

Giving an Early Lift to the Iowa State Fair (1856-1937)

1856 15,000 people gathered in Muscatine for the 3rd Iowa State Fair to watch the 1st manned balloon ascension in a balloon dubbed Hercules.



1856

1906 Charles Hamilton flew a powered dirigible. When the engine roared, all fair activities halted. All watched the airship as it climbed. Hamilton waved to the now-cheering crowd. Before returning to the fair, he circled the Soldier's Monument and sailed around the Capital coming to within 30 feet of the gold-covered dome.



1911

1911 Thousands of people came to see two Wright biplanes. This would be the first time a heavier-than-air craft had been flown at the state exposition.

1914 Flying the "Little Looper," Lincoln Beachey raced an automobile and won. Former Des Moines resident Amelia Earhart saw her first airplane at the fair at the age of 10.



1914

1927 The flying circus performed. Special visitors included Charles Lindbergh and Iowan Clarence Chamberlin, both of whom had flown across the Atlantic earlier that year.



1927

1937 Captain Frank F. Frakes crashed an airplane through a house, attracting 62,581 spectators; the largest number ever present on a Sunday at the Fair.

For more information on Aviation History in Iowa, visit iawings.com



1937



1914



1906



1927