

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

### *State Historical Society of Iowa*

Carl H. Mather of Tipton, curator of the Society for the past eight years, died April 14, 1956. Mr. Mather was a warm supporter of the Society's program to promote the cause of state and local history in every possible way. A native of Iowa, Mr. Mather was a graduate of the State University of Iowa and a highly respected lawyer in his home town of Tipton, where he was a leader in church and community affairs. His passing is a loss to the Society and to Iowa.

During April, May, and June, 1956, the Society has elected 125 new members. The following have been enrolled as Life Members: Miss Minnie S. Behrens, Commerce, Texas; Mark F. Kline, Belmond; Frank R. Nichols, Davenport; Frank R. Wilson, Washington, D. C.; T. L. Brown, Des Moines; Dr. A. W. Bryan, Iowa City; Homer L. Calkin, Arlington, Virginia; Mrs. Paul Dixon, Sac City; Joseph G. Duncan, Lexington, Kentucky; Charles Gilchrist, Davenport; George J. McCabe, Davenport; A. F. Pape, Templeton; Miss Gail M. Redfield, West Lafayette, Indiana; Harrison H. Remore, Marinette, Wisconsin; J. Anthony Rhomberg, Dubuque; and Fred Schwengel, Davenport.

Dr. George S. May, research associate of the Society for the past two years, has resigned to accept a position as historical sites specialist with the Michigan Historical Commission at Lansing, Michigan.

Some 300 members of the Society and their families took part in the 1956 Mississippi River cruises aboard the *Addie Mae* on June 22, 23, 24, and July 7 and 8. The cruises started at the *Addie Mae's* dock on the Illinois side of the river and visited Nauvoo and Keokuk. A Missouri River trip has been scheduled for September 14 aboard the *Patrick Gass*.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

April 17      Attended Beef Producers meeting, and the presentation of portrait of Senator Arch W. McFarlane in Des Moines.



- April 18      Lectured to seven Iowa County clubs, all members of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, at Victor.
- April 21      Attended the Rock Island Centennial Bridge celebration at Davenport-Rock Island.
- April 24      Attended the Chicago Historical Society Centennial program in Chicago.
- April 27      Conference with Chickasaw County Historical Society officers at Iowa City.
- May 10        Commencement address, Thornburg High School and Grade School.
- May 11        Commencement address, Stanley High School.
- May 18        Attended state meeting of Industrial Editors in Iowa City.
- May 23        Commencement address, Lake City High School.
- May 24        Commencement address, Durant High School.  
Attended Des Moines Rotary.
- May 25        Commencement address, Washington County schools at Washington.
- June 4-5      Attended Cherokee Centennial and spoke to Executive Committee of the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce.
- June 9        Attended Lohrville Pony Show at Lohrville.
- June 21        Addressed Drake University Iowa History Conference at Des Moines.
- June 22-24    Ran first four steamboat excursions for members of the Society on the *Addie Mae* between Keokuk and Nauvoo.
- June 30        Attended dedication of the new bridge at Clinton.

### *Iowa Historical Activities*

The following officers of the Mahaska County Historical Society were re-elected at the May 9 meeting of the Society: John Eveland, president; J. C. Mattix, vice-president; Zola Kramme, secretary; and E. L. Butler, treasurer. Directors named at the meeting were Carl Woodford and Margaret Lichtenheld for three years, and Wendell Merrill for one year. Stillman Clark is curator of the Society, and Mrs. Stillman Clark is historian.

At the Marshall County Historical Society meeting on July 12, Mrs. W. E. Berthrong was elected president to succeed R. A. Rockhill, president of the Society since 1952. Other officers are Mrs. H. C. Hurd, vice-presi-



dent; Floyd Hancock, treasurer; Mrs. Florence Belknap, curator; and Miss Laura McRill, secretary. Directors elected were George Lewis, Mrs. A. A. Piper, George A. Smith, E. C. Wetherbee, Arley Wilson, William Pegg, and Ruth Arney.

Officers elected at the Four County Historical Society meeting on May 4 were Waldo McLennan, president; D. E. Vermace, vice-president; and B. H. Guinn, secretary-treasurer.

All the officers of the Wayne County Historical Society were re-elected at the July 3 meeting except Grant Kelley of the board of directors, who asked to be relieved. The officers of the Society are: Miss Amy Robertson, president; Mrs. Lawrence Fry, vice-president; Harry Hibbs, treasurer; Miss Altha Green, secretary; and Roy Grimes, curator. Board members are Mrs. T. C. Poston, Mrs. Earl Booth, Miss Ortha Green, and Glen Greenlee. Miss Robertson reported that in the past year the Society membership had increased from 31 to 400.

The Lewis and Clark Historical Association is sponsoring a drive to raise funds to restore and improve the Floyd Monument at Sioux City. The goal is 30,000 memberships at \$1.00 each. The drive is headed by C. B. Chesterman of Sioux City. The Association, aided by Representative Charles Hoeven and Senator Thomas E. Martin, is also sponsoring a movement to have the Floyd burial spot declared a national monument. Sergeant Charles Floyd, the only man to die on the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1805, was also the first United States soldier to lose his life on active duty west of the Mississippi River.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert K. Redhead of Des Moines have purchased one of Iowa's famous landmarks, the Mason House at Bentonsport, and plan to restore the old hotel and open it in the spring of 1957 as a museum.

A marker has been erected by the Thomas Mitchell Historical Society on the site of the cabin of Thomas Mitchell, Polk County's first white settler. The site is on Highway 6, three miles southwest of Mitchellville. The erection of this marker was part of the Mitchellville centennial celebration.

Numerous centennials are being celebrated in Iowa: Cedar Rapids, June 14-17; Dayton, September 1; bridge across the Mississippi at Davenport,



April 20; Arlington, July 18-19; West Bend, May 31, June 1; Pulaski, in August; Lake City, in July; Cambridge, July 26-28. The Cherokee Centennial committee published a book on April 2, commemorating Cherokee's one hundred years.

On July 6, 1956, approximately 1,000 persons gathered at the Boone Sacred Heart Cemetery to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the heroic exploit of Kate Shelley in saving a North Western passenger train from going through a broken bridge. The Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen provided a plaque which was placed at the grave of Kate Shelley. Governor Leo A. Hoegh, Representative James I. Dolliver, and many railroad officials attended the ceremonies.

A Society for the Preservation of Historical Landmarks has recently been organized in Iowa, with the Rt. Rev. M. M. Hoffman of Dyersville as president; Mrs. Otha Wearin of Hastings as vice-president; and William Wagner of Dallas Center as secretary-treasurer. The organizational meeting was held in the Governor's Mansion at Des Moines in June, with Mrs. Leo A. Hoegh presiding. An advisory committee was appointed, including Mrs. Hoegh; William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society; Claude Cook, curator of the State Department of History and Archives; G. M. Ludwig of Tipton; W. D. Houlette of Drake University; Simpson Smith of Des Moines; and Mrs. Loren G. Thomas of Des Moines.

The Tama County Historical Society elected the following officers at its annual meeting on April 7: Roy L. Shaffer of Tama, president; W. H. Hufford, vice-president; H. P. Giger, secretary-treasurer. Trustees elected were Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Mrs. Eda S. Giger, and Mrs. Iowa Mapletorpe.

Mrs. Arthur Chapman of Fontanelle was elected president of the Adair County Historical Society at its June meeting. Mrs. Nellie Piper of Greenfield is vice-president, and Arthur Chapman is secretary-treasurer.



# 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  
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  
RALPH P. SHANNON, Washington  
HELEN VANDERBURG, Shell Rock

## STAFF MEMBERS

MILDRED THRONE.....Associate Editor  
GEORGE S. MAY.....Research Associate  
ADELAIDE SEEMUTH.....Library Associate  
LEOTA CHASE.....Bookkeeper  
SUSAN GOLTRY.....Secretary

## 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 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

## 1856—Federal and State Officers—1956

### PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

### UNITED STATES SENATORS

GEORGE W. JONES, *Dubuque*      \*BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER,  
JAMES HARLAN, *Mount Pleasant*      Cedar Rapids  
\*\*THOMAS E. MARTIN, *Iowa City*

### REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

1. AUGUSTUS HALL, <i>Keosauqua</i>	**1. FRED SCHWENGEL, <i>Davenport</i>
2. JAMES THORINGTON, Davenport	*2. HENRY O. TALLE, <i>Decorah</i>
	*3. H. R. GROSS, <i>Waterloo</i>
	**4. KARL M. LE COMPTE, <i>Corydon</i>
	*5. PAUL W. CUNNINGHAM, Des Moines
	*6. JAMES I. DOLLIVER, <i>Fort Dodge</i>
	*7. BEN F. JENSEN, <i>Exira</i>
	*8. CHARLES B. HOEVEN, <i>Alton</i>

### GOVERNOR

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*

### SPEAKER OF IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REUBEN NOBLE, *Clayton County*      \*ARTHUR C. HANSON, *Jinwood*

### JUDGES OF IOWA SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE G. WRIGHT, <i>Keosauqua</i>	*WILLIAM L. BLISS, <i>Mason City</i>
LACON D. STOCKTON, <i>Burlington</i>	*THEODORE G. GARFIELD, <i>Ames</i>
WILLIAM G. WOODWARD, Muscatine	NORMAN R. HAYS, <i>Knoxville</i>
	*ROBERT L. LARSON, <i>Iowa City</i>
	*RALPH A. OLIVER, <i>Sioux City</i>
	**HENRY K. PETERSON, <i>Council Bluffs</i>
	**W. A. SMITH, <i>Dubuque</i>
*Member of the State Historical Society	*G. K. THOMPSON, <i>Cedar Rapids</i>
**Life Member of the State Historical Society	*CHARLES F. WENNERSTRUM, Chariton