

## HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

### PUBLICATIONS

The two leading contributions to *The Medford Historical Register* for October are: *The First Parish in Medford*, by Henry C. DeLong; and *The First Medford Journal*.

The *Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference on the Work of State and Local Historical Societies*, reported by Evarts B. Greene, have been reprinted from the *Annual Report of the American Historical Association* for 1907.

Two recent publications of the Department of History of the State of South Dakota are: *Digest of Governors' Messages* from 1889 to 1909, edited by Thomas Askin; and *Ninth Annual Review of the Progress of South Dakota, 1909*.

*The Function of State Historian of New York* is the title of a paper read before The New York State Historical Association in October, 1908, by the State Historian, Victor Hugo Paltsits. The paper is now printed in pamphlet form.

With the exception of a *Catalogue of the Library of Daniel Parke Custis* the October number of *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* is devoted to continuations of original material along the same line as in past numbers.

A continuation of the monograph on *Germans in Texas*, by Gilbert G. Benjamin; and a discussion of *The Community at Bethel, Missouri, and its Offspring at Aurora, Oregon*, by William G. Bek, are the leading contributions to the September-October number of the *German American Annals*.

Edward B. Krehbiel's monograph on *The Interdict* is the first volume in a new series of publications undertaken by the American Historical Association. This series will include the essays to which the Justin Winsor and Herbert Baxter Adams prizes have been awarded, or shall be awarded in the future.

Two articles of especial interest in the September-October number of the *Records of the Past* are: *Cuzco and Sacsahuaman*, by Hiram Bingham, which is an illustrated account of the ruins at the ancient capital of the Inca Empire; and *Possible Pre-Glacial Human Remains About Washington, D. C.—A Letter to Dr. C. C. Abbott*.

With the exception of a brief biographical sketch of *The Earl of Dunmore*, by George Austin Morrison; and *Earliest Baptismal Records of the Church of Harlingen (Reformed Dutch) of New Jersey, 1727-1734*, by William Jones Skillman, the October number of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* is devoted to continuations.

*The Discovery and Exploration of the Fraser River* is the title of an address by Frederick V. Holman, which is printed in the June number of *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*. William D. Fenton writes interestingly of *Father Wilbur and His Work*; while *Land Tenure in Oregon* is the subject of a scholarly monograph by Lon L. Swift.

In addition to continuations the October number of the *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute* contains a sketch of *The French Acadians in Essex County and their Life in Exile*, by George Francis Dow; a list of *Revolutionary Prisoners at Gloucester*; and a number of *Letters Written by Benjamin Wadleigh of Salisbury, Mass., in 1810-1813*.

Among the articles in the October number of the *Deutsch-Amerikanische Geschichtsblätter* are: *Die Mennoniten während des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts*, which is taken from *The Mennonites of America*, by C. Henry Smith; a sketch of *Das Leben und Wirken von Pastor Friedrich Schmid*, by Friedrich Schmid, Jr.; and the *Geschichte der Deutschen Gesellschaft von Maryland*.

Charles L. Coon is the compiler of *The Beginnings of Public Education in North Carolina; A Documentary History, 1790-1840*, which occupies two volumes in the *Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission*. The work includes Governors' messages, legislative bills and reports, memorials, speeches and other

documentary material relating to education, and will prove of great value to the investigator. Another praiseworthy volume in this same series is devoted to *The Correspondence of Jonathan Worth*, collected and edited by J. G. de Roulhae Hamilton. The letters here printed cover the period from April, 1841, to May, 1869.

Among the contributions of an historical character in *The "Old Northwest" Genealogical Quarterly* for July are: *Historical Notes Relating to Northwestern Ohio, Compiled from Old Newspapers* by Mrs. Alta Winchester Fitch; a document entitled *The Indenture of David Merriam 1760*, by David E. Phillips; and *Some Account of the "Old Northwest" One Hundred and Ten Years Ago*, by David E. Phillips.

In the April number of *The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* may be found a continuation of Alex. Dienst's history of *The Navy of the Republic of Texas*; an article on *The Case of the Brig Pocket*, by C. T. Neu; and some *Reminiscences of Jno. Duff Brown*. The July number is taken up with another installment of Mr. Dienst's monograph, and with *J. C. Clopper's Journal and Book of Memoranda for 1828*.

The October number of the *Register of Kentucky State Historical Society* opens with a biographical sketch of *George W. Ranck*, by Mrs. Jennie C. Morton. Among the other contributions are: *The Old Courthouse and the Courts and Bar of Mercer County, Ky.*, by W. W. Stephenson; *Kentucky the Home of Jefferson Davis*, by John Wilson Townsend; and a continuation of the history of *Franklin County*, by L. F. Johnson.

C. Wicliffe Yulee concludes his biographical sketch of *Senator David L. Yulee* in the July number of *The Florida Historical Society Quarterly*. There is a brief article on *St. Joseph, Florida*, in which an account of the founding of the city is given. An article by Ellen Call Long on *Princesse Achille Murat*; and a contemporary account of *Governor Milton and his Family*, by an English tutor who was in Florida during the Civil War, complete the contents.

The opening article in the October number of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* is an address on the subject of *The Gettysburg Address, When Written, How Received, Its True Form*, by William H. Lambert. The writer discusses the various versions of the address, two of which are reproduced in facsimile, and the different accounts of the manner in which the audience and contemporaries were impressed by the address. The remainder of the *Magazine* is devoted to continuations.

Charles William Sommerville concludes his study of the *Early Career of Governor Francis Nicholson* in the September number of the *Maryland Historical Magazine*. John H. B. Latrobe is the writer of an interesting paper on the *Construction of the Public Buildings in Washington*. Bernard C. Steiner writes on the subject of *New Light on Maryland History from the British Archives*; while *French Forts in 1755* and *Party of Acadians who Sailed from the Potomac, Bound for the Mississippi* are titles of other contributions.

The *Report of the Secretary* of the Kansas State Historical Society for 1909, besides containing the usual material found in such reports, includes much additional information. There is a brief sketch of *The Wyandotte Constitution*, and an account of the proposed Memorial Building; while a number of letters selected from the State Archives are printed under the heading *Our Archives*. A brief statement of the provisions for membership in various State historical societies is among the other items of interest.

*The Part of Iowa Men in the Organization of Nebraska* is the title of an address delivered before the Nebraska State Historical Society in January, 1908, by Horace E. Deemer, which is published in the October number of the *Annals of Iowa*. There is also another installment of F. I. Herriott's discussion of *Iowa and the First Nomination of Abraham Lincoln*. In the editorial department there is a brief sketch of the history and work of *The Historical Department of Iowa*, which may in a sense be taken as an inaugural announcement by the newly appointed Curator. Under the heading, *James W. Grimes and Abraham Lincoln in 1844*, there is printed an interesting letter, together with editorial comments.

The *Missouri Historical Review* for October opens with an *Historical Sketch of Kansas City from the Beginning to 1909*, by H. C. McDougal. Part two of Joab Spencer's discussion of *Missouri's Aboriginal Inhabitants* deals with manners, customs, and habits. Will S. Bryan concludes his sketch of *Daniel Boone in Missouri*. An article on *Missouri Military in the War of 1812*, by Will C. Ferril, contains some interesting material. The closing contribution is a chronological list of the *Sessions of the Missouri Legislature*, compiled by F. A. Sampson. Under the heading of *Missouri Society of Teachers of History and Government* there is printed the address delivered in May, 1909, by the President of the Society, H. R. Tucker.

A new series of western historical publications known as *Publications of the Academy of Pacific Coast History* has appeared. The first number, issued in January, 1909, bears the title, *The San Francisco Clearing House Certificates of 1907-1908*, and is from the pen of Carl Copping Plehn. *The Official Account of the Portola Expedition of 1769-1770*, given both in the Spanish and in English translation, and edited by Frederick J. Teggart, constitutes the second number. The third number was perhaps also suggested by the Portola festival held in San Francisco in October, for it consists of the *Diary of Gaspar de Portola During the California Expedition of 1769-1770*, likewise in Spanish and English, edited by Donald Eugene Smith and Frederick J. Teggart.

The first volume of the *Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association*, which covers the year 1907-1908, has appeared. It is an attractively printed volume of nearly one hundred and fifty pages, and is edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh. The contents consist of a *Historical Sketch* of the Association, the Constitution, a list of officers, the proceedings of the meetings for the year 1907-1908, the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, and a number of papers. The papers are as follows: *The Explorations of Verendrye and his Sons*, by Warren Upham; *The Mandans from the Archaeological and Historical Standpoint*, by Orin G. Libby; *The British Board of Trade and the American Colonies*, by O. M. Dickerson; *Coöperation Among Historical Agencies and Activities*

of the *Mississippi Valley*, by Charles W. Mann; *The Study and Writing of History in the Mississippi Valley*, by Clarence W. Alvord; *The Diplomatic Correspondence of Augustus Caesar Dodge*, by Louis Pelzer; and *The Sectional Elements in the Early History of Milwaukee*, by Laurence M. Larson. The second volume of the *Proceedings* is now in press.

In the October number of *The American Historical Review* J. Franklin Jameson presents a twenty page sketch of *The American Historical Association, 1884-1909*, which was doubtless written in view of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Association which was celebrated at the last meeting. *British Druidism and the Roman War Policy* is the title of an article by W. F. Tamblyn. A discussion of *The Character and Antecedents of the Charter of Liberties of Henry I* is written by Henry L. Cannon. *The Policy of the German Hanseatic League Respecting the Mercantile Marine* is traced briefly by Ernst Daenell; and there is an interesting address on the subject of *The Share of America in Civilization*, delivered at the University of Wisconsin in June, 1909, by Ambassador Joaquim Nabuco, of Brazil. Under the heading of *Documents* may be found a number of *Papers Relating to Bourbon County, Georgia, 1785-1786*, contributed by Edmund C. Burnett.

An article of much interest to westerners is one by Reuben Gold Thwaites on the subject of *The Ohio Valley Press Before the War of 1812-15*, which is published in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* for 1909. Not only is there an excellent discussion of the various newspapers, treating of their character and influence, but a number of facsimile reproductions of first pages add interest to the description. *Early Spanish Cartography of the New World*, by Edward Luther Stevenson, in connection with which there is given a reduced reproduction of the Wolfenbüttel-Spanish Map, is another important contribution. A sketch of *Early Commercial Providence*, by William B. Weedon; and *Three Documents of 1775* complete the contents. Under the latter heading may be found a letter from Samuel Paine to Dr. William Paine, Peter Thatcher's Account of the Battle of Bunker Hill, and a letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Page.

*The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* for October is larger than usual and is filled with interesting articles. The first eighty pages are devoted to a full report of the *Second Annual Meeting of the Ohio Valley Historical Association*, which was held at Marietta, Ohio, in November, 1908. *The Development of the Miami Country*, by Frank P. Goodwin; *Auto Trip Over the Old National Road*, by Albert Douglas; *Whitelaw Reid in Columbus*, by Edward L. Taylor; *The Siege of Fort Meigs*, by Earl A. Saliers; *The Indian as a Diplomatic Factor in the History of the Old Northwest*, by Isaac Joslin Cox; and *The Useful Results of Historical Controversy*, by William Z. Davis, are all articles of more than local interest. About the only cause for regret to be found in this number of the *Quarterly* is the fact that the index to the eighteenth volume, here included, is not more comprehensive.

## ACTIVITIES

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association will hold its next annual meeting at Iowa City during the last week in May.

The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society is engaged in the unique occupation of preparing an archaeological atlas of Ohio.

Frederick B. Richards has been chosen to fill the vacancy in the secretaryship of the New York State Historical Association occasioned by the death of Robert O. Bascom.

The annual meetings of the Texas State Historical Association are held on March 2 of each year, on the anniversary of the declaration of the independence of Texas from Mexico in 1836.

At the monthly meeting of the Louisiana Historical Society on November 17, 1909, a paper on the subject of the *History of the Jesuits' Plantation, forming part of Concession to Bienville*, was read by Charles T. Soniat.

Mr. Edgar R. Harlan has been appointed Curator of the Historical Department of Iowa. Mr. Harlan was assistant for more than a year to the late Charles Aldrich, founder of the Department, and has had charge of the work as Acting Curator since March,

1908. He is, therefore, well acquainted with the duties of the curatorship, and enters upon the work under favorable circumstances.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota is arranging a competitive contest among the school children of the various counties of the State. Prizes are offered for the best essays on the general subject of the early history of the State, local sketches being the matter chiefly desired. It is proposed also to publish the best of these essays in some form later on. The object of the Society is to create a greater interest in local history throughout the State.

The annual meeting of the Decatur County (Iowa) Historical Society was held at Lamoni on November 23, 1909. The principal address was one by Daniel F. Lambert in which he emphasized the importance of the work of the Society. The officers who served during the past year were reelected. Reports were made on the progress of the Society, and plans were adopted looking toward the publication of certain material. It is proposed to reduce the membership fee from one dollar to fifty cents.

An interesting meeting of the Historical Society of Marshall County, Iowa, was held at the public library in Marshalltown on November 17, 1909. The papers read were as follows: *The Organization of Towns in Marshall County*, by T. P. Marsh; *The First Stores and Business Houses*, by B. A. Beeson; *Iron Foundries, Mills and Factories*, by Merritt Greene; *The First Schools and Academies*, by Mrs. A. C. Abbott; and *The Early Churches of Marshall County*, by John W. Wells. The Society has voted that in the future it will have four meetings each year.

The fifty-seventh annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin was held on October 21, 1909. The principal address of the occasion was delivered by Professor James Alton James, of Northwestern University, on the subject of *Indian Diplomacy and the Opening of the Revolution in the West*. The report of the Secretary revealed a growth in all branches of the Society's work during the past year. The accessions to the library during the year ending September 30, 1909, amounted to over twelve thousand



titles, the principal large additions being the private libraries of the late Judge S. U. Pinney and Mrs. Anna R. Sheldon. In spite of the splendid building in which the Society is located many departments are overcrowded because of lack of space.

The Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington has made considerable progress in its various lines of activity during the past six months. The work of gathering material in the German archives relative to German emigration to America has been completed by Professor M. D. Learned. A guide to the materials relating to American history to be found in Rome and other Italian archives has been prepared by Professor Carl Russell Fish. The list of Spanish archives-documents found in the United States, by Dr. J. A. Robertson, is finished; and the inventory of manuscript materials for American Protestant religious history, by Professor Allison, is nearly completed. Professor Herbert E. Bolton has also ended his investigations among the archives in Mexico.

The Kansas State Historical Society held its thirty-fourth annual meeting on December 7, 1909. A. B. Whiting was chosen President; George W. Martin, Secretary; and Lucy S. Greene, Treasurer. A site has been purchased and the contract let for excavation and foundations for a magnificent new Memorial and Historical Building, which will be the home of the Society when completed. The library now numbers over one hundred and eighty thousand titles, including bound newspapers and magazines; while the other collections of the Society in the way of archives, manuscripts, maps, pictures, and relics amount to an even larger number of items. It is interesting to note that among the recent accessions to life membership in the Society are three children, two boys and a girl, no one of whom is four years of age.

The Minnesota Historical Society has recently received some notable additions to its manuscript collection. Perhaps the most interesting is a group of about five hundred letters, papers and account books originally belonging to the pioneer trader Martin McLeod, who was a member of the Territorial Council from 1849 to 1853. These papers relate chiefly to the fur trade in the Minnesota

country. The other group consists of nearly one thousand letters and papers from the collection of Dr. Edward D. Neill, the well-known Minnesota historian. The Society has in preparation the fourteenth volume of its *Collections*. At the meeting held on December 13, the chief topic of discussion was a stone bearing runic inscriptions, purporting to date from the year 1362, which was found in Minnesota in 1898.

The third annual meeting of the Ohio Valley Historical Association was held at Frankfort, Kentucky, October 14-16, 1909. The first two sessions were devoted to a conference of college history teachers, and a conference on historical manuscript collections. At the afternoon session on October 15, the principal address of the occasion was delivered by Professor Frederick Jackson Turner, on the subject of *The Ohio Valley in the History of the Nation*. The session on Saturday morning was under the auspices of the Kentucky State Historical Society, and there were papers by Mrs. Jennie C. Morton, Professor J. E. Tuthill, and Mr. J. W. Townsend. The last session consisted of a meeting of teachers of history in the public schools in the Ohio Valley. The Association is doing much to promote interest in local history.

Perhaps the most interesting sessions of the meeting of the American Historical Association held at New York City, December 27 to 31, 1909, were those of Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. Tuesday evening was devoted to discussions of the Work of Historical Societies in Europe, and there were reports by representatives from Great Britain, Germany, France, Holland, and Spain. On Wednesday morning there were a number of papers relating to British Constitutional Development with Special Reference to the Centenary of Gladstone. The other sessions, while not so unique, were nevertheless very profitable. At one of the conferences in connection with the meeting, Professor Edmond S. Meany read a paper on *Morton Matthew McCarver, Frontier City Builder*. McCarver was one of the founders of Burlington, Iowa, and later was a potent factor in the building of various cities in the Pacific coast States.

The Department of History of the State of South Dakota is a unique institution in its organization and work. Within the Department and under the direction of the Superintendent are five divisions: The State Historical Society, the State Library, the State Census, Vital Statistics, and Legislative Reference. The fifth volume of the *Collections* of the Department, which will be devoted chiefly to the history of capital locations in Dakota Territory and South Dakota, is in preparation. The Superintendent, Doane Robinson, delivered an address at the dedication of a monument provided by the citizens of Vermilion, on the site of the first permanent school house in Dakota. The dedication occurred August 25, the one hundred and fifth anniversary of the visit of Lewis and Clark to Vermilion. On April 1 the Department will move into quarters in the New Capitol building.

During the summer and fall the Buffalo Historical Society completed its building, which now represents a total cost of construction of over two hundred thousand dollars. In December the Society issued volume thirteen of its *Publications*. Volume fourteen which is now in press will contain among other things the correspondence of officers and agents of the Holland Land Company with De Witt Clinton and others, regarding canal construction in New York State. The letters run from 1808 to 1825, and as yet, with a few exceptions, have never been published. The originals are owned by the Society. In this volume will also be printed the journal of Colonel William L. Stone's tour from New York City to Buffalo and Niagara in 1829. Besides its regular course of entertainments for members, the Society conducts free Sunday afternoon lectures at its building, to which the public are invited. These lectures have proved very popular. It was largely due to the Society that a branch of the Archaeological Institute of America has recently been formed in Buffalo.

#### THE KENSINGTON RUNE STONE

Dr. Warren Upham, Secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, sends the following report of its monthly meeting on December 13, 1909:

The discovery of the Kensington Rune Stone, its inscriptions, and the opinions concerning them, were the themes of addresses at this meeting by Hjalmar R. Holand, of Ephraim, Wisconsin; Prof. Andrew Fossum, of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota; Prof. N. H. Winchell, the former State Geologist, now archaeologist for the Minnesota Historical Society; and Dr. Knut Hoegh, of Minneapolis, who had interviewed Olof Ohman, the Swedish farmer on whose land the stone was found, and others of his neighbors, concerning the circumstances of its discovery. It was found in August, 1898, by the farmer and his son while clearing off poplar woods from a part of the farm, about three miles north of Kensington, a railway station and village in the southwest corner of Douglas county, in the western central part of Minnesota. A poplar tree growing above the stone, which lay thinly covered by the soil and with its rune inscribed face downward, had sent a root across the upper face of the stone, showing that it had lain there at least about thirty years, that is, from a time antedating the first settlements of the Scandinavian farmers in the region.

By advice of the local school-teacher, who thought the characters of the inscriptions perhaps similar to the ancient runes, the stone was soon forwarded to the professor of Scandinavian literature in the University of Minnesota and to other experts in Chicago, who recognized most of the characters as runes of the later part of the runic period. But the translation so obtained made the astonishing claim that it was the record of an exploring expedition of Norsemen, which was regarded by the translators as a sufficient proof of its being a fraud of a recent date. With this verdict, the stone was returned to Mr. Ohman, and for several years it lay neglected in his dooryard.

New interest in the stone and its inscriptions, and a gradual vindication of their probable truth, after many further adverse criticisms and discussions by runologists in this country and Europe, have come through the work of Mr. Holand, who in 1898 was graduated at the University of Wisconsin. In his researches for writing a history of Norwegian immigration to the United States, of which the first volume was published in 1908, Mr. Holand has

visited nearly all places having a considerable number of Norse settlers in the Northwest, including their communities in Douglas County, Minnesota. During these travels, in August, 1907, he learned from Mr. Ohman the facts of his finding the rune stone, and obtained it for further investigations, being persuaded that it is what its inscriptions claim.

The stone is about 30 inches long, 16 inches wide, and 6 inches thick, and it weighs about 230 pounds. It is a fine-grained gray-wacke, of dark gray color, evidently rifted from some large boulder of the glacial drift which forms the surface of all the surrounding country.

The translation of the inscription on the face of the stone in nine lines reads as follows:

“Eight Goths [Swedes] and twenty-two Norwegians on an exploring journey from Vineland very far west. We had a camp by two skerries [rocks in the water] one day's journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. When we returned home, we found ten men red with blood and dead. A.V.M. [Ave Maria] Save us from the evil.”

On the edge of the stone an inscription in three lines reads thus:

“We have ten men by the sea to look after our vessel, fourteen days' journey from this island. Year 1362.”

The description of the place of their camp and fishing, and of the massacre of their comrades, a day's travel north of the rune stone, led to much search, in the late autumn of 1909, for such a place on the numerous lakes at such a distance northward. Professor Fossum, after examining several lakes, thought the locality might be identified on the eastern part of Lake Christina. Later searches by Mr. Holand and Professor Winchell lead them to believe confidently that the runic description is better met by a spot on the southwest part of Pelican Lake, where two exceptionally large boulders at the shore line rise about six feet above the water.

Mr. Holand, in his address at this meeting, took up and answered in serial order the various objections that have been raised against the genuineness of the rune stone, classifying them as general, runic, and linguistic. The main general obstacle is the great dis-

tance inland; for when the Norsemen had colonies in Greenland from 985 A. D. through the ensuing five centuries, with expeditions thence to Vineland, identified as Nova Scotia, or perhaps eastern Massachusetts, we could somewhat readily accept a runic record if it were found near our northeastern coast.

Professor Fossum set forth a very interesting theory of the probable route of this exploring expedition, sailing from some part of our North Atlantic coast through Hudson Strait and by leaving their vessel, as we may suppose, near the mouths of Nelson and Hayes rivers, ascending with small and portable boats or canoes to Lake Winnipeg, thence up the Red River to its first series of strong rapids and falls, terminating a few miles below Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and thence crossing the country, probably by streams, small lakes, and portages, some twenty miles south-eastward to Pelican Lake. In the long days of summer, when fifteen working hours or more may be rated for a day, and not counting time lost by stormy weather and by halts for rest and for fishing and hunting, it may be accepted that fourteen such long days of rapid canoe travel would suffice for the whole inland journey.

Professors Fossum and Winchell and Dr. Hoegh agreed with Mr. Holand in regarding all objections thus far made against the rune stone as answerable by attributing the inscriptions to a Swedish priest or scribe accompanying the expedition. Mr. Holand cited official memoranda showing that the Scandinavian home government in the year 1355 sent out a vessel with a commission to explore the lands west of Greenland, and that it returned in 1364; but no European record of the regions visited appears to be extant.

This rune stone probably almost five and a half centuries old, has been deposited by Mr. Holand in the Museum of the Minnesota Historical Society in the new fire-proof Capitol.

#### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Mr. E. H. Downey's *History of Labor Legislation in Iowa* is now in press.

Dr. John C. Parish is engaged in gathering material relative to the early history of Dubuque and other cities on the eastern border of Iowa.

Among the accessions to the library of the Society during the past quarter are nearly three hundred volumes from the library of the late Judge Samuel H. Fairall.

A life of *John Chambers*, the second Governor of the Territory of Iowa, written by Dr. John C. Parish, will be ready for distribution in the near future.

The Society has recently issued a new volume in the *Iowa Biographical Series*. Mr. Harvey Reid, of Maquoketa, is the author of the volume which is a life of *Thomas Cox*, a pioneer Iowa legislator.

On the evening of December 3, 1909, Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh delivered an address on *Commission Forms of Municipal Government* before the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences at Minneapolis.

It is planned to hold a meeting of the Society during the last week in May, in connection with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. A splendid opportunity will be afforded to hear speakers of national reputation, and to gain inspiration from conferences on various phases of historical work.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership: Dean Wm. G. Raymond, Iowa City, Iowa; Hon. Ralph Otto, Iowa City, Iowa; Hon. E. D. Chassell, Des Moines, Iowa; Justice Horace E. Deemer, Red Oak, Iowa; Mr. Raymond B. Leland, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Dean C. E. Seashore, Iowa City, Iowa; Hon. James S. Clarkson, New York City; Hon. H. W. Byers, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. C. H. Crowe, Clarion, Iowa; Mr. Charles F. Huebner, Jr., Iowa City, Iowa; Judge Emlin McClain, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. William Hamill Tedford, Corydon, Iowa; Mr. O. M. Gillett, Independence, Iowa; Hon. Frank P. Woods, Estherville, Iowa; Hon. George Cossion, Des Moines, Iowa; Col. G. W. Crosley, Des Moines, Iowa; Hon. L. E. Francis, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mr. W. R. Huntington, New York City; Mr. O. L. Keith, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Clara A. Neidig, Des Moines, Iowa; Hon. C. H. Van Law, Marshalltown, Iowa; Mr. John I. Mullany, Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. J. A. Green of Stone City, Iowa, was elected to life membership.