

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission is sponsoring the restoration of the buildings at the "Old Harmony" community at Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Charles M. Stotz of Pittsburgh is the architect in charge.

The New Hampshire Historical Society has recently issued a booklet giving a brief account of the work and the collections of the Society with copies of its charter and by-laws and a list of its present officers.

Kentucky is making preparations for the celebration in 1942 of the 150th anniversary of its admission as a State. Governor Keen Johnson has appointed a Commission of nine members. Since no appropriation has been made by the legislature, the celebration must be financed, at least at first, by private donations.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its mid-year meeting at New York City on December 27-30, 1940. A dinner on December 27th, at which Carl Wittke, President of the Association, presided, featured a paper by Elmer Ellis on "Mr. Dooley: Journalism or Literature". The history session on the thirtieth discussed "To What Extent Was the West a Radical Force, 1865-1892?" Those taking part included Robert E. Riegel, Louis Pelzer, James A. Barnes, Albert K. Kohlmeier, and Chester M. A. Destler.

The United States Department of the Interior has recently issued *Historic American Buildings Survey*, compiled and edited by John P. O'Neill, associate architect of the National Park Service. It is described as a "Catalog of the Measured Drawings and Photographs of the Survey in the Library of Congress, January 1, 1938". It includes a list of buildings in twenty-five Iowa towns. Photographs of these buildings and reproductions of the measured drawings may be secured from the Chief of the Fine Arts Division, Library of Congress, for nominal charges.

The Nebraska State Historical Society held its sixty-third annual meeting at Lincoln on October 19, 1940, in conjunction with the sixteenth annual meeting of the Native Sons and Daughters of Nebraska. A business meeting was followed by a series of short talks. One of these was "The Rediscovery of John Brown's Underground Railroad and Cabin in Nebraska", by E. D. Bartling. The luncheon was followed by a series of five minute talks. The afternoon session was devoted to "The Great Nebraska Trails". This included "The Trail-Making Urge", the keynote address, by Fred G. Hawxby; "Famous World Trails", by Ona Wagner; "A Map Study of Nebraska Trails", by Oden Gilmore; "The Pony Express Trail: Its Dramatic Story", by Arthur J. Denney; and "The Pony Express Trail: Its Marking in Nebraska", by Dr. Herbert L. Cushing. The address at the dinner meeting was "Early Trails as a National Heritage", by Dr. Howard R. Driggs.

IOWA

Residents of Mahaska County formed a temporary historical association with a view to permanent organization. Plans are being made to establish a memorial building. John C. Bradbury is chairman of the temporary organization.

The Adair County Historical Society has township leaders to promote historical activities. Plans for a memorial to the county's pioneers and for a suitable place to house historical relics were discussed at a meeting of leaders.

The Warren County Historical Society is making a special effort to assemble old county records. A large number of school record books, some dating back to 1874, have been added to the collection. A committee of the society has taken inventory and made classification of the material now at hand.

Founders' and Builders' Day was observed at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, on November 19, 1940. William R. Boyd of Cedar Rapids, a member of the board of trustees for sixteen years, gave the address. The affair, instituted by President John B. Magee, is expected to become an annual celebration on the third Tuesday in November.

A new park and playground in Dubuque, comprising a tract of five acres on the city's west side, will serve as a memorial to two noted Dubuquers, William B. Allison and David B. Henderson. The recent purchase of land is the culmination of an enterprise to establish a memorial begun in 1911, when some \$10,000 were raised, with contributions from Andrew Carnegie, former Dubuquers, members of Congress, and others.

Officers elected by the Polk County Historical Society for the new year were the following: Ora Williams, president; J. E. Howard, vice president; Mrs. Gladys Bradford, financial secretary; Ray Stiles, executive secretary; and H. C. Plummer, treasurer. Edgar R. Harlan was elected to the three-year term of the board of trustees. The society has begun a project to collect biographical "who's who" data about pioneer people of Polk County.

The Union County Historical Society had its annual meeting at Afton on October 6, 1940. Former Representative Lloyd Thurston was the principal speaker. Plans were discussed in the business meeting for the compilation of a new county history and it was decided to purchase new files for the preservation of the society's records to be placed in the Creston library. B. L. Tyler was re-elected president, L. C. Bowers, vice president, W. G. Wilson, custodian, and Mrs. Henry Carolus was named secretary-treasurer. Richard Brown of Creston was selected as a director to succeed the late W. J. Donlin.

The First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City celebrated its centennial anniversary on November 17-19, 1940. The program included a sermon on "The Building of the Church", by Dr. Ilion T. Jones, and one by the Reverend William L. Young, President of Park College, an address on "The God of Our Fathers", by the Reverend Archibald Cardle, of Burlington, reminiscences by Robert R. Reed, John Gray Rhind, and William P. Lemon, a talk on "The Outstanding Contributions of Presbyterianism to Iowa in the Last Century", by the Reverend W. O. Harless, a talk on "The Outstanding Contributions of the Presbytery of Iowa to Presbyterianism in the Last Century", by the Reverend John H. Gabriel,

of Davenport, and a pageant entitled "Impressions of One Hundred Years", by W. Leigh Sowers.

A replica of the first schoolhouse erected in Iowa in 1830 was dedicated on October 4, 1940. It stands beside a scenic highway three miles south of Montrose. The program included responses by Mrs. Fannie Capelle, granddaughter of Dr. Isaac Galland, the sponsor of the school, F. A. Welch, representing the National Youth Administration, which built the replica, Dr. J. A. Swisher, for the State Historical Society of Iowa, R. E. Stewart, representing the State Conservation Commission, and Jessie M. Parker, Superintendent of Public Instruction. The address of dedication was given by George A. Wilson, Governor of the State of Iowa. Music by massed bands was directed by Carl Nelson.

Old Fort Atkinson's centennial was celebrated near Decorah on Sunday, October 6, 1940. Principal speaker at the ceremonies was Governor George A. Wilson, whose address dealt chiefly with conservation. Other speakers included Congressman Henry O. Talle of Decorah, and Professor S. S. Reque of Luther College, president of the Greater Winneshiek League, who has done research on the project. The old fort was established in 1840 and was an important point of defense on the frontier. Built to protect the Winnebago Indians against the Sac and Fox, the fort on this occasion received representatives of the Sac and Fox tribes as participants in the celebration. Governor Wilson was inducted into the tribe. Some 5000 persons attended the centennial ceremonies at the fort, which is to be restored to conform to its old lines.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher, Associate Editor of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave a talk on "Homes of Early Iowa" before the Cedar Rapids Woman's Club on November 25, 1940.

Dr. William J. Petersen spoke before the faculty and students at Iowa State College on October 3, 1940, on the subject "The Use of Local History as a Tool for Studying National History". On October 7th he spoke to the Davenport Rotary Club on "Tall Tales of

the Mississippi River". He returned to Davenport on October 10th to present the same talk to the Kiwanis Club. On October 22nd he spoke to the Iowa City Kiwanis Club on "Robert Lucas and the Iowa City Scene". He gave a similar talk to the Iowa City Lions Club on November 6th. At the fifty-fifth annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City Dr. Petersen presented a paper on "Diseases and Doctors in Pioneer Iowa" before the History of Science Section on December 30, 1940.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. O. H. Henningsen, Clinton, Iowa; Mr. William A. Hickey, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. David L. Redfield, San Francisco, California; Col. William Cattron Rigby, Washington, D. C.; Mr. George Rosenberger, Tabor, Iowa; Mr. Charles L. Baker, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Karl H. Boegel, Clinton, Iowa; Mr. A. H. Ellis, Vinton, Iowa; Mrs. Emil Hesselschwerdt, Kalona, Iowa; Mr. J. Leo Hoak, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Melvin P. McGovern, Dubuque, Iowa; Dr. Enos D. Miller, Wellman, Iowa; Mr. Glen L. Murdock, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Gail M. Redfield, W. Lafayette, Indiana; Dr. William Richard Arthur, Hampton, Iowa; Mrs. O. K. Dick, Iowa Falls, Iowa; Miss Ida M. Evans, Marshalltown, Iowa; Miss Margaret Loury, Jesup, Iowa; Miss Margaret A. Mueller, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. E. R. O'Neill, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. A. H. Pickford, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Ada Rippe Carley, Baltimore, Maryland; Mr. M. F. Donegan, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Myrtle June Gabrielson, Norris, Tennessee; Mr. Knut P. Gohlmann, Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. Zoe S. Heinze, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. C. L. Kimball, Newton, Iowa; Mr. W. J. McConnell, Mediapolis, Iowa; and Mrs. Glenn Speight, West Branch, Iowa.

The following have been enrolled as life members of the Society: Mr. E. L. Kirkpatrick, Washington, D. C.; Mr. M. H. Driftmier, Shenandoah, Iowa; and Miss Lucille A. Peterson, Council Bluffs, Iowa.