

NOTES.

Robert Fletcher Gilder, who contributes the leading article in this issue of the ANNALS, was born in Flushing, New York, October 6, 1856. He is a brother of the late Richard Watson Gilder, poet and editor of the *Century Magazine*, and of Joseph B. Gilder and Jeannette Leonard Gilder, journalists. Mr. Robert F. Gilder is on the staff of the *Omaha World-Herald*, is a painter and archaeologist, and the discoverer of the "Nebraska Loess Man," the oldest human remains found in America.

The *Fort Madison Democrat* of May 1, 1912, gives an account of the first church bell in Fort Madison. It first belonged to Captain Alvord and was used on his steamboat "Osprey," once the property of Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet. In 1842 Captain Alvord gave it to Father Alleman, who placed it in the steeple of St. Joseph's church. In 1856 it was presented to St. Mary's church at Hamburg, Fremont county, Iowa, where it is still in service.

Hon. George H. Williams, who died April 10, 1912, at his home in Portland, Oregon, emigrated there from Fort Madison, Iowa. He was born in Columbia county, New York, in 1823. He was a member of the Lee county, Iowa, bar when elected judge of the first district, and served as a presidential elector in 1852. He was appointed chief justice of Oregon Territory in 1853. He was a member of the Oregon Constitutional Convention and chairman of its judiciary committee. He was United States senator from Oregon one term, beginning in 1865. He was Attorney General in the cabinet of President Grant and was by him nominated for Chief Justice of the United States, but Mr. Williams withdrew his name. During the remainder of his life he continued in the active law practice, serving as mayor of Portland after he was eighty years of age.

Chapter 80, Acts of the Second General Assembly, approved February 5, 1851, is the basis of an article by the Curator of the State Historical Department in the *Road-maker*, Des Moines, for June. This act legally established and provided maintenance for most of the important early travel routes in Iowa.

The Women's Relief Corps of Vinton, Iowa, has purchased a granite monument and will erect it on the soldiers' lot in Evergreen Cemetery at Vinton. It is to present a figure of a Union soldier and is to cost \$500.00.

A soldiers' monument was completed at Manchester, Delaware county, Iowa, in June, at a cost of \$1,725.00. It is among the early results of Chapter 24, Acts of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, approved March 11, 1911, extending the provisions of Code section 430. The original statute authorizes the creation of a fund for the relief of and to pay the funeral expenses of honorably discharged indigent Union soldiers, sailors and marines and certain of their dependents, by the levy of not to exceed one-half a mill on the dollar on all taxable property in a county. The amendment provides the application of the fund or any part thereof jointly through the county board of supervisors and the Soldiers' Relief Commission, to the erection of a monument in any cemetery in the county, of which a portion has been set apart for the burial of Union soldiers, sailors and marines, and where there have been not less than fifty interments.

During the period covered by the months of April, May and June a History of Union county, Iowa, by George A. Ide of Creston, Iowa, was added to the library. Another Iowa item was a History of the Zetagathian Society of the State University. It is well illustrated and contains the picture of Carey R. Smith, the first president, and of the old stone capitol, which was the birthplace of the society.

Of the other books added during this period those from the State of Ohio take the lead. They were as follows: History

of Cincinnati, by Ford; History of Henry and Fulton Counties, by Lewis Cass Aldrich; History of Columbiana County; History of Crawford County; Historical and Biographical Cyclopedia of Ohio, 5v.; History of Tuscarawas County. For genealogical purposes the histories of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois furnish us much necessary data. Many of the early settlers of Iowa tarried in those states before they went farther west. Of particular interest in this connection is the History of Columbiana County. This county was settled mostly by Quakers from Pennsylvania and Virginia. Many of them came to Iowa, and Iowans of Quaker descent have found this history indispensable when they wished to trace their lineage. This book is one of the old style county histories, poorly indexed, but rich in genealogical material to the painstaking student. It was published by Ensign & Co. of Philadelphia in 1879.

The library is still lacking southern material. Books of this class were added as follows: Historical Raleigh from its Foundation in 1792, by Moses N. Amis; Forsyth county, N. C., by Adelaide L. Fries; Lives of Distinguished North Carolinians, by W. J. Peele; North Carolina, 1780-81, by David Schenck; Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-66, by George Cabell Greer.

Another interesting book added was the Philadelphia Directory and Register, which contains the names, occupations and places of abode of the citizens. It was published in 1794 and the original cost was sixty-two and one-half cents.

We have received Bulletin No. 5, published by the Mississippi River Power Co., which is entitled "Electric Power from the Mississippi River." Every other page is an illustration and gives something of an idea of the magnitude of the work.

Mrs. Jackson Beyer of Des Moines has just completed her book, French and Allied Families. Mrs. Beyer has spent several years in most painstaking research. She has visited

the early homes of the French families, examined original records, and taken pictures of the old homes. Much of her data, however, has been obtained from the Historical library. Her book will contain over a hundred illustrations, including a picture of the Historical Building. It will be an edition de luxe of two hundred copies, published by the Torch Press of Cedar Rapids.

The city of Council Bluffs has accepted the gift by Gen. Grenville M. Dodge of a forty acre tract of land to which it proposes to add by condemnation an area of about twice as much, ninety and eighty-nine one hundredths acres, the entire area to be called Dodge Park in response to the suggestion of Gen. Dodge that it be in honor of his brother, the late Nathan P. Dodge, a pioneer of Council Bluffs.—*Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, June 22, 1912.

A statue of Columbus was unveiled in Washington, D. C., June 8th. It cost \$100,000.00 and was designed by Daniel H. Burnham, architect, and modeled by Lorado Taft, sculptor. It faces the capitol.

Memorial University at Mason City has been finally closed and its property interests disposed of to Archbishop Keane of the Iowa diocese for the use of the Catholic church in discharge of its responsibilities of an educational, religious and charitable character. The institution was called the National Military College, and occupied thirty acres of land. It was projected some thirteen years ago by the national body of the Sons of Veterans.

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