

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

State Historical Society of Iowa

The Society added 213 new members during the months of April, May, and June, 1958. In addition, nine members became Life Members during that period: Mrs. Vern Bales, Iowa City; Howard Brayton, Albuquerque, New Mexico; W. R. Livingston, Iowa City; C. L. McDowell, Des Moines; W. Howard Smith, Cedar Rapids; James M. Stewart, Des Moines; Mrs. Helen Vanderburg, Shell Rock; Charles E. Wittenmeyer, Davenport; and John Plank, Salem, Oregon.

The eleventh annual steamboat cruises on the Mississippi, in the *Addie May*, took place on June 21 and 22, June 28 and 29, and July 12 and 13. The cruises were from Nauvoo in Illinois to Keokuk, through Cooper Lake, and tours in Keokuk and Nauvoo were arranged.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building took place on June 7, 1958, with members of the Society's board of curators and University of Iowa officials present.

Superintendent William J. Petersen received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the June 9 commencement at Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

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| April 16 | Attended O. D. Collis' eightieth birthday party aboard the <i>Rob Roy III</i> at Clinton. |
| April 17 | Opened bids for Society's new Centennial Building at Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City. |
| April 24-25 | Attended Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting in Minneapolis. |
| April 26 | Addressed state meeting of the American Association of University Women at Waterloo. |
| April 30 | Addressed Muscatine Women's Club. |
| May 14 | Addressed Mahaska County Historical Society meeting at Oskaloosa. |

- May 17 Conferred with officers at the annual meeting of Iowa Business and Professional Women at Waterloo.
- May 22 Delivered commencement address at Holstein.
- May 23 Spoke before Professional Men's Club at Sioux City.
- May 27 Delivered commencement address at Elma.
- June 7 Ground breaking ceremonies for Centennial Building, Iowa City.
- June 9 Received honorary doctor of laws degree from Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant.
- June 21-22,
July 12-13 Conducted boat trips aboard the *Addie May* and promoted tours of Keokuk and Nauvoo for Society members.

Iowa Historical Activities

A log cabin, believed to be the oldest in Iowa, was marked with a bronze plaque by the Daughters of the American Revolution in April, 1958. Now restored and located in Eagle Point Park at Dubuque, the cabin was originally built about 1827 by a French trapper on the site of what is now Second and Locust streets in Dubuque. In 1915 it was moved to the park, restored, and is now used as a park shelter.

At the annual meeting of the Osceola County Historical Society on May 19, 1958, Mrs. Stella Fox was re-elected president; Mrs. Nora Geronsin was elected vice-president; and Mrs. Agnes Sokol, secretary and treasurer.

An Adams County Historical Society has been organized and officers elected: Mrs. Harry Sickler, president; Kenneth Roland, vice-president; Mrs. A. M. Dunham, secretary; and Don Williams, treasurer. The first project of the new society will be the preservation of a one-room school-house. The Society has been given the former Icarian rural school by the board of directors of Prescott No. 8 district. The building may be moved to Corning for restoration.

The Historical Society of Marshall County plans to renovate the Susie Sower home at Marshalltown for use as a museum. Brice W. Springer, president of the Society, says they have plenty of historical articles to fill the house, but are in need of funds to carry on the program.

The Black Hawk County Early Settlers Association, an eighty-four-year-old organization, has voted to disband. H. L. Green, president of the Association, has been instructed by the members to turn over their records to the Grout Historical Museum.

Efforts are being made to re-activate the Webster County Historical Society. A membership drive has been opened, with letters going to some 1,000 residents of the county. Membership is \$1.00 per year for an individual, or \$2.00 per year for a family. The Society's museum, with Mrs. John Amond acting as curator, is in the basement of the Fort Dodge Public Library. Ed Breen is chairman of a committee to expand the museum.

The Wayne County Historical Society has published a replica of the 1897 plat book of the county and is presenting it to each member who renews his membership in the Society.

The Cedar County Historical Society will distribute the first county historical booklet, entitled "The Cedar County Historical Review," to members at the picnic meeting in August. Plans are to issue a booklet each year, containing new material on Cedar County history. The booklet is free to members, and sells at \$1.00 a copy to non-members.

The first annual meeting of the Butler County Historical Society was held on May 9 at Allison. Officers re-elected were: Mrs. Louise Riggert, president; Ray Tindall, vice-president; Mrs. Gomer Evans, secretary; Charles Yost, treasurer; and Hugh L. Moser, curator. A committee has been appointed to purchase a county schoolhouse to be moved to Allison and used as an historical building.

Roy L. Shaffer was re-elected president of the Tama County Historical Society at the annual meeting on April 5, 1958. Other officers elected were W. H. Hufford, vice-president; and H. P. Giger, secretary-treasurer.

The Dubuque County Historical Society and the Galena Historical Society of Illinois cooperated in a boat tour of the Mississippi River on June 26.

The McGregor Historical Society entered a float in the Villa Louis parade on June 1 at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The float was a buggy made in about 1880 by the Pearsall carriage factory in McGregor. At a recent meeting the officers of the Society were re-elected: Mrs. W. A. Myers,

president; Mary Elwell, vice-president; and Dorothy Huebsch, secretary and treasurer.

The silver service of the battleship *Iowa* has been deposited in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines. The service was purchased by Iowans in 1897 for the original *U. S. S. Iowa*.