

## NOTES AND COMMENT

The Des Moines Pioneer Club held its annual meeting at Des Moines on January 24, 1942. William M. McLaughlin discussed President U. S. Grant's speech at Des Moines on September 28, 1875. B. Frank Kauffman was elected president of the club, Vernon Seeburger vice president, and Forest Huttenlocher secretary-treasurer.

The Reverend Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon, one of the influential advocates of equal suffrage and a minister of the Unitarian Church in Iowa, serving at Sioux City, Iowa City, Des Moines, and Burlington, died in the family home in Hancock, Illinois, on January 6, 1942. She was born on the same homestead on October 1, 1852. She was ordained as a minister at Sioux City on May 8, 1889.

The Fairfield Public Library is one of the 1200 libraries in the United States chosen by the American Library Association for a demonstration of printed material for war information centers. New books on war topics and home defense were put on display. The collection included the February issue of *The Palimpsest* containing an article *Remember Pearl Harbor*, by William J. Petersen.

Levi O. Leonard, railroad surveyor and historian, died at Iowa City on March 16, 1942. Mr. Leonard was born in Des Moines County, near Burlington, in 1854, but spent his early years in Iowa City, where his father, Nathan R. Leonard, was one of the early Professors and Acting President of the State University.

In 1879 Mr. Leonard became a railroad surveyor with residence in Montana. He later became interested in newspaper work, being associated with the *Anaconda, Montana, Review*, and the *Butte Mining and Railroad Review*. Since 1918 Mr. Leonard has devoted much of his time to the history of the Union Pacific and Rock Island railroads. In 1939 he was co-author of *A Railroad to the Sea*, the story of the Union Pacific.

Grant Wood, noted artist, died at Iowa City, on February 12, 1942. Born at Anamosa, Iowa, on February 13, 1892, he spent most of his life in Iowa, notably in and around Cedar Rapids, although he at times lived elsewhere and traveled in Europe to further his education in art. His lecture engagements took him to many parts of the United States. His association with the State University of Iowa began in 1934, and he held the title of Professor of Fine Arts at the time of his death. He was named State Director of the Public Works of Art projects in 1934, with his headquarters at Iowa City. For his influence in furthering creative art in American education, he was awarded honorary degrees by the University of Wisconsin, Wesleyan University, Lawrence College, and Northwestern University. Iowa was not only his home, but the chief inspiration of his work. His emphasis on artistic representation of subject matter derived from his native environment stimulated a movement among artists to interpret the indigenous scene. Among his most famous paintings, now in the possession of art collectors throughout the country, are "American Gothic", "Woman With Plants", "Dinner for Threshers", "Parson Weems' Fable", "Daughters of Revolution", "Young Corn", "Spring in Town", and "Spring in the Country".

#### CONTRIBUTORS

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Author of *Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi, Iowa — The Rivers of Her Valleys*, and numerous articles in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, *The Palimpsest*, and other historical journals. (See also THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, January, 1930, p. 173.)

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