

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

### *State Historical Society of Iowa*

The 1949 biennial meeting of the Society convened at 4 P.M. in the House Chamber of Old Capitol in Iowa City, on June 27, 1949, with Sam T. Morrison, President of the Board of Curators, presiding. Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent, reported on the progress of the Society. His report will be published in full in the October issue of the JOURNAL. Dr. Petersen also presented a Card of Thanks to Captain O. D. Collis of the *Rob Roy III* in appreciation of his generosity in making possible the 1948 Mississippi River trip of members of the Society.

The election of the nine Curators chosen by the members of the Society resulted in the re-election of the present Board, with the exception of Dr. Charles E. Snyder who has left the State. To replace Dr. Snyder, the members elected Carroll Coleman, expert in typography at the State University of Iowa.

Ninety-five members attended a dinner at the Jefferson Hotel. The evening program included an address by Dr. Jacob A. Swisher, Research Associate of the Society, on "History and Hobbies"; a showing of films of the 1948 river trip by Curator Carl Mather; and an illustrated talk by Curator Harry Lytle, "Pathfinders: Blazing their Trails through the Wonderland of Iowa."

On March 23, 1949, the Society presented 130 bound volumes of its publications to the library of the Governor's Mansion in Des Moines. Included were 29 volumes of *The Palimpsest*, a set of *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa*, and volumes in the *Iowa Biographical Series*, the *Applied History Series*, the *Iowa Monograph Series*, the *Iowa Centennial Series*, etc. The library was accepted for the State of Iowa by Governor William S. Beardsley.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent, and Dr. Mildred Throne, Associate Editor of the Society, attended the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, in April. Dr. Petersen was elected one of three new members on the Executive Committee of the Association.



Dr. Jacob A. Swisher, Research Associate of the Society, was one of the three Johnson County judges for the Iowa Development Commission essay contest. The subject of the essay was: "Why Iowa is Great."

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

March 24	Des Moines — addressed Legislative Wives group.
April 9	Malcom — addressed Poweshiek County Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs.
April 23	Waterloo — addressed Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs.
April 26	Kalona — addressed Mennonite Historical Society.
April 28	Muscatine — addressed Presbyterian Men's Club.
May 5	Davenport — addressed Credit Grantor's Organization.
May 6	Amana — addressed Iowa editors.
May 11	Iowa City — addressed Directors' Association of the Johnson County Department of Social Welfare.
May 17	Dundee — Commencement address.
May 19	Sibley — Commencement address.
May 20	Spirit Lake — Commencement address.
May 23	Crawfordsville — Commencement address.
June 6	Clinton — addressed Clinton Rotary.
June 13	Fort Dodge — addressed Fort Dodge Rotary.
June 14	Fort Dodge — addressed Fort Dodge A. A.
June 15	Fort Dodge — addressed Fort Dodge Lions.
June 22	Grinnell — addressed Hawkeye Girls State.

The following persons were elected to membership from March 1 through May 25, 1949:

<i>Afton</i>	<i>Bettendorf</i>
Hon. John E. Young	Mrs. Wallace M. Evans
<i>Albia</i>	<i>Blairstown</i>
Hon. James W. Foster	Mrs. Leo Kelly
<i>Algona</i>	<i>Bonaparte</i>
Kossuth Co. Public Schools	Mrs. Robert Hamlin
Mrs. Henry Tjaden	<i>Britt</i>
<i>Ames</i>	Hon. Penn Eckels
Mrs. Mabel Brooks	<i>Burlington</i>
<i>Anamosa</i>	C. W. Moody
James A. Buckner	Mrs. Martha Stapleton



*Cedar Falls*

Hon. Earl A. Miller

*Cedar Rapids*

John W. Donnelly

*Cherokee*

R. T. Steele

*Clinton*

Homer I. Smith

*Columbus Junction*

Mrs. Nettie Blair Lewis

*Council Bluffs*

Don H. Jackson

*Davenport*

Henry P. Braunlich

S. D. Fenton

Rev. Max D. Goebler

W. K. Mason

*Des Moines*

Hon. Kingsley M. Clark

R. J. Cornell

Mrs. C. H. Flanders, Jr.

Dale K. Hess

H. A. Hoff

Mrs. J. T. Miller

F. G. Phillips

*Diagonal*

Mrs. Margaret Beard Dalbey

*Dubuque*

Mrs. Ella Ruete

*Dysart*

Sen. Richard V. Leo

*Fonda*

Mrs. Enoch Johnson

*Fort Dodge*

Mrs. Wayne Bonnell

Webster Co. Hist. Soc.

*Glenwood*

Miss Katherine French

*Grand Mound*

William F. DeLange

*Grinnell*

Joseph F. Wall

*Griswold*

Mrs. Blanche Asay

Mrs. R. A. Forsyth

Mrs. L. R. Hall

Charles S. Tompkins

C. E. Woodward

*Hampton*

T. W. Purcell

Harvey Uhlenhopp

Everett Whalin

*Harlan*

Roy E. Baron

*Independence*

Arlee G. W. Blank

John A. Cherny

Norman S. Frank

Reeves Hall

Miss Edna G. Lane

Lester W. Mills

*Iowa City*

Mrs. D. E. Cherry

Ken F. Denzin

Harry A. Greene

*Jamaica*

Mrs. W. A. Seidler

*Keokuk*

William R. Sheridan

Mrs. P. G. Smith

*Lake Mills*

Independent School District

*Le Mars*

Public Schools

*Libertyville*

Hon. Lee Gallup

*Logan*

Michael Murray

*Lohrville*

Wayne Francis Peterson

*Luverne*

Mrs. F. I. Chapman

*Manchester*

George Banta

Delaware Co. Bd. of Educ.

Miss Edna Greener

Mrs. Isabel Jones

J. K. Pettit

Mrs. H. J. Swift

Miss Mildred Welterlen

*Maquoketa*

Glen F. Bailey

H. D. Keeley

*Marengo*

H. V. Ellis

Dr. R. B. Galbraith

F. Paul Harned

Dr. F. W. Heinze

Dr. E. L. Hollis

Mrs. R. R. Schroeder

Dr. A. I. Solbrig

*Menlo*

T. H. Rhody

*Montezuma*

W. H. Bonham

*Morning Sun*

Bert McKinley

*Muscatine*

F. J. Howe

C. J. Rosenberger

*Nashua*

Hon. George Fiene

*Newton*

Irwin A. Rose

*North English*

Dr. L. A. Miller

*Oakville*

Mrs. William B. Hiller

*Odebolt*

Hon. Dwight W. Meyer

*Okoboji*

Val M. Brooks

*Oskaloosa*

Mahaska Co. Hist. Soc.

*Paullina*

A. G. Larson

*Red Oak*

C. E. Danielson

Mrs. Walter F. Peterson

Dr. Velura Powell

*Sanborn*

Sen. Harry E. Watson

*Sibley*

Mrs. Nic Christensen

L. A. McCutcheon

W. W. Overholser

Mrs. H. E. Scott

Mrs. W. D. Shuttleworth

*Sioux City*

R. R. Hughes

Sen. Charles S. Van Eaton

*Solon*

Hon. Joseph G. Raim



*Spencer*

Vernie G. Hofsommer

*Spirit Lake*

Fote G. Neofotist

F. A. Parsons

K. B. Welty

*Victor*

Hon. Chris F. Hinrichs

*Vinton*

Cecil R. Fry

Miss Verona Loehmer

Dr. E. D. Lovett

John F. Scott

*Wapello*

Guy C. Wiley

*Waterloo*

A. P. Coontz

Dr. N. A. Golinvaux

Hart Taylor

*Wellman*

Hon. Carl T. Anderson

*West Union*

Dr. D. E. Camp

*Williams*

Hon. John A. Walker

*Williamsburg*

Gus O'Donnell

High School

Dr. Frederick C. Schadt

*Winterset*

Hon. John Brownlie

*District of Columbia*

Miss Lorana Ellsworth,

Washington

*Illinois*

Dr. J. O. Murphy, Aurora

Ralph Budd, Chicago

Burt L. Wilson, Chicago

Mrs. Cora M. Hoskinson,

Riverside

J. J. McShane, Rock Island

*Minnesota*

Hon. C. M. Langland,

Spring Grove

*Missouri*

R. F. Perotti, Kansas City

*Ohio*

Rev. L. J. Siekaniec, Cleveland

*Oklahoma*

Thomas Gilcrease Foundation

*South Carolina*

Donald D. Curtis, Clemson

*Iowa Historical Activities*

The Iowa Development Commission recently sponsored an essay contest on the subject, "Why Iowa is Great." The contest was won by Warren Holty, 14-year-old tenth grade pupil of Des Sales High School in Ossian. His essay was published in the April 28, 1949, issue of the *Decorah Public Opinion*.

Bethel Grove, in the northern part of Marshall County, celebrated its centennial on July 3 and 4, 1949. In the summer of 1849 the first settlers



came to this area from Indiana. Descendants of these early pioneers took part in the centennial.

The centennial of West Union, Fayette County, was celebrated on July 3 and 4, 1949. Chairman in charge of the celebration was E. L. Dean.

A meeting of the Mennonite Historical Society was held April 26, 1949, at the Iowa Mennonite School at Kalona. Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent of the State Historical Society, was the guest speaker.

At a meeting of the Pocahontas Historical Society at Pocahontas on April 6, 1949, Mrs. J. F. O'Brien was elected president. Other officers elected were Mrs. John Owen, vice-president; Mrs. Ambrose Murphy, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Matie Bailey, historian.

Woden, in Hancock County, founded in 1899, observed its first 50 years on June 17 and 18 in a celebration sponsored by the Woden American Legion and the Woden Commercial Club.

Among important anniversaries in 1949 is the 100th birthday of the *Des Moines Register*. A special centennial issue of the *Register* will be issued on July 24 and will contain many pictures of early Iowa.

At the ninth annual meeting of the Mahaska County Historical Society at Oskaloosa on May 11, 1949, Stillman Clark was re-elected president. Other officers elected were C. D. Mattix, vice-president; Mrs. Nelle Roberts, secretary; E. L. Butler, treasurer; and Mrs. C. W. Hilliard, historian. The Society is planning to provide a suitable marker for the site of the first school house in the county, which was founded in 1844.

Mrs. W. G. MacMartin of Tama was re-elected president of the Tama County Historical Society at its annual meeting April 9, 1949. L. P. Marsh of Toledo is vice-president, and Miss Lucy Stevens of Tama, secretary-treasurer. The Society received, from the French Merci Train, a pair of dolls from the island of Corsica, a book of poems, two illustrated books descriptive of France, a collection of French stamps, and fifty photographs showing notable French buildings, parks, monuments, and boulevards. During the past year the Society has received 174 historical articles, and four new exhibit cases have been added to the Society's display in the court house, making a total of 23 cases.



Hesper, in Winneshiek County, will observe its centennial in June of 1951. A celebration is planned and Burr Grisdol has been elected chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements. Co-chairman is William Bryant; Jesse McMillen, Granville Street, Norval Burreson, R. P. Robinson, Mrs. Otto Rasmussen, Mrs. Henry Welper, and Mrs. Floyd Griswold comprise the advisory board. The finance committee is composed of Irvin Fawcett, Charles Sellman, and Palmer Peacock.

The centennial of Winterset, Madison County, was celebrated July 18 and 19, 1949. Chairman of the committee on arrangements was Dr. H. F. Ilgenfritz. Other members were: Mrs. W. C. Johnson, Mrs. John K. Sawyer, Robert Mills, Raymond Brock, Wanda Finney, Mrs. Robert Benoit, S. A. Webster, Mrs. Kathryn Kale, and Mrs. F. P. Hartsook. A parade depicted the historical development of Winterset from Indian days to the present.

Boone County was organized 100 years ago. The *Madrid Register News* began a series of articles on the history of the County in the April 28, 1949, issue.

### *Other Historical Activities*

As part of the "Festival of Britain" in 1951, a group of English newspapermen and a Southampton shipbuilder plan to send a new *Mayflower* to America. An exact replica of the famous ship will be built and a new group of "Pilgrims" will sail for Plymouth Rock.

The William L. Clements Library at Ann Arbor, Michigan, has announced acquisition of source material of interest to Iowans. The collection, bound in two volumes, covers the period 1820 to 1845 and contains rare nineteenth-century pamphlets from the Netherlands covering the entire background of the great reform movement which sent boatloads of pious Dutchmen to America. Henry Peter Scholte, founder of Pella, is among the authors represented.

The Oklahoma Historical Society Founders Day meeting was held May 26, 1949, at Stillwater. The Society was founded in 1893 by the Press Association of Oklahoma Territory. Plans for erecting historical markers throughout the state, using a gift of \$5,000, are part of the Society's program.



The seventh annual convention, and the one hundred and third annual meeting, of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin will be held on the campus of Lawrence College at Appleton, September 9, 10, and 11, 1949. The Society has recently issued a booklet entitled "The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, A Century of Service," containing the addresses delivered at the one hundredth anniversary of the Society's founding in 1946. The famous Draper Collection of the Society has been microfilmed. This collection of pioneer letters and documents can now be obtained on film by other libraries at a cost of \$1,500.

A recent publication of the American Association for State and Local History is "Writing Local History Articles," by Marvin Wilson Schlegel. This is Number 2 of Volume II of the *Bulletins* of the Association, and is well worth reading and studying by all those interested in the writing of local history. Mr. Schlegel discusses topics for research, sources and their use, methods of note taking, the organization and writing of an article, and the various mechanics of producing a manuscript. The booklet may be obtained from Earle W. Newton, State House, Montpelier, Vermont, on payment of thirty-five cents by non-members, twenty-five cents by members of the Association.