

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

State Historical Society of Iowa

During the months of September, October, November, and December, 226 new members were added to the Society. Four life members were added during that period: Mrs. Malcolm D. Lomas, Red Oak; George E. Virden, Mount Pleasant; L. G. Wendt, Dubuque; and Mrs. H. H. Dukes, Ithaca, New York.

On September 25, 1954, Superintendent William J. Petersen addressed the noon luncheon of the 76th annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society at Lincoln. His paper on steamboating on the Missouri River as a factor in the development of the Nebraska territory will be published in *Nebraska History*.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

September 25	Read paper at Nebraska State Historical Society meeting at Lincoln.
October 13	Addressed Ainsworth Chamber of Commerce.
October 19	Addressed Marshall County Historical Society at Marshalltown.
November 2	Addressed Muscatine County members of the State Historical Society.
December 28-30	Attended annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York.

Iowa Historical Activities

The Chickasaw County Historical Society held its first anniversary meeting on December 7, 1954, at Fredericksburg and re-elected its original slate of officers: Mrs. Earl Edson, president; Tom D. Conklin, vice-president; Rev. Glenn L. Utterbach, secretary; and Mrs. Glen Young, treasurer. The Society now has 200 members and is pushing for 600 during the coming year. Plans are being made for marking all the historic sites in the county.

At the November, 1954, meeting of the Guthrie County Historical Society plans were discussed for the restoration of the old Lenon mill, the only

site of major historic interest in the county. The Society has also been making a study of the old post offices in the county.

The Iowa Archaeological Society held its fall meeting at the Effigy Mounds National Monument on October 10, 1954. George Heikens of Spencer, president of the Society, presided at the meeting, and papers were read by Warren Wittry, State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Dr. Reynold J. Ruppe, professor of anthropology, State University of Iowa; and Professor Gerald F. Else, of the department of classics, State University of Iowa. The spring meeting of the Society will be held in May, 1955.

The Northwest Chapter of the Iowa Archaeological Society met at Cherokee on November 21, for the election of officers. Earl Brewster of Sheldon was elected president; Dale Martin, Cherokee, vice-president; Mrs. Lawrence Johnson, Peterson, secretary-treasurer.

Historians from Iowa's colleges and universities met at Drake University's annual conference of college teachers of history in October, 1954. A symposium on scholarships was presided over by Robert W. Iversen, assistant professor of social science at Drake; and Joseph F. Wall of Grinnell College read a paper on "Henry Steel Commager, Social Historian."

The Floyd County Historical Society met on October 4, 1954, at Charles City and substituted articles of incorporation for the society's constitution which was adopted a year ago. J. M. Witzel was elected president of the Society, to succeed John Legel. The other officers are Charlotte Magdsick, vice-president; Mrs. Selby Russell, secretary; and Mrs. Ray Sweet, treasurer.

The Marshall County Historical Society met at Marshalltown on October 19, 1954, and listened to an address on Iowa's history by William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society.

Clinton is making plans for celebrating its centennial during 1955. Alvin Brauer is chairman of the eighteen-member centennial board of directors. Dates for the centennial have been set for June 19 through 25, 1955.

The Oskaloosa Chapter of the D. A. R. dedicated a marker at the location of the first school in Mahaska County, October 9, 1954. The marker is located on Highway 92, east of the first crossroad east of Oskaloosa and is on the section of land where the first school was built.

When plans were made by the Solon school district of Johnson County to auction fifteen abandoned one-room schoolhouses in October of 1954, the question of the disposition of the one known as the Old Stone Academy aroused considerable interest. At the suggestion of Dr. William J. Petersen of the State Historical Society, the members of the school board agreed to withhold the building from auction and to foster plans for preserving it as a museum. The building, two miles north of Solon, is 112 years old, and was last used as a school during the 1952-1953 school year. Old equipment is being saved from the other schools and will be transferred to the Old Stone Academy for preservation and display.

At the September meeting of the Grinnell Historical Museum Society the following officers were elected: Bertha Smith, president; Mrs. R. E. Goughnour, Mrs. Don Cunningham, and Mrs. James McNally, vice-presidents; Miss Nettie Bayley, honorary board member; Mrs. F. W. Tomasek, secretary; and Miss Helen Taylor, treasurer. A fire on October 9 destroyed the building in which the Grinnell Museum was housed, bringing serious losses to the Society. Plans were immediately started for a new Museum.