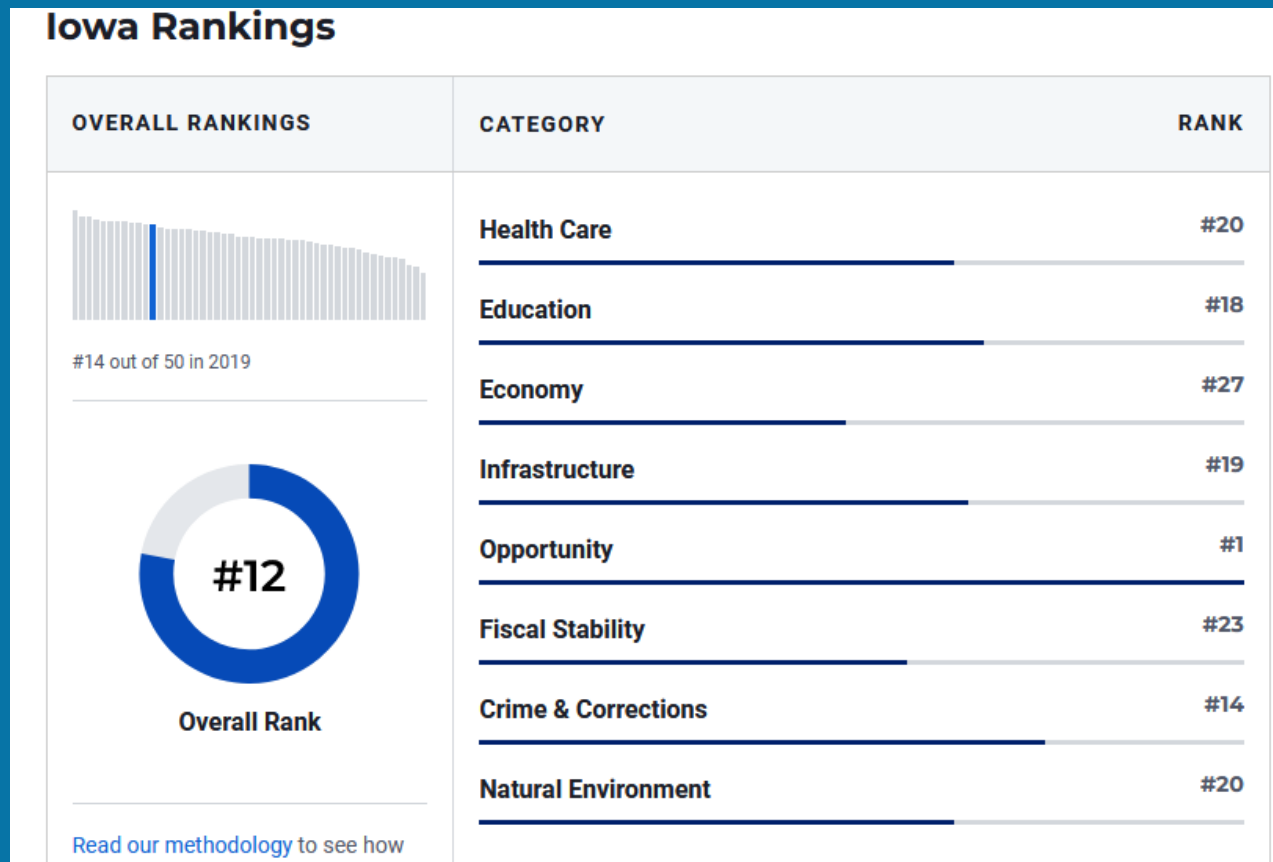
Photo above:
General William T.
Sherman
Below: Sherman Family
Photo taken at John
Sherman's home



Question

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK HOYT SHERMAN'S
CONTRIBUTIONS HELPED CREATE THE CITY OF
DES MOINES THE WAY IT IS TODAY?

Positive Impact of Hoyt Sherman on Des Moines



Iowa is ranked **12th** out of 50 for Best States to live in.

At least 4 out of the 8 categories listed in the graph may be a directly related to the impact Hoyt Sherman had on the city.

- Education (schools)
- Opportunity (many insurance companies and banks for employment).
- Health Care (good hospitals and clinics)
- Infrastructure (waterworks, power, roads)

Source:
U.S. News and World Report 2021

DES MOINES TODAY

- The population of Des Moines is around 215,000 and the greater Des Moines area (including suburbs) is around 700,000).
- Des Moines is one of the insurance capitals of the world.
- According to U.S. News and Report Iowa is ranked 12th out of 50 states.
- Hoyt Sherman Place is still a historic space for events and cultural experiences.

