

NOTES AND COMMENT

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Iowa Library Association was held at Colfax on October 12-14, 1915.

August 11th was the date of the thirty-first annual reunion of the old settlers of Madison and Warren counties at St. Charles. Joseph H. Allen was the principal speaker.

The eighteenth biennial reunion of Crocker's Iowa Brigade was held at Des Moines on September 15 and 16, 1915.

A log cabin has been erected on the county fair grounds in Buchanan County for use as a meeting-place for the old settlers of the county. The cabin was formally dedicated on August 18th.

An address by Ross Calhoun was the main feature of the Old Settlers' Reunion in Van Buren County on September 8, 1915.

A newspaper item states that an effort will be made to induce the General Assembly to purchase and set aside as a State park the spot on the Mississippi River, a short distance south of McGregor, which Zebulon M. Pike in 1805 recommended as the site for a government fort.

The annual reunion of the Pioneer Society of Pottawattamie, Mills, and Fremont Counties was held at Malvern on September 9th. The principal address was one by C. H. Babbitt of Washington, D. C.

On August 18, 1915, the Dubuque County Early Settlers' Association celebrated the semi-centennial of its organization.

W. L. Carpenter, who was for years the secretary of the State Grange in Iowa and who served as mayor of Des Moines in 1888 and for the four succeeding years as custodian of the capitol building, died at his home in Des Moines on September 26, 1915.

Former Congressman S. F. Prouty delivered the principal address at the annual reunion of the Polk County Early Settlers' Association at Mitchelville on September 15th.

Craig L. Wright, formerly of Sioux City and one of the most prominent lawyers in northern Iowa, died in California on August 6th. He was born at Keosauqua on December 5, 1846, and was the son of Judge George G. Wright.

Congressman H. M. Towner was the principal speaker at the dedication of Harvey Park in Leon, Iowa, on September 9th. This park was presented to the city by Mrs. E. E. Harvey as a memorial to the late John W. Harvey, who was district judge in the third judicial district from 1883 to 1890.

The legislature of Indiana has appropriated the sum of \$25,000 to defray the expenses of a fitting celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of that State into the Union — the exact day being December 11, 1916. A permanent, non-partisan historical commission, created by the same act, will have charge of the plans for the celebration.

On August 18, 1915, occurred the dedication of the homestead and estate of the late Gen. James B. Weaver at Bloomfield, Iowa, to public use. The house will become a community house, serving various purposes as needs arise; while the four acres of ground will be known as "Weaver Park", and here in the future the sessions of Davis County Chautauqua will be held. Addresses were delivered at the time of the dedication by William Jennings Bryan, who was an intimate friend of General Weaver, and by James B. Weaver, Jr. of Des Moines.

Former public officials of Iowa who have recently died are the following: George H. Purdy, State Representative from Floyd County in the Thirty-sixth General Assembly, who died on April 23rd; A. M. Garrett of Letts, State Senator in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth General Assemblies, who died on August 15th; Melvin H. Byers, Adjutant General of Iowa from 1898 to 1905, and Chief Oil Inspector since 1909, who died on July 27th; Christopher Jones of Des Moines, Clerk of the Supreme Court from 1895 to

1903, who died on September 16th; and Thomas D. Foster of Ottumwa, a member of the State Board of Education for a short time, who died on July 20th.

GEORGE W. BALL

George Washington Ball was born on June 7, 1847, near Fairfield, Iowa. His early life was spent on his father's farm, his education being received in the common schools, in a private school at Fairfield, and in the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant. Entering the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1868, he was graduated two years later, and that same winter (December, 1870) he began the practice of law. In 1874 he located at Iowa City and entered into partnership with Charles Baker, a relationship which was continued until the death of Mr. Baker in 1910.

Mr. Ball held many official positions. He was a member of the city council of Iowa City from 1881 to 1883, and mayor of the city from 1905 to 1909. As the Representative from Johnson County he served in the Twenty-first General Assembly of Iowa, and he was later State Senator in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies. Moreover, he was for many years a member of the Board of Curators of The State Historical Society of Iowa. At a meeting of that Board shortly after Mr. Ball's death the following resolution was adopted and spread on the minutes:

"Be it resolved by the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa that in the death of our colleague, Mr. George W. Ball, we recognize not only a great personal loss but also the passing of one upon whose advice and judgment we have been accustomed to depend in all matters connected with the conduct and welfare of the Society. Mr. Ball was a member of this Board for twenty-six years, having been first elected on June 24, 1889; and throughout those years, when health permitted, he was faithful and punctual in his attendance at the monthly meetings of the Board. His untiring interest and wise counsel contributed largely to the growth and development of the Society."

CONTRIBUTORS

FRANK EDWARD HORACK, Professor of Political Science in the State University of Iowa. Born in Iowa in 1873. Graduated from the State University of Iowa in 1897. Studied in Germany. Received the degree of Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Secretary of The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1903-1915. Author of *Constitutional Amendments in Iowa*, *The Organization and Control of Industrial Corporations*, *The League of Iowa Municipalities*, *A Brief History of the Political Science Club*, *Primary Elections in Iowa*, *The Government of Iowa*, *The Work of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly of Iowa*, *The Legislation of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly of Iowa*, *Reorganization of State Government in Iowa*, and *Equal Suffrage in Iowa*.

JACOB VAN DER ZEE, Assistant Professor of Political Science in the State University of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1913, p. 142.)