

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Louisiana Historical Society held a meeting at New Orleans on December 20, 1937, to commemorate the one hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. On January 8th a dinner marked the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.

The Missouri Historical Society held a meeting at the Jefferson Memorial at St. Louis on October 29, 1937. Charles Nagel delivered the address on the subject "Glimpses of Unwritten History". At the meeting on November 26th, the speaker was Dr. E. Lee Dorsett and his subject was "Captain Theodore Hunt, U. S. Navy and the Log of the Brig 'Hornet'".

The Indiana Historical Society sponsored its usual fall historical pilgrimage on October 8-10, 1937. The tour this year included a cruise on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to Madison and return. The Society held its nineteenth annual History Conference at Indianapolis on December 10-11, 1937. The second day of the meeting marked the one hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the admission of Indiana as a State.

The State of Ohio has made arrangements for the compilation of four of the six volumes of State history which were authorized by the last legislative session. Carl Wittke is editor-in-chief. The first volume, covering the period down to 1803, is to be prepared by Beverley W. Bond, Jr., with a chapter on geology by Wilbur Stout and a chapter by H. C. Shetrone on pre-historic people in Ohio. William T. Utter will write the history for the years 1803-1825; Francis P. Weisenburger is to prepare the history for the years 1825-1851; and Eugene H. Roseboom has been assigned the period between 1851 and 1873.

### IOWA

The Early Settlers' Association of Black Hawk County met at Hanna's Grove on August 28, 1937. Dr. Will Bowers gave an ad-

dress on the pioneers. Dr. E. E. Peek of Waterloo was elected president for the ensuing year, C. N. McHugh of Cedar Falls, vice president, and Mrs. J. A. Smith of Waterloo, secretary-treasurer.

The Wyoming Historical Society held its annual meeting at Wyoming on August 25, 1937. Reminiscences of the town were presented by various persons. The following officers were elected: Frances Franks, president; Mrs. S. G. Hutton, Don Wherry, and Pauline Shaffer, vice presidents; Mrs. L. M. Koch, secretary; and Emma Alden, treasurer.

The Union County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Afton on September 8, 1937. The speaker was O. E. Klingaman, Curator of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department at Des Moines, who spoke on the importance of preserving historical articles. A. E. Otis was elected president for the ensuing year, B. L. Tyler, vice president, Mrs. Frank Seeley, secretary and treasurer, W. G. Wilson, curator, and Grace Harsh, historian.

Four chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Linn County sponsored the erection and dedication of a marker designating the location of the cabin erected by William Abbe near the present site of Mount Vernon. The program included "Pages from Local History", by Mrs. P. P. Ink, and an address on the "Iowa Centennial", by Dr. Wm. J. Petersen, of the State Historical Society of Iowa. The presentation was made by Mrs. Imogene Emery and Mrs. John Hall.

The Francis Shaw Chapter of the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution have installed a marker on a boulder in the courthouse park at Anamosa to commemorate the establishment of the Old Military Road which ran from Dubuque to Iowa City. The dedication occurred on September 17, 1937. The inscription reads as follows: "This Highway is the Old Military Road from Dubuque to the northern boundary of Missouri. Authorized by Congress 1838. Marked by the Daughters of the American Revolution 1937."

Kenneth E. Colton of Des Moines was recently appointed assistant editor of the *Annals of Iowa*, taking his position on September

1, 1937. He succeeded David C. Mott who served eighteen years in this position. John Porterfield of Hamburg has been appointed superintendent of the State archives division, succeeding C. C. Stiles who held that office since 1907. W. F. Anderson of Linn Grove replaces Ernest Porter as deputy curator of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department. Paul B. DeWitt of Sioux City has been appointed State law librarian, a position made vacant by the death of A. J. Small, taking office on December 20th. In the newspaper division, Russell Smith of Oelwein has replaced E. F. Pittman.

Public spirited citizens and civic organizations joined in providing a plaque to mark the old stagecoach trail through Greene County. The marker, placed near the Pleasant Hill cemetery, bears the following inscription: "Stage Coach Trail Des Moines to Sioux City 1850-1866 Marked by A. McCuen [and] C. Teagarden W. F. Mahanay, Donor". The plaque was the gift of Mrs. W. F. Mahanay. The dedication occurred on November 7, 1937. Talks were given by W. F. Mahanay, who presented the marker, Jesse L. Groves, who accepted for the board of supervisors, A. McCuen, Mrs. Mary Cook, Mrs. Mary B. Black, and several others. The location of the first courthouse in Greene County and the site of the first brick building have also been marked by bronze plaques.

#### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

On October 27, 1937, Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher, Associate Editor of the State Historical Society, gave a talk on "The Iowa Territorial Centennial" at the luncheon of the First District of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs at Muscatine.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently assembled a nearly complete file of photostatic copies of newspapers published in Iowa in the year 1838, with earlier issues from the beginning of publication. The following papers are included in the collection: *Iowa News* (Dubuque), June 3, 1837, to December 22, 1838; *Wisconsin Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser*, July 20, 1837, to June 30, 1838; *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser*, July 14 to December 29, 1838; *Fort Madison Patriot*,

March 24 to September 2, 1838; and *Iowa Sun and Davenport & Rock Island News*, August 4 to December 29, 1838 (only seven issues).

On November 18 and 19, 1937, Dr. Jacob A. Swisher of the State Historical Society accompanied John R. Fitzsimmons of the State Planning Board on an observation tour to check the installation of the markers of the Mormon Trail in the vicinity of Garden Grove. The work of setting these markers began at Montrose and approximately one hundred and forty of them were used in locating points on the Mormon Trail across Iowa to Council Bluffs. The markers are hand-carved on two-inch oak planks twenty-four by sixteen inches in size and are supported by creosoted oak posts six inches square. The inscription reads: "MORMON TRAIL Iowa Historical Society WPA". The project was carried out by the State Planning Board, assisted by the research staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and was financed by Federal WPA funds.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. Paul T. Castle, Ridgeway, Iowa; Mr. Chas. A. Hacke, Sac City, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Jones Hinderman, Wapello, Iowa; Mr. Walter E. Kaloupek, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Raymond Kresensky, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. F. J. Meier, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Henry E. Neidig, Los Angeles, California; Mr. Leland Pearson, Waterville, Iowa; Mr. A. E. Rankin, Hampton, Iowa; Mr. Jesse L. Richardson, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Wilbur L. Schramm, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Ernestine L. Smith, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Miss Susie F. Sower, Marshalltown, Iowa; Mr. Carl A. Blake, Ida Grove, Iowa; Dr. Donald C. Conzett, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. H. S. Hunn, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. John Haskell Kemble, Claremont, California; Mr. Elmer A. Leighton, Granville, Illinois; Mr. C. A. Clark, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Jack M. Logan, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Alfred S. Martin, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Fred S. Nichols, Carthage, Illinois; and Mr. H. M. Smith, Waterloo, Iowa.

The following have been enrolled as life members of the Society: Mr. Burton V. Bridenstine, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Ben F. Butler, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. William R. Hart, Iowa City, Iowa; and Mr. H. O. Bernbrock, Waterloo, Iowa.