

## NOTES AND COMMENT

The sixteenth biennial session of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association was held at Des Moines on March 14th and 15th.

The calendaring of the manuscripts in the possession of the University of Illinois has been begun under the direction of Dr. Charles H. Lincoln.

The Taylor County Bar Association is making efforts to secure portraits of the judges of the district court, past and present, in the district in which Taylor County is situated, to be hung in the library of the Association.

At the annual meeting of the Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, held in Des Moines in March, it was announced that the coming summer would witness the completion of the marking of the old trail across Iowa from Keokuk to Council Bluffs, made by the Mormons on their western pilgrimage. Five large boulders, on which there will be bronze tablets, will be placed at various points along the route of the old trail.

James H. McConlogue, who was a very active and influential member of the Board of Control of State Institutions, died in Des Moines on February 26th. He was born in Philadelphia in 1856.

Judge A. B. Thornell of the district court of the fifteenth judicial district of Iowa, in the southwestern corner of the State, recently resigned from the position which he has held for a period of thirty years.

The recent finding of an object alleged to be a petrified human foot of large dimensions, in a coal mine at Lehigh, Iowa, calls to mind the famous Cardiff Giant fraud which gave Webster County some notoriety many years ago.

The Iowa branch of the United Press Association, which has

headquarters in Des Moines under the direction of Mr. Sam Freed, is rendering a valuable service in the cause of spreading a knowledge of Iowa history. In the news letter which it sends out each week to the newspapers supplied by it may be found a series of "Little Stories of Iowa". These stories are brief, but they deal in an interesting manner with some phase of the early history of this State, being concerned chiefly with events and movements which have a "human interest". The work thus being done can not be too highly commended.

HORACE EMERSON DEEMER

Justice Horace E. Deemer died at his home in Red Oak on February 26, 1917, after an illness of ten days. He was born at Bourbon, Indiana, on September 24, 1858; and when about eight years of age came to Cedar County, Iowa, with his parents. He entered the collegiate department of the State University of Iowa in 1873, but later transferred to the law department, from which he was graduated in 1879. After practicing law for about seven years, chiefly at Red Oak, he was elected judge of the Fifteenth Judicial District of Iowa in 1886, and continued to occupy that position until 1894. In the latter year he was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court, in which capacity he served with great distinction until the time of his death. He was Chief Justice in 1898, 1904, 1910, and 1915.

Not only was Justice Deemer a jurist of high attainments and broad vision, but his interests extended to many important subjects outside of the court room. He was a member of a large number of associations covering such fields as history, political science, jurisprudence, sociology, and charities and correction. He was a lecturer in the College of Law of the State University for several years and since 1904 was honorary professor of jurisprudence. As an author he made many contributions to legal thought and knowledge. But aside from his work on the bench, no doubt his most enduring and far-reaching service was that in promotion of the historical interests of the State. As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Department of Iowa, he exercised a guiding influence in the establishment and development of that institution. Moreover, he was long a loyal member and valued adviser of The State Historical Society of Iowa.

In the death of Justice Deemer the State of Iowa has lost an eminent member of its judiciary, a citizen of the highest type, and a man held in esteem and affection by a host of friends.

## CHARLES CLINTON NOURSE

Charles Clinton Nourse died at Sierra Madre, California, on December 31, 1916. He was born in Maryland in 1829, and received his education at Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. Coming to Iowa in 1851, he entered upon the practice of law at Keosauqua, and one year later became prosecuting attorney of the county. He was chief clerk of the House of Representatives of the Fifth General Assembly and at the succeeding session was secretary of the Senate. As a delegate to the Republican State Convention in 1856 he helped to organize that party in Iowa, and in 1860 he was a delegate to the Chicago convention which nominated Lincoln. He was Attorney General of Iowa from 1861 to 1865, and at the end of that service was judge of the Fifth Judicial District for one year. His home was in Des Moines for over fifty years, and he was a leading member of the bar of that city and the State. His ability as a public speaker and his genius for organization made him for many years a prominent leader in the Republican party.

---

CONTRIBUTORS

JACOB A. SWISHER, General Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. Born in Illinois in 1884. Graduate of the State University of Iowa.

THOMAS TEAKLE, Chairman of the History Department, North High School, Des Moines, Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for April, 1916, p. 308.)

# 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

S. J. KIRKWOOD

F. H. LEE

W. PENN CLARKE

ROBERT HUTCHINSON

M. J. MOBSMAN

WILLIAM G. HAMMOND

GEORGE G. WRIGHT

JOSIAH L. PICKARD

PETER A. DEY

## OFFICERS

BENJAMIN F. SHAMBAUGH.....SUPERINTENDENT

EUCLID SANDERS .....PRESIDENT

PAUL A. KORAB.....TREASURER

.....SECRETARY

## BOARD OF CURATORS

*Elected by the Society*

*Appointed by the Governor*

J. W. RICH

EUCLID SANDERS

ARTHUR J. COX

MARVIN H. DEY

HENRY G. WALKER

HENRY ALBERT

S. A. SWISHER

CHARLES M. DUTCHER

GEO. E. GRIEB

MARSH W. BAILEY

J. P. CRUIKSHANK

M. F. EDWARDS

J. J. MCCONNELL

JOHN T. MOFFIT

BYRON W. NEWBERRY

E. W. STANTON

W. H. TEDFORD

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.

*Address all Communications to*

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IOWA CITY IOWA