

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The State Historical Society of Iowa

The Society has added 187 new members during July, August, and September, 1960. The following were elected Life Members during that period: Mrs. Opha K. Atkinson, Emmetsburg; Arnold J. Boldt, Bettendorf; Miss Olive Brown, Iowa City; Max R. Clark, Dubuque; Arthur F. Draheim, Sr., Clarion; Mrs. Grace K. Harden, Muscatine; James Huiskamp, Jr., Keokuk; Paul E. Johnson, Centerville; William L. Meardon, Iowa City; A. E. Muir, Onawa; Mrs. George H. Rigler, Kenilworth, Ill.; Mrs. O. W. Stevenson, Fayette; Rev. Roger J. Sullivan, Ames; Earl G. Swen, Williamsburg, Va.; M. D. VanOosterhout, Orange City; Charles L. Walling, Oskaloosa; John H. Watts, Grand Junction; W. O. Weaver, Wapello; and Charles H. Young, Muscatine.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CALENDAR

- July 8 Meeting with Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission in Des Moines.
- July 29 Attended Governor's Day at Clear Lake, Iowa.
- August 30 Luncheon with Awards Committee of the American Association for State and Local History.
- August 31 Served as Chairman of Local Arrangements for the following functions of the AASLH:
- 11:00 a.m. — Dedication of State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building.
 - 1:30 p.m. — Dedication Luncheon — University Athletic Club. Speakers: Dr. Floyd C. Shoemaker, Secretary, State Historical Society of Missouri; Dr. Russell Fridley, Director, Minnesota Historical Society.
 - 3:30 p.m. — Tour of Lucas Home at Iowa City and Hoover Home at West Branch.
 - 7:00 p.m. — Dedication Dinner — Jefferson Hotel. Speaker: MacKinlay Kantor.

- September 1 Directed tour of Amana Colonies by the American Association for State and Local History. Morning programs in Old Capitol and afternoon programs in Amana.
- September 2 Five professional programs of American Association for State and Local History in Iowa City.
- September 3 Conducted Mississippi steamboat trip for members of the American Association for State and Local History.
- September 9 Consulted Indian material in Ayer Collection, Newberry Library in Chicago.
- September 23 Addressed opening session of the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Sites at Ames.
- September 25-27 Attended Mississippi River Parkway Convention in Memphis, Tennessee.
- September 28 Research at the Missouri Historical Society in the Jefferson Memorial in St. Louis.
- September 30 Research in Chicago Historical Society.

Dedication of Centennial Building

August 31, 1960

Fully three hundred attended the dedication of the State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building on Wednesday, August 31, 1960. Over half the states in the Union and two Canadian provinces sent delegates, all of them members of the American Association for State and Local History, which was holding its 20th Annual Meeting in Iowa City to participate in the dedication of the Centennial Building.

William R. Hart, President of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society, presided over the meeting. Governor Loveless was unable to attend but sent Superintendent Petersen the following message:

Since I can't be present personally, I do want to send my warm regards to those in attendance and to add my congratulations to our own State Historical Society on the happy occasion of your moving into the Centennial Building.

Dedication Program

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Centennial Building

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1960, 11 A.M.

PRESIDING

Curator William R. Hart, President, State Historical Society of Iowa

INVOCATION

Dr. J. Raymond Chadwick, President, Iowa Wesleyan College

GREETINGS

Honorable Herschel C. Loveless, Governor of Iowa

Dr. Harvey H. Davis, Provost, State University of Iowa

Dr. Clifford L. Lord, President, American Association for State and Local History

Dr. S. K. Stevens, President, Association of Historic Sites Administrators

REMARKS

Hon. Scott Swisher, State Representative, Johnson County

Clarence W. Moody, Past President, Iowa Daily Press Association

Dr. Leslie W. Dunlap, Director, University of Iowa Libraries

INTRODUCTIONS

Distinguished Visitors: Dr. William J. Petersen, Superintendent, State Historical Society of Iowa

Curators of the Society: Curator W. Howard Smith

PRESENTATION OF KEYS TO CENTENNIAL BUILDING

Presentation by Burdette Higgins, Architect, Tinsley, Higgins, Lighter and Lyon

Acceptance by Curator Jim H. Nesmith, Chairman, Centennial Building Committee

BENEDICTION

Right Reverend Monsignor C. H. Meinberg, St. Mary's Parish

For the benefit of the visitors, I might say that we citizens of Iowa are deeply proud of our State Historical Society, which is one hundred three years old, this year. We are proud of our Society's outstanding publication and research program, and proud of its front rank among states in the presentation of Iowa's history.

We have long looked forward to the day when the State Historical Society's collection of Iowana — the largest in the country — could be housed in one appropriate building. That day has now arrived, and on behalf of the citizens of Iowa I pay tribute to the Society, its Board and staff, and you, the Director.

Following the presentation of the keys by Architect Burdette Higgins to Curator Jim H. Nesmith, chairman of the building committee, those present entered the Centennial Building and inspected it from sub-basement to its fifth floor — or level. The number of well-wishers was so great that, although 140 reservations had been made for the Dedication luncheon, 210 actually partook of the delicious repast at the University Athletic Club and heard splendid papers by Dr. Floyd C. Shoemaker, Secretary Emeritus of the State Historical Society of Missouri, and Russell W. Fridley, Director of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Iowa's Pulitzer Prize winning author, MacKinley Kantor, spoke to 240 at the evening dinner in the Jefferson Hotel. So enthusiastic was the attendance at the Centennial Building dedication that over half a hundred of those attending were unable to secure tickets for either the Centennial luncheon or dinner.

The officers and members of almost a score of county historical societies attended the dedication programs. In addition to the formal dedication already mentioned, two morning sessions had been arranged at which papers centered on "New Directions and Traditional Functions in Our Local Historical Societies" and "The Historical Magazine — Does It Have a Future?" In the afternoon a special tour had been arranged of Plum Grove, the home of Robert Lucas, the first governor of the Territory of Iowa. Busses then took the visitors to West Branch to see the Herbert Hoover birthplace, the newly-erected blacksmith shop, and the new Herbert Hoover library, which was under construction and would be dedicated in 1961.

A reception for MacKinlay Kantor at the Jefferson Hotel, sponsored by Curator Frank C. Allen, preceded the distinguished Iowa author's speech.

Twentieth Annual Meeting

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

August 31, September 1, 2, 3, 1960

The dedication of the Centennial Building was a great success. It was followed by three days of historical sessions and tours. On Thursday morning programs were held in the Old Stone Capitol on the topics — "Urban Renewal and Historical Preservation" and "Manuscript Collecting in the Twentieth Century: The Battle of the Bulk."

At noon busses took the historians to Homestead where luncheon was served in Zuber's Dugout. Professor Bestor read a paper on "Communal Life in America." Dr. Henry Moershel spoke on "Historical Background of Amana," and Martin Dickel discussed "Communal Life in Amana."

The visitors were then taken through the seven Amana villages, visiting the Homestead Church, the Amana Heim, the Ehrle Winery, the Carl Hahn home and open-hearth oven, the Amana cemetery, meat market, furniture shop and woolen mills. The ladies from out of state attending the convention were entertained by Mrs. Henry Moershel in her home and garden at Homestead, and by Mrs. John Noe, Mrs. Bill Noe, and Mrs. M. A. Bendorf in their homes in Amana. A reception was held in the Ox Yoke Inn Rathskellar, followed by dinner in the Ox Yoke Inn with zither music.

All meetings were held in the Centennial Building on Friday. The programs were designed to be helpful to state and local historical societies. The two held simultaneously on Friday morning were "Training Programs" and "Legislation Supporting the Preservation of Historic Sites." The Annual Business Meeting was held at the University Athletic Club at noon after which the historians returned to the Centennial Building to hear a panel of four discuss "Raising Funds for the Historical Agency." The Annual Dinner of the Association was held in the Mayflower Inn with Dr. Clifford Lord, President of the American Association for State and Local History, delivering a scholarly address on "New Horizons."

The feature program on Saturday morning was a Mississippi River trip on the *Addie May*. Historic sites along the way to Nauvoo were pointed out by Superintendent Petersen — the Old Military Road, the Harlan Home and the Harlan Hotel, Iowa Wesleyan College and its P.E.O. Library. The Old Fort Madison Marker was observed as the bus drew up

to the Sheaffer Pen Company where the distinguished visitors received the latest ball point pens, compliments of the Sheaffer Pen Company. A quick tour was made of historic Nauvoo before boarding the *Addie May*. The group had lunch at the Iowa Hotel in Keokuk. After touring historic Keokuk, most of the group headed back to such points as Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Utah, New York, and points along the way. The bus load of 41 passengers returned to Iowa City whence they departed to their respective homes by auto, train and plane.

IOWA SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

On September 23 and 24, 1960, the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks met at Iowa State University in Ames. The State Historical Society of Iowa and the Iowa Conservation Commission were co-sponsors of the two-day meeting which attracted a battery of excellent speakers. The Superintendent of the Society gave one of the principal addresses.

The historic George Davenport home on Rock Island is being restored under the auspices of the Quad-Cities Home Builder's Association, which holds the lease on the home. Firms in the area are donating time and material.

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Adams County Historical Society held an "Open House" at its recently restored one-room school located at the edge of Corning on September 18.

The Bremer County Historical Society has purchased for a museum a three-story Waverly Building which had served as one of that town's first hotels.

The Buena Vista County Historical Society held its organizational meeting on September 29.

The Butler County Historical Society is busily engaged in restoring their newly-acquired country school.

The Calhoun County Historical Society sponsored a display on early farm machinery at the Calhoun County Fair.

The Cedar County Historical Society dedicated the Hardman Memorial Marker at their third annual picnic on July 24.

The Dallas County Historical Society dedicated their third historic marker at the Huston cemetery on September 25.

The Guthrie County Historical Society sponsored a display at their historical building on the fairgrounds.

The Kossuth County Historical Society held a county-wide picnic in Ambrose Call State Park in Algona on September 24 to stimulate interest in their newly-organized society.

The Lee County Historical Society assisted the State Historical Society in entertaining the American Association for State and Local History during its visit to Keokuk and Nauvoo. Guests visited the Society's new museum in the public library and were also shown many of the historic homes in Keokuk.

The Madison County Historical Society has been re-activated by consolidation with a newly-organized Winterset civic organization known as the "Committee for the Preservation and Promotion of the Historical Significance of Madison County." Officers elected are: Irvin Martens, president; Dale Callison, secretary; and Mrs. Bernard Morrissey, treasurer.

The Marion County Historical Society held its first meeting on July 13 in their new museum quarters at the new county park and recreation area.

The Mills County Historical Society will begin classifying and cataloguing material for its museum. Members of the Glenwood Women's Club will undertake the project as part of their public service in 1960-1961.

The Osceola County Historical Society will open its museum from 2 to 5 p.m. every Sunday. The museum belongs to the city and is maintained by the Society. Officers are Mrs. Marie Dummett, president; Cecelia Ransom, vice president; and Helen Dumbauld, secretary-treasurer.

The new officers of the Plymouth County Historical Society are: Walter Held, president; Ray Richardson, vice president; Mrs. Jack Tindall, secretary-treasurer.

On June 26 the Washington County Historical Society made a tour of Crawfordsville, Coppock, and Sandyhook areas.

The Wayne County Historical Society has elected the following officers: Miss Amy Robertson, president; Mrs. Lawrence Fry, vice president; Miss Altha Green, secretary; Harry Hibbs, treasurer; and LeRoy Grimes, curator. This society has the largest membership of any county historical society in the state — 1,006.

County historical societies represented at the dedication of the State Historical Society of Iowa Centennial Building were: Butler, Bremer, Calhoun, Cedar, Chickasaw, Dallas, Delaware, Dubuque, Henry, Lee, Linn, Mahaska, Marshall, Mills, and Washington.

IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY