

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio has issued the first number of a series of bulletins giving news of the Society.

The Ohio History Conference for 1943 has been cancelled. The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society held its annual business meeting at Columbus on April 30, 1943.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has been authorized by the State legislature to return six battle flags captured during the Civil War to the States represented by the units carrying the flags. These include Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

The Illinois State Museum at Springfield has opened its new diorama hall in the east corridor of the Museum building. The twelve dioramas, created by Bartlett Frost, depict outstanding events in Illinois history. The miniature human figures are some eight inches high.

The ninety-fourth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society was held at St. Paul on January 18, 1943. The first speaker at the luncheon meeting was Colonel Floyd E. Eller, who spoke on the subject "A Soldier Looks at History". J. P. Bertrand of Port Arthur, Canada, spoke on "A Century of Border Co-operation". At the afternoon session Dr. Alice Felt Tyler gave a talk on "Pioneering in Meeker County", taken from letters written by members of the Smith family in Minnesota to relatives in Massachusetts during the 1870's.

The State Historical Society of Missouri, the History Department of the University of Missouri, and the University of Missouri Library are coöperating in an effort to collect manuscripts and other source materials relating to western history. The program is under the supervision of William Francis English, Assistant Professor of History at the University. Where such historical materials

cannot be secured an effort will be made to have microfilms made. The Rockefeller Foundation has provided a grant of \$15,000 to assist in this work.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its thirty-sixth annual meeting at Cedar Rapids on April 22-24, 1943. Iowans on the program included Mr. C. C. Hunt who spoke on "The Iowa Masonic Library", Dr. Earle D. Ross who gave a paper on "The Department of Agriculture During the Commissionership: A Study in Politics and Administration", and Dr. Eric Kollman of Parsons College who spoke on "The New 'World History' ". Dr. C. H. Geiger of Coe College presided over the session on "Special Collections in Midwestern Archives", Dr. William J. Petersen of the State Historical Society of Iowa over the section on "Contributions to Midwestern Cultural History", Superintendent Arthur C. Deamer of Cedar Rapids over the general session of the Teachers' Section, and Martin W. Schultz of the Davenport High School over the Saturday luncheon session. Dr. Charles A. Anderson, President of Coe College, presided at the dinner meeting. Theodore C. Blegen, Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Minnesota, was elected president and Mrs. Clarence S. Paine of Lincoln, Nebraska, was reelected secretary-treasurer. Three new members of the executive committee are Curtis W. Garrison of the Hayes Memorial Foundation, Fremont, Ohio; Herbert S. Schell, University of South Dakota; and Laura A. White, University of Wyoming. A resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee to investigate the status of the teaching of American history. Coe College, the Torch Press, and interested citizens of Cedar Rapids were in charge of local arrangements with Edward F. Misak of the Torch Press as chairman.

IOWA

The Historical Society of Henry County is collecting newspapers, historical volumes, portraits, letters, manuscripts, and many other kinds of historical materials. Manuscript histories of churches, schools, and similar institutions are being compiled.

During the week before and the week following Memorial Day, the Wayne County Historical Society sponsored a display at

Corydon of war relics and pictures of men from the county who have served or are now serving in the armed forces. Mrs. Lola Cherry was in charge of the exhibit.

The State Department of History and Archives announces the appointment of Emory H. English as head of the manuscript division in place of Kenneth Colton now on leave serving with the armed forces. Mrs. Bessie Wilson has been appointed to head the war records division.

The Tama County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Toledo on April 8, 1943. Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, the president, reported 508 charter members, and some 800 historical articles donated to the society during the first year. The following officers were reelected: Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Tama, president; R. C. Wood, Traer, vice president; and Thelma Carmichael, Tama, secretary and treasurer. It was voted to collect the dues by mail.

The Mahaska County Historical Society held its second annual meeting at Oskaloosa on May 12, 1943. All the officers were reelected — John Bradbury, president; Owen Jones, vice president; Mrs. George Kalbach, secretary; and E. L. Butler, treasurer. Life memberships were awarded to three sons of the late A. W. Mattix whose collection of Indian and pioneer relics was on display in one of the rooms in the courthouse on May first, the centennial anniversary of the establishing of the county.

The General Assembly passed a bill, approved on April 5, 1943, providing for the purchase of the Kasson Memorial Building, on the east side of East Thirteenth Street, between Grand Avenue and Des Moines Street. The building will be used by the State Department of History and Archives. The appropriations for the purchase and improvement totaled \$12,920.88. The General Assembly also made provision for the purchase of the Abbie Gardner Sharp cabin, scene of the massacre of the Gardner family by the Indians in 1857. An expenditure of \$10,000 for the site was authorized. The area will become a State park.

On May 20, 1943, the Abigail Adams Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a memorial program at the

site of the Fort Des Moines established at the confluence of the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers one hundred years ago. City Solicitor Fred T. Van Liew presided at the meeting. Vernon R. Seeburger, president of the Des Moines Pioneer Club, gave an address on "Old Fort Des Moines". Brigadier General Charles H. Grahl, director of Iowa selective service, gave an account of the service of both the old fort and the one built later, now the training center of the WAACs. Jonas Poweshiek, his son Richard, and his daughter Gloria also took part in the program. A folder with the title *Des Moines' First Century*, compiled by Ora Williams, was issued by the State Department of History and Archives to mark the passing of the century. The Polk County Bar Association also commemorated the anniversary date by a special meeting at the courthouse on May 22nd at which Judge John J. Halloran gave a talk on early lawyers and courts in Des Moines.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society, is participating in the Army Specialized Training Program, Basic Phase, preparatory for advanced work in engineering, giving half time to this teaching and half to his work for the Society. His subject is American history.

The *Biography of Peter Melendy*, by Luella M. Wright, will be distributed by the State Historical Society of Iowa in July. The volume is an addition to the *Iowa Biographical Series*. Peter Melendy was one of the founders of Cedar Falls, served as president of the State Agricultural Society, was a promoter of railroads in his section of the State, and was one of the founders of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

Dr. John Ely Briggs who has been editor of *The Palimpsest* since September, 1922, and Editor of the State Historical Society since 1940 has resigned the position of Editor, but will continue as editor of *The Palimpsest* and as professor of political science at the State University of Iowa. In connection with his University work Dr. Briggs is cooperating with other faculty members in giving a

course for pre-meteorological students in the Army Air Corps, combining political history, English composition, and speech.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Dr. Harold H. Buhmann, West Union, Iowa; Dr. Chas. O. Giese, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mr. H. William Schon, Pomeroy, Iowa; Rev. Francis L. Schuh, St. Lucas, Iowa; Mr. R. M. Westerfield, West Union, Iowa; Mr. Frank G. Westphal, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. G. L. Hackett, West Union, Iowa; Mr. Lester E. Keller, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. W. A. Logan, Keokuk, Iowa; Mrs. Ruth W. Neff, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Jesse Kelso Farley, Jr., Evanston, Illinois; Mr. Albion R. King, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; Mr. Louis M. Knott, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Ralph G. Newman, Oak Park, Illinois; Miss Lenora Purdy, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Harry A. Shaver, Sioux City, Iowa; and Mr. Nicholas J. Tiedemann, Waterloo, Iowa.