HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

A law enacted by the Minnesota legislature in 1939 requires a license for archaeological explorations in that State.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin held its annual meeting at Madison on October 19, 1939. A conference on local historical societies and one on genealogical research were held in the morning. The business meeting occurred in the afternoon. Fourteen curators were elected.

The mid-year meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association was held at Washington, D. C., on December 28, 29, 30, 1939. The meeting on Thursday afternoon was devoted to "The Role of the Railroads in American Development". It included the following papers: "The Railroads as a Social Force", by Richard C. Overton; "The Railroads as an Economic Force", by Leland H. Jenks; and "The Railroads and the Scope of Government Activity", by Edward G. Campbell. The address at the dinner on Friday evening, December 29th, was "Some Reflections on American Neutrality", by James Phinney Baxter. The thirty-third annual meeting of the Association will be held at Omaha, Nebraska, on May 2, 3, 4, 1940.

The ninety-first annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society was held at St. Paul on January 8, 1940. Papers and addresses were presented on the following subjects: "Popularizing the Work of the County Historical Society", by Otto E. Wieland; "Financing a Local Historical Museum", by Mrs. Bunn T. Willson; "Housing a Local Historical Collection", by Horace W. Roberts; "A Handbook for Local Historical Workers", by Arthur J. Larsen; "The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota", by Mike Holm; "A Literary Critic Looks at History", by James Gray; "President Bridgman and Hamline University", by Mrs. Fred G. Atkinson; and "History in Science and Science in History", by Elvin C. Stakman.

The sixty-fifth annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Michigan was held at Lansing on November 16, 1939. Professor Edward D. Dimnent, president of the Society, presided at the morning session. The report of Secretary George N. Fuller and the election of trustees were features of this meeting. Dr. De Lamarter gave an address on "Education, with Ethical Content". The afternoon program included reminiscences by Governor Dickinson; "Medical Practice in Horse and Buggy Days", by Dr. Rush McNair; and letters from Michigan to England, written in the 1840's, read by Orla B. Taylor. An illustrated travel talk, by Samuel H. Ranck, following a route of Father Marquette, was the chief feature of the evening program.

The Minnesota Historical Society celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of its founding on October 20, 1939. A luncheon at the St. Paul Athletic Club, a tea in the former home of Governor Ramsey, and an evening meeting in the Historical Building were features of the program. The principal speaker at the luncheon was Mr. Ralph Budd, president of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, who spoke on "The Historical Society and the Community". Mr. Budd was born in Waterloo, Iowa. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen gave the principal address at the evening meeting, taking as his subject "Ballads and Songs of Immigrant and Pioneer". In the presentation of some Scandinavian ballads Dr. Blegen was assisted by Miss Leona Scheunemann.

The American Historical Association held its fifty-fourth annual meeting at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C., on December 28, 29, 30, 1939. Many other historical societies and associations held meetings at the same time and place. As usual the program included a number of meetings at the same time so that the number of papers and addresses presented was large. Iowans on the program included Earle D. Ross of the Iowa State College at Ames who read a paper on "The Land-Grant College: A Democratic Adaptation", and C. W. de Kiewiet of the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, who was chairman of the meeting discussing Liberalism in England. Max Farrand of the Henry E. Huntington Library was elected president for 1940, James Westfall Thompson

of the University of California became first vice president and Arthur M. Schlesinger of Harvard University second vice president. The executive secretary is Conyers Read of the University of Pennsylvania.

IOWA

The city planning and zoning commission of Des Moines is taking steps toward erecting a suitable memorial at the site of old Fort Des Moines, at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers.

The John Marshall Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution recently deposited in the Sioux City Archives the memoranda prepared by persons who enlisted at Sioux City for service in the World War.

The Polk County Historical Society celebrated the ninety-fourth anniversary of Polk County at its meeting on January 17, 1940. The principal part of the program was the paper presented by Mrs. Fred Heaton Hunter, on the subject "Women Pioneers of Polk County".

A tract of wooded land comprising eighty-five acres, lying in Clayton County at the junction of the Turkey and Mississippi rivers, has been presented by a group of Dubuque County citizens to the State of Iowa. It contains some fifty-seven Indian mounds. Some time ago a movement was begun to make this area a national park.

Davis County is collecting data on former soldiers buried in Davis County cemeteries, with a view to placing suitable markers on the graves. Information so far collected covers data on some 685 soldiers, who did service in the War of 1812, the Black Hawk War, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the World War.

The Jasper County Historical Society has completed initial plans for a county history, to be compiled and published with the coöperation of the Federal Writers' Project. The committee in charge of the work are B. C. Berg, superintendent of the Newton schools, Ellen Hartnett, county superintendent of schools, and Blanche Maytag, Newton librarian.

Elton C. Hill of Miami University is securing some information from persons in Osage, Iowa, for a biography of Hamlin Garland now in preparation. Hamlin Garland once attended the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage. The early manuscripts of Mr. Garland's books constitute a valuable collection, items from which various universities are securing for their libraries.

The Old Des Moines County Historical Society recently filed articles of incorporation. The incorporators are Norval Prugh, W. T. Smith, Mrs. Glenn F. Cray, Mrs. Erwin H. Hertzler, and J. Tracy Garrett. Headquarters are at Burlington. The officers are Dr. W. T. Smith, president; J. Tracy Garrett, vice president; Mrs. E. H. Hertzler, secretary; and Norval Prugh, treasurer. Membership is drawn from southeastern Iowa counties which were once included in the old Des Moines County.

Two hundred and fifty members of the Des Moines Pioneer Club gathered for the reunion at Hotel Fort Des Moines for its forty-sixth anniversary meeting on January 20, 1940. Among the speakers on the program were Addison M. Parker, the president, and H. H. Polk, who spoke on "Early Des Moines". The new officers of the Pioneer Club are Vincent Starzinger, president; H. H. Polk, vice president, and Forest Huttenlocher, secretary-treasurer. Plans are being considered for the establishment of a "Des Moines Pioneer Day" or "Des Moines Civic Day" as an annual event.

John H. Bailey has been appointed assistant director of the Davenport Public Museum. Mr. Bailey came from Burlington, Vermont, where for the past two and one-half years he has had charge of the archeological exhibits at the University of Vermont as well as at the museum at Fort Ticonderoga. He also had previous experience as assistant in archeology in the Museum of Arts and Sciences at Rochester, New York, and later as archeologist for the Champlain Valley Archeology Society. In his new work, Mr. Bailey plans wider dissemination of the valuable materials of the museum through visual education studies.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh, Superintendent of the State Historical

Society of Iowa, delivered an address on "The Living Philosophy of Benjamin Franklin" before the Executives' Club of Chicago on January 12, 1940. The meeting was held in Hotel Sherman.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society, spoke before Jessamine Chapter, O. E. S., of Iowa City on January 25, 1940. His subject was "A Cruise on the Lower Mississippi". On February 6th he spoke on "Tall Tales of the Mississippi" before the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. John W. Beck, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Warren O. Covert, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Lenora K. Hartmann, Marengo, Iowa; Mr. Harry E. Hudelson, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. R. L. Livingston, Washington, Iowa; Mr. S. W. Livingston, Washington, Iowa; Mrs. Levi Myers, Indianola, Iowa; Mr. W. C. Richardson, Keota, Iowa; Mr. J. A. Romsa, Burns, Wyoming; Mr. W. S. Shepherd, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Herbert B. Smith, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. L. E. Wass, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. R. K. Beatty, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Alice Belgarde, Fayette, Iowa; Mr. R. J. Blakely, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Alden L. Doud, Douds, Iowa; Mr. Tom D. Horn, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Jay E. Keck, Sioux City, Iowa; Mr. O. P. Morton, Clarion, Iowa; Mr. Everett E. Shaefer, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. H. W. Van Doren, Atkins, Iowa; Mr. John von Lackum, Jr., Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. R. Wagner, Treynor, Iowa; and Mr. Dudley Weible, Forest City, Iowa.