NOTES AND COMMENT

A movement is on foot to erect a monument near Story City, Iowa, on the spot where it is said once stood the first Norwegian church built west of the Mississippi River.

About the middle of October occurred the death of Mrs. Henry Clay Dean, at the age of ninety. Her husband was one of the most interesting characters in Iowa during the Civil War period, being widely known for his gifts as a speaker.

A number of citizens of Des Moines are interested in a plan to erect a monument to Thomas Jefferson in that city near where the Jefferson Highway crosses the Seventh Street viaduct.

On December 6th occurred the death of J. M. Mulroney at Fort Dodge Mr. Mulroney traveled on foot to California in 1850, but returned to Palo Alto County, Iowa, in 1857. Later he located at Fort Dodge, where he became interested in banking and railroad building.

A "Publicity Week" was conducted by the Chariton Public Library about the middle of November, one day being devoted to a display of books and materials relating to Iowa. The library now maintains a historical room.

Guy A. Feely of Waterloo died on November 4th at the age of forty-one. Mr. Feely was born in Black Hawk County, was graduated from the Law College of the State University of Iowa in 1901, and became a prominent member of the bar of his native county. He was a member of the House of Representatives in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third General Assemblies and at the latter session he served as Speaker of the House

The Open Fire Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Eldora is taking a very active interest in the marking of historic spots in Hardin County. Plans are being made which,

when carried out, will leave for future generations a permanent, visible record of many of the interesting events in the pioneer history of the county.

The seventieth anniversary of the admission of Iowa into the Union occurred on December 28, 1916, and passed without any notable public observance. The newspapers of the State, however, quite generally took notice of the day. In New York City the event was celebrated by a joint banquet of the Iowa Society of New York and the Iowa New Yorkers at the Hotel Astor.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Iowa Conference of Charities and Correction was held at Ottumwa on October 22-24, 1916. At this time provision was made for the appointment of a legislative committee to coöperate with other agencies in the effort to secure needed social legislation.

James H. Wilson, popularly known in Iowa as "Prairie Jim Wilson", died in Washington, D. C., on November 21, 1916. Mr. Wilson was born in New York in 1846, served during the Civil War in a New York regiment, and came to Iowa about 1865, locating in Adair County. He was for several years a trustee of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts; and at the time of his death was a member of the State Board of Railroad Commissioners, which position he had held since 1914.

During the past few months newspapers in various parts of the State have given their hearty approval to a suggestion that the General Assembly should appropriate a sum of money sufficient to fireproof the Old Stone Capitol Building at Iowa City. The old building is rightly regarded as the greatest historical monument within the boundaries of Iowa, and the desirability of its permanent preservation is coming to be generally recognized.

The *Marshalltown Times- Republican* of November 8th suggests the desirability of a semi-annual journal devoted to county history and politics "We are losing a great deal of valuable history", says the editor, "by the departure to the far country of those who helped to make it and of which no written record exists. The

files of such a publication would be literally invaluable as a record of the real development of the counties."

Iowa Day was observed at the State University of Iowa on October 20, 1916, by an assembly. Preceding an address on *Practical Citizenship,* by Allen D. Albert, brief remarks were made on *The Historian's Iowa,* by Benj. F. Shambaugh; *The Geologist's Iowa,* by George F. Kay; *The Schoolman's Iowa,* by Robert E. Rienow; and *The Writer's Iowa,* by John T. Frederick.

Senator Eli C. Perkins, a member of The State Historical Society of Iowa, died at his home at Delhi on October 11, 1916. Mr. Perkins was born in Maine in 1850 and came to Iowa during his youth. He graduated from Lenox College in 1875 and from the Law College of the State University of Iowa in 1879. He was county attorney of Delaware County from 1887 until 1893. In 1908 he was elected to a seat in the lower house of the General Assembly, where he served for two terms, and was then elected State Senator. No doubt the greatest memorial to the legislative services of Senator Perkins will be the benefits derived by the crippled children of Iowa through medical treatment received at Iowa City in accordance with the terms of the so-called "Perkins Act".

Daniel Kerr, a former member of the General Assembly of Iowa and a Congressman from this State from 1887 to 1891, died at his home in Grundy Center on October 8, 1916. Mr. Kerr was born in Scotland in 1836, and removed to Illinois when five years of age. He served in an Illinois regiment during the Civil War, and later was elected to the Illinois legislature. In 1870 he removed to Grundy Center, Iowa, where the remainder of his life was spent.

The death of Arthur George Smith at his home in Iowa City on November 5, 1916, took from the faculty of the State University of Iowa one of its best loved members. Professor Smith was born in Wayne County, Iowa, on November 28, 1868. He graduated from the State University in 1891, and four years later received the degree of Master of Arts. After studying abroad, both in Germany and England, he became permanently connected with the department of mathematics at the State University of Iowa. He was pro-

moted from time to time, until in 1911 he became head of the department of mathematics and astronomy. Aside from his very successful work as teacher, Professor Smith will long be remembered in educational circles for his strong influence in the interest of clean athletics in the colleges and universities of the Middle West.

William Craig Wilcox, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts of the State University of Iowa, died at his home in Iowa City on October 5, 1916, after a long illness. He was born at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on January 16, 1867. After an education in the common schools he entered the University of Rochester, from which he received the degrees of B. A. and M. A. In 1894, after spending two years as Fellow in Political Science at the University of Chicago, he accepted an appointment as professor of history at the State University of Iowa. He became head of the department of history in 1904, a position which he continued to hold until the time of his death. Since 1909 he was also Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the duties of which office he performed with eminent success in the midst of many trials. Dean Wilcox was long a member of The State Historical Society of Iowa, and from 1903 to 1905 was a member of the Board of Curators. He was a splendid teacher, a wise and successful administrator, and a citizen held in high esteem and affection by a host of friends—not only among his associates in the University but throughout the State of Iowa where he was widely known.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ivan L. Pollock, Assistant in Political Science in the State University of Iowa. Born in Jefferson County, Iowa, in 1887. Graduated from Parsons College in 1910. Received the degree of Master of Arts from Washington University, St. Louis, in 1911. Received the degree of Ph. D. at the State University of Iowa in 1916. Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1915-1916. Author of *Some Abuses Connected with Statute Law-making.*

Dan Elbert Clark, Associate Editor in The State Historical Society of Iowa. (See The Iowa Journal of History and Politics for April, 1915, p. 307.)

Joseph S. Heffner, University Pastor of the Congregational Church of Iowa City. Graduate student in the State University of Iowa.

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