

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The forty-first annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society was held at Muskogee on April 18 and 19, 1934. An historical tour through the Cherokee country and one to Fort Gibson were features of the meeting.

The original oil paintings, seven in number, made by Henry Lewis on his trip down the Mississippi from the Falls of St. Anthony to St. Louis in 1848, have been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by the T. B. Walker Foundation. The pictures include Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien and Fort Armstrong on Rock Island.

### IOWA

The Howard County Historical Society held a monthly meeting at Cresco on June 18, 1934. W. H. Tillson gave a talk on the early history of Howard Township.

W. C. Otto, county engineer of Sac County, is promoting the collection and preservation of local materials relating to the Indians and the early settlers.

Dr. Charles R. Keyes of Mt. Vernon, research associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, was the speaker at a special meeting of the Waukon Kiwanis Club on July thirteenth. His subject was the excavation of pre-historic mounds in Allamakee County.

Work on the restoration of old Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek County is progressing under the direction of Nels Fardahl, architectural engineer connected with the CCC camp at Decorah. The plans were approved by the United States War Department. Fort Atkinson was built in 1840 and the site is now a State Park.

The Fremont County Historical Society was organized at Sidney on June 25, 1934. Peter Jacobs of Shenandoah was elected president of the new organization and Fred W. Hill was made secretary. Vice

presidents will be named from the various parts of the county. Among the plans is a series of maps showing old trails, ferries, and other places of historic interest.

Among the projects now being considered by the Iowa State Planning Board is the proposed restoration of the old house formerly the home of William Maxson, where John Brown's men spent the winter of 1857-1858. The building was erected in 1839 and is of interest architecturally as well as historically. Mr. J. P. Fitzsimmons, architect for the State Planning Board, is in charge of the plans.

Road markers pointing the way to the burial ground of the three hundred Mormons who died on the trail across Iowa in 1846 have recently been purchased by the Nancy McKay Harsh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and placed on Highways 34 and 25 by CWA workers under the direction of the county engineer. The cemetery at Mt. Pisgah was marked in 1888 by a tall shaft erected by the Utah Latter Day Saints.

The people interested in the history of Pottawattamie County have organized a county historical society. Its articles of incorporation were filed on July 7th. The following officers were chosen: George S. Wright, president; H. K. Peterson, vice president; J. R. Perkins, historian; Loran A. Clark, secretary-treasurer; C. H. Galloway, editor; and O. J. Pruitt, curator. A campaign for members; marking the graves of early settlers; the issue of a quarterly journal; and the collection of historical relics are among the activities planned.

Through the efforts of the Northeastern Iowa National Park Association and the individual work of Ellison Orr and I. E. Beeman of Waukon, a deed has been secured for almost three acres of land on the Fish farm seven miles north of Lansing. There are some thirty-two Indian mounds on this area. It will be offered to the Federal government for a national monument site and if not accepted will probably be presented to the Iowa Board of Conservation for a State Park. A similar site near the mouth of Turkey River was recently purchased by some public-spirited citizens for the same purpose.

A committee on scenic and historic features of the State and local



areas has been appointed by the Iowa State Planning Board. Arthur E. Rapp is chairman of this committee which hopes to collect information about the various scenic and historic sites and to assist in their preservation wherever that is necessary and practicable. A survey of historic sites in Iowa was made during August and September by Russell Paul of Ames, representing the State Planning Board, and Dr. J. A. Swisher, of the staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The Iowa State Planning Board is sponsoring the exploration of a number of mounds in Allamakee County along the Upper Iowa or Oneota River. The work is under the direction of Dr. Charles R. Keyes, of Cornell College, assisted by Mr. Ellison Orr of Waukon and Mr. Fred Orr, also of Waukon. Dr. Keyes, who is also a research associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, has been engaged for a number of years in making an archaeological survey of Iowa. Mr. Ellison Orr recently donated to the Historical Society a large and valuable collection of copper, stone, and flint articles taken from the region along the Upper Iowa. The excavation work employs about twenty men and is financed jointly by State and Federal funds.

#### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Mr. Marvin H. Dey was reelected President of The State Historical Society of Iowa and Mr. Lee Nagle was reelected Treasurer at the meeting of the Board of Curators held at Iowa City on July 31, 1934.

A feathered cape, made by the daughter of Poweshiek, chief of one band of the Sauk and Fox Indians, has been presented to the State Historical Society by Mrs. A. H. Ford, a granddaughter of Dr. Henry Murray to whom the cape was presented by Chief Poweshiek in return for medical services.

The State Historical Society has been assisting in locating and marking historic sites in Iowa. Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh, Superintendent of the Society, has had several conferences with representatives of the Iowa State Planning Board and Dr. J. A. Swisher spent almost three weeks on a tour of the State with Mr. Russell Paul of the Planning Board.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. B. H. Graeber, Guttenberg, Iowa; Mr. George E. Holcomb, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Miss Estelle Penn, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Leslie Archerd, Clarion, Iowa; Mr. Robert O. Bickel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. A. A. Elderkin, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Mrs. C. S. Hutchins, Burlington, Iowa. The following persons have been enrolled as life members of the Society: Mr. W. J. Allen, Laurens, Iowa; Dr. Kermit Christensen, St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. Wm. M. Deacon, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. T. Henry Foster, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mr. W. D. Glasgow, Mechanicsville, Iowa; Mr. J. L. Hanrahan, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mr. H. M. Havner, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. J. Sidney Johnson, Marshalltown, Iowa; Mr. Frank A. O'Connor, Dubuque, Iowa; and Mr. N. R. Whitney, Glendale, Ohio.