NOTES AND COMMENT

An elaborate history of the Mexican War is being prepared by Professor Justin H. Smith of Dartmouth College.

A recent book by Kinnie A. Ostewig, entitled *The Sage of Sinnissippi,* consists of a brief sketch of the life of Congressman Frank O. Lowden of Oregon, Illinois.

The Plymouth Congregational Church of Des Moines and the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches of Sioux City have recently held exercises commemorative of the fiftieth anniversary of their organization.

Professor Walter L. Fleming of Louisiana State University is engaged in writing a biography of Jefferson Davis. At the same time Dr. Dunbar Rowland, Director of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi, is collecting materials for the publication of the writings and speeches of Davis.

The preparation of a guide to the materials for American History in the Archives of Paris was begun in July by Mr. Waldo G. Leland of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. During his absence Dr. Marcus W. Jernegan, formerly of the University of Chicago, will be a member of the staff of the Department of Historical Research. Professor Herbert E. Bolton of the University of Texas is engaged upon a similar guide to the material in Mexico.

Mr. F. H. Garver, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa, is engaged in the preparation of a bibliography of county histories of Iowa. He would be glad to receive information concerning the title, date of publication and publisher of any such works. In particular, information is desired in regard to the "Centennial" histories of the counties recommended by Governor Kirkwood in 1876. He can be addressed in care of The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa.

On the occasion of the dedication of McLoughlin Institute at Oregon City, Oregon, October 6, many tributes were paid to the memory of Doctor John McLoughlin. Addresses were delivered by President W. D. Fenton, of the Oregon Historical Society, Joseph E. Hedges, representing Governor Chamberlain, and others; but the principal address was delivered by Frederick V. Holman, editor of a recent history of McLoughlin.

Mr. Irving B. Richman, member of The Board of Curators of The State Historical Society of Iowa and author of *Rhode Island, its Making and its Meaning* and other historical works is spending the winter in California. He is engaged in collecting material for a history of the State of California and is one of the first to make use of the very valuable historical collection of Hubert Bancroft, recently made accessible to the public through acquisition by the University of California.

At Muskogee, Oklahoma, on November 19, 1907, occurred the opening of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, and the discussion of water-ways, irrigation, conservation of forests, and kindred topics engrossed the attention of a large gathering. The chief address of the opening day was delivered by General John W. Noble, who was Secretary of the Interior under President Harrison and who took an important part in the opening of the Territory of Oklahoma. General Noble was a prominent Iowan in earlier years, practising law in Keokuk in partnership with Ralph P. Lowe, and serving with distinction in the War of the Rebellion. After the close of the War he moved to St. Louis.

The death of Frank W. Palmer on December 3, 1907, removes one of the most prominent men contributed by the State of Iowa to the service of the public. In 1858 he came to Iowa from New York as a young man and took an important place in the State for fifteen years. In 1860 he was elected State Printer and continued in office until 1869, publishing in the meantime the *Iowa State Register*. In 1868 he was called to serve the State in the lower house of Congress. Retiring from Congressional affairs in 1873, he published the *Chicago Inter Ocean* and was later editor of the *Chicago Herald*. He was Postmaster of Chicago from 1877 to 1885, and

was United States Government Printer from 1888 to 1894 and from 1897 to 1905. Highest integrity and ability have marked his entire public career.

The marking of historic sites is receiving attention in Illinois through the work of the various chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. One phase of the work is the movement for the preservation of Old Fort Massac in southern Illinois where the national flag was first unfurled in Illinois. The site has been purchased by the State for a National Park and placed in charge of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Illinois. Plans have been made for the erection of a suitable monument. Memorials have been placed to mark the first home of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois, the site of old Fort Armstrong on Rock Island, the graves of several Revolutionary soldiers and a number of other historic spots.

THE WORK OF PROFESSOR BOLTON IN MEXICO

Professor Herbert E. Bolton has been commissioned by the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington to prepare a "Guide to the Materials for the History of the United States contained in the Archives of Mexico", which is to appear as one of the series of guides to foreign archives, including those of France, Spain, Cuba, England, and the Vatican, projected by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The appointment was made as a result of considerable familiarity with Mexican Archives gained by Professor Bolton during several summers spent in Mexico.

To perform this important task Professor Bolton has been granted leave of absence from the University of Texas, and he expects to remain in the Republic until next October. His plan is to include in the guide the most important public archives, both central and provincial, and such ecclesiastical collections as are valuable and accessible. This guide should be of special interest to students of Southwestern history, since, for geographical reasons, materials for Southwestern history are more abundant in Mexico than those for other parts of the United States.

EPHRAIM ADAMS AND THE IOWA BAND

The Reverend Ephraim Adams died at Waterloo, Iowa, on the morning of November 30, 1907, in his ninetieth year. Sixty four years ago he came to the Territory of Iowa from New England with the "Iowa Band" of Congregational ministers. Eleven young men fresh from New England theological seminaries devoted their lives to the ministry in the Territory of Iowa, then the far western frontier. Nine came in 1843 and two more followed in the next year. Interwoven as were their lives with the early history of Iowa, strong in their influence on the growing Commonwealth, their service is worthy of more than the passing tribute of a prosperous people. Theirs were the years of struggle and hardship; of sacrifice and denial. On long circuits and in frontier towns they worked in the pioneer years of our history. They watched the population grow and institutions develop, and as their years lengthened they one by one gave way to the ultimate call. Reverend Ephraim Adams was the historian of the "Band" and in the pages of his *The Iowa Band* one finds their story, simply told, with extracts from a diary kept in the year 1844 by the writer. The death of Reverend Adams leaves but one survivor of the Iowa Band, Rev. William Salter of Burlington. To him Reverend Adams has given the cane which he has carried for a number of years and which had been the property of seven members of the "Band" before him. A pathetic incident of the funeral services, which occurred at Waterloo on December 3, was the tribute to Reverend Adams by the now sole survivor, Reverend Salter, in which he bade farewell, "a short farewell" to the friend he had known and loved for sixty-five years.

A ROSTER OF IOWA SOLDIERS

The Thirty-second General Assembly of Iowa by an act approved April 9, 1907, provided for the publication by the State of complete rosters of Iowa soldiers enlisted for the Civil War and of other wars in which Iowa troops were engaged or for which they were organized. The necessity for this work grew out of the fact that the Adjutant General's *Reports* issued during the Civil War have long been out of print and have become very scarce. They

are also cumbrous and defective. Having been issued in yearly volumes, the original enlistments of regiments are in one volume, the recruits in another, re-enlistments in another, and casualties in another. Many errors in names and places of residence appear, which a recompilation, aided by more recent historical accessions and the memories of survivors, will largely eliminate.

The records of the Spanish-American and Philippine War soldiers, which will be brought by the new compilation into harmonious and accessible relations with their comrades of previous service, are now buried in the midst of a set of *Iowa Documents* and are unsatisfactory in detail.

The records of the part borne by Iowa in the Mexican War are obscure almost to the point of obliteration. Rosters of Iowa soldiers mustered into the service of the United States do not exist outside of the War Department at Washington, and are there guarded from access by rigid rules that require yards of "red tape" and an appropriation not previously available to break through. Then there were military companies to the number of a dozen or more, organized by the eager patriots of the young Territory, but whose services were not accepted, and it is the duty of the State that their devotion should be recognized, and their memory preserved.

The Territorial militia, promptly organized because every mile of the new territory was an exposed frontier, springing promptly to arms when a border dispute threatened the dire arbitrament of war, deserves recognition when Iowa's military history is told, and the names of the pioneers who were entrusted with commissions in its organization will form a record invaluable to those who in coming years can thus justify pride in an ancestry whose nobility was earned rather than created. Indeed, a prime value of the entire roster work will be the aid which it will afford to future genealogical research.

The official Board provided by the Roster Act consists of Governor A. B. Cummins, Attorney General H. W. Byers, Adjutant General W. H. Thrift, Curator Charles Aldrich (of the Historical Department of Iowa), and Colonel George W. Crosley of Webster City, who was named under the provisions of the act by the De-

partment Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. Colonel Crosley is Secretary of the Board and will have principal charge of the historical part of the work. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Third Iowa Infantry in the Civil War. Curator Aldrich and General Thrift also served as soldiers in the Civil War.

The compilation of the Mexican War and Territorial Militia volume of the set has been assigned to Harvey Reid, of Maquoketa, a member of The State Historical Society, who is also a Civil War soldier, and who has, during several years of research, already collected much valuable material bearing upon this obscure portion of Iowa military history. The initial volume will also preserve a record of the terrible experiences of the Spirit Lake Massacre, and the heroic manhood and military spirit displayed by its rescue party.

CONTRIBUTORS

LOUIS PELZER, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. Born near Atlantic, Iowa, 1879. Graduate of Iowa State Normal School in 1901. Principal of Schools, Shelby, Iowa, 1905-1907. Graduated from The State University of Iowa, 1907. Author of *The Negro and Slavery in Early Iowa;* also *The Origin and Organization of the Republican Party in Iowa;* and *The History and Principles of the Whigs of the Territory of Iowa;* and *The Election of Francis Gehon in 1839.*

DAN ELBERT CLARK, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. Scholar in History at The State University of Iowa. Born at Ogden, Iowa, July 25, 1883. Graduated from the Ogden High School in 1901. Graduated from The State University of Iowa in 1907. Author of *The Beginnings of Liquor Legislation in Iowa,* and *Judicial Districting in Iowa.*

JOHN CARL PARISH, Assistant Editor in The State Historical Society of Iowa. Member of the American Historical Association. Member of the American Political Science Association. Born at Des Moines, Iowa, 1881. Graduate from Iowa State Normal School, 1902. Taught in Winterset High School, 1902-1904. Graduated from The State University of Iowa, 1905. Received the degree of M. A. at The State University of Iowa, 1906. Author of *The Bribery of Alexander W. McGregor;* also *The Robert Lucas Journal;* and *Robert Lucas* (a biography).

JOSEPH W. RICH, Member of the Board of Curators of The State Historical Society of Iowa. Member of the American Economic Association. Member of the National Geographical Society. Born in New York, 1838. Editor of the *Vinton Eagle* for sixteen years. Regent of The State University of Iowa six years. Librarian of The State University of Iowa six years. Served in Company E of the 12th Iowa Infantry in the Civil War. Author of the *Evolution of the American System of Protective Tariffs;* and *The Hampton Roads Conference;* etc.

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