

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

### *State Historical Society of Iowa*

During January, February, and March, 197 new members joined the Society. Two became Life Members: Howard B. Holmes of Waterloo, and Mrs. Robert Richards of Muscatine.

A television series on Iowa history was inaugurated on February 5 at station WMT-TV in Cedar Rapids by Superintendent William J. Petersen and James Hackett of the television station staff. Three weekly programs, at 12:30 p. m. on Saturdays, were telecast, covering the earliest explorations of Iowa. The series will be resumed later, as openings occur in the station's schedule of commercial programs.

The Society sponsored an Amana tour for some sixty members of the Iowa Legislative Ladies League on April 5. The tour included a visit to the Amana museum, one of the old Amana houses which is being restored and furnished with original colony pieces. Three rooms of the house are now completed. In addition, the ladies visited the woolen mill, refrigerator plant, the meat market, and the cabinet shop. Dr. Henry Moerschel, president of the Amana colonies, spoke to the group at the church on the religious background of the colonies. This is the second tour of the Amanas by the Legislative Ladies League which has been sponsored by the Society and conducted by Superintendent William J. Petersen.

The Society has added to its microfilm library seventy-one rolls of film purchased from the National Archives. These rolls contain the manuscript population census returns for Iowa from 1840 through 1880.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

- January 11 Attended Governor Leo Elthon's "State of the State" address at Des Moines.
- January 13 Attended Governor Leo Hoegh's inaugural.
- January 14 Addressed Wilson Company sales force at Cedar Rapids.
- February 9 Addressed No Name Club at Waterloo.

- February 22 Spoke at dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Brunk for the appropriation committee of the Senate at the Des Moines Club.
- February 23 Spoke at dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Brunk for the appropriation committee of the House at the Des Moines Club.

### *Iowa Historical Activities*

The famous Little Brown Church at Nashua will observe its centennial during the week of June 19-26, 1955. Other churches observing anniversaries are: Elkader Congregational Church, 100 years, March 13; Boals Methodist Church, Sioux City, 50 years, March 13; Grant Methodist Church, 100 years, March 19; First Baptist Church of Ottumwa, 100 years, week of March 14; First Presbyterian Church at Newton, March 10. At Clarinda the Presbyterian Church will be 100 years old this year, and Mrs. Lyle Cassat is writing a history of the church.

The Wright County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Goldfield, February 28, 1955, to discuss the part the Society will take in the celebration of Wright County's centennial, set for June 21 and 22. Raynard Richardson is president of the Society, C. W. Sankey is secretary-treasurer.

The Chickasaw County Historical Society is planning on a tour of the historic Villa Louis at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, for some time in May.

The Effigy Mounds National Monument has received a forty-acre tract of land adjoining the Monument area. The tract was presented to the National Parks Service by members of the Des Moines Founders Garden Club, an affiliate of the Garden Clubs of America, as an expression of their interest in conservation. Two Indian mounds are on the tract.

At the annual meeting of the Wayne County Historical Society, held at Corydon in January, the following officers were named: Amy Robertson, president; Mildred Fry, vice-president; Harold Bishop, secretary; Harry Hibbs, treasurer; and Roy Grimes, curator. Members of the board of curators of the Society are: Frank Coates, Warren Burton, Susie Booth, A. O. Hunter, and Grant Kelley.

A Marion County Historical Society has recently been organized at

Knoxville. The movement began with the establishment last year of a room in the rear of the Belknap Jewelry Store for use as an historical museum. People from all over the county sent in relics, and some 1,000 items are now on display. The Society was organized at a meeting on February 15, and the following officers elected: C. B. Campbell, president; W. C. Palmer, vice-president; Jack Belknap, treasurer; Mrs. M. L. Hausner, secretary. Members of the board of directors are: Charles Ream, H. W. Vriezelaar, Hubert Isenberg, Orville Sherwood, E. O. Osborn, Mrs. Eva Frost, Fred Mohler, Lillian Vance, and Duane Ruckman.

The thirty-third annual History Conference, sponsored by the history department, the extension division, the college of education, and the graduate college, was held at the State University of Iowa, March 25, 26, 1955. H. L. Beales, of the London School of Economics, spoke on "Civil Service Reform, 1853-1855: A Centenary Retrospect"; Charles L. Mowat of the University of Chicago read a paper on "The Transformation of British Society since 1900"; Julian P. Boyd of Princeton University, editor of the Jefferson papers, addressed the evening meeting on "A Modest Plea to the Historian in Behalf of the Historical Editor"; and Henry Steele Commager of Columbia University spoke on "Against This Torrent: Pressures on Education." A panel consisting of Samuel P. Hays of the State University of Iowa, Joseph Wall of Grinnell College, and Richard J. Brown of the University High School discussed Commager's paper.

Eugene N. Hastie is writing a history of the town of Perry in Dallas County. His articles are appearing in the *Perry Chief*, beginning with the issue of January 12, 1955.

Town and county centennials being observed in Iowa are as follows: Cincinnati in Appanoose County on March 7, 1955; Iowa Falls in June; Ringgold County, July 2-5; Chickasaw County, July 3-5; Steamboat Rock in Hardin County, some time during the summer; and Story County, July 3-4, 1955.