

# *Annals Addenda . . .*

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## EFFIGY MOUNDS TO GOVERNMENT

The National parks service of the United States becomes the recipient from the state of Iowa of 1,256 acres of Indian effigy mound lands on the Mississippi river bluffs at the confluence of the Yellow river, near McGregor. By the purchase of the last 156 acres, the lands previously owned by the state were connected making a contiguous body of Indian mounds which Dr. Charles R. Keyes, director of the Iowa Archeological Survey, says are the finest and largest group of Indian mounds in the United States, as well as probably the largest compact Iowa area that has escaped the plow.

This continuous body of scenic and historic river borderland, more than three miles long and a half mile wide, has been acquired in several individual tracts by the state Conservation commission, for the creation of an Indian effigy mound national monument, and the last purchase by the commission links together the adjacent sections earlier acquired for the purposes indicated. Approximately 100 mounds are included, many of them in the form of birds and animals. They are divided into groups, three north of Yellow river and two south.

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## ACTION AFFECTING AGES REMOTE

The zeal and ardor of those engaged in the establishment of a stable and lasting government to endure for the ages, which marked the action of American patriots following the close of the Revolutionary war, perhaps has never been fully understood or appreciated by we of this day and age, except when opportunity presents to read and reflect upon the depth of feeling and earnestness of endeavor characterizing the early planning, as

evidenced by the contents of their records and writings.

Among the authentic papers borne by the Freedom Train now touring the country, the full meaning of which may escape many who will be looking for the more spectacular documents exhibited, is a significant four-page letter from Melancton Smith, dated at New York, January 1, 1789, to Gilbert Livingston at Albany, a member of the first assembly under the constitution, in which he says:

You know my sentiments on the constitution has been that it too strongly inclines to an aristocracy; do the best with it you can without amendments . . . The fair promises and pretensions of most of the leading men who were in favor of the new system are mere illusions. They intend to urge the execution of the plan in its present form. We ought therefore . . . to pursue the object of amendments with unremitting ardour and diligence . . . Politics has consumed so much of my time and thoughts that I should be glad to lay them aside, but the establishing a good government for a great country is an object of such moment I cannot give it up . . . I view it as affecting the whole system of things for ages remote.

Several cases of the Freedom Train exhibits are devoted to the convention at Poughkeepsie, wherein New York state ratified the constitution on July 26, 1788. Of significance are the manuscript journal of the convention proceedings, and the copy, on parchment of the constitution, with the appended suggested amendments, which George Clinton signed as president of the convention, all from the New York state library.

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#### THE LINCOLN CAMPAIGN OF 1864

A group of documents and pamphlets collected by the late James Callanan, of Des Moines, and evidently used in the political campaign for President Lincoln in 1864, constitute a valuable acquisition by the State Department of History and Archives.

They were kept by him in his Des Moines home at Twenty-eighth and Woodland, where they remained after his death in 1904, until in December 1943, when they were presented to the department by Mrs. Doolittle, then

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