

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Minnesota Historical Society observed its ninety-second anniversary on October 20, 1941, having been incorporated in 1849. It is now the oldest institution in the State.

A special exhibit featuring Indian medicine and surgery was provided by the Wisconsin State Historical Museum for a recent convention of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

The Louisiana Historical Society held a monthly meeting at New Orleans on October 30, 1941. The Reverend Victor J. Dossogne discussed "Phases of the War in Belgium and France" and there was a symposium on "The War in Washington".

Dr. Solon J. Buck, formerly Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, has been made Archivist of the United States, to succeed R. D. W. Connor who resigned as Archivist to become Professor of American History and Jurisprudence at the University of North Carolina.

The Kansas State Historical Society held its sixty-sixth annual meeting at Topeka on October 21, 1941. James C. Malin delivered the presidential address on the subject "Introduction to the History of the Bluestem Pasture Region of Kansas". There was also a display of materials relating to the cattle industry.

The first annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History was held in Hartford, Connecticut, on October 8, 1941. "Raising the Standards of Historical Society Work" was discussed by Harlow Lindley, Henry James Young, Edwin W. Small, and Thomas M. Owen, Jr. One session was devoted to "A Publication Program for Historical Societies", with discussion by C. K. Shipton, Milton W. Hamilton, and Solon J. Buck. The Association publishes *The State and Local History News*.

The Minnesota Historical Sites and Markers Commission and the

Department of Anthropology of the University of Minnesota are jointly sponsoring a State-wide archaeological and historical survey. The work is under the direction of Richard R. Sackett of St. Paul and is divided into three sections: a re-examination of the archaeological materials collected from 1881 to 1895 by Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis; research in libraries and in the field for data on historic sites; and the preparation of studies on special topics, guides, and similar materials for publication.

The American Historical Association, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the American Association for State and Local History, the American Catholic Historical Association, the American Economic Association, and the American Political Science Association held meetings at Chicago on December 27-31, 1941, including a number of joint programs. The program of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association included an address, "Let's Study the History of Mudville", by Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. A joint session with the American Historical Association was devoted to Frederick Jackson Turner and included an address entitled "An Appraisal of Frederick Jackson Turner as a Historian", by Avery O. Craven, and "Turner's Frontier Hypothesis in the Light of Modern Criticism", by George W. Pierson.

The sixty-seventh annual meeting of the Michigan State Historical Society was held at Ludington, Michigan, on August 16, 1941. George N. Fuller was the leader in a discussion of the topic, "Federation of Local Historical Societies". "The Role of the Museum in Local History" was discussed under the leadership of Charles H. Yates, of the Muskegon County Museum. Willard C. Wichers, secretary of the Netherlands Pioneer and Historical Foundation, Holland, Michigan, led the discussion of "The Role of the Specialized Society in Local History", and Stuart Porter, State Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey, was in charge of the discussion of "The Federal Records Survey Project in Local History". Trustees were elected and the board reelected George N. Fuller as Secretary. Richard Clyde Ford was chosen President of the Society. After their business meeting the group visited the

death site of Pere Marquette near Ludington. At the dinner in the evening the main address was given by Rev. Fr. P. J. Lomasney, S. J., of Chicago, who spoke on "Marquette in Michigan".

## IOWA

The old home built at Iowa City by Robert Lucas, Iowa's first Governor, has been purchased by the State of Iowa and will be used as an historical museum. Possession is to be given in April, 1942.

In August, 1941, a plaque was dedicated to mark the site of the "Old Church Tree" in Van Buren County under which were held the first church services among the settlers west of the Mississippi River. This was in August, 1837.

The Polk County Historical Society held its third annual meeting at Des Moines on October 4, 1941. Ray C. Stiles was elected president, J. E. Howard, vice president, J. A. Wilbois, secretary, Gladys Bradford, financial secretary, and H. C. Plummer, treasurer.

The Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters has reorganized as the Woodbury County Historical Society. D. S. Lewis was chosen president, C. S. Van Eaton, vice president, C. C. Fowler, treasurer, and Mrs. R. A. Henderson (Gertrude Henderson), secretary. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.

The Union County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Creston on October 4, 1941. The chief speaker was Kenneth E. Colton of Des Moines. The following officers were elected: Burt Tyler, president; Ray Wilson, vice president; Mrs. Henry Carolus, secretary and treasurer; W. G. Wilson, curator; and Grace Harsh, historian.

The research work on the history of Fort Atkinson in Winne-shiek County is being carried on under the direction of Professor S. S. Reque of Luther College. Foundations of the guardhouse, settlers' store, and other buildings long since disappeared, have been located by careful excavation. It is hoped that at least one building can be restored to be used as a museum.



Persons interested in local history met at McGregor on October 15, 1941, to hear Mr. Walter H. Beall, of West Union, vice president of the newly organized Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies, who spoke on the need for local societies. Mr. Royal H. Holbrook, of Cedar Rapids, also spoke. A committee of three persons was appointed to draft articles of incorporation and report at a second meeting held on October 29th.

In response to the movement for more interest in local history and preparation for the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the State of Iowa in 1946, a number of counties have recently organized historical societies. Among these are Buchanan, Cerro Gordo, Guthrie, O'Brien, Osceola, and Union. It is hoped that a more complete list of these societies, together with their presidents and secretaries, can be given in the April number of the JOURNAL.

The Iowa Conservation Commission has already purchased some five hundred acres of land near McGregor at the mouth of the Yellow River to serve as a national monument where about one hundred Indian mounds may be preserved. Additional acreage is to be added as soon as arrangements can be made. The selection of the mounds to be preserved was made by Dr. Charles R. Keyes of Mount Vernon, State Archeologist. One of the mounds on the area is 140 feet long and 70 feet wide.

The Jasper County Historical Society held its seventh annual banquet and business meeting on December 5, 1941. Miss Ellen Hartnett, county superintendent of schools, gave a resumé of county history. Judge Frank Shankland and Mr. Ora Williams, Curator of the Iowa Department of History and Archives, both of Des Moines, were other speakers. Mrs. Mark Shaw of Monroe was elected president, J. R. Rhodes of Newton, vice president, Fred E. Meredith of Newton, secretary, and W. I. Price of Baxter, treasurer.

On September 5, 1941, Ogden celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary and the program was centered around the dedication of the memorial plaque in honor of Kate Shelley. Lieutenant Governor B. B. Hickenlooper presented the plaque. It was Kate Shelley, a