

NOTES AND COMMENT

The Hamilton County Bar Association held a memorial meeting early in March in honor of the late Percival Knowles.

Citizens of Fairfield, Iowa, have asked the State Fair Association to appropriate money for the marking of the site in Fairfield where the first State Fair was held in 1854.

Mr. Charles Grilk has been elected president of the Davenport Academy of Sciences to succeed Mr. Edward K. Putnam.

Millard F. LeRoy, member of the lower house of the General Assembly of Iowa from Delaware County, died on February 21, 1914.

On March 2, 1914, occurred the death of Luman H. Weller, who from 1883 to 1885 was the Representative in Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa.

The city manager plan of municipal government has now been in successful operation for some time in Clarinda, Iowa, a city which in 1910 had a population of 3,832.

Funds have been raised for the erection of a granite boulder on the spot where the first election in Dallas County, Iowa, was held.

A memorial service was held in the town of Farley, Iowa, on January 16, 1914, in honor of the late Dr. W J McGee, who was born on a farm two miles north of that place.

The Old Trails Association is an organization with headquarters at Kansas City which has among its objects the preservation and improvement of the principal roads of pioneer days.

A special meeting of the League of Iowa Municipalities was held at Des Moines on February 11th for the purpose of considering the question of home rule for cities. Resolutions were adopted favor-

ing legislation giving to cities and towns greater powers in the management of local affairs.

The Woman Teachers' Club of Dubuque is taking a great interest in local history and has asked the people of the city to contribute to a collection of historical material relating to Dubuque and vicinity.

Hereafter the small admittance fee which has been charged by the Davenport Academy of Sciences on certain days of the week will be discarded, and the institution will be open to the public, without charge, throughout the entire week.

A petition has recently been circulated and signed by many prominent Iowa people asking Congress to take favorable action on a bill for the erection of a suitable memorial to General Nathaniel Lyon.

A movement is on foot among the Swedish people of the State to raise money for the erection of a monument on the new capitol grounds at Des Moines to John Ericsson, the designer of the federal gun-boat, the Monitor.

Philo M. Jewell of Decorah, died on January 8, 1914. Mr. Jewell was a member of the House of Representatives in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third General Assemblies of Iowa and a State Senator during the two succeeding sessions.

A movement has been inaugurated among the newspaper men of the State to secure funds for the erection of a memorial to the late George D. Perkins on the capitol grounds at Des Moines.

A conference on child welfare, arranged by the Department of Economics and Sociology, was held at the State University of Iowa on March 31st, the principal speaker being Owen R. Lovejoy, General Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee.

A valuable discovery was recently made when the original journal kept by Sergeant John Ordway from May 14, 1804, to September 30, 1805, while on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was found among the Nicholas Biddle papers. The journal is now in the

possession of the American Philosophical Society. When the journal of Sergeant Pryor is found, if one is in existence, the record kept by the principal officers on this expedition will be complete.

Mr. Charles R. Green of Olathe, Kansas, deserves much credit for his series of books relating to the early days in Kansas. For several years he has been publishing these books at a loss to himself, since the sales have not as a rule been sufficient to pay the cost of publication.

Professor Edward C. Page has built up an excellent historical museum at the Northern Illinois State Normal School at DeKalb, Illinois, an enterprise which is worthy of imitation, especially in the public schools where the visualization of history is an important end to be gained.

THE GENERAL N. B. BAKER LIBRARY

The General N. B. Baker Library of Sutherland, O'Brien County, Iowa, has an interesting history. It is the pioneer library of northwestern Iowa, having been established by William Huston Woods in 1874 in a cabin out on the prairie far from any town. During the early years the library was maintained by subscriptions, and the settlers of the region responded to such an extent that for the first year there were thirty-nine subscribers. A number of the leading magazines were secured and books were acquired as funds permitted. On one occasion General Duane Wilson donated to the library eighty books and nearly six hundred magazines. The library was named in honor of Nathaniel B. Baker, Adjutant General of Iowa during the Civil War.

William Huston Woods was a pioneer of Iowa City, where he lived from 1839 to 1862; and later he moved to northwestern Iowa when that region was still a sparsely settled frontier.

Mrs. Roma Wheeler-Woods, wife of the founder of the library, has been the corresponding secretary since its establishment. The library, which is in constant use by the people of Sutherland, is still kept in the Woods home, but plans are being made for the erection of a building in which the library may be suitably housed in the future.

CONTRIBUTORS

JACOB VAN DER ZEE, Research Associate in The State Historical Society of Iowa, and Instructor in Political Science in the State University of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1913, p. 142.)

THOMAS TEAKLE, Instructor in History in the North Des Moines High School. Member of The State Historical Society of Iowa. Author of *The Rendition of Barclay Coppoc*. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for October, 1912, p. 593.)

LOUIS THOMAS JONES, Member of The State Historical Society of Iowa. Born in 1884 in Buffalo, New York. Graduated in 1906 from Wilmington College. Received the degree of M. A. in 1911 from the University of Kansas, and the degree of Ph. D. in 1914 from the State University of Iowa. Instructor in History at Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa, 1909-1912. Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1912-1913. Removed in 1913 to Orlando, Florida. Author of *The Quakers of Iowa*.

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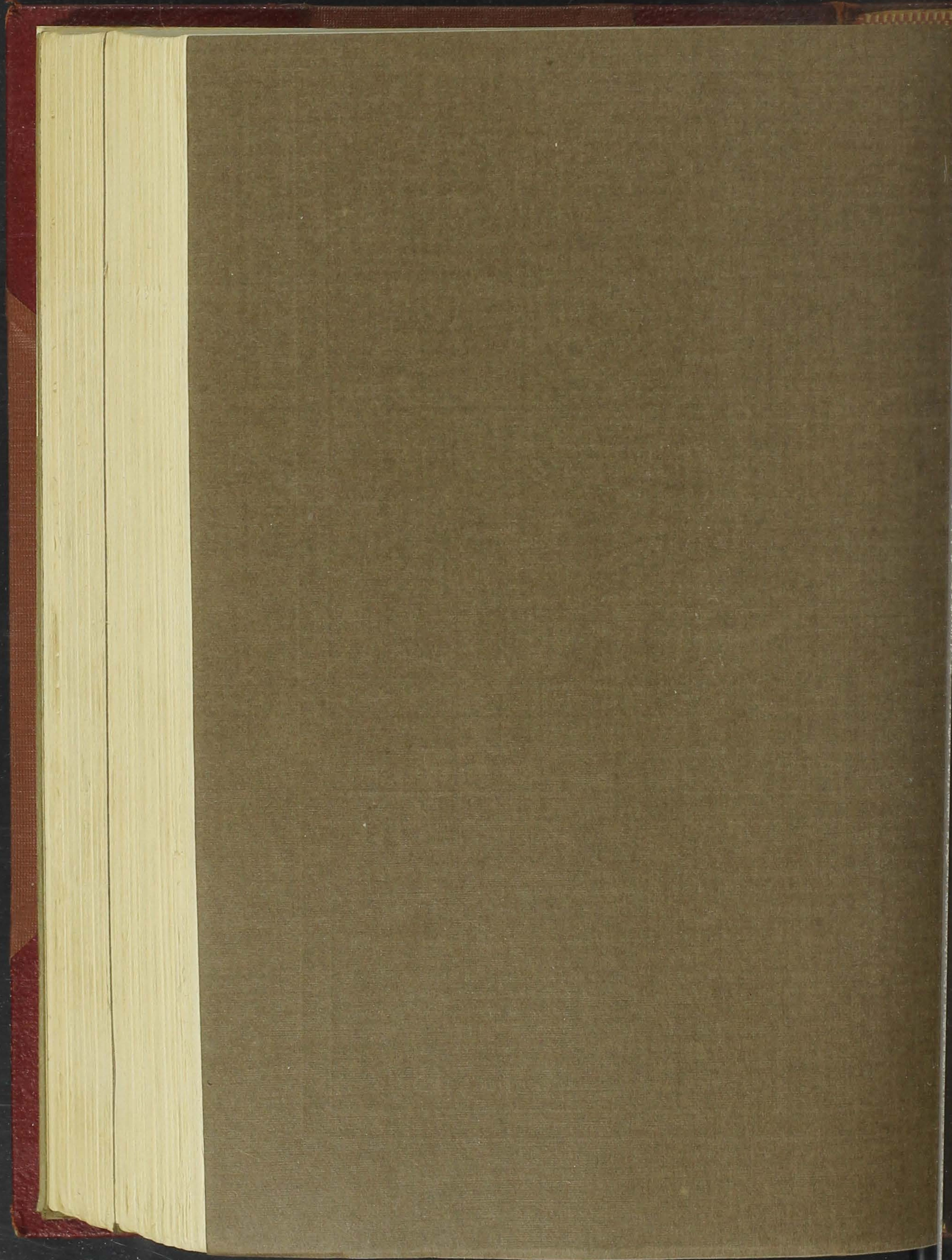
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