

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

### *State Historical Society of Iowa*

The Society added 150 new members during the months of April, May, and June. During that period the following became Life Members: R. H. Collier, Dubuque; W. J. Johannes, Ashton; William Leichsenring, Amana; Dr. John I. Marker, Davenport; Dr. J. Ryan Beiser, Tampa, Florida; Mrs. J. F. Brechner, Waverly; J. M. D. Burrows, Davenport; R. O. Burrows, Jr., Belle Plaine; Oakley B. Davidson, Kansas City, Missouri; A. E. Dickson, Pleasant Valley; W. J. Edgar, Grand Junction; Thomas J. Frank, Pleasant Valley; Mrs. May Wall Grant, Alden; Ralph Green, Des Moines; M. B. Guthrie, Iowa City; Philip Hedin, Davenport; John A. Hughes, Ruthven; Mrs. Carl LeBuhn, Davenport; Mrs. C. R. Leonard, Sioux City; G. M. Ludwig, Tiffin; Robert T. Melvold, Maquoketa; John H. Shields, Waterloo; Ben. S. Summerwill, Iowa City; and Dr. Benjamin Wolverton, Cedar Rapids.

At the biennial meeting of the members of the Society at Iowa City on June 29, 1959, the members of the Board of Curators elected by the membership were re-elected with the exception of S. T. Morrison, of Iowa City, whose resignation because of ill health was accepted. To replace Mr. Morrison on the Board, Ingalls Swisher of Iowa City was elected. Curator William R. Hart of Iowa City was elected president of the Society, to replace Mr. Morrison in that position. Superintendent Petersen's report to the members will be published in the October issue of the JOURNAL.

Superintendent William J. Petersen conducted a tour of the Amana Colonies on April 8 for the Legislative Ladies League.

The twelfth annual Mississippi River cruises took place on June 13 and 14, aboard the *Addie May*. About 120 members took part in the two cruises from Nauvoo to Keokuk.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

April 8 Conducted tour of Amana Colonies for Legislative Ladies League.



- April 15 Addressed annual meeting of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs at Cedar Rapids.
- May 1 Spoke to 105 members of newly-formed Dallas County Historical Society at Adel.
- May 5 Addressed annual meeting of Minnesota Association of Mutual Insurance Agents at Minneapolis.
- May 10 Addressed Marshall County Historical Society dedication of Susie Sower Home in Marshalltown.
- May 13 Attended Harlan-Lincoln Committee dinner at Mount Pleasant.
- May 21 Commencement address to Tri-Community Schools at What Cheer.
- May 22 Commencement address at Little Rock Community Schools.
- May 23 Addressed the Osceola County Historical Society breakfast in Sibley.
- May 23 Addressed Sibley and Osceola County Women's Clubs at Sibley.
- May 24 Spoke to clubs associated with restoration of the Abbie Gardner Sharp Cabin in Arnolds Park.
- May 26 Commencement address to English Valley Community Schools at North English.
- May 27 Commencement address at Knoxville.
- May 29 Commencement address at Red Oak.
- June 13-14 Conducted 12th annual Mississippi River Historical tours on *Addie May*.

### *Iowa Historical Activities*

John Morrell & Company, meat packers of Ottumwa, have presented some 8,000 records and letters dating back to 1882 to the library of the State University of Iowa. These papers will enable scholars to study the development of one of Iowa's major industries.

An outstanding collection of Indian handwork, collected by the late Dr. Raymond A. Burnside of Des Moines, has been turned over to the State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines.

The James Harlan home at Mount Pleasant, presented to Iowa Wesleyan College fifty years ago by Harlan's daughter, Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln, is



being restored under the direction of Larry Belles as executive director of the restoration. The restored portion of the home is now open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p. m., Monday through Friday.

Ten Iowans have been named to the advisory council of the National Civil War Centennial Commission: James Lucas, Bedford; Clyde H. Doolittle, Des Moines; Clarence W. Moody, Burlington; Ralph Evans, Davenport; William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society at Iowa City; W. Ross Livingston, Iowa City; William L. Talbot, Keokuk; Mrs. Helen Virden, Mount Pleasant; Dr. Thomas E. Tweito, Sioux City; and William C. Rathke, Glenwood. The members will confer with the national commission on plans for the centennial of the Civil War, scheduled to begin in 1961.

Officers of the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historical Landmarks are: Mrs. R. B. Engelbeck, Des Moines, president; Mrs. Otha Wearin, Hastings, vice-president; William J. Wagner, Dallas Center, secretary; Simpson Smith, Des Moines, treasurer; and Lawton Patten, Ames, recorder. Directors are: Mrs. Carroll Mitchell, Grundy Center; Mrs. Addison Parker, Sr., Des Moines; Leonard Wolf, Ames; and Mrs. Glenn Greene, Newton.

The "Red School" north of Manchester is to become an historical site. The grounds of the school are to be made a public park, and the school kept as a memorial to the one-room schoolhouse of early Iowa.

The Abbie Gardner Sharp Cabin at Arnolds Park is to be preserved as a memorial of the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857. The 1959 legislature transferred the property to the State Historical Society of Iowa and appropriated \$3,000 to restore and preserve it. Local residents are working with Superintendent William J. Petersen on plans for re-opening the cabin.