

NOTES AND COMMENT

The State Board of Conservation has been asked to create a State park in Louisa County along the Iowa River. A number of mounds as well as the historical associations of the region are among the advantages urged for the selection of this site.

A marker for the Old Mormon Trail near Lewis has been provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution and will be put in place when the road grade is established.

The annual reunion of the Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry was held at Muscatine on September 14 and 15, 1920.

The restoration and maintenance of Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek County has been suggested by L. H. Pammel.

The Iowa Engineering Society held its thirty-second annual meeting at Fort Dodge, February 17-19, 1920.

A conference of all persons interested in State parks has been called by L. H. Pammel, president of the State Board of Conservation. The meeting will be held at Des Moines on September 24th and 25th.

The annual convention of the Iowa Library Association was held at Des Moines, October 12-14, 1920. The following officers were elected to serve for the succeeding year: Charles Sumner of Sioux City, president; Callie Weider of Marshalltown, first vice president; C. V. Findlay of Fort Dodge, second vice president; Mary McCoy of Indianola, secretary; and Jessie Swem of Des Moines, treasurer.

The League of Iowa Municipalities held its annual convention at Des Moines, August 17-19, 1920. The officers for the coming year are as follows: president, J. F. Rall; vice president, H. H. McCleery; and secretary-treasurer, Frank G. Pierce.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the old settlers of Harrison County was held at Magnolia on August 6, 1920. Jake Motz was selected as the president of the association for the following year and A. M. Fyrando was reelected secretary.

Old settlers of Black Hawk County held their annual picnic at Waterloo on August 28, 1920. J. C. Murtagh delivered the chief address. A. J. Edwards was elected president; Wm. P. Thompson, vice president; J. C. Hartman, secretary; and Roger Leavitt, treasurer.

Pioneers of Scott County held their sixty-fourth annual meeting at Davenport on August 25, 1920. J. A. Hanley gave the address. Rudolph Snyder was elected president of the Pioneer Settlers' Association of Scott County for the following year, Bruce Seaman was named vice president, and Henry Karwath and J. F. Kelly were reelected secretary and treasurer.

A sketch of the two papers published by the firm of Kenea and Lane is to be found in the *Publishers' Auxiliary* for July 31, 1920. For many years J. P. Kenea and Edwin C. Lane were the editors of *The LaCygne Journal*, a Kansas publication, and in 1893 they founded the *Clarinda Journal*. They have been in partnership in newspaper work a little over forty-five years, a rather unusual record.

The Old Settlers' Association of Scott County held a business meeting at Davenport on August 10, 1920. The following officers were selected: Rudolph Hebbeln, president; Otto Steckel, vice president; and John Berwald, secretary-treasurer.

An historical pageant relating to the events in Plymouth County was presented at Le Mars on September 16 and 17, 1920. In addition a program was given in honor of the World War veterans. Hanford J. McNider was the chief speaker.

The annual pow-wow of the Meskwaki Indians at Tama began August 5, 1920, and continued several days. The Historical Department of Iowa at this time completed the motion picture record begun three years ago and began the compilation of a record of Indian names in Iowa.

The Old Settlers' Association of Tama County held its annual reunion at Tama on September 6, 1920. F. A. Moscrip gave the principal address. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Frank C. McClaskey, president; Isaac Vorhes, vice president; Mrs. E. A. Rogers, secretary; and R. W. Adair, treasurer.

Truman H. Michelson, who for several years has been interested in the history and language of the Fox Indians, spent some time during the summer at the reservation in Tama County. He also visited the State Historical Society at Iowa City for the purpose of a conference concerning the study of the Indians of the State.

The Directors of the Mint have made arrangements for the distribution of the "Pilgrim half dollars" which have been issued to commemorate the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims. The National Shawmut Bank of Boston has been designated as the distributing agent for the coins which will be sold for one dollar each. The proceeds remaining after the cost of coinage is deducted will be given to the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission which will have charge of the celebration of the anniversary in the United States. Memorial services have already been held in Holland and England.

EDGAR WILLIAM STANTON

Edgar Wm. Stanton, for over fifty years connected with the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, died in New York on September 13, 1920. He was born in Waymast, Pennsylvania, on October 3, 1850, and came to Iowa to attend the agricultural college in 1870. Immediately after his graduation in 1872 he became instructor in mathematics and five years later he was promoted to the position of professor. He served as secretary of the board of trustees from 1873 until 1902. Professor Stanton also served as dean of the faculty, acting president of the college, and at the time of his death was vice president. From July, 1900, until July, 1918, he was a member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

JAMES WILSON

James Wilson, who died at Traer, Iowa, on August 26, 1920, was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, on August 16, 1835. Having emigrated to America in 1852 the young man worked part of the time and attended school whenever an opportunity offered. By industry and economy he became the owner of a farm in Tama County, Iowa, and in 1867 he was elected to the legislature as the representative from that county. It was during this first session that he acquired the sobriquet "Tama Jim" to distinguish him from another James Wilson in the House at the same time. He was twice reelected and was chosen speaker of the House during the session of the Fourteenth General Assembly. In 1872 and again in 1874 he was elected to Congress from the Fifth District. After an interval James Wilson again became a candidate for Congressman in the election of 1882, but a contest arose and his opponent was finally seated on the last day of the session.

In addition to his legislative experience, Mr. Wilson served his community and State in various ways. For a time in 1882 he was a member of the State Railroad Commission, he helped to edit the *Traer Clipper* and wrote numerous articles on agriculture for various papers in the State. He served also as regent of the State University of Iowa and in 1891 became professor of practical agriculture at Ames and director of the State experiment station.

In March, 1897, he took his place as Secretary of Agriculture and it is for this work that "Tama Jim" Wilson will be best remembered. So successful was he that he was reappointed by President Roosevelt and President Taft, serving sixteen years. During this time the Department of Agriculture increased rapidly both in the number of employees and in the scope of the work.

CONTRIBUTORS

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at The State University of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF
HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1913, pp. 142, 143.)