

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The winter meeting of the American Historical Association and the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, scheduled to be held at Columbus, Ohio, on December 29, 30, and 31, 1942, was cancelled because of the transportation problem in wartime.

The Louisiana Historical Society commemorated the anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase at its meeting in New Orleans on December 20, 1942. On January 8, 1943, it held a dinner in commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans, emphasizing the beginning of the long period of peace among English-speaking people.

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is presenting a series of lectures on Wisconsin history over Station WHA at Madison on Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 2:30 P. M. The series, known as "Wisconsin's Yesterdays", began on September 28, 1942, and will run until May 21, 1943.

The Kansas State Historical Society held its annual meeting at Topeka on October 20, 1942. The program included an address, "Kansas and Kansans in the Present War", by Colonel Charles H. Brown. A plaque of Governor John P. St. John was presented by Charles C. Hoge. Officers elected included W. E. Stanley of Wichita, president, Kirke Mechem of Topeka, secretary, and Mrs. Lela Barnes of Topeka, treasurer.

The Illinois State Historical Society held its annual meeting on October 2 and 3, 1942, at Jacksonville. The program included papers on "College Life in Illinois a Hundred Years Ago", by Ernest G. Hildner; "The Indigent Lincoln", by Harry E. Pratt; "Southern Attitudes Toward Abraham Lincoln", by Avery O. Craven; and "Jacksonville's State Institutions", by Dr. Carl E. Black. Jewell F. Stevens of Chicago was elected president, succeeding John H. Hauberg. Paul M. Angle of Springfield was re-appointed secretary-treasurer.

## IOWA

In May, 1942, Ralph Young was appointed Assistant Curator and Superintendent of the Public Archives in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives. He succeeded Fred L. Mahannah who died on October 12, 1941.

The McGregor Museum announces the gift of a copy of the *McGregor Weekly Press* for August 28, 1861, by John Jones; a candle snuffer, by Charles Krueber; and a collection of old letters and records, by Iola B. Quigley of Des Moines.

A collection of clippings and records of service men in Hamilton County is being compiled by the Hamilton County Historical Society under the supervision of Charlotte E. Crosley, librarian of the Kendall Young Library at Webster City. Miss Crosley gave a report on this collection at the meeting of the Hamilton County Historical Society on October 2, 1942. The Kendall Young Library has a record of 1100 men from Hamilton County in World War I.

The Polk County Historical Society held a meeting at Des Moines on October 3, 1942, and voted to sponsor observance of the centennial anniversary of the establishment of Fort Des Moines on May 9, 1843. Jonas Poweshiek, an Indian from the Tama settlement, was elected honorary president. Ray C. Stiles was reelected president, J. A. Wilbois, secretary, Gladys Bradford, financial secretary, and H. C. Plummer, treasurer.

The Tama County Historical Society sponsored a contest among rural school pupils for the best original stories of local historical incidents, with prizes of five dollars for the first place and smaller amounts for second, third, fourth, and fifth places. First place was awarded to Marilyn Rhodes for a story on "Experiences of Early Settlers in Tama County" and second place was given to Beverly Murty on "Charlie Gray's Grist Mill". The Society has also issued a list of exhibits on display in the courthouse at Toledo, with the names of the exhibitors. It is planned to make this display a permanent historical activity. Mrs. W. G. MacMartin is president of the Society which now has a membership of over five hundred.

## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Earle D. Ross, one of the contributors to the publications of the State Historical Society, has been promoted to the rank of Professor of History at Iowa State College, at Ames.

Lee Nagle, former State legislator, Iowa City businessman, and treasurer of the State Historical Society of Iowa, died in Iowa City on September 10, 1942. The new treasurer of the Society is William J. Parizek.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, spoke to the Dubuque Rotary Club on December 1, 1942, on the subject, "Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi from 1823 to the Present".

The Forty-ninth General Assembly adopted House Concurrent Resolution 23, authorizing the Governor to appoint a committee of nine persons for the purpose of considering and preparing plans for a proper celebration of the Centennial of Iowa Statehood during the year 1946. The following persons have been named on this committee by Governor George A. Wilson: Walter H. Beall, West Union; William G. Kerr, Grundy Center; John E. Carey, Sioux City; Mrs. Harry E. Narey, Spirit Lake; Ethyl E. Martin, Iowa City; Robert Burlingame, Des Moines; Frank Miles, Des Moines; Ora Williams, Des Moines; and Henry K. Peterson, Council Bluffs. The first meeting of the committee was held on January 14, 1943.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. Edward L. Anderson, Bayard, Iowa; Miss Sarah Miller, Postville, Iowa; Miss Lucile Powell, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Charles L. Rodine, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Blair C. Wood, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. B. W. Garrett, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. David Tracy Jones, Vinton, Iowa; Miss E. Persis Sheldon, Iowa City, Iowa; Rev. W. T. Smith, Burlington, Iowa; Dr. Charles S. Stoakes, Lime Springs, Iowa; Miss Helen O. Galvin, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Robert E. Moyers, Guthrie Center, Iowa; Mr. V. U. Sigler, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. L. C. Wuerffel, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Wm. H. Behrens, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Miss Esther Stark,

Burlington, Iowa. Mr. William J. Petersen of Iowa City, Iowa, has been enrolled as a life member of the Society.

Judge John T. Moffit of Tipton, a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa since July 5, 1905, and a life member since August 3, 1920, has announced his retirement from the bench after twenty-seven years of service as judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District. Judge Moffit, who was eighty years of age on July 8, 1942, has had varied interests in the community, serving as councilman and mayor of Tipton, as county attorney of Cedar County, and State Senator. He was secretary of the 1886 law class of the University of Michigan, a member of the Iowa National Guard from 1885 to 1900, being mustered out as lieutenant colonel of the Fiftieth Iowa, and Alumni Trustee of Cornell College since 1906. Another member of the State Historical Society, Judge Earl Peters of Clarinda, has also retired from the district court bench. Judge Peters was elected to membership in the Society on September 2, 1919, and was enrolled as a life member in 1936.