

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

PUBLICATIONS

Aside from a few pages of *Extracts from Selectmen's Records*, the *Medford Historical Register* for October is given over to *Some Letters of Miss Lucy Osgood* edited by Henry C. DeLong.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin announces the publication of volume V of the reprint of *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, and a volume from the Draper manuscripts giving details of Revolutionary operations on the upper Ohio River in 1775-1777. The *Proceedings* of the fifty-fifth annual meeting of the Society, held at Madison, November 7, 1907, will also be published in the near future.

The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine for October, 1907, contains four contributions, all of them continuations and all of them consisting of edited original material. Distributed by the Society in 1907 was *An Address Delivered by Henry A. M. Smith at the Unveiling of the Monument to General Thomas Sumter at Statesburgh, S. C., August 14, 1907*, published in a pamphlet of about seventy pages.

Some original historical material of great importance is published for the first time in *The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* for July. It consists of *General Austin's Order Book for the Campaign of 1835* and contains valuable documents relative to the Texas Revolution. The two remaining articles in this issue are *Reminiscences of Reconstruction in Texas* by T. B. Wheeler, and *Elizabeth Bullock Huling, a Texas Pioneer* by Adele B. Looscan.

Under the title of *A Typical Missionary: Rev. Sebastian Rale, the Apostle of the Abnakis* there is begun by H. C. Schuyler in the *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society* for June, 1907, a biography of a Jesuit missionary who worked among the Indians of Canada during the last part of the seventeenth and the first part

of the eighteenth centuries. A collection of *Correspondence between the Sees of Quebec and Baltimore* is also published in this issue of the *Records*, and an article by James J. Walsh on *Robert Dwyer Joyce, M. D.*, the Irish-American poet.

A paper read before the Chicago Historical Society and the Evanston Historical Society by Frank R. Grover on *Father Pierre Francois Pinet, S. J. and his Mission of the Guardian Angel of Chicago 1696-1699* appears as one of the publications of the Chicago Historical Society. Mr. Grover tells, with the aid of numerous quotations from contemporary writings, the story of this mission on the shore of Lake Michigan north of the present site of Chicago in 1696. The illustrations include a map and several plates.

Among the publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission for 1907 is an essay on *The Beginnings of English America: Sir Walter Raleigh's Settlements on Roanoke Island 1584-1587*. The story of the "Lost Colony" is interestingly told and well illustrated with plates from the John White Pictures. There also appears *Bulletin No. 1*, entitled *The North Carolina Historical Commission*. It consists of a brief sketch of the creation, organization, and work of the Commission. The laws providing for its establishment and support are printed and a topical statement of what the Commission has done.

Three articles comprise the general reading matter of the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society* for January-April, 1907. The first is *An Examination of Old Maps of Northern New Jersey* by Elizabeth S. Brown, the examination being made with reference to the identification of the Nutley Area and Washington's route across it, and to the boundary dispute between Newark and Acquackanonk. There follows a continuation of Mr. William Nelson's article on *The Founder of the Van Buskirk Family in America*. The third article, written by A. Q. Keasby, is on *Slavery in New Jersey*.

Chapter III of the life of *Francis Daniel Pastorius* by Marion D. Learned constitutes the major part of the *German American Annals* for September and October, 1907. This installment treats of

the period of his life just preceding his migration to America in 1683 and is illustrated by a number of plates. The remaining numbers in the issue are *Alexander Reinagle, and his Connection with the Musical Life of Philadelphia* by R. R. Drummond, *Provincialisms of Southeastern Pennsylvania* by Professor Heydrick, and a *Bibliography of German Americana for the Year 1906* by William G. Bek.

A contribution bearing the title of *Sarah Loretta Denny—A Tribute* opens the October number of *The Washington Historical Quarterly*. *Daniel Webster and Old Oregon* by C. T. Johnson discusses Webster's attitude toward the Pacific Northwest. Edmond S. Meany tells of his meeting the *Last Survivor of the Oregon Mission of 1840*. *The Whitman Monument* is a plea for the removal of the debt from that memorial. Other contributions are *The United States Army in Washington Territory* by Thomas W. Prosch; a collection of data concerning *Washington Territory in the War between the States*; and an installment of *Old Letters from Hudson Bay Company Officials and Employes from 1829 to 1840* edited from documents secured by Mrs. Eva Emery Dye.

A *Manual of the Western Reserve Historical Society*, issued in 1907, gives a summary of the history, organization, condition, purposes, and services of the Society in a pamphlet of about thirty-five pages. The antecedents of the Society may be traced to 1811; from 1867 to 1892 it existed as the Historical Department of the Cleveland Library Association; and in the latter year an independent charter under the present name was obtained. The publications date as early as 1870 and are in the form of tracts numbered consecutively and comprising ninety in all. The tracts are listed with a brief description of each; the titles indicate research along a number of valuable lines. Three plates, showing an exterior and two interior views of the building of the Society, illustrate the pamphlet.

A short sketch of *Governor Preston H. Leslie* by Mrs. Jennie C. Morton opens the September number of the *Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*. The subject of the sketch, whose death occurred in February, 1907, was Governor of the State of

Kentucky from 1871 to 1875 and was appointed Governor of the Territory of Montana by President Cleveland in 1889. Other articles are: *Franklin County, Kentucky*, the first chapter of a county history by L. F. Johnson; *The Old Fort* by W. W. Stephenson, a discussion of the location of the old fort at Harrod's Town illustrated by a map of the fort; and *Did De Soto Discover Kentucky at the Time of his Conquest of Florida* by Z. F. Smith. It is the author's contention that in his march northward from Florida De Soto passed over into what is now Kentucky in the summer of 1540 and from there turned again southward.

The Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society 1905-1906 contains much of interest. An address by Wendell Phillips Stafford on *Thaddeus Stevens*, delivered at the annual meeting of the Vermont Historical Society in November, 1906, is published in full. Judge Stafford does not present new material regarding Thaddeus Stevens but gives an eloquent word-picture of that fiery exponent of negro freedom. A short paper on *Prehistoric Vermont* by George Henry Perkins discusses evidences of early occupation by Indian tribes. A brief sketch of the life of General James Whitelaw precedes a copy of a *Journal of General James Whitelaw Surveyor General of Vermont*. This journal was kept during the years 1773 and 1774 and is accompanied with data relating to other years. The manuscript is in the possession of the Vermont Historical Society.

The Missouri Historical Review for July contains the following articles: *Glimpses of Old Missouri by Explorers and Travelers* by Francis A. Sampson; *Presbyterianism in Saline County, Missouri*, by J. L. Woodbridge; the third installment of *Historic Landmarks of Jefferson County* by John L. Thomas; *A Few of the Leading People and Events of Early Missouri History* by J. C. Broadhead; a collection of *Documents Illustrating the Troubles on the Border, 1859*, by Jonas Viles; and *Selections from the Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser*. The issue for October contains an article on *The Retirement of Thomas H. Benton from the Senate and its Significance* by P. O. Ray, being a condensation of two chapters in a more extended work on *The Genesis of the Repeal of the*

Missouri Compromise upon which Professor Ray is now engaged. We note also in this number *Missouri from 1849 to 1861* by Charles M. Harvey, a discussion of a period in which the State of Missouri most certainly took an important place in the course of national events.

Jonathan Law was Governor of Connecticut from 1742-1750. Now, one hundred and fifty-seven years after his death, his letters and papers are being published by the Connecticut Historical Society. The papers begin with October, 1741, for Law in his capacity as Deputy Governor took up the duties of the office at that time by reason of the death of Governor Talcott. Volume XI of the *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society* includes papers dating from October 1741 to July 1745, and subsequent volumes will continue the publication. An extremely important collection of papers is here given to the public, bearing upon internal affairs of the colony, troubles with Indians, and relations to other colonies and to England. In the later part of the volume many letters have to do with the expedition of 1745 against Louisbourg.

Of exceeding interest is the series of papers and letters edited in the current numbers of *The "Old Northwest" Genealogical Quarterly* and listed as *Selections from the Papers of Governor Allen Trimble*. The October number includes manuscripts between the dates 1823 and 1830, some of them private and some of them of a public character. Many are written to and from the most prominent men of that day in Ohio and afford an invaluable commentary on State history. Other articles in the October issue are *Origin of the Johnston Family* by James R. Johnston, and *Correspondence of Col. James Denny, of Circleville, Ohio*, by Henry D. Turney. This collection of letters dates from 1808-1815 and gives interesting side lights on the War of 1812 in the western campaigns of which Denny was a participant. He was an officer in the fated army which Hull surrendered at Detroit, and his letters contain frequent allusions to the same incidents which are detailed by Robert Lucas in his *Journal* kept during the same campaign. With Lucas, whom he mentions, he shared the common feeling of bitter disappointment at the outcome. He writes to his wife five days after the sur-

render: "I can not write you the particulars which have led to our capture—it will require a column no less than an Arnold conspiracy; it is a tale our country will weep at hearing. Two thousand prisoners grounding their arms to an inferior force, without a conflict, is without a parallel in the history of our country."

Full of interesting contributions is the October number of the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. All of the four articles deal with "primeval" topics or with the history of Ohio prior to its Statehood. *American Aborigines and their Social Customs* is a presentation of the life and habits of the Indian in general by J. A. Easton. *The Mounds of Florida and their Builders* by J. F. Richmond describes the nature of the remains in that State. An article on *Major-General Arthur St. Clair* by Albert Douglas is a laudable attempt to do justice to one who fell under the ban of frontier unpopularity and whose reputation has for that reason suffered more deeply than was deserving. His mistakes were many but his long and arduous service was of great import to the country and we earnestly hope that the movement for the erection of a bronze statue on the grounds of the State House at Columbus, Ohio, will be successful. An article by E. O. Randall entitled *Washington and Ohio* outlines the romantic story that unites the First American with the Ohio country. Following this are three poems: *Prolific Ohio* by Lucien Seymour; *A Buckeye Home Coming* by Thomas M. Earl; and *The Buckeye Pioneers* by Osman C. Hooper, each of them written for an historical gathering.

In *The American Historical Review* for October, Ettore Pais under the title *Amunclae a Serpentibus Deletae* makes an inquiry into the cause of the end of that ancient city, Amunclae, concerning which an old tradition declares that the inhabitants, belonging to the Pythagorean sect which forbade the slaying of animals, perished by reason of the bites of snakes that infested the swamps in the neighborhood. *The Descendants of the Curia Regis* is a brief treatment, with the use of a chart, of the relation of English institutions to the Curia Regis, by George Burton Adams. Two more extended articles appear in this issue, one on *The Mecklenburg Declaration: the Present Status of the Question* by A. S. Salley, Jr.,

and the other on *The Records of the Federal Convention* by Max Farrand. Mr. Salley's article is an excellent analysis of the literature on this much disputed controversy and also includes the result of independent investigation that adds light upon the matter. The presentation is clearly given and the conclusions seem amply sustained by the facts. The reader will be inclined to concur with the writer in the belief that the Mecklenburg *Resolves* of May 31, 1775, are genuine, but are in no sense a Declaration of Independence, while the *Declaration* of May 20, 1775, is essentially a Declaration of Independence, anticipating some of the wording of the Declaration of 1776, but that it is not genuine, but simply an imposture fabricated at a much later date and foisted upon a too credulous people. It is only another example of the ultimate arrival at truth through scientific methods of research. Mr. Farrand's article is an able discussion of the various Records of the Constitutional Convention giving more attention naturally to the *Journal* of the Secretary and Madison's *Debates* but commenting briefly upon all. Some interesting comparisons are made between the *Journal* and Madison's *Debates*, and attention is drawn to certain cases in which Madison corrected his own manuscript by the *Journal*, sometimes falling into error thereby. The second part of the document entitled *Directorium ad Faciendum Passagium Transmarinum*, with an introduction by C. Raymond Beazley, also appears in this number.

ACTIVITIES

Miss Idress Adaline Head has been chosen as Librarian of the Missouri Historical Society, at St. Louis to succeed Miss Mary Louise Dalton, who died in June, 1907. Miss Head is a native of Missouri and has been teaching in the Normal School at Cape Girardeau and assisting in the compilation of a history of Missouri.

The American Historical Association held its annual meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, December 27-31, 1907. Meetings of the following organizations were also held at this time: American Economic Association, American Political Science Association, American Sociological Society, American Association for Labor Legislation, and Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

In the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* for October we note a list of honorary and life members of the Society showing six of the former and two hundred of the latter class. The Society is a progressive organization and its researches particularly in the archaeological field have added much to historical knowledge.

At the Madison meeting of the American Historical Association and the American Political Science Association, these two organizations voted to meet next year at Richmond, Virginia. At the respective business meetings, Ambassador James Bryce was chosen President of the American Political Science Association and Professor George Burton Adams of Yale was elected to fill the corresponding office for the American Historical Association.

Collection and publication of North Carolina archives was placed in the hands of a Historical Commission by the General Assembly of the State in 1903. According to the report of this Commission for the years 1903-1905 the appropriation was but \$500 annually to cover the expense of collection and transcription, the documents to be issued by the State printer as public printing. It is pleasing to note that a law of the General Assembly in March, 1907, enlarges the power of the Commission and places the annual support at \$5,000.

In connection with the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society, there was begun at Topeka, on December 6, a celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Free State Legislature of Kansas Territory. There are six survivors of the group of fifty-six men who composed that memorable body. The evening meeting of the Society was marked by two addresses, *The First State Legislature* by D. E. Ballard and *The Measure of a State* by Mrs. Margaret H. McCarter, and by the anniversary ceremonies consisting of an introduction by Governor Hoch and responses by the survivors of the Legislature of 1857. On the day following, the Anniversary was continued at Lawrence in the form of a meeting of the Territorial Legislature and reports from members. The program for the afternoon and evening consisted of a drive to the State University and other points of interest, dinner, and a social reunion.

At the Conference on the Problems of State and Local Historical Societies, held in connection with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Madison, Wisconsin, in December, 1907, the following motion was carried: "That a committee of seven be appointed by the chairman of this Conference for the purpose of formulating and reporting at the next annual meeting a plan for the coöperation of state historical societies and departments in the collection and publication of historical materials in the form of transcripts of original documents. That the committee be authorized to report fully and completely upon the subjects referred to it."

The committee appointed consists of Dunbar Rowland of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi, Chairman; J. Franklin Jameson of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; Evarts B. Greene of the University of Illinois; Thomas M. Owen of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Alabama; Benj. F. Shambaugh of The State Historical Society of Iowa; Reuben Gold Thwaites of The State Historical Society of Wisconsin; and Worthington C. Ford of the Library of Congress.

A Conference on the Problems of State and Local Historical Societies took place on the morning of December 28, 1907, at Madison, Wisconsin, as a part of the program of the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. Frank H. Severance of the Buffalo Historical Society presided over the Conference and Evarts B. Greene of the University of Illinois acted as Secretary. The program was opened by a *Report on the Year's Progress* by Evarts B. Green in which he outlined the most important of the undertakings and achievements of the various societies during the past year. *The Coöperation of State Historical Societies in the Gathering of Material in Foreign Archives* received considerable attention. In the absence of Arthur G. Doughty, Archivist of the Dominion of Canada, who was to have presented the subject, the discussion was opened with a paper by Dunbar Rowland of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, who was followed by Clarence W. Alvord of the Illinois State Historical Library.

After some discussion a motion was carried to appoint a committee of seven to take steps for the coöperation of historical societies in the gathering of materials from the archives in Washington, D. C. and in foreign depositories, said committee to report at the next annual meeting of the American Historical Association. The *Scientific Organization of Historical Museums* was the subject of a paper read by Lucy M. Salmon, Professor in Vassar College, and discussed by Julian P. Bretz and others. A paper on *Coöperation of Local Historical Societies* by John F. Ayer, Secretary of the Bay State Historical League, was read, in his absence, by the secretary of the Conference.

Preëminent among the historical societies of the West in the scope of its activities, in the extent and value of its library, and in the liberality with which it is supported, is the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. On the afternoon and evening of November 7, 1907, the Society held its fifty-fifth annual meeting. The business session occurred in the afternoon at which time twelve Curators were elected for the ensuing term of three years. The Treasurer's report showed that the Society's private funds now amount to over \$55,000, there being a net gain of over \$2500 in the past year. The last legislature also increased the support for administrative purposes by an additional \$5000. Superintendent Reuben Gold Thwaites reported a large increase in the library which now contains nearly 300,000 titles. From all over the country scholars come to this library for the purpose of research. Dr. Thwaites emphasized in his report the crowded condition of the present library building and urged upon the legislature the erection of the proposed wing to the building. It was understood at the last session that this request would be granted in 1909 but it may be necessary to secure outside storage room until that time. In executive committee meeting the present officers of the Society were reëlected for a term of three years. The evening session was opened by the address of the President of the Society, William Ward Wight of Milwaukee. Papers on the following subjects were read: *Fox Indian Wars in Wisconsin* by Louise Phelps Kellogg, *Reminiscences of a Pioneer in the Rock River Country* by Edwin Delos Coe, *The*

Polish People of Portage County by Albert Hart Sanford, *Economic Conditions in the Northwest, 1860-70* by Carl Russell Fish, and *Invention of the Roller Flour Mill* by Publius V. Lawson. There was a large attendance at the meeting, nearly every section of the State being represented. There are at present over six hundred members of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, among whom are the principal men of the State. The meeting closed with an informal reception by the resident Curators, the ladies of the Historical and University staffs serving light refreshments.

An excellent step has been taken by the various organizations of the Ohio Valley interested in historical work. A movement inaugurated by the Cincinnati History Teachers Association resulted in a successful meeting on November 29-30, 1907, of the Central Ohio Valley History Conference, the purpose being to bring about some form of coöperation among history workers, historical societies, patriotic societies, and history teachers. The sessions were held at Cincinnati. On Friday afternoon, November 29, the principal address was given by Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, on *The Mission of Local History*. Following this were reports on various phases of the relation of the State to work in local history, by E. O. Randall, Secretary of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, Mrs. Jennie C. Morton, Secretary of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Virgil A. Lewis, Director of the Department of Archives and History of West Virginia and C. B. Galbreath, Librarian of the Ohio State Library. Reports of special work in local history were also given by George S. Cottman of Indianapolis, W. W. Longmoor of Frankfort, Kentucky, and Frederick Hinkle of the Cincinnati Branch of the Archaeological Institute of America. The evening program consisted of an introductory address on *The Autocrat of Indiana* by William Dudley Foulke, and a poem, *The Founder*, by William H. Venable. The leading paper of the morning session of November 30, was on *The Teacher of the Social Sciences* by James Alton James of Northwestern University, which was discussed by Samuel B. Harding, Clement L. Martzolff and Bertram L. Jones. The afternoon session was given to addresses on the work of the hered-

itary patriotic societies. A committee was appointed to prepare a program for the meeting next year and to present a plan for permanent organization. West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana are already interested in the movement and it is hoped and expected that other States of the Ohio River Valley will fall in line with the organization.

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Representatives of the historical societies of the Mississippi Valley met on October 17 and 18, 1907, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and effected the temporary organization of The Mississippi Valley Historical Association. The program on the evening of October 17 consisted of an address of welcome by Dr. William K. Jewett of the University of Nebraska and short speeches by representatives of the various State societies who spoke in general of the collections and activities of the historical societies of which they were in charge. Some of the speakers were: C. S. Paine and George L. Miller of the Nebraska Historical Society, F. A. Sampson of the State Historical Society of Missouri, Benj. F. Shambaugh of The State Historical Society of Iowa, Edgar R. Harlan of the Historical Department of Iowa, Warren Upham of the Minnesota Historical Society, W. S. Bell of the Montana Historical Society, and George W. Martin of the Kansas State Historical Society. On the following morning a business session was held, Mr. F. A. Sampson, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Missouri presiding, and Assistant Curator E. R. Harlan of the Historical Department of Iowa acting as Secretary. A tentative organization was accomplished, outlined after that of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. A constitution was adopted; and officers were elected as follows: President, F. A. Sampson, of Missouri; Vice President, Warren Upham, of Minnesota; Secretary-Treasurer, C. S. Paine, of Nebraska. These officers, together with Reuben Gold Thwaites of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and George W. Martin, of the Kansas State Historical Society, were to act as an executive committee until the first of the semi-annual meetings of the Association which was to be held at Madison, Wisconsin, in connection with the meetings of the American Historical Association.

Two meetings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association took place at Madison in the Library Building of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin—one on the afternoon of Saturday, December 28, and the other at nine o'clock Monday morning, December 30, 1907. At these meetings a permanent organization was effected, a constitution adopted and officers elected. The officers chosen are as follows: President, Thomas M. Owen; Vice President, Clarence W. Alvord; Secretary-Treasurer, Clarence S. Paine; additional members of the Executive Committee, Reuben Gold Thwaites and George W. Martin. At a meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Association at Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, in June, 1908. The Constitution as adopted is as follows:—

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

II—OBJECT

The object of the Association shall be to promote historical study and research and secure coöperation between the historical societies and the departments of history of the Mississippi Valley.

III—MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in the study of Mississippi Valley history may become an active member upon payment of the dues hereinafter provided.

IV—OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who with two other active members shall constitute the Executive Committee. All officers shall be elected at the annual meeting in June, and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and have qualified. The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the affairs of the Association, including the calling of meetings, and selection of papers to be read.

V—MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Association shall be held in the months

of June and December of each year, on such day and at such place as the Executive Committee may determine; provided, however, that the December meeting shall be held at the same time and place as the annual meeting of the American Historical Association.

VI—DUES

The annual dues for active members shall be one dollar.

VII—AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, notice of such amendment having been given at a previous meeting, or the proposed amendment having received the approval of the Executive Committee.

THE POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With a charter roll of seventeen members, all of whom displayed the heartiest enthusiasm for the work about to be undertaken, the Pottawattamie County Historical Society was founded at a meeting in the auditorium of the Free Public Library at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Tuesday evening, November 26, 1907. All the formal details of organization were attended to, a Constitution and By-laws being adopted, officers elected, and plans made for work in the immediate future.

A representative gathering of Pottawattamie County citizens was present, including some of the most recent comers as well as some of the few surviving settlers who crossed the prairies from Nauvoo in the famous Mormon emigration. Several of the latter were prevailed upon to recount a few stories and traditions of pioneer days in western Iowa, and their reminiscences formed one of the most delightful features of the meeting.

An interesting evidence of the comprehensive character of the gathering consisted in the large proportion of women, who made up not less than one-third of those present at the meeting.

John M. Galvin, who was elected President of the new Society, presided over the meeting. Mr. Galvin is President of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library, and as its representative issued the call for the organization meeting.

The matter of founding a county historical society had been

discussed, here and there, for many years, but it was not until last fall that any definite steps were taken. The suggestion which was perhaps more than anything else responsible for the founding of the organization came at a meeting of the library board. C. R. Tyler, a member of the board, had secured possession of a number of copies of *The Western Bugle* (Council Bluffs) and *The Oracle* (Crescent City), both published in the early fifties, when Crescent, now a village of one hundred and fifty inhabitants, and Council Bluffs were close rivals for the emigrant trade. Mr. Tyler donated the newspapers to the library, and in the discussion of the gift several members of the board mentioned the quantity of historical material relative to Pottawattamie county contained, in book, newspaper, and manuscript form, in the library. This led to the suggestion that a historical society be founded for the care of this material and for the acquisition of more. Everywhere the suggestion was enthusiastically received, and at the October meeting of the board of library trustees President Galvin was instructed to call a meeting for the organization of a county historical society.

The purpose of the Society, as organized, is to preserve historical relics as well as historical data, though special stress will for the present be laid upon the latter, in order that as much information as possible may be secured before the few remaining early settlers pass away. Mrs. Charles M. Harl, the Historian, is an expert stenographer, and will make an effort to secure and transcribe the reminiscences of all the living pioneers of the county.

A room in the Free Public Library is to be provided for the use of the Society, and meetings will be held there every few weeks during the first year of the organization's existence. The next meeting is to be held in January, 1908, when a program of historical papers will be presented. Until that time the charter roll will be held open to all who desire to sign it.

It is the intention of the Society, as soon as it is well started in its work, to become an auxiliary member of The State Historical Society of Iowa.

The following officers were elected at the organization meeting: President, John M. Galvin; Vice President, Charles M. Harl; Sec-

retary, William J. Leverett; Treasurer, H. W. Binder; Historian, Mrs. Charles M. Harl. The Board of Directors consists of the officers, together with the following additional members: Mrs. Walter I. Smith, Mrs. George T. Phelps, H. H. Field, and Dr. J. M. Barstow.

The Constitution and By-laws, which are similar to those of many other county historical societies, are as follows:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this Society shall be the Pottawattamie County Historical Society. The Society shall be located at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

ARTICLE II—OBJECTS

The Society is organized for the purpose of discovery, collection, and preservation of books, pamphlets, maps, genealogies, portraits, paintings, relics, manuscripts, letters, journals, surveys, field-books, any and all articles and materials that may establish or illustrate the history of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, or other portions of the State or adjoining States, and the collection, preservation, and publication of such historical matter as the Society may authorize.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Any person may become a member of this Society upon election by a majority vote at any meeting thereof and upon the payment of an entrance fee of one dollar, which shall be in payment of dues for the year. Membership in this Society may be retained after the first year upon the payment of one dollar annually, payable January 1.

The Society shall have the power of conferring honorary or life membership in its discretion, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and a Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the foregoing officers and four additional members of the Society.

SECTION 2. The officers and directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE V—BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Board of Directors, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws.

All appropriation of the funds of the Society shall be made by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. The Society may provide for such standing committees as may be deemed necessary, and assign to them such duties as may be expedient.

ARTICLE VI—MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the fourth Tuesday in November of each year.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be held at the call of the President and Secretary.

SECTION 3. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4. No indebtedness shall be incurred by the Board of Directors in excess of the amount of funds in the hands of the Treasurer not already appropriated, unless by the direction of a majority of the Society at a stated meeting, of which there shall have been due notice to all members.

ARTICLE VII—AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any stated meeting, provided written notice of such amendment shall have been given at least thirty days previous to such meeting.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of the officers shall be such as indicated by their titles and as may be provided by the Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE II—ADDITIONAL DUTIES

SECTION 1. The Secretary shall keep a record book in which shall be transcribed the Constitution and By-laws of the Society,

and the records of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society, and all other matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Society.

SECTION 2. The Secretary shall also list, file, and preserve the originals of all letters, papers, addresses and other material proper to be preserved, and shall have the care and charge of all books, papers, records, writings and relics, or other collections of this Society; he shall make a catalogue of all such documents, papers, relics and collections as shall come into his hands; he shall be held responsible to the Society for the care and safe custody of all its said properties, and under no circumstances shall any person, whether officer or member, be suffered or permitted to take from such place or places, as shall be hereafter designated by the Society as its repository, any item or article of its property of whatever kind or nature, except by resolution of the Board of Directors.

At each stated meeting of the Society the Secretary shall report in writing a list of books, papers, relics, etc., that have been acquired by the Society since the last stated meeting, and a list of such books, relics, etc., that may have been lost since the last stated meeting, with such information as he may have concerning the same.

HISTORIAN

SECTION 3. The Historian shall keep a record of all important or interesting events occurring, and shall at the annual meeting submit a paper presenting the history of the county for the past year, which shall be filed and preserved among the records of the Society.

TREASURER

SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall collect and safely keep all the funds belonging to the Society and disburse the same only on order of the Board of Directors; and he shall make a full report of the financial condition of the Society at each annual meeting.

DIRECTORS

SECTION 5. The Directors shall consider and determine what books, papers, records, writings, relics and other historical material shall be purchased for the Society.

The Board of Directors shall have general management of the affairs of the Society.

At any meeting of the Board of Directors five members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

The President of the Society shall be ex officio chairman of the Board of Directors, and meetings of the Board shall be held subject to his call.

ARTICLE III—ORDER OF BUSINESS

At each meeting of the Society or Board of Directors the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes.
2. Presentation of petitions, letters and memorials or papers which require action.
3. Nomination and election of officers.
4. Reports of committees and officers.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Delivery of addresses and reading of papers.
8. Adjournment.

ARTICLE IV—AMENDMENTS

The By-laws of the Society may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the members present.

NELSON ANTRIM CRAWFORD, JR.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The Parvin Collection of Iowana has been deposited with the Society for permanent preservation. It includes many rare and valuable items.

Through a "want list" recently sent out by the Secretary many desirable volumes have been added to the Library, especially in the line of serial publications.

The biography of Associate Justice Samuel Freeman Miller was distributed in October, 1907. This is the second volume to appear in the Iowa Biographical Series.

In accordance with the regulations made by the Board of Curators, the Library is now open to the public daily in the morning from 8 to 12, in the afternoon from 1:30 to 5:30, and in the evening from 7 to 10 o'clock.

Mr. Rolfe Whitnell has been appointed to the position of General Assistant to succeed Mr. Dan E. Clark, who has been promoted to the position of Research Assistant.

Desks for the Research Assistants and reading tables have been placed in the new study room; while the office of the Society has been furnished with tables, chairs, desks, and a steel safe.

Mr. John C. Parish, Assistant Editor, was programmed for a paper on "The First Fugitive Slave Case West of the Mississippi River" at the Madison meeting of the American Historical Association.

The Society has recently acquired a collection of Nebraska materials numbering two hundred eighty-nine titles and consisting of State Publications. This enables the Society to make practically complete its sets of Nebraska *Laws* and Senate and House *Journals*.

Proceedings of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Constitution of Iowa is a volume of over 400 pages recently published and distributed by the Society. It contains a detailed account of the Celebration which was held at Iowa City in March, 1907, along with all addresses and papers given on that occasion. The printing was done at The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Perhaps the most extensive collection of manuscript material thus far donated to the Society is the Letters and Papers of Governor Robert Lucas. These papers were first brought to light in connection with the preparation of the biography of Robert Lucas which has been issued in the *Iowa Biographical Series*. The entire collection was donated to the Society in December, 1907.

Since October 1, 1907, the following have been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. Dan Elbert Clark, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. Charles Meyerholz, Emporia, Kansas; Mr. E. H. Downey, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Henry G. Walker, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. J. A. Green, Stone City, Iowa; Mr. Henry J. Peterson, Eureka, Montana; Mrs. Maria Purdy Peck, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Thomas Hedge, Burlington, Iowa; and Miss Laura P. Baldwin, Iowa City, Iowa.