

## DR. MILDRED THRONE

(1902-1960)

Members of the State Historical Society will read with regret of the passing of Dr. Mildred Throne, for the past twelve years Associate Editor of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Born in Ottumwa, Iowa, on October 30, 1902, Dr. Throne was the only daughter of Harry E. and Alice Emery Throne. Her girlhood was spent in Ottumwa.

From an early age Mildred evinced an interest in American history. She graduated from Hyde Park high school in Chicago and received her Ph. B. from the University of Chicago in 1934.

For a decade following her graduation Miss Throne was identified with McDonald-Miller, Inc., in Chicago. In 1942, however, she tired of the business world and returned to history, receiving her M.A. at the University of Iowa under Professor Louis Pelzer in 1943. It was under this outstanding scholar that Miss Throne gained much of her editorial skill. From 1943 to 1946, while a graduate assistant at the University of Iowa, she helped Professor Pelzer in editing the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. At the same time she served as proctor at Currier Hall while working toward her Ph.D. She received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Iowa in 1946.

Dr. Throne taught history at Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, for two years. Upon the retirement of Dr. Ruth Gallaher in 1948, she was invited by Dr. Petersen to join the staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa as Associate Editor of the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY.

During her twelve years with the Society Dr. Throne contributed five issues to *The Palimpsest* and ten articles to the IOWA JOURNAL, in addition to editing fifteen diaries for the quarterly magazine. Two-thirds of the latter were Civil War diaries. She contributed book reviews to scholarly publications and articles on Iowa to encyclopedias. A full-length biography of Governor C. C. Carpenter, chapters of which have appeared in the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY, will be published by the Society at a later date.

Dr. Throne continued to read galley proof on the *July Quarterly* during the early stages of her hospitalization. As her condition grew progressively worse she was unable to continue her work and she died on July 7, 1960.

Funeral services were held in both Iowa City and Ottumwa. Interment was made in Ottumwa Cemetery.

When not engaged in her editorial work, Dr. Throne spent much time in gardening and fancy work. Her evenings and week-ends were devoted to her invalid mother. Dr. Throne was an avid reader of history and had a well-rounded personal American history library. Her interest in state and local history no doubt was augmented by the fact that her grandparents on both sides were pioneer Iowans.

Contributors to the IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY have always been grateful to Dr. Throne for her keen editorial help. This is especially true of the scores of graduate students who were shuttled to her desk by their American history professors. These received invaluable aid and direction and found the rich holdings of the Society invaluable for their research. Her services were given willingly and freely to all who asked, far beyond the call of duty. The State of Iowa was the direct beneficiary.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN