

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The 1941 annual meeting of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society and the Ohio History Conference were held jointly on April 4 and 5 at Columbus.

“What are the chief gifts to Louisiana from her French, Spanish and Anglo-American origins?” was the subject of a symposium which featured the monthly meeting of the Louisiana Historical Society on March 25, 1941.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the American Association of Museums was held at Columbus, Ohio, on May 15 and 16, 1941. Meeting with this Association of Museums was the American Association for State and Local History.

The twenty-second annual Indiana History Conference was held at Indianapolis on December 13-14, 1940. A membership of 1169 was reported. Eli Lilly was elected president, Christopher B. Coleman, secretary, and John G. Rauch, treasurer.

The Round Tower at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, erected in the 1820's, is being made into a museum to house the exhibits which will illustrate life at the Fort. A feature of the museum will be a mural painting by Richard Haines, representing the influence of the Fort on the Northwest.

The president of the American Historical Association for the year 1941 is James Westfall Thompson of the University of California; the first vice president is Arthur M. Schlesinger of Harvard University. The executive secretary is Conyers Read of Philadelphia, and the treasurer is Solon J. Buck of National Archives, Washington, D. C.

The State Historical Society of Missouri held its annual meeting on April 16, 1941, at Columbia. The speakers at the dinner were Senator Allen McReynolds of Carthage, president of the Society,

and Irving Dilliard of the editorial staff of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, whose subject was "They Came from Missouri and They Showed the World".

On February 12, 1941, the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield dedicated the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection. Among the speakers were Carl Sandburg, Governor Dwight H. Green, and Lieutenant Governor Hugh W. Cross. In the evening the Abraham Lincoln Association held its annual banquet with Charles W. Gilkey as the guest speaker.

The Texas State Historical Association held its forty-fifth annual meeting at Austin on April 18 and 19, 1941. Among the papers on the program were: "The Western Outlaw", by I. E. Stutsman; "The Activities of General James Wilkinson Relative to the State of Texas", by Elizabeth C. Jacobs; and "Dr. Benno Mathes — an Early Texas Naturalist", by S. W. Geiser, a former Iowan. The second annual meeting of the Junior Historians of Texas was held at the same time and place.

IOWA

The Madison County Historical Society honored its octogenarians at a banquet held at Winterset on April 29, 1941. Dinner was served to over 200 guests. The organization has been holding annual meetings since 1904. H. A. Mueller is president of the Society.

The new president of the Ringgold County Historical Society is Homer L. Calkin. Other officers are Arthur S. Palmer, vice president, Vera F. Dickens, secretary, and C. D. Allyn, treasurer. The Society is making plans for its fifth annual "old timers" reunion to be held in July at Mount Ayr.

The Fayette County Centennial Association is becoming active as a county historical society. A committee to promote that end was appointed at a meeting of the Centennial Association held at West Union on April 16, 1941. President of the Association is D. R. Roberts; vice president, Mrs. H. R. Young; secretary, Walter H. Beall; treasurer, F. B. Claxton.

An Iowa Conference on Local History, sponsored by the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, was held at Des Moines on May 9, 1941. The program was arranged in six parts. First came greetings from Ora Williams, Curator of the Department. The first topic was "Organizing the Interest in Local History", with O. W. Stevenson as chairman. Henry K. Peterson, President of the Pottawattamie County Historical Society, spoke on "How We Did It", and Dr. John E. Briggs, Editor of the State Historical Society, gave "Suggestions for New Organizations". The session on "Collection and Care of Historical Museum Materials" was in charge of Mrs. Gertrude Henderson. Jack W. Musgrove, Museum Director of the State Department, discussed "Classifying and Cataloging of Historical Materials". Homer L. Calkin, President of the Ringgold County Historical Society, was chairman of the session on "Iowa as a Field of Historical Study". "Agriculture in an Agricultural State" was the topic discussed by Earle D. Ross of Iowa State College, while Charles J. Ritchey of Drake University talked on "The Riches of History at Home". Royal K. Holbrook presided over the session on "Activities for the Local Society, and Public Relations". The three speakers were Francis I. Moats, of Simpson College, on "Educational Records in Warren County", Dale Maffitt on "Photographs Are Historical", and Kenneth E. Colton, of the State Department, on "Things We Can All Do". Mr. Peterson of Council Bluffs was named chairman of a committee to co-ordinate plans for the formation of additional county historical societies. Other members of this committee are Mrs. Gertrude Henderson of Sioux City, secretary, Walter H. Beall of West Union, Remley J. Glass of Mason City, and W. S. Johnson of Newton.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The *Chicago Tribune* has recently begun an index of the files of the paper from its beginning in 1847 down to the present. Since the plant was destroyed by the great fire of 1871, it has been necessary to microfilm files preserved in other cities. This search for missing numbers, not yet completely successful, revealed that the

State Historical Society of Iowa had more of the issues missing from the paper's files than any other single library.

Alice Swisher Bradley (Mrs. G. B. Bradley) recently presented to the State Historical Society of Iowa two manuscript volumes of much historical interest. One record book contains the minutes of the meetings of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home Association from the organization convention held on October 7-9, 1863, to the meeting on June 6, 1866. At this time the Home was taken over by the State of Iowa. The second volume contains a list of contributors to this Soldiers' Orphan's Home Association, arranged by counties.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave his "Tall Tales of the Mississippi" to the Des Moines Lions Club on April 3, 1941. On April 7th he gave the same talk to the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs at Mount Pleasant. Dr. Petersen attended the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting at Milwaukee on April 24 and 25. While in Milwaukee Dr. Petersen attended the meeting of the Alvord Memorial Commission, on which he serves as a member. On May 15th Dr. Petersen gave a commencement address on "Heroes and Heroines" before the graduating class of Cotter Consolidated School. He gave a similar talk before the graduating class of the University High School at Iowa City on May 27, 1941.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. John Chapman, Sheldon, Iowa; Mr. George B. Hartman, Ames, Iowa; Dr. H. J. Jones, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. J. Anthony Rhomberg, Dubuque, Iowa; Mrs. Betty Laird Swafford, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; Mr. David M. White, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Elsie J. Dau, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. C. A. Hickman, Sr., Sioux City, Iowa; Mr. Stanley L. Roberts, Iowa City, Iowa; Miss Bertha Alice Williams, Des Moines, Iowa; and Mrs. May Pardee Youtz, Iowa City, Iowa.