

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

State Historical Society of Iowa

During April, May, and June, 1955, the Society added 121 new members to its rolls: 40 in April, 37 in May, and 44 in June.

At the biennial business meeting of the Society, held at the Robert Lucas Home in Iowa City on June 27, 1955, three new members of the Board of Curators were elected: James Nesmith, Iowa City; John Mohl, Bettendorf; and L. R. McKee, Muscatine. They succeed Carroll Coleman of Iowa City, A. C. Gingerich of Wellman, and O. D. Collis of Clinton who have retired from the Board. Superintendent William J. Petersen's report to the members, given at this meeting, is published in this issue of the JOURNAL.

Two steamboat excursions were held for members of the Society during June. On June 17, 18, and 19, three trips were made on the Mississippi on the steamboat *Addie Mae* in the Keokuk-Nauvoo area. On June 24 members in western Iowa took part in a trip on the Missouri River aboard the *Patrick Gass*. The Society also was co-sponsor with the Iowa Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society in a rail trip from Tama to Alden on June 19.

In June the Society published *John A. Kasson: Politics and Diplomacy from Lincoln to McKinley*, by Edward Younger, professor of history at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. John Adam Kasson, a native of Vermont, came to Iowa in 1857 and soon became active in Republican politics. He was a member of the Iowa delegation to the 1860 Republican convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln, and served on the platform committee of that convention with Horace Greeley. His long career covered several terms in Congress; three terms in the Iowa legislature, where he put through the legislation providing for the present state capitol; and a number of important diplomatic missions in Europe. Dr. Younger's book, the result of many years of research, is a real contribution to both the history of Iowa and the nation during the last four decades of the nineteenth century.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

- April 21 Addressed Buchanan County School Masters Club at Independence.
- May 2 Addressed Rotary Club, Davenport.
- May 17 Commencement address, Mediapolis High School.
- May 18 Commencement address, Rowley High School.
- May 19 Commencement address, Charter Oak High School.
- May 24 Commencement address, Parkersburg High School.
- May 25 Commencement address, Nashua High School.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ESTABLISHED BY LAW IN THE YEAR 1857
INCORPORATED: 1867, 1892, AND 1942
LOCATED AT IOWA CITY IOWA

EXECUTIVE

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN.....SUPERINTENDENT

OFFICERS

S. T. MORRISON.....PRESIDENT
NORMAN B. SHAFFER.....TREASURER

BOARD OF CURATORS

Elected by the Society
WILLIAM R. HART, Iowa City
L. H. KORNDER, Davenport
L. R. MCKEE, Muscatine
CARL H. MATHER, Tipton
JOHN MOHL, Bettendorf
S. T. MORRISON, Iowa City
JAMES NESMITH, Iowa City
W. HOWARD SMITH, Cedar Rapids
JAMES E. STRONKS, Iowa City

Appointed by the Governor
MARTHA BRUNK, Des Moines
WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, Glidden
FANNIE B. HAMMILL, Britt
MARGARET HINDERMAN, Wapello
ANN LOMAS, Red Oak
ESTHER NAREY, Spirit Lake
HENRY K. PETERSON, Council Bluffs
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HELEN VANDERBURG, Shell Rock

STAFF MEMBERS

MILDRED THRONE.....Associate Editor
GEORGE S. MAY.....Research Associate
FREDERICK I. KUHNS.....Research Associate
ADELAIDE SEEMUTH.....Library Associate
LEOTA CHASE.....Bookkeeper
MARILYN KLINGER.....Stenographer
VIRGINIA McWILLIAMS.....Stenographer

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the State Historical Society may be secured through election by the Board of Curators. The annual dues are \$3.00. Members may be enrolled as Life Members upon the payment of \$100.00. Persons who were members of the Society prior to March 1, 1948, may be enrolled as Life Members upon payment of \$50.00.

Address all Communications to

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN, Superintendent
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IOWA CITY IOWA

100 YEARS AGO AND NOW

1855—Federal and State Officers—1955

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

FRANKLIN PIERCE, *New Hampshire* DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, *Kansas*

UNITED STATES SENATORS

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JAMES HARLAN, *Mount Pleasant* Cedar Rapids
**THOMAS E. MARTIN, *Iowa City*

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

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 *3. H. R. GROSS, *Waterloo*
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 *5. PAUL W. CUNNINGHAM,
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 *6. JAMES I. DOLLIVER, *Fort Dodge*
 *7. BEN F. JENSEN, *Exira*
 *8. CHARLES B. HOEVEN, *Alton*

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JAMES W. GRIMES, *Burlington* *LEO A. HOEGH, *Chariton*

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

None under Const. of 1846 *LEO ELTHON, *Fertile*

PRESIDENT OF IOWA SENATE

MATURIN L. FISHER,
 Clayton County *LEO ELTHON, *Fertile*

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 WRIGHT, *Keosauqua* *THEODORE G. GARFIELD, *Ames*
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WILLIAM G. WOODWARD,
 Muscatine *ROBERT L. LARSON, *Iowa City*
 JOHN E. MULRONEY, *Fort Dodge*
 *RALPH A. OLIVER, *Sioux City*
 **W. A. SMITH, *Dubuque*
*Member of the State Historical *G. K. THOMPSON, *Cedar Rapids*
 Society CHARLES F. WENNERSTRUM,
**Life Member of the State Chariton
 Historical Society