

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Minnesota Historical Society has recently appointed Dr. Arthur J. Larsen Superintendent of the Society and Dr. Lewis Beeson acting head of the newspaper department.

The Dousman Park Museum at Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, was dedicated on May 18 and 19, 1940. Villa Louis was built by Louis Dousman, a son of Hercules L. Dousman, a pioneer fur-trader along the Mississippi River.

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, The Wisconsin Archeological Society, and the Wisconsin Museums Conference held a joint meeting at Oshkosh on March 29 and 30, 1940. A large number of papers were presented.

The Louisiana Historical Society held a monthly meeting on March 26, 1940, at New Orleans. The annual address of the President was given by Edward Alexander Parsons. The meeting on April 30th had for its program "The First Hundred Years of the Louisiana Historical Society".

The twenty-first annual Indiana History Conference was held at Indianapolis on December 8 and 9, 1939. At the same time the Indiana Historical Society held its annual business meeting. Eli Lilly of Indianapolis was elected president, Christopher B. Coleman, also of Indianapolis, secretary, and John G. Rauch, treasurer.

The Texas State Historical Association held its forty-fourth annual meeting at Austin on April 26 and 27, 1940. Among the papers presented were: "The Knights of the Golden Circle", by C. A. Bridges; and "Texas in the World War", by Ralph W. Steen. The Junior Historians held their first annual meeting at the same time.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Central States Branch American Anthropological Association and the fifth annual meet-

ing of the Society for American Archaeology were held jointly at Indianapolis on April 25-27, 1940. Among those on the program were Dr. Charles R. Keyes of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, State Archaeologist, who presented "An Outline of Southwestern Iowa Archaeology".

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its thirty-third annual meeting at Omaha, Nebraska, on May 2, 3, and 4, 1940. The program included papers in the following groups: "Urbanization of the Middle West"; "American Commerce and Diplomacy"; "Economic Development of the Trans-Mississippi Area"; "Philosophy of the Sectional Conflict"; "Propaganda in Wartime"; "The Frontier Influence"; "Approaches to American History"; and "Spanish Exploration and Colonization". Iowans on the program were: Charles H. Norby of Iowa State College, "Transit Trade at Panama, 1848-1869"; Maurice C. Latta of Iowa Wesleyan College, "The Use of Force in Caribbean Interventions under Roosevelt and Wilson"; John H. Powell of Iowa State College, "The Eastern Shore Frontier"; and Winfred T. Root of the State University of Iowa, "Living in History". The presidential address, by J. G. Randall of the University of Illinois, was on "The Blundering Generation". At the dinner given by the University of Omaha, Philip D. Jordan of Miami University gave a talk on "Songs of the Times 1830-1850", assisted by a University of Omaha quartette in costume. Carl Wittke of Oberlin College was elected president of the Association for 1940-1941 and Mrs. Clarence S. Paine of Lincoln, Nebraska, was reelected secretary-treasurer. Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher, Associate Editor, and Dr. Wm. J. Petersen, Research Associate, attended as representatives of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

IOWA

The Iowa Executive Council has allotted \$10,000 for the restoration of old Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek County.

The following officers have been chosen for the newly established Smithland Historical Society, Woodbury County: Reverend A. Pruitt, president; W. M. McDonald, vice president; Fred Cory,

corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. L. Zoeller, recording secretary; and O. S. Bower, treasurer.

Mrs. Willis Miller, State genealogical chairman of the D. A. R., has recently completed the thirty-third and the thirty-fourth of a series of volumes of county records in Iowa. These two volumes contain marriage records of Cass County, a directory of the City of Atlantic in 1880-1881, grave records of soldiers buried in Cass County, and other records.

The 26th annual meeting of the Madison County Historical Society was held at Winterset on April 16, 1940. Judge W. S. Cooper read a paper on "History of the Courts and the Judges" and Mr. Ora Williams, Curator of the State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines, gave an address on "Roads and Politics". The following officers were reelected for 1940: Herman Mueller, president; Mrs. Fred Lewis, secretary, and Mrs. F. P. Hartsook, treasurer.

All Fayette County joined in the celebration of the centennial of its first white settlement. Plans centered around three chief events: centennial sermons on Sunday, May 26th, the dedication of the D. A. R. memorial at the site of the Franklin Wilcox cabin, the first in the county, on June 2nd, and the presentation of the historical pageant at Fayette on two evenings in the last week of June. Dr. Virgil C. Welch was chairman of the general executive committee of the county's centennial.

As a project of the Work Projects Administration, some fifty-seven persons have been employed in twenty Iowa counties preparing city and county guide books. Those already published include Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Burlington, McGregor, and Estherville. All have been printed by local sponsors. A guide book for Van Buren County, soon to be published, is financed by the American Legion organization of that county. W. P. A. employees have also transcribed the diary of Dr. J. M. Shaffer, a Keokuk physician, whose daily record from 1850 to 1913 contains some detailed history of early Keokuk and of the personalities of the days when Keokuk was one of the most colorful towns on the Mississippi.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. J. A. Swisher, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave the high school commencement address at Selma on May 16, 1940. His subject was "Ready for Promotion". On May 21st he spoke to the Kiwanis Club at Iowa City on "Romance in Iowa History". During April and May, Dr. Swisher made several trips over central and northeastern Iowa to obtain data on early mills for a volume on "Old Water Mills of Iowa". He also verified the inscriptions on some markers of historic sites.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently received from Charles Mason Remey a number of manuscript volumes which he edited and arranged. These include six volumes of *Life and Letters of Rear Admiral George Collier Remey United States Navy 1841-1928*; sixteen volumes of *Life and Letters of Charles Mason Chief Justice of Iowa 1804-1882*; and twelve volumes of the *Life and Letters of Mary Josephine Mason Remey Wife of Rear Admiral George Collier Remey Daughter of Chief Justice Charles Mason 1845-1938*. Charles Mason Remey, the compiler and editor of these manuscript volumes, is a grandson of Charles Mason and a son of Rear Admiral Remey and Josephine Mason Remey.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society, spoke before the Iowa City Masonic Luncheon Club on March 1, 1940, on the subject, "Tall Tales of the Mississippi". On March 13th he gave the same address to the Iowa City Lions Club and on March 29th presented the same paper to a group of the American College of Physicians at their meeting in Iowa City. Dr. Petersen was recently appointed to the Alvord Memorial Commission, a committee of nine historians having jurisdiction over the funds and publication policies of the Alvord Memorial. On June 14, 1940, Dr. Petersen will take a leave of absence from the State Historical Society in order to teach a course in "Recent American History" at Washington University, St. Louis.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. Edward Bartow, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. P. H. Cless, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Della Jane Rhoades, Marshalltown,

Iowa; Mr. John P. von Lackum, Sr., Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Paul Bekins, Sioux City, Iowa; Miss Minnie E. Hamilton, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Edw. Leemkuil, Primghar, Iowa; Mr. Abner L. Long, Algona, Iowa; Mr. David Long, Blockton, Iowa; Mr. K. C. Mowery, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mr. James H. Smith, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Robert Connor, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Charles J. Crowe, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Frank T. Darrow, Riverside, Illinois; Mr. Ralph S. Grundman, Pella, Iowa; Mr. Van B. Hayden, Keokuk, Iowa; Mr. F. R. Kappel, Omaha, Nebraska; Mr. Marion L. Shugart, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mrs. A. H. Trader, Prairie City, Iowa; Mr. John Tumelty, Keokuk, Iowa; Mr. Ralph Whitney, Britt, Iowa; Mr. John H. Wilson, Davenport, Iowa.