

EDITOR WILLIAMS RETIRES

Curator Ora Williams, of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, who also has served as editor of THE ANNALS OF IOWA from March 1939 to the present issue, resigned at the beginning of the year.

Not only has he edited the department publication with ability and painstaking effort, but during these years articles of his own almost without number have graced its pages. His retirement and removal to Decatur, Georgia, to be near his daughters and their families, leaves the staff free to display a late portrait in this issue of THE ANNALS, at the close of his service as its editor.

In his letter of resignation written in November last to the Trustees of the department Mr. Williams said:

I regret the necessity has arisen that I should inform you of my intent to retire from the position of curator.

I sincerely thank you and scores of others for the grand opportunity that has been mine to carry on and advance a work that I have long regarded as of first importance to Iowa. Results of the work unexpectedly thrust upon me nearly eight years ago are fully shown in the four published biennial reports of the department.

The immense task of setting in order the state records and making them available for use has been completed, so far as possible until the state builds an archives building. There has been real advance made in the arrangement of the private archives, the enlargement of the historical library, the protection of the vast newspaper files, the care of the census and other records, and the betterment of the educational facilities of the state museum and the state portrait gallery.

The heavy responsibility imposed by the war has been fully met. A high standard has been kept in editing THE ANNALS OF IOWA. Assistance has been given to the move for proper celebration of Iowa's Centennial year. Attention has been given to the thousands of visitors and research workers, and the whole department has been placed on a plane of high efficiency by the devoted service of a splendid staff of competent helpers.

I feel that I can now, better than at any other time, turn over the work to younger hands with assurance that the department is functioning well in every one of its many divisions. There is on my desk a large amount of work unfinished for lack of time and strength, and it is my intent, if agreeable to the administration, to continue my interest and complete such writing and other tasks in accordance with a life-time of planning and preparation.

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