

NOTES AND COMMENT

The annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools was held in Chicago during the holidays.

New histories of Lee, Buchanan, and Jefferson counties have recently appeared; and histories of Madison and Clarke counties are being prepared.

On October 21, 1914, at Dubuque occurred the death of Alexander Simplot, who was born in Dubuque on January 5, 1837.

The Pioneers of Van Buren County held their annual meeting late in September, 1914. Nearly ninety old settlers were registered, many of whom came to the county during the forties.

The Iowa survivors of the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, celebrated the fifty-second anniversary of the battle on December 7, 1914, at Columbus Junction.

The thirty-sixth annual reunion of the Old Settlers' Association of Jefferson County was held at Fairfield on October 1, 1914.

At the Butler County Fair last fall a reunion of old settlers was held, and there were registered twenty-five persons who have lived in the county for more than fifty years.

Mr. Alonzo C. Parker, a prominent Iowa attorney, died at his home in Des Moines on November 7, 1914.

The Grinnell chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has installed a bronze tablet on the site of the first house in that city.

The European war was the cause of the postponement of the meeting of the Nineteenth International Congress of Americanists which was to have been held at Washington, D. C., in October.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Iowa Library Association was held at Marshalltown on October 20-22, 1914.

The recent finding of a Spanish coin, bearing the date 1787, near McGregor, Iowa, recalls the fact that this region was a Spanish possession from 1762 until 1800; and that one Basil Giard for several years occupied a Spanish land grant covering the present site of McGregor.

Mr. E. E. Johnson, residing near Homer, Iowa, has discovered on his land an Indian mound containing a number of relics, among which is an Indian pipe, made not of pipestone, but of slate and having a short mouthpiece instead of merely an opening for the insertion of a reed stem, as is the case with most of the Indian pipes found in this region.

The American Political Science Association held its annual meeting in Chicago on December 29-31, 1914. Papers on constitutional guarantees, the reorganization of State government, and the city-manager plan, and a conference on the teaching of American government were among the features of the meeting.

Early in December there was installed in the rooms of the Davenport Academy of Sciences a collection of relics and other material illustrative of the history and customs of the Fox Indians. The collection was made by Dr. Truman Michelson of the American Bureau of Ethnology.

Interest in the marking of historic spots and highways in Iowa is being promoted by the various chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution in this State. Special attention has been given to the Mormon Trail across the southern part of the State, the marking of which was begun in October, 1913, by the erection of a tablet in the city of Keokuk.

A newspaper item reports that early in October the ferry between Dubuque and East Dubuque was discontinued because there is no further demand for it. This was one of the earliest ferries across the Mississippi between Iowa and Illinois and has been in operation for nearly eighty years. Its discontinuance marks the passing of another reminder of pioneer days.

Students of Mississippi Valley history will be interested to know that after much investigation Professor Herbert E. Bolton has located the site of La Salle's settlement on the Gulf coast after his disastrous expedition to found a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Professor Bolton places the settlement on the Garcitas River about five miles from its mouth; and he has proved that La Salle was murdered at a place near the present town of Navasota, Texas, instead of on the Trinity or Neches River, as is usually stated.

On October 22, 1914, at Canandaigua, New York, occurred the death of Edward F. Winslow, who was the colonel of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry until promoted to a higher rank and who was one of the most prominent and successful officers in the western army. After the war he was for many years prominently engaged in the building and management of railroads in this country, his last position being the presidency of the Frisco Railway system. General Winslow was born in Maine on September 28, 1837, and in 1856 he came to Iowa and engaged in mercantile business at Mt. Pleasant.

SMITH MCPHERSON

Judge Smith McPherson was born at Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana, on February 14, 1848. In June, 1870, he was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, and soon thereafter began the practice of law at Red Oak, which has been his home down to the time of his death. Many official honors came to Judge McPherson as is indicated by the following list of positions which he held: District Attorney of the third judicial district of Iowa, 1874-1880; Attorney General of Iowa, 1880-1885; Representative from the Ninth Congressional District of Iowa, 1899-1900; United States Judge for the southern district of Iowa, 1900 to the time of his death. During the period of his service in the latter position he rendered many decisions of far-reaching importance. Judge McPherson died at his home in Red Oak on January 17, 1915.

WORK OF REV. DOUGLASS IN CHURCH HISTORY

A monumental work on the history of the Congregational Church in Iowa is being written by the Rev. Truman O. Douglass of Grinnell, who has spent many years in the service of that church in this State and who is the author of several books and articles dealing with various phases of Congregational history. At present he is engaged in writing biographical sketches of Congregational ministers in Iowa from pioneer days down to comparatively recent times. He has already completed eight manuscript volumes, each containing from three hundred and fifty to six hundred pages and it is expected that there will be three more volumes.

The first volume is entitled "The Patriarchs and Their Associates". The "patriarchs" are Asa Turner, Reuben Gaylord, Julius A. Reed, Oliver Emerson, and John C. Holbrook; and among the "associates" are William P. Apthorp, the first Congregational minister in Iowa, Zeria K. Hawley, Thomas P. Emerson, Allen B. Hitchcock, Charles Burnham, Aaron Dutton, Charles Granger, Israel Holmes, and Thomas Dutton.

Volume two is devoted to the lives of the members of the famous "Iowa Band"; and the succeeding volumes deal with the men who built and served the Congregational churches in Iowa from 1840 down to the eighties; after which the writer proposes to "leave the younger men to some other hand." "My principal reason for writing these sketches", says Rev. Douglass, "is to put into shape a great mass of material which is lying around loose, and which is likely to be lost unless I gather it up." It is not possible to commend too highly a work such as that in which Rev. Douglass is engaged.

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.)

ORIE ERB KLINGAMAN, Acting Director of the Extension Division of the State University of Iowa. Member of The State Historical Society of Iowa. Born in Indiana on July 7, 1874. Received the degree of B. A. from Highland Park College in 1912; and the degree of M. A. from the State University of Iowa in 1914. Taught four years in the rural schools, and for three years in the grade schools at Guthrie Center, Iowa. Principal of the grade schools at Creston, Iowa, for two years; and superintendent of schools for three years at Afton, Iowa. Representative of the Macmillan Company, 1905-1910; and representative of the D. C. Heath Company, 1910-1913. In extension work at the State University of Iowa since 1913. Editor of the *University Extension Bulletins*.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ESTABLISHED BY LAW IN THE YEAR 1857
INCORPORATED: 1867 AND 1892
LOCATED AT IOWA CITY IOWA

FORMER PRESIDENTS

JAMES W. GRIMES, *First President*

RALPH P. LOWE	ROBERT HUTCHINSON	GEORGE G. WRIGHT
S. J. KIRKWOOD	M. J. MORSMAN	JOSIAH L. PICKARD
F. H. LEE	WILLIAM G. HAMMOND	PETER A. DEY
W. PENN CLARKE		

OFFICERS

BENJAMIN F. SHAMBAUGH.....SUPERINTENDENT

EUCLID SANDERSPRESIDENT
PAUL A. KORABTREASURER
FRANK E. HORACKSECRETARY

BOARD OF CURATORS

Elected by the Society

Appointed by the Governor

GEO. W. BALL	MARVIN H. DEY	MARSH W. BAILEY	BYRON W. NEWBERRY
J. W. RICH	HENRY G. WALKER	M. F. EDWARDS	A. C. SAVAGE
EUCLID SANDERS	HENRY ALBERT	J. J. MCCONNELL	E. W. STANTON
ARTHUR J. COX	S. A. SWISHER	JOHN T. MOFFIT	W. H. TEDFORD
CHARLES M. DUTCHER		J. B. WEAVER	

MEMBERSHIP

Any person may become a member of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA upon election by the Board of Curators and the payment of an entrance fee of \$3.00.

Membership in this Society may be retained after the first year upon the payment of \$3.00 annually.

Members of the Society shall be entitled to receive the quarterly and all other publications of the Society during the continuance of their membership.

Any public, school, or college library in the State of Iowa may be enrolled as a library member upon application and the payment of a fee of \$1.00. Such library membership may be retained after the first year upon the payment of \$1.00 annually. Libraries enrolled as library members of THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA shall be entitled to receive the quarterly and all other publications of the Society issued during the period of their membership.

Address all Communications to

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IOWA CITY IOWA