

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

### *State Historical Society of Iowa*

This is the second issue of the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY in a new format. With the first number of volume 47, the January, 1949, issue, several changes were instituted. The title was shortened by dropping the words, "and Politics"; the size has been reduced; the type changed; and a new cover designed. In choosing a new type face, the Society has had the invaluable advice of Carroll Coleman, expert on typography with the School of Journalism of the State University of Iowa. The type recommended by Mr. Coleman is an 11-point Weiss. Although the new JOURNAL runs to only 96 pages — instead of 112 as formerly — this new type permits the use of more words per page, so that the smaller volume contains practically the same amount of reading matter as the larger size. On the technical side, the new JOURNAL can be printed with only three press runs, in contrast to seven for the former volume, thus decreasing the cost of publication. Many favorable comments have been received from members of the Society on these changes.

The Society's gift from the French Merci train is a book, *Manuel du Naturaliste*, published in Paris in 1776. The book was donated by Professor Rene Hazard, in memory of his brother, Paul Hazard, a French cultural leader. Accompanying the book is an autograph letter by General Gourand, a French World War I leader, and an autograph of Alain Gerbault, a former French pilot.

Among recent gifts to the Society were six examples of land script, presented by J. E. Remley of Anamosa, Iowa. The script, issued in 1858 by the Wapsipinicon Land Company of Anamosa, is an example of the "wild-cat" notes which served as money in the days before banking (only legalized in Iowa by the Constitution of 1857) brought an era of sound money to the State. The bills, three one dollar and three three dollar notes, are signed by C. L. D. Crockwell and William T. Shaw, both active in the founding of Anamosa. A group of letters written by Charles J. Murphy,

Iowa commissioner in Europe during the 1890's, has been presented by Paul Angle, Secretary and Director of the Chicago Historical Society. The letters deal with Murphy's activities, particularly in Belgium, in furthering the use of Iowa and California agricultural products abroad. Harry D. Linn, Iowa secretary of agriculture, has loaned to the Society a photostatic copy of a letter written in April, 1892, by Harrison Colburn of Smithland, Iowa, detailing his experiences as a prisoner in Libby prison during the Civil War.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent of the Society, gave the Lincoln Day address on February 11 before a joint session of 53rd General Assembly. Both the Senate and House Journals have printed the speech for their permanent records. Dr. Petersen attended the inaugural of Governor Beardsley in Des Moines in January. Besides his Lincoln Day speech, the Superintendent addressed the Newton High School and the Newton Kiwanis on February 9 and the Cedar Rapids Masons on March 2.

Jacob A. Swisher, research associate of the Society, addressed the Mar-engo Kiwanis club on February 23, 1949. His subject was "Historic Iowa Sites."

William R. Hart, Curator of the Society, has been appointed United States district attorney for the southern district of Iowa.

The following persons were elected to membership from December 15, 1948, through February 23, 1949:

*Albia*

Mrs. D. W. Wynes

*Algona*

Dr. A. W. Amunson  
 Dr. C. H. Cretzmeyer  
 H. F. Fristedt  
 C. R. LaBarre  
 Murray J. Mowers

*Ames*

George H. Clark, Jr.  
 L. F. Kellogg

*Anamosa*

Clifford L. Niles

*Ashton*

Hon. W. J. Johannes

*Atlantic*

Mrs. Carl H. Goeken  
 Mrs. M. M. Meredith  
 Gregory D. Rains

*Audubon*

H. Wayne Black  
 Hon. Mel M. Graham

*Battle Creek*

Ray Goodenow

*Beaman*

C. M. Evans

*Bedford*

N. O. Hickenlooper

*Bettendorf*

Chas. S. Stock

*Burlington*

Hon. W. N. Skourup

*Burt*

Ray S. McWhorter

D. F. Schwietert

*Casey*

Wilber G. Benedict

*Cedar Rapids*

Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman

*Chariton*

William L. Perkins

*Charles City*

Paul R. Bumbarger

*Cherokee*

Arthur A. Coburn

*Cleghorn*

Hon. L. M. Boothby

*Conrad*

Public Library

Mrs. Leona McAllister

*Corning*

Willis F. Cooper

*Davenport*

Dr. Roscoe P. Carney

Frank E. Clark

Lee A. Gaukler

Mrs. James H. Johnson

Mrs. Mary P. Kendall

W. H. Shorey

H. L. Simmons, Jr.

Mrs. W. H. Snider

*Dayton*

Consolidated School

*Decorah*

David T. Nelson

*Des Moines*

Howard C. Amick

Thoreau B. Baker

J. C. Butler

Miss Lulu R. Clark

Robert E. Dreher

Carl Everett

Mrs. Anne Felkner Hall

Miss Marie Hanny

Independent School Dist.

Peter W. Janss

Frank Miles, Jr.

Russell E. Ostrus

Chas. H. Pearson

Al Wensel

Floyd E. Wright

*Doubs*

George Sellers

*Dubuque*

Dr. Harry C. Nesler

L. G. Wendt

*Eagle Grove*

John E. Hansen, Jr.

Carl E. Thorson

*Fairfield*

Dr. John W. Castell

Arthur G. Jordan

Frank LeRoy Simpson

Rev. Sam P. Williamson

*Fort Madison*

Hon. Ernest Palmer, Jr.

*Gladbrook*

Donald Fairchild

*Goldfield*

Mrs. Magnus Hansen

*Grand Junction*

Consolidated School

*Grinnell*

S. N. Stevens

*Griswold*

John R. De Witt

Hon. G. T. Kuester

*Harlan*

J. Bruce Potter

*Hull*

Dr. C. L. Beach

*Humboldt*

G. J. Bicknell

William P. Housel

*Independence*

Mrs. Arlene Raymond

*Iowa City*

Mrs. Ora B. Beitzell  
 Mrs. Lee Colony  
 Robert L. Hulbary  
 Willis C. McGuire  
 Dr. Pauline V. Moore  
 St. Mary's School

*Kalona*

Paul V. Snyder

*Keosauqua*

Robert R. McBeth

*Keota*

Dr. K. L. McGuire

*Lakota*

Dr. H. H. Murray

*Liscomb*

Mrs. Mary B. Hauser  
 John Leise

*Lockridge*

Mrs. Ralph Rizor

*Lone Rock*

Harlan A. Blanchard  
 Mrs. H. A. Holmgren  
 E. M. Jensen

*McGregor*

Robert E. Coon

*Marengo*

Mrs. Lloyd P. Jones

*Marion*

John H. Pazour

*Marshalltown*

Mrs. Fred Benson

*Martelle*

S. H. Ellison

*Mason City*

Clayton O. Hart  
 Roy Ben Johnson  
 E. Emil Koerber

*Missouri Valley*

Mrs. D. A. Van Cleave

*Monticello*

Boyd Shannon

*Morning Sun*

Dr. H. M. Griffin  
 L. R. Pierce

*New Hartford*

Mrs. F. W. Berninghausen

*Newton*

Mrs. Harriet Bunker  
 E. F. Butler

Mrs. Arthur M. Hough

Junior High School

Senior High School

Hon. Charles P. Starrett

Dr. C. B. Welle

*North English*

Frank C. Allen

Mrs. E. B. Warner

*Ogden*

Mrs. Flossie G. Cooper

*Oskaloosa*

Stillman Clark

*Ottumwa*

Arthur R. Carlson

Lester R. Glover

Clyde E. Jones

*Parnell*

Paul T. Guengerich

Sister Marietta

*Perry*

Mrs. M. E. Fagen

Mrs. John G. Jessup

*Postville*

Miss Ruth Waters

*Primghar*

Hubert Schultz

*Red Oak*

Miss Louise Artz

Mrs. John L. Crofts

*Sac City*

Miss Grace M. Foard

*Shenandoah*

Harry E. Ross

*Sibley*

Mrs. Nora Geronsin

- George E. Gill  
Miss Elizabeth Trei
- Sidney*  
Edward E. Eaton
- Sigourney*  
Marion H. Barnes  
Hon. Luke Vittetoe
- Sioux City*  
Mrs. Laura M. Metcalf
- Somers*  
Richard A. Giles
- Spirit Lake*  
Miss K. Clare Brownell  
Cecil F. Flemming
- Springville*  
High School
- State Center*  
Hon. Howard C. Buck
- Storm Lake*  
LeRoy A. Rader
- Union*  
Mrs. Jessie Biersborn
- Villisca*  
Mrs. J. A. Rusk  
Mrs. Ethelda A. Tyler
- Wapello*  
R. L. Davison  
Earl P. Smith  
Mrs. J. D. Waite
- Washington*  
Mrs. Edward C. Eicher  
Miss Grace Miller  
Paul V. Shearer
- Waterloo*  
W. S. Brunk  
Keith G. Crowther  
Paul K. Myers
- Wayland*  
Mrs. Omer C. Boshart
- Webster City*  
John S. Heffner
- Wellman*  
Mrs. Erma M. Erb
- Wesley*  
J. C. Skow
- Williamsburg*  
Miss Emma Blythe
- Winterset*  
Mrs. John Kaser
- Wyman*  
Mrs. E. V. Humphreys
- Wyoming*  
Ralph L. Orth
- California*  
Public Library, Los Angeles  
Francis D. Harsh, Santa Ana
- District of Columbia*  
Hon. H. R. Gross, Washington
- Illinois*  
Newberry Library, Chicago  
Dr. B. F. Dewel, Evanston
- Minnesota*  
Mrs. Elva C. Briggs, Minneapolis
- Missouri*  
University of Kansas City,  
Kansas City
- Montana*  
F. F. Haynes, Forsyth
- North Carolina*  
Duke University, Durham  
Wade W. Files, Graham
- Ohio*  
Elijah E. Brownell, Dayton
- Oklahoma*  
Dr. H. A. Angus, Lawton
- Pennsylvania*  
Fulton B. Flick, Pittsburgh
- Tennessee*  
Joint University Libraries,  
Nashville
- Texas*  
Public Library, Fort Worth
- England*  
Eric Moss

The following persons have been enrolled as life members in the Society: W. C. Dewel, Algona; Dr. C. S. Foster, Cedar Rapids; O. P. Morton, Clarion; Don L. Berry, Indianola; J. D. Hartzler, Wellman; and Allan Hoover, Pasadena, California.

### *Iowa Historical Activities*

At the annual meeting of the Union County Historical Society in October, 1948, George Hall was elected president. Other officers elected were Ira Walker, vice-president; Grace B. Harsh, historian; and Ella M. Day, secretary-treasurer. The meeting discussed plans for the establishment of a museum to preserve items of historical value to the county. The museum is to housed in part of the new courthouse when it is completed.

The German-American Pioneer Society of Scott County held its annual meeting at Davenport in September, 1948. Charles H. Wieck was elected president; Carl Schlaefke, vice-president; and Albert J. Jansen, secretary-treasurer. Requirements for membership in the Society are that one must be a United States citizen of German birth who has been in this country for 25 years and is at least 50 years old.

The 1948 reunion of the Southwest Iowa Pioneer Association was held in Shenandoah, Page County, on October 14, 1948. This was the twenty-third annual reunion of the Association. Dr. William J. Petersen addressed the reunion on the subject: "Looking Backward at Hawkeye History" with special emphasis on the Missouri River slope. Mrs. Adella Shoemaker discussed the settlement of Manti by the Mormons; Frederick Fischer told of the founding of Western Normal College; and Elbert Read described life in Shenandoah in the "smallpox summer of 1885."

In Chariton a committee is requesting the loan of old pictures to be used in the Chariton centennial celebration which will take place in September of 1949. The pictures will be copied and used as part of the program.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the arrival of the Benedictine fathers in southwest Iowa in 1873 was celebrated by a solemn pontifical mass in October of 1948 at Creston.

In his final report to the legislature, retiring Governor Robert D. Blue announced the creation of a Centennial Memorial Foundation, to be financed by the funds from the sale of the Iowa centennial half dollar. The State's profit from the sale of the coins amounted to \$197,585; the income from this fund is to be used to provide scholarships or loans to students in Iowa schools to encourage them to enter fields of public service; to provide medals for outstanding service and achievement by Iowa citizens; and to provide historical exhibits for use by the State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines and the State Historical Society at Iowa City. One thousand of the coins are to be held for future use: 500 to be released in 1996 to finance the State's 150th anniversary; 500 to be released in 2046 to finance the State's 200th anniversary. The board of trustees for the Foundation will consist of the governor, state treasurer, attorney general, president of the State Board of Education, all former governors residing within the State, and four citizen members. The citizen members of the board, to serve for four years each, are: Ralph Evans of Davenport, John Henry of the Register and Tribune Company of Des Moines, Mrs. Mary Humeston of Albia, and Mrs. Helen Mitchell of Council Bluffs.

Warren County will celebrate its centennial during 1949. Governor William S. Beardsley has been appointed honorary chairman of the executive committee in charge of the celebration, which will probably take place during the 1949 Warren County Fair. Sheriff Lewis Johnson is chairman of the executive committee and Luther P. Williams is co-chairman.

Decorah will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 9 to 12, 1949. On June 10, 1849, William and Elizabeth Day, pioneers from Virginia, settled on the site of Decorah with their three sons. Part of the centennial celebration will be the placing of a plaque on the site of the Day cabin. William F. Baker and Phil Hexom have been chosen general chairman and assistant chairman for the celebration, and seven special committees have been appointed. E. C. Bailey has written a brief history of Decorah which appeared in the January 31, 1949, issue of the *Mason City Globe Gazette*.

The Des Moines Pioneer Club held its annual meeting at the Hotel Fort Des Moines on January 22, 1949. Charles A. Guth spoke on Lee Township, Dr. E. R. Posner discussed early physicians in the community, and Roy M.

Huntoon talked on oldtime grocery stores and meat markets. Others who discussed the early days of Des Moines were Cyrus B. Hillis, A. L. Voodry, and Dale Maffitt. William Koch, president, announced that forty-eight new members were inducted at the meeting. Membership is limited to those who have lived in Des Moines for 40 years and are direct lineal descendants of persons who settled in Polk County in 1870 or before.

The twenty-seventh annual History Conference, sponsored by the State University of Iowa, was held on March 11 and 12, 1949, at Iowa City. The following papers were read at the two-day meeting: "Intellectual History: Its Problems and Its Contribution," by Arthur E. Bestor, Jr., of the University of Illinois; "Charles Beard: An Estimate," by Howard K. Beale of the University of Wisconsin; "The Freshman Course in History," by Charles H. Taylor of Harvard University; "Offerings and Enrollments in the Social Studies, Grades 7 to 12," by Howard R. Anderson of the United States Office of Education; and "The Study of History in High School and College," by Robert S. Hoyt of the State University of Iowa.

### *Other Historical Activities*

The Minnesota Historical Society was selected to direct Minnesota's Territorial Centennial in 1949. This was an appropriate selection, since the Society also celebrates its centennial this year. There were both state-wide and local celebrations. Important dates were March 3, the centennial of the Minnesota Territorial Organic Act, and April 9, the anniversary of the first meeting of the Territorial Legislature. Plans included special films, the publishing of several books and pamphlets, radio programs, a centennial historical calendar, pageants, an extensive school program, and a special centennial postage stamp.

The Wisconsin Historical Society announces that an annual award of \$1,000 is being made available for the best book-length work on Wisconsin economic history. This award will be given annually for the next ten years through the generosity of David Clark Everest, president of the Marathon Corporation, and will be known as the D. C. Everest Award. The Society announces that "details will be published in a forthcoming brochure which will be available to all interested parties."



From July 20 to October 3, 1948, a Railroad Fair was held on the Chicago lake front. The Fair commemorated the centennial of Chicago's first railroad line, the Galena and Chicago Union, which later became part of the Chicago and North Western system. A special "Iowa Day" at the Fair was attended by many Iowans including Governor Robert D. Blue and William J. Petersen, Superintendent of the State Historical Society.

The 1949 meeting of the American Association for State and Local History will be held at Burlington, Vermont, in October. S. K. Stevens, president of the Association, writes: "The thought behind the Burlington meeting . . . is that it should be the kind of meeting which local historians, folklorists, and small museum and historical Society people will want to attend and will find worth-while." The January, 1949, issue of the publication of the Association, *History News*, contains an article by Richard C. Overton on the now well-known Lexington group, an informal organization of historians and others interested in railroad history.

Professor Carl Bode of the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, is writing a book to be entitled, "The American Lyceum: Town Meeting of the Mind." It is to be a study of the cultural, historical, and literary aspects of the lecture system in the United States from 1830 to 1860. Professor Bode would appreciate receiving information from persons who know of lyceums which existed in their localities before 1860, and where he might write to secure records of such lyceums, if they exist.

The 250th anniversary of Cahokia, Illinois, the oldest settlement in the Mississippi Valley, will be observed during a two-week period beginning May 14, 1949. Founded in 1699 by missionaries of the French seminary of Quebec, Cahokia is 19 years older than New Orleans, 65 years older than St. Louis, and 104 years older than Chicago.

The collection on Western Life in America of the Presbyterian Historical Society, 520 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, offers a wide range of source materials for students of western history. The Sheldon Jackson correspondence of about 8,000 letters deals with the upper Mississippi Valley, the Western Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Pacific coast, and Alaska, from 1858 to 1908. Sheldon Jackson was a Presbyterian missionary

who traveled throughout this area. The American Indian Correspondence comprises about 14,000 letters written between 1833 and 1890 by Presbyterian missionaries among the Indians. In the Domestic Missions Correspondence there are about 50,000 manuscript letters on many phases of frontier life in this country. The John D. Shane Papers, some 5,000 manuscripts, deal with events in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois from the late eighteenth to the middle nineteenth century. Scholarship funds are available to qualified graduate students upon the recommendation of university or seminary professors.

The January, 1949, issue of the *Missouri Historical Review* contains several papers which were read at the 50th annual meeting of the Missouri Historical Society. "The State Historical Society of Missouri," by Meredith Garten, recounts the founding of the Society, in 1898, by the Missouri Press Association. Dean Elmer Ellis, of the University of Missouri, spoke on "The Contributions of the State Historical Society of Missouri to Higher Education," and Allen McReynolds on "The Significance of the Accomplishments of the State Historical Society of Missouri." Dr. Milo M. Quaife's talk, "The Changes of a Half a Century," is also included in the January issue of the *Review*.

The December, 1948, issue of *Nebraska History* publishes the address of James C. Olson, superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical Society, read at the eighty-first annual meeting of the Society, and entitled "The Nebraska State Historical Society in 1948." Mr. Olson discussed the work of the Society, the growth of its library, the manuscript collections, the archaeological work of the staff, and the plans for the erection of a building to house the collections of the Society.

The Great Lakes Historical Society, in collaboration with the Cleveland Public Library, publishes a quarterly bulletin, *Inland Seas*, which deals with the history, description, natural resources, industries, and transportation of the Great Lakes area. The bulletin is edited by Donna L. Root, head of the Division of History, Biography, and Travel of the Cleveland Public Library.

The New York Historical Society opened a special "Gold Fever" exhibi-

tion in October, 1948, commemorating the California Gold Rush of 1848-1849. Included in the display were actual gold nuggets from the California gold fields; original letters and diaries of the "forty-niners," and a display of guide books and maps used by the emigrants in crossing the plains and mountains on their journey to California.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held a joint meeting with the American Historical Association in December, 1948, at Washington, D. C. Papers were read by George E. Mowry of the State University of Iowa and Walter Johnson of the University of Chicago. The 1949 meeting of the Association will be held April 14-16 at Madison, Wisconsin.