

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

State Historical Society of Iowa

The Society added 311 new members during the months of October, November, and December, 1958. The following were enrolled as Life Members during these months: Miss Frances E. Plath, Davenport; Worth Hillman, Los Angeles, California; Frank C. Allen, North English; M. F. Carpenter, Iowa City; Francis N. Dawson, Iowa City; J. T. Dykhouse, Rock Rapids; Ralph A. Oliver, Sioux City; Irwin A. Rose, Newton; and L. C. Rummels, West Branch.

The annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History will be held in Iowa City in 1960. The Association accepted Superintendent William J. Petersen's invitation when the group met in 1958 at Salt Lake City.

The cornerstone of the Society's new Centennial Building was laid on November 26, 1958. The contents of the copper box inside the granite stone were:

- A. Miscellaneous Records, Reports, and Data Published by the Society.
 - 1. Constitution and By-Laws of the State Historical Society of Iowa.
 - 2. *Some Information* (January, 1942) — List of members, etc.
 - 3. *Some Information* (January, 1951) — Historical Publications, etc.
 - 4. Membership List by Counties and States (October, 1948).
 - 5. Membership List by Counties and States (January, 1952).
 - 6. Program for Centennial Birthday Dinner (February 7, 1957).
 - 7. Society Steamboat Excursion (1951) — Menu of the *Rob Roy III*.
 - 8. *Looking Backward on Hawkeyeland*, by William J. Petersen.
 - 9. Biennial Reports of the State Historical Society of Iowa for the following years: 1947-1949, 1951-1953, 1953-1955, 1955-1957.
- B. Representative Publications of the Society.
 - 1. *News for Members* — October, 1954, through October, 1958.
 - 2. *The Palimpsest*: June, 1955; August, 1955; May, 1956; March, 1957; June, 1957.

3. *Iowa Journal of History* — April, 1957.

4. Books:

- a. *A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, by J. B. Newhall (SHSI reprint).
- b. *Iowa History Reference Guide* (1952), by William J. Petersen.
- c. *The Constitutions of Iowa* (1934), by Benj. F. Shambaugh.

C. Contemporary Iowa Newspapers: *Iowa City Press-Citizen*; *Cedar Rapids Gazette*; *Des Moines Register*; *Davenport Times*; *Waterloo Courier*.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

October 2-3	Attended National Dairy Congress at Waterloo.
October 21	Addressed Mount Pleasant Women's Club.
November 5	Attended annual dinner of Walt Whitman Club in Des Moines.
November 7	Lectured to High Twelve Club in Cedar Rapids.
November 12	Addressed annual presidential dinner for faculty and wives of Iowa Wesleyan College.
December 5	Lectured to Cliff Dwellers in Chicago.
December 13	Presided at first meeting of the Iowa Lincoln Sesquicentennial Conference at Iowa Wesleyan College.
December 28-30	Attended annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Washington, D. C.

Iowa Historical Activities

Professor William E. Baringer, of the University of Florida, is Executive Director of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission which was established by Congress to supervise the observance in 1959 of the sesquicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Baringer addressed the meeting of Iowans interested in this observance at Iowa Wesleyan College on December 13. Representative Fred Schwengel, who is president of the District of Columbia Lincoln Group, attended the meeting, which was presided over by Superintendent William J. Petersen of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Communities throughout the nation are planning programs for 1959, which has been designated "Lincoln Year." Dr. Petersen recommended that Iowa consider a five-point program for state observance

of Lincoln's birth: (1) a joint session of the legislature; (2) a meeting in Iowa City centered around the Bolinger Collection of Lincoln material in the library of the State University; (3) the completion of the restoration of the Harlan-Lincoln Home in Mount Pleasant; (4) a special issue of *The Palimpsest*; and (5) the formation of Lincoln and Civil War study groups.

The Bremer County Historical Society was organized on November 21 in Waverly. Officers elected were: Mrs. Fred O. Gordon, president; Mrs. Delbert Shepard, vice-president; Mrs. Grace Roberts, secretary; and Leslie Young, treasurer.

The Calhoun County Historical Society, formerly the Rockwell City Historical Society, now has sixty charter members, according to Mrs. Ruth Ridge, publicity chairman. Mrs. Clarence Webb is president of the new society.

The McGregor Historical Society has erected a marker on the site of the first school in McGregor. The school was built by the founder of the town, Alexander McGregor, in 1850.

The Cerro Gordo County Historical Society has taken over sponsorship of the Mason City Civil War Round Table, which has been meeting as an independent organization for the past two years. The purpose of the Round Table is to bring together the Civil War students and devotees from the Mason City area for the purpose of discussion and study of the Civil War.

An old schoolhouse, once attended by the famous Iowa author, Herbert Quick, is being restored by a group of women in Grundy Center, headed by Mrs. Carroll Mitchell. The school was moved into the city park of Grundy Center in 1933, but since that time it has not been kept up and finally became an equipment storehouse. Mrs. Mitchell organized the movement to restore the school to its original condition, and old oil lamps, a stove, rare old textbooks, a hand bell, and other relics of the early days of education are being procured and put on display in the building.

Another one-room schoolhouse is being restored by members of the Adams County Historical Society. The building originally stood at the west edge of Corning, on Highway 34, and was one of the Icarian Colony

school buildings. It has been moved into town on land contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Dean Rogers.

The late May Miller King of Corydon willed the bulk of her estate, some \$25,000, to the Wayne County Historical Society to be used in building or buying a permanent home for the Society. Mrs. King made the bequest in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Miller, pioneer residents of Wayne County.

Officers of the newly organized Dallas County Historical Society are: Mrs. Curtis Gregory, president; Norman Still, vice-president; and Mrs. Ethel Hays, secretary-treasurer.

At the annual meeting of the Lee County Historical Society, William L. Talbott was elected president to succeed Alois J. Webber who had served for the first two years of the Society's existence. Charles B. Chappell was re-elected vice-president; and Robert Miller was named secretary-treasurer to succeed Miss Doris Foley. The Society has been active during the year in promoting historical tours of points of interest in Lee County and in Keokuk, and in establishing a museum room.

At the fifth annual meeting of the Chickasaw County Historical Society, the following officers were re-elected: Mrs. Leota Edson, president; Miss Mildred Bigelow, vice-president; Miss Jean Gerber, secretary; and Mrs. Glenn Young, treasurer. The most ambitious project of the Society is the restoration of the old Methodist church in Deerfield. A pageant and homecoming at the church will be held next summer.

The 1959 yearbook of the Cedar County Historical Society will be devoted to articles on the churches and cemeteries of the county.

The Butler County Historical Society has purchased a schoolhouse, known as the Little Yellow Schoolhouse, located two miles south of Are-dale. It will be moved to Allison and used as an historical museum.