

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Filson Club was formally installed in its new building at Louisville, Kentucky, on October 8 and 9, 1929.

The fifty-fifth annual meeting of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society was held at Lansing on November 16, 1929. Some revisions were made in the constitution and by-laws of the Society.

A collection of pictures, objects of art, books, and music, belonging formerly to Vinnie Ream Hoxie, has been donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society by General and Mrs. Robert L. Hoxie. It is to be known as the "Vinnie Ream Hoxie Memorial Collection".

Exercises at the laying of the cornerstone of Oklahoma Historical Building were held at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 16, 1929. Addresses were delivered by Governor William J. Holloway, Judge Robert L. Williams, Hon. Thomas H. Doyle, and Hon. Gabe E. Parker.

The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society dedicated a monument to General Anthony Wayne on the Battlefield of Fallen Timbers on September 14, 1929. Following the dedication a banquet was held at Toledo at which James W. Good, Secretary of War, delivered the address.

The Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society is offering a prize of one hundred dollars to the person submitting the best unpublished article on Michigan history during the year 1930. The competition is open to any person interested. Manuscripts should be sent to George N. Fuller, Secretary of the Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, Michigan, not later than September 1, 1930.

On October 11 and 12, 1929, the Henderson County Historical Society of Henderson, Kentucky, celebrated the unveiling of six bronze tablets commemorating the activities of The Transylvania Company in the settlement of Kentucky. An address, written for this occasion by Archibald Henderson, entitled *The Transylvania*

Company and the Founding of Henderson, Ky., has been printed in booklet form.

An event closely connected with Iowa history was the marking of the site of the rescue of Abbie Gardner (Sharp) from the Sioux Indians near Redfield, South Dakota, on September 5, 1929. The service was sponsored by the D. A. R. Doane Robinson, former South Dakota State historian, was the principal speaker. Abbie Gardner was taken prisoner at the time her family was massacred at Spirit Lake, Iowa, and was rescued by three friendly Indians.

A special meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society was held at the Joliet Public Library on October 30 and 31, 1929. The program included the following addresses: "Landmarks of the Chicago Portage of the Seventeenth Century", by Lucius H. Zeuch; "Pre-History in Will County", written by George Langford and read by James C. Bell; "New Data on the Life of Shabbona, The Friendly Indian", by W. E. Walsh; "Historical Facts and Objects and Their Permanent Preservation To Mark Progress of Communities", by Elbert Waller; "Unusual Things in County History", by August Maue; "Abraham Lincoln: Land Owner and Investor", by Paul M. Angle; and "Historical Spots, Deep Waterway and City Parks", by Fred Bennitt.

The Minnesota Historical Society held its eighty-first annual meeting at St. Paul on January 13, 1930. The program included the following papers and addresses: "The Progress and Prospects of County Historical Work in Minnesota", by Theodore C. Blegen; "The Problem of Historic Monuments and Markers in Minnesota", by Willoughby M. Babcock; "A Visit to Ath, the Birthplace of Father Hennepin", by Edward C. Gale; "The Functions of a State Historical Society", by Benj. F. Shambaugh; "A Project for the History of Medicine in Minnesota", by John M. Armstrong; and "The Statesman of Democracy — Abraham Lincoln", by Benj. F. Shambaugh.

The eleventh annual Indiana History Conference was held at Indianapolis on December 13 and 14, 1929. Clark Wissler, cur-

ator-in-chief of the Department of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, was the chief speaker, his subject being "The Antiquarian in Contemporary Life". Mrs. W. T. Lafferty spoke on "The Romance of the Ohio". This meeting followed a celebration of the landing of Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle and his party at the portage between the St. Joseph and Kankakee rivers two hundred and fifty years ago. This was held at South Bend on December 5 and 6, 1929. At a dinner on this occasion Christopher B. Coleman spoke on "La Salle in America", Charles H. Bartlett on "La Salle in the Valley of the St. Joseph"; and Ross F. Lockridge, on "The Spirit of La Salle". A pageant, "La Salle, the Great Explorer", written by Genevieve Hopkins, was also presented on the evening of the fifth. On the sixth an historical tour was arranged to points of interest in the vicinity.

The American Historical Association held its forty-fourth annual meeting at Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on December 30 and 31, 1929, and January 1, 1930. Meeting at the same time and place were the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the Conference of Historical Societies, the Agricultural History Society, the History of Science Society, and the National Council for Social Studies. The programs included the following papers of interest to Middle Western history students: "Report of Progress in the Investigation of History and Other Social Studies in the Schools", by A. C. Krey; "Opportunities for Research in American Foreign Relations", by Samuel F. Bemis; "Operations for Historical Agencies in the National Archives in Washington", by Newton D. Mereness; "The Archives Department as an Administrative Unit in Government", by Margaret C. Norton; "Legislation Relating to Public Archives and Records in 1929", by George S. Godard; "Report on the Territorial and State Archives of Minnesota", by Donald E. Van Koughnet; "The Content and Scope of American Social History", by Dixon Ryan Fox; "Andrew Jackson, a Century Estimate", by William MacDonald; "F. P. Blair, Journalist", by William E. Smith; "Agricultural History Materials and Their Collection", by J. G. de Roulhae Hamilton; "The Rehabilitation of a Rural Commonwealth", by Robert D. W.

Connor; "Social Aspects of Prohibition", by C. Chilton Pearson; "The Great Plains and the American Frontier", by W. P. Webb; and "Aspects of the French Contribution to American Agriculture before 1776", by Arthur H. Hirsch. The presidential address was delivered by James Harvey Robinson at the dinner on December thirtieth. The following officers were chosen for the American Historical Association: Evarts B. Greene, president; Ephraim Douglass Adams, first vice president; Carl L. Becker, second vice president; Dexter Perkins, secretary; and Fairfax Harrison, treasurer.

IOWA

On November 26, 1929, the public school children of Elkader presented a pageant depicting pioneer days in Iowa.

The Woman's Relief Corps at Nashua has placed a boulder and tablet in the city park in honor of the Civil War veterans. It was dedicated on November 11, 1929.

The Historical Society of Marshall County has appointed Miss Ella Mace curator. The Society is planning to mark the site of the Mormon settlement on Mormon Ridge.

The Open Fire Chapter of the D. A. R. has taken action to mark the spot where Greenbury Haggin, the first settler in Hardin County, built his cabin in 1849.

A series of dramatic episodes in Iowa history are being broadcast weekly over radio station WSUI, under the direction of Bruce E. Mahan, director of the Extension Division.

The Worth County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Northwood on October 26, 1929. C. A. Hurd was elected president; Ed Swensrud, vice president; and Paul G. Thorn, secretary-treasurer.

On November 13, 1929, the Cumberland Valley Chapter of the D. A. R. dedicated a bronze tablet to mark the birthplace of Mrs. Ida Smith Ferguson, the first white child born in Ida County, who was born on July 19, 1856.

Plans are being made by the Daughters of Union Veterans to mark the site of Camp Harlan located on the Seeley farm west of Mt. Pleasant. This was a training camp during the Civil War and the Fourth Iowa Cavalry was stationed there for a time.

The city of Burlington is planning a celebration of its one hundredth anniversary in 1933. This section of Iowa was purchased from the Indians after the Black Hawk War and was informally opened to white settlers on June 1, 1833.

A pioneer house built by H. K. Rogers in 1871 has been moved into the city park at Sibley. Mr. Rogers was the first merchant and first postmaster of Sibley. The removal was sponsored by the Girl Reserves.

A monument to the soldiers engaged in all wars of the United States has been erected by the citizens of Plainfield. The monument was made of boulders from the vicinity, under the direction of F. C. Gallagher, and was financed by subscriptions.

The historical committee of the Commercial Club at Cedar Falls is making a collection of photographs of old settlers. It has already received a picture of William Sturgis, the first settler at that place.

Lyon County is making preparations to organize a museum of local history in the rooms in the courthouse formerly assigned to the G. A. R. A committee of interested persons, with O. S. Thomas as chairman, has been selected to promote the collection of material for the museum.

On October 16, 1929, the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a boulder to mark the grave of Jacob Wiley, a Revolutionary War soldier buried at Fairfield. The marker was dedicated by Mrs. H. A. Hoopes. C. J. Fulton gave the address and the marker was unveiled by Mrs. A. Atherton, a great granddaughter of Jacob Wiley.

"Iowa, Twenty-Nine" is the title of the pageant presented by the students of Clarke College, Dubuque, on November 22, 23, and

25, 1929, to celebrate the opening of the new auditorium. The first episode represented the coming of Marquette and Joliet in 1673. The scenes also include the settlement by Julien Dubuque, the transfer of Louisiana from France to America, a pioneer meeting at the home of George Wallace Jones, the Indian treaty of 1842, and the admission of Iowa.

The Union County Historical Society held an old settlers' picnic and exhibit at Afton on October 12, 1929. A gavel, made from a rail split by the Mormons in 1846, was presented to T. P. McGowan. Mrs. Ada Miller read an account of the early schools in Union County, and reminiscences of early times, by Lyman Waterman, were read by Mrs. Kenneth Davenport. A collection of relics was on display at the old courthouse building.

On December 22, 1929, the site of the first courthouse in Henry County was marked by a boulder and bronze tablet provided by the James Harlan Chapter of the D. A. R. This is said to be the first courthouse erected in Iowa. The program included a history of the courthouse by Mrs. W. A. Griffith and an address, "Iowa History as a Whole and Henry County in Particular", by Bruce E. Mahan.

A marker for the site of the meteor which fell at Estherville in May, 1879, was dedicated by Okomanpado Chapter of the D. A. R. on October 15, 1929. Judge J. N. Lee, who as a boy had witnessed the fall of the meteor, gave the main address. There were several short talks by other persons who witnessed the phenomenon in 1879. Mrs. James Rainey presented to the State the deed to the land occupied by the marker and it was accepted by E. R. Harlan.

A bronze tablet on the Crane building at Davenport marking the site of the home of Dr. John Emerson, owner of the slave, Dred Scott, was dedicated on October 3, 1929. At this site also were held the first Episcopalian services in Davenport. The marker was provided and the services were sponsored by the Hannah Caldwell Chapter of the D. A. R. Mayor Harold Metcalf accepted the tablet in behalf of the city of Davenport and George E. Collins for the Crane Company.

An historical pageant, "Louisa County, Yesterday and Today", was presented at Wapello on September 27, 1929, at the county homecoming and courthouse dedication. The pageant was arranged by Mrs. H. W. Baker. The four episodes represent the wilderness, the Indians, pioneer days, and modern times, including war scenes.

The October meeting of the Howard County Historical Society was held at Cresco on October 14, 1929. The program included papers by J. N. Smith on early grains and stock, Mrs. J. N. Smith on occupations, Mrs. Kellow on food and clothing, and Mrs. Glass on fruits, flowers, and vegetables. At the meeting held at Cresco on November 11, 1929, the program included a paper, "Early History of Howard County", by Mrs. L. E. Emmons.

Cedar Falls has established what may be called a community historical collection and museum. A paper, by Roger Leavitt, giving a brief history of the town, was published in the *Cedar Falls Record*. As a result of the interest aroused by this historical sketch, the Commercial Club appointed a committee of three men — Roger Leavitt, Le Claire Martin, and S. B. Humbert — to collect early records. The public library furnished a room and the Commercial Club shared the expense of a fire-proof safe. A number of scrap books, photographs, and pictures have already been collected. Among these is a picture of the first settler who came to Cedar Falls in March, 1845.

The second semi-annual meeting of the Iowa Catholic Historical Society was held at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, on November 19, 1929. The program included an address by the president, Judge Martin J. Wade, a presentation of the claims of Julien Dubuque and Basil Giard as the first permanent white settler, by M. M. Hoffmann, and a paper by C. F. Griffith on H. V. Gildea of Davenport. The Society made provision for the publication of a quarterly journal to be known as *The Iowa Catholic Historical Review*. M. M. Hoffmann was named editor-in-chief. The Society has already published two booklets: *The Catholic Sponsors of Iowa*, by M. M. Hoffmann; and *The History of St. Peter's Parish, Keokuk — 1832-1929*, by C. F. Griffith.

When the Estes House, a Civil War hospital at Keokuk, was torn down recently the cornerstone, encased in plate glass, with a bronze tablet attached, was placed as a memorial in the National Cemetery. On October 2, 1929, this was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. Major General Johnson Hagood, representing the War Department, was the speaker. The bronze tablet was accepted by Oley Nelson for the G. A. R., by J. R. Frailey for the Spanish War veterans, and by Frank M. Fuller for the World War veterans. The marker was unveiled by Marcia Helen Wescott, great granddaughter of J. C. Estes for whom the Estes House was named. On the morning of the same day a tablet, presented by the Auxiliary of the Sons of Veterans, was dedicated at Victory Park, marking the place of embarkation for most of the Iowa regiments in the Civil War. At this dedication Oley Nelson gave the address; and told of the death of his father at the old Estes House hospital. The tablet was presented by Mrs. A. C. Harmon, President of the Auxiliary, and accepted by Mayor Krueger. This was followed by the presentation of a flag staff at the entrance of the park. E. W. McManus gave the dedicatory address.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

On December 28, 1929, Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, was elected president of the American Political Science Association at the annual meeting at New Orleans, Louisiana.

A new series of publications to be known as the *Iowa Monograph Series* has been started by the State Historical Society of Iowa. The first number in this series is *The Legislation of the Forty-third General Assembly of Iowa*, by Jacob A. Swisher.

Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, delivered an address on "Abraham Lincoln, The Statesman of Democracy", at the Friendly House at Davenport on October 14, 1929, and on January 13, 1930, he delivered this address before a meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society. At another session of the same meeting he gave a talk on "The Functions of a State Historical Society".

The State Historical Society of Iowa is coöperating with the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs in preparing for the celebration of the fifth annual Iowa History Week, April 13-19, 1930. The subject selected for this year is "Iowa and the Nation", chosen to call attention to the contributions made by Iowans in the fields of politics, literature, art, diplomacy, business, and other lines of activities.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. T. G. Hamilton, Creston, Iowa; Mr. Martin Johnson, Granite, Iowa; Mr. Gerald T. Krohn, Palmer, Iowa; Mr. Sam Raymond, Vinton, Iowa; Mr. Lyle A. Lynn, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. Loran P. Akers, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Lars A. Larson, Marshalltown, Iowa; Miss Aleta J. Malmberg, Newton, Iowa; Mr. John W. Manning, Cox's Creek, Kentucky; Mr. W. G. Rowley, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. Frank J. Shaw, Emerson, Iowa; Mr. K. P. Vinsel, University, Mississippi; Miss Elsie J. Greenlee, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. H. G. Langworthy, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. G. J. Marnette, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Lola W. Merrick, Marble Rock, Iowa; Dr. J. L. Peppers, Webster City, Iowa; Mr. Clifford D. Ham, Akron, Ohio; Miss Hellen M. Ham, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. L. O. Leonard, Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. C. G. Pritchard, Buffalo Center, Iowa; and Mr. Harold Tascher, Cedar Falls, Iowa. The following have been enrolled as Life Members: Dr. D. S. Fairchild, Clinton, Iowa; and Mr. George McLean, Dubuque, Iowa.