

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Maryland Historical Society has in contemplation the publication of a quarterly magazine.

The Santa Clara County Historical Society (California) has recently been organized. Professor C. A. Duniway, of Leland Stanford University, is President of the new Society.

The Fifty-third annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin was held in the Society's library building at Madison, November 9, 1905.

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association was held at Baltimore and Washington on December 26-29, 1905. A part of the program was devoted to a conference on the problems of State and local historical societies.

The October, 1905, number of *The Medford Historical Register* closes the eighth volume of the quarterly published by the Medford Historical Society, Medford, Mass.

In a seven page pamphlet Professor Edmond S. Meany, Secretary of the Washington University State Historical Society appeals to the school teachers of the State to help the Society "save local history."

A Swedish-American Historical Society has been formed in Chicago representing Swedes from all parts of the United States. The objects of the Society will be to collect a library and a museum illustrative of the history and the cultural progress of Swedes in America, to further the study of the Swedish language and Swedish-American history, and to publish works with a view to encourage the study of the history and literature of Sweden in American universities. The Executive Board of the Society consists of the following officers: Dr. E. A. Enander, President; Dr. Gustav Andreen, Vice President; Andrew Schön, Secretary; and A. G. S. Josephson, Treasurer.

The *Proceedings of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, 1905*, were distributed in September, 1905. The Proceedings make a pamphlet of sixty-seven pages.

The Society of Friends at Lynn, Mass., by Sallie H. Hacker, is the leading article in the October, 1905, number of *The Essex Institute Historical Collections*.

The October, 1905, number of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* closes the fifty-ninth volume of that valuable Quarterly.

Origin of Pacific University, by James R. Robertson, *The Political Beginning of Washington Territory*, by Thomas W. Prosch, and *Dr. John Scouler's Journal of a Voyage to N. W. America, II.*, are the historical articles in the June, 1905, *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*.

Three interesting papers may be found in the September, 1905, issue of the *Publications of the Southern History Association*, namely: *Lafayette's Campaign in Virginia, April-October, 1781*, by M. J. Wright; *The Making of the Confederate Constitution*, by A. L. Hull, and *French Refugees to New Orleans in 1809*, by L. M. Perez.

The October, 1905, number of the *Ohio Archæological and Historical Quarterly* has the following papers: *Water Highways and Carrying Places*, by E. L. Taylor; *The Underground Railroad*, by S. S. Knabenshue; *Powder Magazine at Fort Hamilton*, by W. C. Miller; *Navigation on the Muskingum*, by I. T. McConnellsville; *Darnell's Leap for Life*; *Song Writers of Ohio*, by C. B. Galbreath; *Farewell Song of the Wyandot Indians*, by James Rankins; and *Early Cincinnati*, by Joseph Wilby. This number completes Volume XIV.

The *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* at the semi-annual meeting held in Boston, April 26, 1905, have been issued as Vol. XVII, Pt. I, of the new series. The accompanying papers are: *Emergent Treasury-Supply in Massachusetts in Early Days*, by A. M. Davis; *A Scheme for the Conquest of Canada in 1746*, by

Victor H. Paltsits; *Jeremy Taylor and Religious Liberty in the English Church*, by Daniel Merriman; and *An Ancient Instance of Municipal Ownership*, by Samuel Utley.

Articles of interest in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* for October, 1905, are: *The Early Westward Movement of Virginia, 1722-1734*, by Charles E. Kemper; *Virginia and the Cherokees, &c., the Treaties of 1768 and 1770; The Treaty of Lancaster, 1744; The Treaty of Logg's Town, 1752; The Vestry Book of King William Parish, Va., 1707-1750; and Virginia Gleanings in England.*

The *Year Book*, No. 10 of the Oneida Historical Society, at Utica, N. Y., 1905, is an octavo publication of xxiv, 168 pages. The leading contributions are: *The Genius of Anglo-Saxon Law and Institutions Contrasted with the Latin Civilization of Imperialism*, by W. T. Gibson; *The Mohawk Valley, A Channel of Civilization*, by A. L. Byron-Curtiss; *Colonization and Civil Government in the Tropics*, by S. L. Parrish; *Recollections of the Oneida Bar*, by H. J. Cookinham; and *McKinley and the Spanish War*, by S. L. Woodford. A number of *Life Sketches* and *Biographical Sketches* are given. The volume is embellished with a plate of the *Munson-Williams Memorial*, the home of the Society, and the portraits of the contributors.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

By an act of the Legislature the Secretary of the State Historical Society has been made State Librarian.

The Society has received several valuable additions to its newspaper department. Mr. George W. Hopp has contributed files of the *Brookings County Press* covering a period of eight years; and Mr. W. C. Brown has donated a complete file of the *Turner County Herald*.

As Superintendent of *Census and Vital Statistics* the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Fred J. Goodfellow, has completed his report which is now in the hands of the public printer. Monthly and quarterly bulletins have already been issued through the press.

THE POWESHIEK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In response to a call issued by Professor L. F. Parker, the pioneers of Poweshiek County met at Montezuma, Iowa, on October 27, 1905, for the purpose of organizing a county historical society. A temporary organization was effected. They met again on December 7, 1905, and adopted Articles of Incorporation. Several papers on local history were read at this time. The next meeting will be held on the second Thursday of February, 1906, at Brooklyn.

The officers of the Poweshiek County Historical Society are: Professor L. F. Parker, President; R. A. Mortland and E. E. Blanchard, Secretaries; Jesse Macy, Treasurer; and L. F. Parker, Historian. The Society is exceptionally fortunate in having among its members such men as Professor Parker and Professor Macy.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society will be held in Jackson, Mississippi, January 4 and 5, 1906. Judging by present indications, the papers to be presented at this meeting will contain some substantial contributions to the history of reconstruction in the State. Papers will also be read on military, economic, political, literary, and biographical subjects.

Volume I of the *Territorial Archives of Mississippi* will be ready for distribution on the first of January, 1906. This book has been edited by Hon. Dunbar Rowland, Director of Archives and History. It will form the first installment of source materials to be published for historical purposes in Mississippi and will cover a period from 1793 to 1803, or the administration of Winthrop Sargent and W. C. C. Claiborne. The *Publications* of the Mississippi Historical Society are devoted entirely to the finished products of research and to the presentation of sources of an unofficial character.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA

The State Historical Society of North Dakota is soon to publish its initial volume of *Collections*. This is a State publication and will be classed with the Public Documents of the State. For the past

two years the Secretary, Dr. O. G. Libby, has been making an historical survey of the State with the view of ascertaining the material available for publication. Thus far he has met with the heartiest coöperation in all parts of the State, and it seems certain that the first volume will be thoroughly representative of the varied life and industry of all the important sections and of the natural divisions of the State.

Among the contributions to the first volume will be articles on the chief Indian tribes with plates illustrating their habits and modes of life. The Secretary has been especially fortunate in securing a large number of pictures painted by the Indians showing some phases of their history which will be of great interest to all. Several contributions will deal with the local history of the State; and the early pioneer life will be represented in a series of sketches by those well qualified to write on these topics.

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the members of the Society for 1905 took place on December 16. The main features of the program were the *Annual Address* of President Wm. D. Fenton, and the *Report* of the Secretary, F. G. Young.

Two historical projects are mooted in Oregon which are in a way sequels to the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition. A movement is started in Astoria to realize a monument on the site of Fort Clatsop, the winter quarters of the exploring party (1805-6) and the culminating point of the exploration. The course pursued in securing the Floyd monument at Sioux City, Iowa, will be followed in a general way, associating the Secretary of War with the Oregon Historical Society—if Congress can be prevailed upon to mark this historic spot.

The action of the Legislature of Oregon, when it made the largest contribution toward the creation of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition that it received, contemplated the erection of a Memorial Building that should become the permanent home of the Historical Society. There was a special strain on the finances of the Lewis and

Clark Exposition Corporation when Congress failed to give it a cash appropriation, and the erection of the Memorial Building was accordingly put off until the close of the exposition period. Though the Corporation has a surplus, the Historical Society is relying on a subscription of the necessary funds should the stockholders fail to vote the surplus directly to the benefit of the historical building.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

The Fifty-third Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Madison on Thursday, November 9, 1905. In the afternoon a business meeting was held; while in the evening a formal program was presented to the public.

The report of the Treasurer showed a balance of \$52,105.07 in the private funds of the Society; while the Superintendent reported upon the expenditure of \$20,000 during the year from the State appropriation. During the year 12,634 titles were added to the library, which now contains a total of 272,664 titles.

In the evening the program was opened by an address from the President, Mr. William Ward Wright, of Milwaukee. Mr. Arthur C. Neville followed with a paper on *Historic Sites About Green Bay*. *Duluth, the Fur-trader*, was the title of a paper by Mr. Henry C. Campbell. Mr. Henry E. Legler discussed the *Printed Narratives of Wisconsin Travellers Prior to 1800*. The program closed with a paper by Mr. John Bell Sanborn on *The Impeachment of Levi Hubbell*.

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Missouri Historical Society's collection of portraits of men prominent in the history of the State has lately been augmented by the gifts of portraits of Frank P. Blair, General Alexander W. Doniphan, leader of Doniphan's Expedition in the Mexican War, of Thomas H. Benton at an early period, Governor M. M. Marmaduke, Governor John S. Marmaduke, Melvin L. Gray, Arthur Lee, Dr. Emil Pretorius, Colonel D. D. Mitchell and Meriwether Lewis.

The Missouri Historical Society has recently come into the possession, through the kind interest of Miss Eva Gray, niece of the late

Melvin L. Gray, of a valuable collection of letters and papers relating to the fur trade of the Upper Missouri and to the Santa Fe trade of the Southwest. These are known as the "Sublette Papers." Mr. Gray was the executor of the Sublette estate and guardian of the little daughter of William L. Sublette. For many years these papers were held in his possession, although he had expressed his intention of ultimately presenting them to the Missouri Historical Society of which he was a life member. Miss Gray has carried out his design.

The manuscripts cover a period beginning with the enterprise of Jedediah S. Smith in trading in Mexico in 1827 up to the sixties, and comprise about six hundred documents in all. One of the interesting papers is a statement of the "Articles of Agreement between William L. Sublette, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Milton L. Sublette, John Baptiste Gervais, James Bridger, and Henry Fraeb, trading under the name and style of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company," dated 1832. This document was witnessed by Robert Campbell and Louis Vasquez, both of whom are prominent in the annals of the fur trade. Mr. Campbell later became a partner of Sublette on the Upper Missouri.

The Mexican War period is illustrated by many letters and statements. Thomas Fitzpatrick and Solomon P. Sublette were Indian agents in the west and their correspondence is to be found in the Sublette Collection. Among the papers is a letter written by John A. Sutter, the Swiss colonist in California, upon whose land gold was discovered, which discovery brought about the rush of 1849.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Washington University State Historical Society was incorporated January 1, 1902. It is supported and conducted by the voluntary contributions of time and money by its members. Plans are now maturing to secure a more permanent income and to hire a Secretary who will devote all his time to the collection of relics and papers and to research among the surviving pioneers.

In August, 1903, the Society planted at Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, a granite shaft to mark the place of

meeting of Vancouver and Quadra in 1792 to settle matters set forth in the treaty between Spain and England of October 28, 1790.

On October 21, 1904, the Society celebrated the anniversary of the first great case of arbitration between America and Great Britain by erecting on San Juan Island in this State two marble monuments, one at "American Camp" on the south end of the Island and the other at "British Camp" on the north end of the Island.

On June 20, 1905, the Society erected over the grave of Chief Joseph the Nez Perce, a suitable marble monument. This was at Nespelim on the Colville Indian Reservation in this State.

November 13, 1905, was the fifty-fourth birthday of the city of Seattle. On that day the Washington University Historical Society unveiled six bronze memorial tablets marking such places as the site of the first log cabin home, the first school, the first log cabin post office, the first steam saw mill on Puget Sound, and the location of the two blockhouse forts and the stockade built to defend the whites in the Indian war of 1855. In the afternoon an excursion repaired to Alki Point, across the Bay from the present city and there unveiled a large granite shaft to mark the spot where the colony of twelve adults and twelve children landed on November 13, 1851. From that colony has grown the city of Seattle.

All these exercises were impressive and awakened much interest in our work for history. Some of the survivors, sons of others, and in one case a grandson were present to aid in the work. Besides placing these monuments the Society has collected a few manuscripts, a large quantity of newspapers, some relics, and a large store of information about the Indians and first white settlers. The work is all done in close affiliation with the University of Washington, the State's principal institution of higher education.

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Oklahoma Historical Society is a creature of the editorial fraternity, created at the annual meeting of the association at Kingfisher on May 27, 1893. Subsequently at the legislative session in January, 1895, it became trustee of the Territory and has since been

sustained principally by appropriations. The law places the Society under editorial control, providing that a majority of the Board of Directors shall be editors.

While the scope of the collection comprehends the data, curios, and historic matters usual to historical societies, a peculiar feature of the mission of this Society is the collection and preservation of all publications of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. There are now on the shelves of the Society eighteen hundred bound volumes of these publications, with about three hundred additional volumes ready for the binder. The Society is provided with a card system by which every publication is listed. Newspaper and general accession books are also kept.

The collection has made a desirable growth during the past year, many of the accessions being unique and valuable either for a history or as relics. The visitors' records kept in the Oklahoma buildings at Chicago in 1893 and at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904; the silk banner of Oklahoma carried in the presidential parade at St. Louis on November 24, 1904; the original silk flag carried by David R. Payne in his forays into Oklahoma years before the opening of the Territory to settlement; Marcy's explorations of the country now comprising Oklahoma made in 1852, when the late General George B. McClellan was civil engineer, with maps and illustrations; authoritative history of the Greer County case wherein that county was wrested from Texas and made a part of Oklahoma as far back as 1834; reports of the Dawes Commission which contain about all there is to learn of the Indians who formed the original basis of Oklahoma's population; books of poems, prose, and politics by Oklahoma and Indian Territory authors; musical compositions and other features of the literary history of the Territories; photographic scenes and faces of those who have been most conspicuous in the Territory's history; Smithsonian, ethnological, and other government reports, especially those bearing upon Indian life, are features of the Society's collections.

The Society is negotiating for possession of the original regis-

tration papers of the Kiowa, Cadda, and Comanche opening of 1901 — in all 180,000 names of those who registered for claims in that section, names from every part of the Union. Over three hundred publications from various parts of the country containing accounts of the National Editorial Excursion through the Territories in June, 1905, have been secured and bound in souvenir volumes. The Oklahoma Historical Society began when the country was in its infancy, and now has a collection inestimable in its extent and accuracy.

The Society is controlled by a board of eleven directors which includes an executive committee, President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Custodian — the latter being the only salaried position. The appropriation for the biennial period of 1905-06 was \$4,000. The present officers are: President, Lincoln McKinlay, of Newkirk; Secretary, Lon Wharton, of Perry; Treasurer, J. W. McNeal, of Guthrie; Custodian, W. P. Campbell; Assistant Custodian, Miss Lela B. Mauldin, Oklahoma City.

Annual meetings of the Society are held in June. The membership fee is \$1.00 a year; life membership may be secured upon the payment of \$5.00. All editors who contribute their publications are members; and there are 524 of such members at present. A book containing a history of the Society, its work, collections, and donors, is in press.

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Arkansas Historical Association was organized in June, 1903, as a local organization among the students of the University of Arkansas. On December 18, 1903, it was reorganized on a broader basis; and in April, 1905, it was incorporated. The Association has issued a number of circulars, and now has about one hundred members.

At the request of the Association the General Assembly, by an act of April 27, 1905, created the Arkansas History Commission, and made it their duty "to direct and supervise the printing of the first volume of the publications of said [Arkansas Historical] Association; and furthermore, to make a full investigation with a view

to locating and ascertaining the present state of preservation of all extant sources of information concerning the history of Arkansas from the earliest times, including public records, newspaper files, battlefields in the State, and all documents pertaining to the part Arkansas and her troops played in all wars in which our people have been engaged." The results of this investigation are to be embodied in a detailed report to the Governor, who in turn is directed to transmit it, with his recommendations, to the next General Assembly. This act is a public recognition by the State of its duty to its history and public records.

In accordance with the provisions of this act the President of the Arkansas Historical Association appointed the Commission named above. They met in Little Rock, July 6, 1905, organized, adopted a plan of work, and entered upon the discharge of their duties. Their object, as the law provides, is to take an inventory of the source material of Arkansas history, to ascertain its condition, to tabulate and publish these facts in the first volume of the publications of the Arkansas Historical Association. This report will state *what* materials of historical value still exist and *where* they may be found. With this report in his hands the student of any phase of Arkansas history will know where to go for the information. It is furthermore the duty of the Commission to study what other States are doing for their history and to recommend what steps Arkansas should take to collect and preserve her history. The following outline of the work of the Commission has been prepared:—

Part I. An account of the Manuscripts, Papers, and Documents Concerning Arkansas in Official Repositories Beyond the State. Part II. An Account of the Manuscripts, Papers, and Documents in Official Repositories Within the State. Part III. An Account of the Manuscripts, Papers, and Documents in Private Hands. Part IV. War Records of Arkansas. Part V. Aboriginal and Indian Remains. Part VI. Points and Places of Historical Interest in Arkansas.

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society was held at Topeka on December 5, 1905. Papers and addresses were given as follows: *The Wyandotte Indians*, by Ray E. Merwin; *The Kansas Oil Producers against the Standard Oil Company*, by Wm. E. Connelley; *Building of the Sedan Court-house*, by H. B. Kelley; *Reminiscences of Dodge*, by R. M. Wright; *The Administration of John P. St. John*, by I. O. Pickering; *The Administration of George W. Glick*, by James Humphrey; *The Mastery of the Desert*, by F. W. Blackmar.

The Legislature of 1905 created, in connection with the Kansas State Historical Society, a department of archives. In Kansas, as elsewhere, public records and documents of the State, counties, and municipalities, after the active use of the same has ceased, have in many cases had no care whatever, and scores of important books and papers have been destroyed as of no value. Much can never be recovered, but there is yet time in which to gather up a great deal of documentary history.

The removal from an old court-house to a new one often leads to the discarding of some part of the papers which have been stored on the shelves and which are deemed of no further value in the current work of the office. Such papers often contain lists of names, with dates, and perhaps other matter identifying individuals, their occupations, etc., of great use in a genealogical way. Some months ago, after such a change in a Kansas county court-house, a lot of mildewed papers of this character was found in a dump, among them druggists' permits, road-tax rolls, petitions for the opening of roads, blank books in which were listed the soldiers of the late war, their widows, and orphans, together with many letters of historic nature dealing with a great variety of county affairs. They were cumbersome, not indexed, could not be referred to, but all worthy of preservation. In the archives department these will be arranged by counties, years, subjects, etc., indexed, and made available for any use required. The laws of Kansas are not effective in collecting com-

plete statistics of birth, deaths, and marriages, so that the preservation of any documents which will in a measure supplement those of the incomplete records kept by the county boards of health and county assessors is important.

The following is the law which was published June 8, 1905 (page 597, *Laws of 1905*):

AN ACT to provide for the care and preservation of public records.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

SECTION 1. That any State, county or other official is hereby authorized and empowered to turn over to the Kansas State Historical Society, for permanent preservation therein, any books, records, documents, original papers, or manuscripts, newspaper files and printed books not required by law to be kept in such office as a part of the public records, three years after the current use of the same, or sooner in the discretion of the head of the department. When so surrendered, copies therefrom shall be made and certified by the Secretary of the Historical Society upon the application of any party interested, which certification shall have all the force and effect as if made by the officer originally in custody of them.

SEC. 2. That the State Historical Society is hereby required to make a reference catalogue to the manuscripts, books, and papers so surrendered.—Approved, March 4, 1905.

ALASKA DISTRICT HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Alaska District Historical Library and Museum takes its origin in the following provisions of "An Act making further provision for a civil government for Alaska," which was approved June 6, 1900:

"SEC. 32. For each certificate issued to a member of the bar, authorizing him to practice law in the district, a fee of ten dollars shall be paid to the clerk of the court, which shall be by him promptly remitted to the secretary of the district, and at the same time the clerk shall advise the governor of such remittance. For each commission issued to a notary public a fee of ten dollars shall be paid to the secretary of the district. The fees received by the secretary under this section and under chapter seventy-four of title

two shall be by him retained and kept in a fund to be known as the district historical library fund. The fund thus collected shall be disbursed on the order of the governor for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the district historical library and museum. The same shall embrace copies of all laws relating to the district, and all papers and periodicals published within the district, and such other matter of historical interest as the governor may consider valuable and appropriate for such collection. The collection shall also embrace such curios relating to the aborigines and the settlers as may be by the governor deemed of historical importance. The collection thus made shall be described by the governor in the annual report of the governor to the Secretary of the Interior, and shall be by him kept in a secure place and turned over to his successor in office. The secretary of the district and the governor shall each annually account to the Secretary of the Interior for all receipts and disbursements in connection with such historical library and museum.

"SEC. 33. The historical library and museum provided for in section thirty-two of this title is hereby made a designated depository of publications of the Government, and shall be supplied with one copy of each of said publications in the same manner as such publications are supplied to other depositories."

The *Report of the Governor of the District of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior* for 1904 shows that a substantial library of books and manuscripts has been established at Sitka. Furthermore, Governor Brady reports that a museum of Alaskan objects has been begun.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The *Twenty-fifth Biennial Report of the Board of Curators* (1905) has been issued by the State Printer.

Mr. John C. Parish is engaged upon a biography of Governor Robert Lucas.

The Society has recently published the *Proceedings* of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth Iowa State Conferences of Charities and Correction. The book contains 279 pages.

The Society will soon publish *The Executive Register and Journal of Iowa* for 1846-58.

A list or catalog of the duplicates in the library of the Society has been published. These duplicates are offered for sale or exchange.

In their report to the Governor, the Curators have recommended that the permanent annual support of the Society be increased to \$15,000.

On Wednesday evening, November 29, 1905, the Board of Curators met to hear the report of Dr. Duren J. H. Ward on the investigation which he has recently conducted among the Musquakie Indians.

At the December meeting of the Board of Curators the following were appointed to represent the Society at the Baltimore and Washington conference of State and local historical societies which has been arranged in connection with the meeting of the American Historical Association: Benj. F. Shambaugh, F. E. Horack, and T. J. Fitzpatrick.