

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

### *State Historical Society of Iowa*

The Society added 229 new members during the months of January, February, and March. Seven Life Members added during these months were: Carl Weber, Iowa City; Mathew Hart, Davenport; C. W. Antes, West Union; Gregory Brunk, Des Moines; Mrs. Martha Brunk, Des Moines; Mrs. Clark R. Caldwell, Iowa City; and C. Leon Riegel, Davenport.

The Daughters of the American Revolution have presented to the Society 108 volumes of their *Lineage Book*, plus cumulative indexes through Vol. 160. Missing are volumes numbered 1 through 43, 124 through 138, 153, and all volumes issued after number 166. The presentation was made by Mrs. C. W. Maplethorpe of Toledo, Iowa, state consulting registrar of the D. A. R.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

February 10      Addressed Cedar Rapids Women's Club  
February 12      Addressed Muscatine Business and Professional Women

### *Iowa Historical Activities*

The Iowa Railway Historical Museum has been organized at Centerville, with the following officers: Wilson B. Lemberger of Weaver, president; James Levis of Waterloo, vice-president; and Elmer Carr of Ottumwa, secretary-treasurer. The Museum's purpose will be to "promote interest in railroad transportation, to acquire and display documents, operating equipment and memorabilia of railways of all sorts." The Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Railway Company has presented the Museum with an interurban car and the Southern Iowa Railway has given pieces of equipment.

The centennial of Iowa State College at Ames began on March 22. Leaders in science, industry, education, and world affairs took part in the celebration. Academic symposia were held for three days to mark the Founders' Day ceremonies. Other celebrations of the one hundred years of the College's existence will take place at Veishea and at commencement ceremonies in June.

A large wooden eagle which once was part of the steamboat *Gray Eagle* and is now the property of the Davenport Public Museum has been sent to Brussels to be part of the exhibition of American Primitive Art at the 1958 World's Fair. The eagle has a wing spread of 54 inches and weighs 320 pounds. It was carved from a single block of oak in Cincinnati in 1845 for the prow of the *Gray Eagle* and was later used on the *Helen Blair*.

Fort Atkinson state park near Decorah will be improved this spring by beginning the resoration of the stone barracks on the site. At present there are four of the original buildings and one rebuilt structure in the park, and the restoration of the stone barracks will add considerably to the park's interest. The fort, built in 1840 to protect the Indians, was occupied for nine years before the soldiers stationed there moved northward to Minnesota. The National Park Service, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and Luther College are cooperating on the research to make the restoration of the barracks authentic.

The thirty-sixth annual History Conference was held at the State University of Iowa in Iowa City on April 11-12, 1958. Papers were read by Ray A. Billington of Northwestern University; William A. Williams of the University of Wisconsin; and Jack H. Hexter of Washington University.

An All-College Conference on International Affairs was held at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls on April 21-23, 1958. The general topic of the sessions was "Germany and the Fate of Europe," and addresses were made by representatives of the British, German, Yugoslavian, French, Polish, and Russian embassies. In addition, Mr. Robert Creel of the United States Department of State and Mr. Graham Hovey of the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune* spoke at the closing session.