

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Seventeenth Annual Indiana History Conference was held at Indianapolis on December 13 and 14, 1935.

The State of Kansas celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its admission to the Union on January 29, 1936. Governor Alfred M. Landon was the chief speaker at the Kansas Day dinner.

The Missouri Historical Society held a meeting at the Jefferson Memorial on January 31, 1936. "Early Missouri Houses", an illustrated lecture by Charles van Ravenswaay, was the main feature of the program. At the meeting on February 28th, the speaker was The Reverend John S. Bunting and his subject was "Robert E. Lee".

The Louisiana Historical Society held its centennial anniversary services at New Orleans from January 8 to 15, 1936. The celebration included a reception on the eighth, ceremonies at the State University on the following day, a costume ball on the evening of the tenth, a parade on Sunday, the twelfth, a public meeting at the Cabildo on the thirteenth, and a banquet on the fifteenth.

The Minnesota Historical Society held its eighty-seventh annual meeting at St. Paul on January 13, 1936. Meeting with it was the Sixteenth Annual Conference on Local History Work in Minnesota. The program included the following papers and addresses: "Developments in the Field of Community History in 1935", by Willoughby M. Babcock; "An English Hunter on the Frontier", by Grace Lee Nute; "A Doctor Looks at History", by Dr. T. H. Magath; "The Government Indian Farmer", by Sister Grace McDonald; and "The National Archives of the United States", by Robert D. W. Connor. Various museum groups were on display.

The State of Michigan celebrates its hundredth anniversary in 1935-1936. Celebrations have been held in many communities and a special centennial stamp was issued by the Post Office Depart-

ment in honor of the State. On November 11-16, 1935, the Women's Centennial Exposition was opened at Grand Rapids. The State Historical Society of Michigan held two meetings in honor of the centennial. One was at Battle Creek commemorating the adoption of the first State Constitution on October 5, 1835. The program included: an address on "The Convention and Constitution of 1835", by Harold M. Dorr, and several other addresses. The second meeting was held at Detroit on November 2, 1935. Many officials and prominent men spoke or sent messages.

IOWA

The Congregational Church of Charles City is preparing a room to be used as an historical museum for the church and for Charles City.

A collection of historical relics connected with the city of Clarinda is being assembled in the public library. These, and others loaned for the purpose, were on display during the first two weeks the historical room was opened — the last week in November and the first week in December, 1935.

On December 17, 1935, Mr. Ellison Orr gave an illustrated talk in the parlors of the Waukon Presbyterian Church on the subject "Indian Mounds". On January 4th, Mr. Orr gave a similar lecture before the women's clubs at Lansing. Mr. Orr has for more than half a century been interested in the mounds in northeastern Iowa. His valuable collection of archeological specimens has recently been donated to the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The annual meeting of the Howard County Historical Society was held at Cresco on January 20, 1936. The following officers were elected: W. H. Tillson, president; Mrs. J. H. Howe, vice president; William Kellow, treasurer; C. J. Harlan, secretary; and Mrs. C. E. Farnsworth, curator. It was decided to hold quarterly instead of monthly meetings. C. L. Childs gave a talk on his visit to the Indian mounds near Yellow River.

The lessons on the history of Iowa, prepared by John Ely Briggs for a series of newspapers in Iowa, continues. The fourth unit

deals with "Culture"—and includes "Early Theaters", "Lyceums", "Lectures", "Music", "Literature", and "The Chautauqua". The next series deals with "Crime". In this "The Hanging of Patrick O'Connor" and "Claim Jumpers" have already appeared.

The city of Davenport is planning on celebrating its centennial during 1936. Attorney Realf Ottesen is general chairman of the centennial committee, and Richard J. Ramser, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., is the secretary. The program was launched by memorial services in the churches on February 23, 1936, and an historical broadcast from WOC that evening. An historical display at the Davenport Public Museum will be a feature of the celebration.

The Sixteenth Annual History Conference, sponsored by the State University of Iowa, was held at Iowa City on February 7 and 8, 1936. The speakers included: William F. Ogburn, on "Future Social Trends"; William E. Lingelbach, on "The New Era"; James St. John, on "Germany's Reaction to the Treaty of Versailles"; Paul A. Knaplund, on the "Present Crisis and its Historical Setting"; and Louis B. Schmidt, on "The Prairies and Great Plains in Our Times".

Council Bluffs is making plans for its centennial anniversary celebration to be held this year. It was in 1836 that Dr. Edward James established a sub-agency at this point for the Pottawattamie Indians. Mr. John L. Peterson is chairman of the centennial committee. The program will cover the period from May to September and will include a pageant to be given late in June. A special historical edition of the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* will present the story of the city and the program of the celebration.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Jacob A. Swisher gave an illustrated talk before the Rotary Club of Iowa City on February 13, 1936. His subject was "Lincoln and Iowa".

Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher, Associate Editor of the State Historical

Society, gave a talk on "Present Trends in the Status of Women" before a general meeting of the Iowa City Women's Club on January 17, 1936.

Preparations are being made for the marking of historic sites and buildings in Iowa. The State Historical Society, working through the WPA, will select the sites to be marked and provide the inscriptions which are to be carved on markers made of Iowa oak.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently issued two volumes. One of these is *I Remember I Remember*, a book of reminiscences by Cyrenus Cole. This volume, of 543 pages, is divided into four parts — his boyhood at Pella, newspaper work at Des Moines, editorial work at Cedar Rapids, and his experiences in Washington, D. C., as Congressman. The second volume, *The Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic*, a book of 200 pages, compiled by Jacob A. Swisher, contains a short history of the Department and a collection of biographical sketches of the Commanders of the Iowa Department.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. David W. Hazen, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Elmer Hollingsworth, Marion, Iowa; Mr. Frank J. Iten, Clinton, Iowa; Mr. J. Edward Lundy, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Alexander Moffit, Champaign, Illinois; Mr. Howard C. Rasch, Dixon, Iowa; Mrs. Owen E. Vance, Muscatine, Iowa; Mrs. L. W. Wheeler, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Miss Grace B. Dealy, Radcliffe, Iowa; Mr. Joseph K. Park, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. L. O. Cheever, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mr. Robert D. King, Iowa City, Iowa; and Mr. Jesse D. Sickler, Ogden, Iowa. Mr. Rush C. Butler of Chicago, Illinois, has been enrolled as a life member.