

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Nebraska State Historical Society has sponsored the *Lincoln City Guide*, compiled and written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration.

The Indiana Historical Society held its annual business meeting at Indianapolis on December 11, 1936. Eli Lilly was reelected president, John G. Rauch treasurer, and Christopher B. Coleman secretary.

The American Association of Museums held its annual meeting on April 20, 1937, at Columbus. Secretary Harlow Lindley of Indiana was chosen acting director during a two months leave of absence granted to Dr. H. C. Shetrone.

The eightieth annual meeting of the Chicago Historical Society was held at the Society's building on January 27, 1937. Charles B. Pike was reelected president and Cecil Barnes was again chosen secretary.

On February 11, 1937, a dinner was held at Athens, Illinois, commemorating a dinner held there a century ago to celebrate the removal of the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. An unusual feature of this dinner was the fact that it was held in the building in which the dinner was served in 1837.

The Missouri Historical Society held a meeting at St. Louis on February 26, 1937. J. Manuel Espinosa gave an address on "Manuel Lisa". In honor of the members of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the Missouri Historical Society and Washington University gave a dinner on April 29th at which Edward Everett Dale spoke on "The Cow Country in Transition".

A Midwest Historical Conference was held at Chicago on February 26 and 27, 1937. The program centered around discussions of editorial practice, micro-photography, and historical projects

conducted by the Works Progress Administration. The hosts of the conference were Herbert A. Kellar of the McCormick Historical Association, Russell Anderson of the Rosenwald Museum of Science and Industry, and Douglas C. McMurtrie.

Six States — Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota are cooperating in celebrating the creation and establishment of the Northwest Territory, beginning with the centennial of the enactment of the Ordinance of 1787 at New York City on July 13, 1837. A "pioneer" party will travel from Ipswich, Massachusetts, to Marietta, Ohio, during the winter of 1937-1938, presenting a pageant depicting the trip of New England settlers to Ohio. During the summer and fall of 1938, the party will tour the States carved in whole or in part from the Northwest Territory.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its thirtieth annual meeting at Saint Louis on April 29, 30, and May 1, 1937. Among the papers by Iowans or former Iowans were the following: "The New York Tribune", by Ralph R. Fahrney; "The Odyssey of an Unbuilt Railroad", by E. Douglas Branch; "The Birth of the Petroleum Business", by Paul H. Giddens; "Humor of the Backwoods, 1820-1840", by Philip D. Jordan; "Was the West a Safety Valve for Labor", by Joseph Schafer; "The Creation of the National Domain, 1781-1784", by Merrill Jensen; "The Celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the Old Northwest", by E. M. Howes; "Immigration and the Westward Movement in Ballad and Song", by Theodore C. Blegen; "The Early Theatre in the Northwest", by Harold E. Briggs, and other addresses and papers of general interest. Clarence E. Carter was elected president of the Association. The next annual meeting will be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, and the mid-winter meeting will be at Philadelphia.

IOWA

A scrapbook containing a history of the city of Ames, prepared by A. B. Maxwell, city clerk, has been placed in the Ames Public Library.

The Czech Fine Arts Society of Cedar Rapids has been formed

to compile a history of the Czechs in Iowa as part of the Iowa centennial program. Joseph Mekota is chairman and Mrs. Hugo Sindelar secretary.

Miss Lynn Anderson of Fort Dodge has presented to the Webster County Historical Society, for preservation in the museum, the diary of her father, James Anderson, who walked from Scott County, Iowa, to California in 1859.

The annual meeting of the board of directors of the Midwest Antiquarian Association was held at Dubuque on May 11, 1937. Dr. J. J. Brownson was reelected president and Rev. W. G. Kessler secretary-treasurer. The Association sponsors the Columbia College Museum at Dubuque and plans are being made for a new building.

The annual meeting of the Jasper County Historical Society was held at Newton on March 10, 1937. Charles B. Starrett was elected president, W. S. Johnson secretary, and Mrs. R. B. Hendershot treasurer. Mr. Johnson told of the eclipse of August 7, 1869, and Mrs. V. H. Morgan gave an outline of Jasper County's first fifty years.

The Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a bronze tablet on April 21, 1937, marking the site of Tim Fanning's tavern at the beginning of the Old Military Road. Mrs. Sarah Paine Hoffman made the presentation address and the marker was accepted by Mayor J. K. Chalmers. Other markers have been provided for the Old Military Road.

The Marshall County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Marshalltown on April 13, 1937. M. A. Hauser was chosen president, Frank G. Pierce vice president, Susie Sowers secretary, Ida Evans treasurer, and Mrs. E. M. Singleton curator. The Society is planning to use a boulder to mark the site of Fort Robinson, used by pioneers as a protection against Indians. The Society's log cabin in Riverview Park at Marshalltown is to be dedicated in June.

On Sunday afternoon, June 20, 1937, the Pottawattamie County

Historical Society dedicated its log cabin museum in Lincoln Park at Council Bluffs. Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, delivered the dedicatory address, speaking on "The Pioneer Cabin in Iowa". Officers of the society are Henry K. Peterson, president; Loren Clark, secretary-treasurer; and O. J. Pruitt, curator.

The series of Iowa history lessons entitled "Exploring the History of Iowa", prepared for a syndicate of Iowa newspapers by John Ely Briggs, has presented one additional lesson — Horses — under the general unit Agriculture. The fifth unit was Industries. It included Woodworking, Farm Machinery, Washing Machines, Pearl Buttons, Clay Products, and Cement and Gypsum. The last unit to be presented in this series is Geology. It includes: The Oldest Rocks, Battles of Sea and Land, The Age of Dinosaurs, and The Story of the Glaciers.

The Madison County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Winterset on March 30, 1937. C. C. Stiles told of the history and work of the Historical Department at Des Moines; Stephen A. Hays read a paper on early Madison County life; Hallie Rhodes told of the Mesquakie Indians; and Mrs. Caleb Robbins described early days in Scott Township. Dr. H. A. Mueller of St. Charles was reelected president and Mrs. Grace Blake was again chosen secretary. The Society announces that its historical room in the courthouse at Winterset will be open Saturday afternoons and on special occasions. Walter H. Vance is curator of the museum.

An unofficial committee of eight members met with Governor Nelson G. Kraschel at Des Moines on February 22, 1937, to discuss the observance of Iowa's centennials, particularly the anniversary of the establishment of the Territory of Iowa in 1838. The members were W. Earl Hall of Mason City, J. R. Rhodes of Newton, Frank Miles of Des Moines, Mrs. Ralph Henderson of Sioux City, Floyd Kippel of Iowa Falls, Francis Johnson of Terrill. This group requested the Governor to appoint a committee of representative citizens to make plans for the various celebrations. Later a concurrent resolution was adopted by the General Assembly which read as follows:

Whereas, Iowa has now arrived at that point in its history where it is entering the era of centennial anniversaries; and

Whereas, The year 1938 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of Iowa's establishment as a separate territory; and

Whereas, By a well formulated program Iowa will:

1. Attain nationwide publicity for the benefit of Iowa.
2. Impress our citizens and prospective citizens with the growth and progress of Iowa, making Iowa people more Iowa conscious, thus selling Iowa to Iowans, and
3. Cause Iowa people to travel over the state to see what Iowa has to offer, giving towns and cities the opportunity to build celebrations to attract visitors and to promote business, and

Whereas, The foregoing program may be achieved

1. By developing an historical celebration in every community in the state, marking historical spots in all sections of the state and by devoting books, maps, and other publications of the state in 1938 to historical information.
2. By developing a special course of study on Iowa history for the schools of Iowa and by inviting newspapers of the state to join in a statewide program by giving special emphasis to historical subjects relating to Iowa's first one hundred years.
3. By appealing to groups of various nationalities in the state to portray their particular role in the development of Iowa.
4. By adopting the slogan, "See Iowa this year".
5. By listing Iowa's contributions to science, invention, literature, music, art, industry, exploration, education, and statesmanship, and by showing Iowa's important part in the growth of our nation.
6. By emphasizing the importance of the products grown, mined and manufactured in Iowa, and by requesting state, county and regional fairs to build their 1938 programs around the centennial theme, and
7. By staging pageants and plays, historical essay contests, family reunions and religious observances featuring Iowa history.

Be It Therefore Resolved by the Senate, the House Concurring:

1. That the Forty-seventh General Assembly authorize the Governor to appoint a statewide, non-salaried committee of at least twenty-five persons to be known as the Iowa Centennial Committee, which shall be charged with planning and promoting of statewide, regional and local observances in 1938 of the one hundredth anniversary of the Iowa territory;
2. That state and local organizations and institutions (such as local historical societies, old settlers associations, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion, women's clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations, chambers of commerce, county fair associations, schools and colleges, lodges and service clubs and others) be requested to cooperate with the Iowa Centennial Committee;
3. That the State Historical Society of Iowa and other state agencies be requested to cooperate with the Iowa Centennial Committee and with all state and local organizations and institutions contemplating the celebration of centennial anniversaries.

The members appointed by Governor Kraschel to the Iowa Territorial Centennial Committee are listed as follows: J. R. Bahne, Eldora (Chairman); Max R. Hueschen, Holstein; W. R. Orchard, Council Bluffs; Willard Archie, Shenandoah; J. R. Rhodes, Newton; W. C. Jarnagan, Storm Lake; John Huston, Ottumwa; Victor Felter, Indianola; E. J. Van Nostrand, Newton; C. W. (Dutch) Schmidt; Benj. F. Shambaugh, Iowa City; B. J. Palmer, Davenport; Royal Holbrook, Ames; Harry Shaw, Cedar Falls; Harvey Ingham, Des Moines; Hugh Harrison, Davenport; J. S. Russell, Des Moines; Hans Welkin, Rock Rapids; Edgar Hoeven, Badger; W. A. Murray, Baneroft; Earl E. May, Shenandoah; W. C. Eastland, Clinton.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society, delivered the address at the dedication of the log cabin museum in Lincoln Park, Council Bluffs, on June 20, 1937. His subject was "The Pioneer Cabin in History".

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently published a volume entitled *Steamboating On the Upper Mississippi The Water Way to Iowa*, by William J. Petersen, Research Associate on the staff. The book, with forty-eight chapters and five hundred and seventy-six pages, is the story of the romantic and virile period of transportation — the steamboat era. In its pages are the stories of Robert Fulton and Henry Miller Shreve, of Joseph Throckmorton and Daniel Smith Harris, of settlers and soldiers on the river, of captains and cargoes, excursions and expeditions, lead and furs, Indians and immigrants, races and tragedies, dangers and heroism. The narrative covers the Mississippi River from St. Louis to St. Paul and tells the story of steamboating down to the close of the Civil War. Although not limited to Iowa, this steamboat history presents one of the most important and essential aspects of life in Iowa during this period.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. W. S. Gilman, Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. E. L. Johnson, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Angus A. McLaughlin, Des Moines,

Iowa; Miss Stella Millslagle, Coon Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Geo. B. Sherman, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Paul R. Strain, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Dr. D. O. Bovenmyer, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mr. F. E. Brewer, Marshalltown, Iowa; Dr. Ben G. Budge, Ames, Iowa; Mr. R. O. Byerum, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. A. E. Chandler, Waverly, Iowa; Dr. Charles C. Collester, Spencer, Iowa; Mrs. Eugene Cutler, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Thomas J. Dailey, Burlington, Iowa; Mr. T. E. Diamond, Sheldon, Iowa; Rev. Luke Donlon, Monona, Iowa; Mrs. Irene Eggleston, Vinton, Iowa; Mr. Elmer Ellis, Columbia, Missouri; Mr. T. L. Evans, Beaman, Iowa; Mr. C. Y. Hancock, Clinton, Iowa; Mr. M. A. Hanson, Plymouth, Iowa; Dr. M. C. Hennessy, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. George E. Hise, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. John Newton Hughes, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Hepburn Ingham, Waukeee, Iowa; Mr. Wm. H. Ingham, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Irving C. Johnson, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mr. J. K. Kloehr, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mr. H. P. Knuth, Holstein, Iowa; Mr. F. B. Kruse, Vinton, Iowa; Mr. C. R. McCutchen, Washington, Iowa; Mr. D. O. Milligan, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Edward M. Myers, Boone, Iowa; Rev. W. C. Nassen, Allison, Iowa; Mr. Harry K. Newburn, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. R. H. Norton, Grinnell, Iowa; Mr. John A. Okell, Fort Madison, Iowa; Mr. Geo. W. Prichard, Onawa, Iowa; Mr. E. A. Ralston, Washington, Iowa; Mr. Jesse C. Richter, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. Carl C. Riepe, Burlington, Iowa; Mrs. Caleb A. Robbins, Winterset, Iowa; Mr. L. J. Schuster, Clinton, Iowa; Mr. Forrest W. Seymour, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Ray V. Smith, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Douglas G. Swale, Mason City, Iowa; Mr. Wallace Taylor, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Seth Thomas, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mr. C. S. Thompson, Mason City, Iowa; Mr. George W. Turner, Monona, Iowa; Mr. Harry G. Wallace, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Bayard C. Way, Mason City, Iowa; Mrs. Elenore Lee White, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. Paul A. White, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. G. E. Whitehead, Perry, Iowa; Dr. E. B. Wilcox, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mr. J. H. Wilson, Davenport, Iowa; and Mr. F. G. Young, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.