

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The sesqui-centennial of Paris, Kentucky, and Bourbon County was celebrated on September 3-6, 1939. A museum, pageant, parades, concerts, pilgrimages to places of interest, and a ball were features of the program.

The Louisiana Historical Society held a monthly meeting at New Orleans on October 24, 1939. Talks on mural paintings were given by the Reverend H. Allain St. Paul, S. J., Hon. J. Fair Hardin, James E. Winston, and Wm. Prichard. The November meeting was held on the twenty-eighth. The subject for discussion was "The Visit of Andrew Jackson to New Orleans 1840".

The Indiana Historical Society sponsored a trip to Springfield and New Salem, Illinois, on October 7 and 8, 1939. The restored village of New Salem, twenty-six miles northwest of Springfield, where Lincoln once lived, is one of the restorations of historic places which has made history seem real. The Lincoln home in Springfield, the Sangamon County courthouse, formerly the State House of Illinois, the Lincoln tomb, and Illinois State buildings were among the places visited.

IOWA

Final approval of purchase of the site of Old Fort Atkinson has been given by the State Conservation Commission and the land will be deeded to the State by the James estate.

The second annual meeting of the Adair County Historical Society was held at Greenfield on September 10, 1939. A dinner was followed by speeches and a roll call. Mrs. Etta Crawford gave a sketch of the county history.

The Pella Historical Society held its annual election of officers early in September, 1939. William D. Van Sittert was reelected president of the society and Robert Lautenbach was named secretary. This organization sponsors the Pella Tulip Festival.

The Polk County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Des Moines on October 14, 1939. Ora Williams was elected president, J. E. Howard, vice president, Ray C. Stiles recording secretary, Gladys Bradford, financial secretary, and H. C. Plummer, treasurer. Plans for permanent headquarters were discussed.

The Warren County Historical Society, under its president, C. C. Briggs, held a meeting at Indianola on October 17, 1939. Discussion of securing a building or room to house historical records was the chief business. A committee of three was appointed to provide speakers for community groups throughout the county.

Addison M. Parker, president of the Des Moines Pioneer Club, recently sent a letter to the Des Moines city council urging that efforts be made to bring about the restoration of old Fort Des Moines. Curator Ora Williams of the Department of History and Archives offered to supply research assistance for the project.

Officers and directors of the Powhatan Township branch of the Pocahontas County Historical Society met at Plover on September 23, 1939, and a meeting of the society was held at Pocahontas on November 7, 1939. An effort is being made to collect data on pioneer families and blanks for the compilation of these data are available. Records are to be filed in a vault in the courthouse.

The annual meeting of the Union County Historical Society was held at Creston on October 5, 1939. The address was by Ora Williams, Curator of the State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines. The following officers were reelected: B. L. Tyler, president; L. C. Bowers, vice president; Mrs. W. S. Mills, secretary and treasurer; W. G. Wilson, curator; and Grace Harsh, historian.

The city council of Sioux City, at the request of the board of directors of the Public Museum, is sponsoring a W. P. A. project for typing, indexing, and cataloguing local historical data. The city will contribute the typewriters and supplies while four persons will be furnished by the W. P. A. to do the work. Mrs. Ralph Henderson, one of the Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa, was made supervisor of the work, without compensation. The data,

when compiled, will be preserved in the rooms of the museum in the public library building.

A business meeting of the Ringgold County Historical Society was held on October 6, 1939. July 17, 18, and 19, 1940, were the dates selected for the fourth reunion of Ringgold County Old Timers. The first annual meeting of the society, it was decided, will be held on July 18, 1940. John E. Freeland is president of the society and Vera F. Dickens is secretary. Special meetings of the society were held on November 8 and 28, 1939. A number of historic articles have been presented to the society by Howard McClanahan.

Plans are under way for the incorporation of a Southeastern Iowa or Old Des Moines County Historical Society, which it is hoped may take charge of the old Rorer home at Burlington. It is hoped that plans may be made for maintaining this home if it is donated to a local historical organization for use as a museum. The present owner and possible donor is Mrs. Grace Garrett Durand of Lake Bluffs, Illinois. Mrs. Durand is a granddaughter of David Rorer and a daughter of William Garrett. E. C. Cady and J. Tracy Garrett were appointed a committee to nominate directors.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

On October 25, 1939, Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical of Iowa, read a paper on "Tall Tales of the Mississippi River" before the faculty and students of the College of Medicine of the State University of Iowa.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Miss Lulu Ackerman, Ackley, Iowa; Rev. F. W. Eastwood, Washington, Iowa; Mr. Jack L. Edwards, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Donald G. DeWaay, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Rosadel Haught, Manchester, Iowa; Mr. Walter J. Molleck, Newton, Iowa; Mr. Robert E. Mullin, Sheldon, Iowa; Dr. B. H. Schmidt, Davenport, Iowa; Mrs. A. W. Burgess, Onawa, Iowa; Mr. William R. Ferguson, Baxter, Iowa; Mr. Marion C. Hamiel, Tipton, Iowa; Mr. R. D. Hunt, Fairfield, Iowa; Mr. Phil Stong, Washington, Connecticut; and Mrs. Susie Webb Wright, Des Moines, Iowa.