

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The State and Local History News for March includes a discussion of the protection of historic buildings and valuable collections from war hazards.

Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio has appointed an Ohio War History Commission to supervise the collection of war records in the State. Carl Wittke of Oberlin College was elected chairman and William D. Overman was named executive secretary.

The Library of Congress has deposited in the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin a card catalogue giving the present location of a million and a half books published in America before 1876. This list was compiled by the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration under the direction of Douglas C. McMurtrie.

The State Historical Society of Missouri held its thirty-sixth annual meeting at Columbia on Monday, April 20, 1942. At the dinner Dr. Isidor Loeb was the guest of honor in recognition of his forty-four years of service to the Society. The speakers were George A. Rozier, president of the Society, Senator Allen McReynolds, and Dr. J. Christian Bay, who spoke on "Western Life and Western Books".

Kentucky is going on with its Sesquicentennial celebration although the war has naturally made some changes necessary. Among the activities on this occasion is the selection of ten members for Kentucky's Hall of Fame. Presidents of Kentucky colleges selected thirty distinguished Kentuckians and from this list high school students selected ten names—Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone, Henry Clay, Jefferson Davis, George Rogers Clark, Zachary Taylor, Isaac Shelby, Dr. Ephraim McDowell, John Fitch, and John James Audubon.

The twenty-third annual Indiana History Conference met at

Indianapolis on December 12-13, 1941. It was sponsored by the Society of Indiana Pioneers, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana Historical Bureau. The meeting included two general sessions and sessions on archaeology, genealogy, junior historical societies and history clubs, history teaching, medical history, and the pioneers. The program included the following papers: "Some Historians Should be Drafted", by John W. Oliver; "The Crisis and Our Democracy", by Frederick A. Ogg; "The Angel Mounds", by Glenn A. Black; "Tools and Technique of Genealogical Research", by Joseph C. Wolf; "Place of Local History in These Days of World Interest", by Otho Winger; and "The History of Medical Education in Indiana", by Dr. Burton D. Myers.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its thirty-fifth annual meeting at Lexington, Kentucky, on May 7, 8, and 9, 1942. The long and interesting program included sections on "The Pioneer and Immigrant Theatre", with Harrison J. Thornton of the University of Iowa as chairman; "Agriculture and Agrarian Politics"; "Development of the Middle West"; and "Western Stagecoaches and Freighters". Of special interest to students of Iowa history were the following papers: "Farm Machinery in the Old Northwest", by Merrill E. Jarchow; "The Business Corporation in the Development of the Middle West", by Kenneth Walker; "The English Settlement in Illinois and Its Rivals", by Erna Risch; and "Propaganda in War Time", by H. C. Peterson. At the business meeting Charles H. Ambler of West Virginia University was elected president of the Association and Mrs. Clarence S. Paine of Lincoln, Nebraska, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Paul M. Angle, Illinois Historical Library, John D. Barnhart, University of Indiana, and George M. Stephenson, University of Minnesota, were chosen as new members of the executive committee. The two members elected to the board of editors of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* are George M. Stephenson and Everett E. Edwards, United States Department of Agriculture.

IOWA

The Guthrie County Historical Society is preparing a list of relics belonging to residents of the county.

Mrs. Alta Hewlett was elected president of the Pocahontas County Historical Society for 1942. J. P. Russell was chosen vice president, and A. L. Schultz secretary-treasurer.

The Smithland Museum and Historical Society has chosen the following officers: president, Alda McDonald; vice president, George Kelsey; and secretary-treasurer, Nelle Wendel.

The first annual meeting of the Mahaska County Historical Society was held on May 13th, with the following members elected as officers: president, John C. Bradbury; vice president, Owen H. Jones; secretary, Mrs. George Kalbach; and treasurer, E. L. Butler.

A. Dean Hickok won the first prize, seventy-five dollars, in the Ida County history contest sponsored by Charles L. Horn of Minneapolis. His manuscript, entitled "People and Places in Ida County, 1896-1912", will be bound and placed in the Ida Grove Public Library.

The Sac County Historical Society has begun the collection of historical material relating to the county under the direction of Mrs. C. M. Mohler as curator, with the assistance of the district directors. The Society was organized in February of this year. Malcolm Currie is president.

Some details of Hamilton County history are contained in Mrs. Clara Madsen's book *They Who Were Strong*, a story based on the life of the Isaac Hook family. Portions of the book were read at the May meeting of the Hamilton County Historical Society. Miss Bessie Lyon, president of the Society, addressed the group on the celebration of the semi-centennial of the Department of History and Archives.

The story of Isaac L. Rerick, an important figure in early O'Brien County history, was read by Hallie Rerick Rosecrans at the meeting of the O'Brien County Historical Society on May 8, 1942. Clara H. McMillen told the story of the *O'Brien Pioneer*, the first newspaper in the county. Officers elected at the meeting were O. H. Montzheimer, president, Charles F. McCormack, vice president, John A. Campbell, secretary-treasurer, and Clara H. McMillen, Louise Noble, H. J. Grotewohl, and Albert Meyer, directors.

The Madison County Historical Society held its 38th annual meeting on April 21, 1942. Mr. H. A. Mueller, who held the office of president of the Society since its inception, retired from the active presidency and was elected honorary president for life. The following new officers were elected: Mrs. Fred Hartsook, president; Mrs. Fred Lewis, vice president; Mont Johnson, secretary; and Charles Tucker, treasurer. A feature of the program was an address by Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The officers of the newly organized McGregor Historical Society are Jack Slyfield, president, Mrs. Harry Gray, vice president, Kate O'Rieley, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Marian C. Rischmueller, publicity chairman. Five directors were also chosen for the Society. Guest speakers at the meeting held on March 18th were Martin H. Coutant, curator of Villa Louis at Prairie du Chien, and Cal Peters, resident artist at the Prairie du Chien museum. Plans were made for an Old Settlers' Picnic to be held on July 4th under the auspices of the Society.

The program of the March meeting of the Buchanan County Historical Society was devoted to talks on horse-racing days at Independence. Mr. Roy A. Cook was the principal speaker. At the meeting held on April 10, Dr. F. F. Agnew spoke on "Early Day Medical Practice", and R. F. Clarke on "Early Day Merchandising". An exhibit of interesting relics was also a part of the program. An address by Mr. Everett Jacobs, who spoke on the work of the pioneers and what the county can do toward the war effort now, featured the May meeting of the Society. Mr. R. J. Hekel is president.

The Iowa State Department of History and Archives celebrated its semicentennial on April 5-11, 1942. There were displays of historical items during this period. A conference of State historical departments and societies of the Mississippi Valley was held on April 9th in the afternoon and was followed by a dinner at Hotel Fort Des Moines at which Governor George A. Wilson, Curator Ora Williams, Hon. F. F. Faville, and Dr. Edward P. Alexander,

Superintendent of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, spoke. The Historical Department was established by law in 1892. In 1923 it was reorganized as the Historical, Memorial and Art Department, and in 1939 was given its present title.

The Tipton Consolidated School celebrated its centennial anniversary on April 20-24, 1942. The program included radio broadcasts over WMT and WSUI on April 20 and 21, a program at the dedication of the marker, and a centennial pageant, "A Century of Youth". The program, given on April 22nd, included remarks by Dr. C. Ray Aurner, Dr. Forest C. Ensign, M. C. Hamiel, George Craven, Mrs. Floy Van Krog, Regent of the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, and Mrs. June Witmer, Regent of the Open Prairie Chapter. The dedicatory address was made by Governor George A. Wilson. The publicity committee has made plans for the compilation of a scrapbook containing all items of interest on the centennial celebration.

Representatives from Traer, Toledo, and Tama met at the community rooms in Toledo on April 9, 1942, and organized the Tama County Historical Society, with the following officers: President, Mrs. W. G. MacMartin of Tama, vice president, Mr. R. C. Wood of Traer, secretary, Miss Dorothy Runkle of Toledo, and treasurer, Mrs. W. S. Gallagher of Tama. The Society soon enrolled a membership of 243 and has made an interesting collection of relics through its various township chairmen. The Tama County supervisors have granted the Society permission to install display cases in the courthouse hallways. The Society also voted to sponsor the publication of a Tama County history to be published by Harley Ransom of Vinton, costing \$3.00 a book.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave an address at the meeting of the Madison County Historical Society at Winterset on April 21, 1942.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently distributed to its members and to all public and college libraries in Iowa a sixth

volume in the Iowa Centennial History Series. This is *Iowa — Public Land Disposal*, by Roscoe L. Lokken. The Society now has in press a *Reference Guide to Iowa History* compiled by Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. Mildred W. Braunschweiger, Seattle, Wash.; Mr. A. E. Krause, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. H. Wilbur Polson, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Dr. R. T. Spain, Conrad, Iowa; Capt. T. C. Anderson, Norfolk, Va.; Mr. G. J. Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. A. B. Meston, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Ray Nyemaster, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Harley Ransom, Vinton, Iowa; Mr. Hubert W. Turner, Camanche, Iowa; Mr. W. W. Brubaker, Davenport, Iowa; and Mrs. Rena Walker, Fairbank, Iowa.

Mrs. Benjamin F. Shambaugh of Iowa City has been enrolled as a life member.