

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

State Historical Society of Iowa

During the months of March, April, and May, the Society added 183 new members to its rolls. During this period four members became Life Members: Mrs. Ralph J. Viner, Elliott; Mr. C. W. Moody, Burlington; Mr. Joe G. Sage, Waterloo; and Mr. Roy Ewers, Iowa City.

Dr. J. H. Lepper of Mason City presented the Society with a collection of historical photographs, many taken by Dr. Lepper himself, dating from 1894. Among the pictures are views of a National Guard Park-Gatling gun crew at the railway strike in 1894; the Clear Lake guard encampment of 1903, attended by Governor Albert B. Cummins; the Chariton band of 1895; the old Mason City-Clear Lake interurban cars; and the army dirigible RS-1 when it visited Mason City in August, 1928.

On June 4, 1954, some 100 members of the Society enjoyed a cruise on the Missouri River made possible through the courtesy of Brigadier General W. E. Potter. The trip was part of a regularly scheduled inspection tour by the United States Army Engineers, and also served as a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the 1804 Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri River. A barge pulled by the *John Ordway* (a government boat named for one of the participants of the Lewis and Clark expedition) provided space for the Historical Society members.

The seventh annual Mississippi River Steamboat Cruises, sponsored by the Society, were held June 25, 26, 27, and July 3, 4, 5. Each day's trip was made from Clinton on the *Rob Roy III*, owned by Commodore O. D. Collis of Clinton.

Dr. William J. Petersen, superintendent, and Dr. Mildred Throne and Dr. Robert Rutland of the Society staff, attended the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, at Madison, Wisconsin, April 22-24.

Dr. Robert Rutland, research associate of the Society, has resigned to accept a position in the graduate journalism department of the University of

California at Los Angeles. Dr. Rutland will spend the summer in Oklahoma doing newspaper work, and will take up his duties in California in the fall.

Dr. George S. May has been appointed research associate of the Society, to succeed Dr. Robert Rutland. Dr. May received his doctorate from the University of Michigan. He has taught at Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, and has been a research assistant on the Michigan Historical Collections. Several of his articles have been published in *Michigan History*, *The New Leader*, and *Michigan Christian Advocate*.

Governor William S. Beardsley has appointed two new curators to the State Historical Society, to replace Georgiana Amsden of Webster City and William D. Houlette of Des Moines. The new members are William R. Ferguson of Glidden and Ralph E. Shannon of Washington. The remaining curators appointed by the governor were reappointed for two-year terms.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

April 19	Addressed Ottumwa Rotary
April 22-24	Attended Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting, Madison, Wisconsin
April 29	Addressed Muscatine City Teachers Association
May 10	Addressed Centennial of Iowa State Education Association at Muscatine
May 14	Commencement address, Edgewood
May 20	Commencement address, Wyman
May 21	Commencement address, Parnell
May 26	Commencement address, Wayland
June 1	Addressed Iowa City Kiwanis
June 4	WHO radio interview, Des Moines
June 15	Addressed Luther College Convocation at Decorah
June 15	Addressed Decorah Rotary
June 17	Special Missouri River Inspection Cruise

Iowa Historical Activities

The Chickasaw County Historical Society is enlisting the aid of school children from kindergarten through high school in collecting and preserving the history of the county. The school children are urged to collect stories

of the county's history from their families or neighbors, to write up the stories, and to turn them in to their teachers. Many of these stories are being published in the newspapers of the county, and about 1,000 of the best will be published in a pamphlet to be sponsored by the Historical Society.

The Iowa State Education Association celebrated its centennial at Muscatine — the site of its first meeting in 1854 — on May 10. A plaque in commemoration of the founding of the Association was placed in the courthouse and dedicated by Superintendent William J. Petersen, who also addressed the centennial meeting.

Since 1954 is the centennial of the first Iowa State Fair, which was held at Fairfield, the occasion will be observed, not only at the State Fair at Des Moines in August, but at Fairfield also, where a 60-day period of observances was inaugurated on June 28 with an historical parade.

The following Iowa towns observed centennials this summer: Fredericksburg, June 13-15; Alden, June 17-19; Waterloo, June 21-26; Center Point, June 25-26; Dixon, July 2-5; Durant, July 2-5; Sioux City, July 24-August 1; Greene County, August 1-6.

A group known as "The Preservers of Dallas County History" met at the Adel Public Library on June 10, 1954. Rev. Ben Sinderson presided, and Miss Florence Clark acted as secretary. The organization discussed the establishment of a museum at Adel for the purpose of assembling and preserving antique items dealing with the history of the county.

The Tama County Historical Society held its annual meeting April 10, 1954, at Toledo, and re-elected the following officers: president, Roy Shaffer; vice-president, Harold Hufford; secretary-treasurer, E. A. Benson; and vice-chairman of the board of directors, Mrs. J. G. Ennis.

Officers elected at the annual meeting of the Four County Historical Society at Belle Plaine, May 7, 1954, were: president, George Raabe; vice-president, Waldo McLennan; secretary-treasurer, B. H. Guinn.

The following officers were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Mahaska County Historical Society May 12, 1954, at Oskaloosa: president, M. H. Pothoven; vice-president, J. C. Mattix; secretary, Miss Zola

Kramme; curator, Stillman Clark; historian, Mrs. Stillman Clark. A board of directors was also elected, including Fred Mattix, Leo Broerman, John Eveland, Mrs. Hoyt Beans, Earl Wilson, and Hobart Morris.

The Chickasaw County Historical Society sponsored a display of antiques at Fredericksburg, June 14-15, 1954, in honor of that town's centennial.

The Order of Railway Conductors, at their meeting at Columbus, Ohio, May 6, 1954, voted to place a bronze marker on the grave of Kate Shelly at the Sacred Heart cemetery in Boone, Iowa. The ceremony will take place on July 6, 1956, seventy-five years after Kate Shelly, then fifteen years old, crawled across a broken trestle over Honey Creek to stop the "Lightning Express" from being wrecked during a storm.

On May 28, 1954, Dr. William J. Petersen presented to the Iowa Conservation Commission a citation from the American Association for State and Local History in recognition of the Commission's work in restoring and maintaining buildings connected with Iowa's early history. The award was made principally for the restoration and maintenance of the Governor Robert Lucas Home in Iowa City. Lucas was the first territorial governor of Iowa.

In honor of the discovery of the Mississippi River in 1673 by Marquette and Joliet, the Rev. Francis J. Phelan and the Catholic Daughters of America of Northeast Iowa have placed a plaque at the front entrance of St. Mary's Catholic Church at McGregor. The bronze plaque reads: "Catholic History of Iowa, and of the Plains States west of the Upper Mississippi, began at the Hills of this Parish, when, on June 17, 1673, Pere Jacques Marquette, S. J., a Catholic Priest, together with Louis Joliet, discovered the Upper Mississippi River, naming it 'River of the Immaculate Conception.'"

The Betsy Ross chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists at Burlington has placed a marker at the grave of the Indian chief, Tama, on Highway 99, three miles north of Burlington. The inscription reads, in part: "In Memory of Chief Taimah (Tama) of the Fox tribe, Thunder clan. . . . An Indian gentleman and a true friend of the early white settlers." The marker has been placed some twenty rods from the grave of the famous Indian chieftain.

HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Articles

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ARTICLES IN MIDWESTERN HISTORICAL JOURNALS

Art

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- "Henry F. Farny and the McGuffey Readers," by Carl Vitz, *Bulletin of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*, April, 1954.
- "Ohio Artist in Australia: Livingston Hopkins," by Frederick D. Kershner, Jr., *ibid.*

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- "H. L. Kinney and Daniel Webster in Illinois in the 1830's," by Coleman McCampbell, *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, Spring, 1954.
- "The Appearance and Personality of Stephen A. Douglas," by Robert Taft, *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Spring, 1954. [With 12 pages of portrait photographs of Douglas, dated about 1845-1861.]
- "Hamlin Garland, of Wisconsin," by C. E. Schorer, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Spring, 1954.
- "Henry H. Straight — Educator," by Lloyd E. McCann, *Nebraska History*, March, 1954.

Economic

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Legal

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Lincolniana

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