

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

On February 27, 1907, the new library building of the Maine Historical Society was dedicated at Portland.

The *Annual Report* of the Maryland Historical Society, for the year 1906, a pamphlet of twenty-five pages, was distributed in March, 1907.

The proceedings and addresses of the third annual meeting of the Pilot Knob Memorial Association, held September 26, 27, and 28, 1906, on the forty-second anniversary of the battle of Pilot Knob, have been issued as a booklet of fifty-two pages.

The Eighth Biennial Report of the Historical Department of Iowa, by Hon. Charles Aldrich, is a fourteen page pamphlet covering the work of the Department from October 31, 1905, to October 31, 1906, which was distributed in March, 1907.

The *Proceedings* of the New England Historic Genealogical Society for the annual meeting held January 30, 1907, is published as a supplement to the April, 1907, number of the quarterly *Register* issued by the Society. The memoirs of the deceased members for 1906 are inserted.

The *Proceedings* of the Worcester Society of Antiquity for the year 1905, issued in 1907, contains the minutes of the 400th to the 402nd meetings, besides three formal papers and three life sketches of local interest. During the year over four thousand items have been added to the library which brings the total to nearly fifty-seven thousand.

An article entitled *The Heroes of America*, by J. G. Hamilton, which gives some random and interesting information of a political secret society that is said to have existed in South Carolina during and immediately after the Civil War, and another unique contribution to the literature on racial questions which refutes some popular

misconceptions under the title of *More Race Problem Discussion*, by A. H. Stone, are to be found in the January, 1907, issue of *Publications* of the Southern History Association.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Dr. Thomas M. Owen was re-elected Director of the Department. The Department has just been installed in its new home in the south wing of the Capitol Building at Montgomery. The general maintenance fund has been increased by the legislature and the scope of the Department enlarged.

The *Missouri Historical Review* for January, 1907, begins with an article on the *Constitutional Conventions of Missouri, 1865-1875*, by W. F. Switzler; *The Shackelford Amendment*, by its author; a sketch of *Col. Benjamin Whiteman Grover*, by George S. Grover; *Historic Landmarks of Jefferson County, Missouri*, by John L. Thomas; and an unpublished letter of General Sigel on the *Battle of Wilson Creek*.

An address on *Christopher Columbus*, by W. G. Smith; a thesis on the *State of Geographical Knowledge at the Time of the Discovery of America, A. D. 1492*, by T. C. Middleton; and a general résumé on the *State of Medical Knowledge at the Time of the Discovery of America*, by L. F. Flick, occupy much of the issue of December, 1906, of the *Records* of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia.

The *Proceedings* of the American Antiquarian Society for the annual meeting held in Worcester, October 14, 1906, has recently been issued. The formal papers included are: *Some of the Roman Remains in England*, by S. S. Green; *On the Origin of the Cross Symbol*, by W. H. Holmes; *Ideal Newport in the Eighteenth Century*, by W. B. Weeden; and *Did Benjamin Franklin Fly his Electrical Kite before he Invented the Lightning Rod*, by A. L. Rotch.

The *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* for January, 1907, contains the proceedings and addresses of the Croghan Celebration held August 2, 1906, on the site of Fort Stephenson. The

remains of Colonel Croghan were interred with imposing ceremonies at the base of the monument erected in 1885. The celebration was given on the ninety-third anniversary of the defense of the Fort. This number of the *Quarterly* also contains much of interest relating to the War of 1812.

The leading article in *The American Historical Review* for January, 1907, is *Religion Still the Key to History*, by Simeon E. Baldwin, in which the point is made that all state churches will finally be disestablished, that the history of any nation will be largely governed by its means of education, and that the church exercises a stronger influence upon the mass of its adherents than upon the leaders in civil life who are better fitted to exercise independent judgment. The articles following are: *French Reports of British Parliamentary Debates in the Eighteenth Century*, by Paul Mantoux; *Proof that Columbus was Born in 1451: A New Document*, by Henry Vignaud; *The Black Warrior Affair*, by Henry L. Janes, an incident occurring February 28, 1854, when the American steamer was detained in Havana harbor and which led to serious diplomatic troubles with the Spanish Government; and lastly *The Literature of the South African War, 1899-1902*.

The third annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association was held at Portland, Oregon, on November 30 and December 1, 1906. Some of the papers presented were: *Cook's Place in Northwestern History*, by Professor J. N. Bowman; *Origin of British Interest in the Northwest*, by Professor Joseph Schafer; *Finances of the Cayuse Indian War, 1847-'48*, by Professor F. H. Young; *Suggestions on the History of the Federal Relations of the States*, by Professor C. A. Duniway; *Some Considerations on the History of Spain and Spanish America in the Eighteenth Century*, by Mr. Don E. Smith; *Criticism of American Historical Documents*, by Professor Max Farrand; and *The Organization of Work with Historical Manuscripts*, by Professor H. Morse Stephens.

THE MADISON COUNTY (IOWA) HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Madison County Historical Society held their fourth annual meeting in the court house at Winterset, Iowa, on March 19, 1907. The meeting was presided over by the President of the Society, H. A. Mueller. Following the program, officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, H. A. Mueller; Vice President, O. L. Evans; Secretary and Curator, Walter F. Craig; Treasurer, Ezra Brownell; Directors, M. C. Leinard, Wm. Brinson, W. H. Lewis, and W. W. Gentry. Attention was called to the death of the late A. J. Hoisington, who was a member of the Society, and resolutions were read and adopted, directing the President to cooperate with his legal representatives to the end that some plan may be decided upon whereby the voluminous manuscript prepared by him on the history of Madison County may be preserved for future publication.

The *History of the Irish Settlement* in Madison County, a paper by James Gillaspie written for the Madison County Historical Society, appears in the columns of *The Winterset News* for March 29, 1907.

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The eighth annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society was held at Springfield on January 24 and 25, 1907, in the Supreme Court Room. The forenoon of the first day was devoted chiefly to business, the election of officers, and a conference of local historical societies. Professor S. A. Forbes was scheduled for an address on *Grierson's Cavalry Raid*. For the afternoon the following papers were scheduled: *The Integral Phalanx: A Fourier Experiment in Illinois*, by Mr. George E. Dawson; *Early Literary Men of Illinois: Judge James Hall*, by Prof. Everts B. Greene; *Indian Legends*, by Mrs. Alfred Bayliss; and *The Life and Times of Gen. John Edgar*, by Hon. James H. Roberts. In the evening the annual address was given by Prof. Benj. F. Shambaugh, of The State University of Iowa, who spoke on *The History of the West*.

The program for the second day of the session consisted of a symposium on *The Teaching of State History in the Public Schools*; a

paper on *Some Early Physicians of Illinois*, by Dr. John H. Hollister; *Illinois Archaeology*, by Mr. Clark McAdams; *The Earthquakes of 1811 and 1812 in Southern Illinois*, by Daniel Berry; *General La Fayette's Visit to Illinois in 1825*, by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin; *Dr. John M. Peck and Shurtleff College*, by Hon. J. Otis Humphrey; and *Personal Reminiscences of Gen. U. S. Grant*, by Judge Jacob Wilkin.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

In January, 1907, the Twenty-sixth *Biennial Report of the Board of Curators* was issued. The pamphlet contains 25 pages.

A Brief History of The State Historical Society of Iowa 1857-1907 appears as a twenty-four page reprint from the April, 1903, number of *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*.

Robert Lucas, by John C. Parish, appears as the first of the *Iowa Biographical Series* issued by the Society. Benj. F. Shambaugh is the editor of the series. The book on *Robert Lucas* contains 356 pages.

On Thursday of the week devoted to a commemoration of the Constitution of Iowa the President of The State University of Iowa gave a reception in honor of the officers of The State Historical Society of Iowa and the University Senate.

By an act of the Thirty-second General Assembly the permanent annual support of the Society has been increased from \$7,500 to \$12,000. This is a very substantial gain and will enable the Society to realize more fully the purposes for which it was established.

As a souvenir of the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Constitution of the State of Iowa a pocket edition of the Constitution was issued by the Society. The booklet contains an historical introduction by Benj. F. Shambaugh; and amendments during the half century from 1857 to 1907 follow the text of the Constitution itself.

NOTES AND COMMENT

Dr. Duren J. H. Ward has removed from Iowa City to Fort Collins, Colorado.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Sciences will be held at Drake University, April 26-27, 1907.

On February 22, 1907, there was presented at the High School in Tipton, Iowa, a program commemorative of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the graded schools of that place.

The Mail and Times, Des Moines, Iowa, for sometime edited by Frank W. Bicknell, passed with the issue for April 6, 1907, into the hands of C. C. Pugh, of Des Moines, and J. F. Schindler, of Boston.

The fourth biennial *Report* of the Minnesota Public Library Commission, 1905-1906, distributed in April, 1907, is a finely printed publication of nearly ninety pages which shows commendable progress in library work.

A *Bibliography* of the State, town, county, and territorial history of the United States, compiled by Thomas L. Bradford and edited and revised by Stan. V. Henkels is announced for early publication. The work will be issued in five octavo volumes of about four hundred pages each and will be published by Henkels & Morrison, of Philadelphia.

The tenth annual report of the Cedar Rapids Free Public Library, 1906, was issued early in the year 1907. From this the information is obtained that the receipts were slightly in excess of eight thousand dollars with the expenditures nearly the same. Two thousand one hundred and fifty-seven volumes were added to the library. The total circulation was 78,586. During the year the Public Library took charge of the High School Library.

The thirty-first annual *Report* of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics, and History of Texas, part II, contains the re-

ports of the State Librarian and of the Classifier and Translator of Manuscripts. From the report it is learned that the efforts of the State Library are exerted in the direction of the collection of materials relating to Texas and the southwest, leaving the field of general literature to the public libraries and the educational institutions.

The eleventh annual meeting of the State Association of County Supervisors was held at Des Moines, January 23-25, 1907. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: Frank T. Morris, of Polk County, President; I. H. Manley, of Poweshiek County, Vice President; J. E. Taggart, of Page County, Secretary; and Godfrey Durst, of Woodbury County, Treasurer. The next session will be held at Clinton, August 14-16, 1907. The proceedings of the last session will be issued in pamphlet form.

The Iowa State Association of County Treasurers and the Iowa Association of County Auditors held their annual sessions at Des Moines, January 23-25, 1907. The officers of the Treasurers' Association are: George E. Kellogg, of Audubon County, President; P. J. Brandrup, of Hamilton County, Vice President; E. D. Carlton, of Dickinson County, Secretary; and W. L. Lundy, of Page County, Treasurer. The officers of the Auditors' Association are: A. S. Lawrence, of Muscatine County, President; E. F. Marker, of Clay County, Vice President; E. D. Hoxey, of Buena Vista County, Secretary; and F. W. Leedham, of Clinton County, Treasurer. Both Associations will meet at Clinton, August 14-16, 1907.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF COL. B. W. WILSON

At the age of nineteen he enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to Company G. Mounted Rifles, the regiment of which John C. Fremont was then Colonel. At this time, however, Colonel Fremont with five companies of the regiment was on the Pacific Coast. The other companies were quartered at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. While there the war with Mexico was declared and these companies were sent to the front as a part of Gen. Winfield Scott's command. Mr. Wilson served in Mexico until peace was declared,