

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Michigan Historical Commission has published a booklet concerning the Michigan State flag and the rules for its use.

The Western Reserve Historical Society celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary at a garden party at Cleveland on June 24, 1942.

The Ohio War History Commission began the issue of a news bulletin on July 15, 1942. The title is *Communikay*. The second number is dated August 5th.

Indiana University has acquired the extensive collection of Lincoln material which was assembled over many years by Joseph B. Oakleaf who died in 1930. The collection includes some eight thousand volumes as well as pictures, plaques, letters, etc.

The closing talk of a series sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society for 1941-1942 was given at Indianapolis on May 28th, by Judge Curtis G. Shake. His subject was "Beginnings of Cultural Movements in Vincennes", dealing largely with schools and educational work.

The Missouri State Historical Society has recently acquired the J. Christian Bay collection of Western Americana. The books are to be kept in a specially furnished room in the building occupied by the Society. Dr. Bay is librarian of the John Crerar Library in Chicago.

The Minnesota War History Commission, appointed by Governor Stassen on May 18, 1942, as an agency of the Minnesota Office of Civilian Defense, has begun the collection of war records in Minnesota. Its activities are to be reported in a special section of *Minnesota History*.

The 1942 summer tour and convention of the Minnesota Historical Society was confined to a program at Fort Snelling on June 14, 1942. Professor Lester B. Shippee, President of the Society,

presided. Major General F. E. Uhl, commander of the Seventh Corps Area, gave a brief address. The main address was presented by Brigadier General Harold E. Wood of the Minnesota State Guard who spoke on "The Shape of Things to Come".

The sixty-eighth annual meeting of the Michigan State Historical Society was held at Bay City on June 19-20, 1942. The central theme was the pine lumber industry in that part of Michigan. Captain J. K. Esler, U. S. Navy, Ret., was the principal speaker at the annual dinner and his subject was "What Is the Great Lakes Region Contributing Toward the War Effort?" Another speaker was Earl C. Beck, author of *Songs of the Michigan Lumberjack*. The second day was devoted to visiting the historic sites.

IOWA

An Independence Day pageant was given at Le Mars on July 4 and 5, 1942. The title of the production was "Plymouth County Plays Her Part".

A marker, provided by Albert Reed, 92 years old and a former resident of Irvington, has been erected a short distance east of the town, to mark the site of the Irvington town hall.

Morris Sanford of Cedar Rapids was the speaker at the Buchanan County Historical Society meeting on June 5, 1942. His subject was Rear Admiral Harry Yarnell, a native of Buchanan County.

Edward J. Breen of Fort Dodge was the speaker at the old settlers' picnic sponsored by the historical societies of Webster and Hamilton counties, and held at Bells Mill on August 2, 1942.

The Wayne County Historical Society was organized on August 7, 1942. Roy Grimes was elected president and Lola Cherry is the secretary. Charter members to the number of fifty-five were enrolled.

The Sac County Historical Society reported 225 charter members at its meeting held at Sac City on July 30, 1942. The society is collecting sketches of families living in Sac County previous to 1900.

The Fayette County Centennial Association has received a large show case from the Central States Power and Light Company. The case will be moved to a room in the courthouse at West Union where it will be used to display historical records.

The Woodbury County Pioneer Club at its meeting at Sioux City, on May 23, 1942, heard G. E. Adams tell of Indian massacres. On June 27th, A. A. Smith spoke on "Early Days in Southeastern Iowa", and on August 22nd, Mrs. Ralph A. Henderson discussed "Historical Collections in the Public Museum".

The directors of the Guthrie County Historical Society, at a meeting held at Panora on May 24, 1942, decided to suspend activities during the war emergency, but urged that members of the society collect and preserve historical material and that individual members write histories of organizations and activities in which they are interested.

The third annual meeting of the Pocahontas County Historical Society was held at Pocahontas on August 20, 1942. The fourth old settlers' picnic was held at the same time. The program of speeches included "Early History of Rolfe", by Frank MacVey, a pioneer talk, by Mrs. Jennie Hogan, "Early History of Pocahontas", by Frank Hronek, and "Early History of Laurens", by Fred Hawley.

The sixth annual reunion and patriotic rally sponsored by the Ringgold County Historical Society was held at Mount Ayr on July 16, 1942. Homer L. Calkin, Clearfield, was reelected president and Vera F. Dickens secretary. The main speech on the program was "The State Historical Society of Iowa", by Walter H. Beall of West Union, one of the Curators of the Society. His address was published in the *Mount Ayr Record-News*, July 23, and the *Ringgold County Bulletin* for August, 1942.

The State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines is collecting the records of the Grand Army of the Republic and now has records of some two hundred posts. Only two of the more than five hundred units are still active. Miss Amy Noll, State secretary of the G. A. R., is in charge of this collection. E. P. Taylor, com-

mander of the post at Fairfield, was elected Commander of the Iowa Department in June, 1941.

At the annual meeting of the Scott County Pioneer Association on August 26, 1942, Miss Millicent Spencer of Rock Island presented to the organization a miniature pioneer village which she planned as a memorial to her family. She also presented a gold headed cane on which the names of the presidents will be inscribed. Roswell H. Spencer was the first white man to own land in Scott County and the founder of Pleasant Valley.

State Center celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on August 26, 1942. Governor George A. Wilson was the principal speaker. Other speakers, former residents of State Center, were State Senator B. C. Whitehill of Marshalltown, Harley H. Stipp of Des Moines, Edward N. Wentworth, director of Armour's livestock bureau, and Guy L. Noble, general secretary of the national committee for boys and girls clubs. Announcement was made that George and Ed Schilling, members of a pioneer family, had given the town \$1500 to purchase and equip an athletic field to be known as the "Schilling Memorial Field".

The Tama County Historical Society sponsored an old settlers' picnic at Oak Park, Tama County, on June 14, 1942. Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave a talk on historical work, Mrs. Chas. Townsend gave "Tall Tales of Early Tama County", Mr. Kenneth E. Colton of the State Department of History and Archives talked on the preservation of historical material, and Chief Young Bear, from the Indian reservation, told of the early history of the Sac and Fox Indians. The Tama County Society now has a large collection of relics which are housed in a room in the courthouse at Toledo. A report late in August listed the membership at 500.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The war clipping file of the State Historical Society now contains over 82,000 items. These are filed under twenty-six headings, among which are aviation, civilian defense, war bonds, editorials, farming

and food production, nutrition, the A. E. F., casualties, enlistments and commissions, life and activities in camps, post war plans, prisoners, religion and morale, selective service, war industries, and the women's army.

The State Historical Society of Iowa is collecting a set of microfilm reproductions of newspapers published in Iowa before 1846. Files in Burlington, Davenport, and Muscatine have already been copied and it is hoped that with the coöperation of local public libraries and the Library of Congress all available issues of Iowa papers of this period may be collected in microfilm. During these early years the principal newspapers were published at Dubuque, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington, Fort Madison, and Iowa City.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. M. S. Jordan, Clinton, Iowa; Rev. M. R. Talley, Greenfield, Iowa; Miss Erma L. Bonds, Keosauqua, Iowa; Miss Louise Cotnam, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Leon E. Hickman, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Miss Viola E. Knoche, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Kenneth P. Moore, Traer, Iowa; Mr. Willis P. Porter, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. William J. Seymour, Hinton, Iowa; Mr. John R. Wallis, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Harry J. Wenger, Wellman, Iowa; Miss Robina Wilson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. J. W. Young, Traer, Iowa; Dr. P. B. Cleaves, Cherokee, Iowa; Miss Odessa Farley, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Burton Prugh, Burlington, Iowa; and Mrs. George F. Stratton, Washta, Iowa.

The following persons have been enrolled as life members of the Society: Mr. E. D. Bradley, Muscatine, Iowa; Dr. George Braulich, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. George H. Breidert, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. W. H. Brenton, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Geo. R. Burden, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Howard H. Cherry, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Warren N. Churchill, Burlington, Iowa; Mr. L. E. Davisson, Nevada, Iowa; Dr. F. W. Dean, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. W. C. Eastland, Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. E. P. Eastman, Burlington, Iowa; Mrs. M. L. Evans, Emerson, Iowa; Dr. A. G. Felter, Van Meter, Iowa; Mrs. Alice Glasgow, Mechanicsville, Iowa; Mr. F. M. Goddard, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. B. A. Gronstal, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr.

Guy H. Hall, Dallas Center, Iowa; Dr. Gordon F. Harkness, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Martha H. Hemenway, Lansing, Iowa; Mrs. M. L. Holm, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. H. I. Jennings, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. R. E. Jones, Williamsburg, Iowa; Rev. Wm. H. Knotts, Lehigh, Iowa; Mr. C. F. Littell, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; Rt. Rev. Harry S. Longley, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. F. H. Luthe, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Roy A. McGuire, Fairfield, Iowa; Mr. L. J. Maresh, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. William B. Martin, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Lee Nagle, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. F. C. Okey, Corning, Iowa; Mr. Harold D. Peterson, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mr. J. Carl Pryor, Burlington, Iowa; Miss Iola B. Quigley, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Joseph R. Reed, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. J. J. Roshek, Dubuque, Iowa; Miss Agnes Samuelson, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Lee E. Shafer, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. W. A. Smith, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Reece Stuart, Jr., Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Otha D. Wearin, Hastings, Iowa; Rev. W. A. Winterstein, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Velma Pearse Yokom, Marshalltown, Iowa; Dr. C. H. Graening, Waverly, Iowa; and Mr. H. S. Rittenhouse, Monona, Iowa.