

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Mary Jane Meyer has been appointed secretary-editor for the Ohio War History Commission, succeeding Mrs. Ruth Joseph Fischer.

On November 1, 1943, the Chicago Historical Society opened to the public a display of over two hundred cartoons of John T. McCutcheon loaned to the Society by the artist.

The Illinois State Historical Library has received for preservation in its files a collection of historical materials relating to the life of Charles S. Deneen. Previous to this gift, the library had received some two hundred scrapbooks relating to Deneen's career.

In June, 1943, the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, Division of State Memorials, acquired the President McKinley National Memorial at Canton, Ohio. The transfer includes the mausoleum, twenty-four acres of land, and an endowment fund of \$130,000.

The October, 1943, number of the *News Review*, published by the Chicago Historical Society, contains an account of the Columbus relics in the Spanish Exploration Room of the Society. This number also contains a letter written by John Wentworth from Chicago to his sister in November, 1836.

During the summer of 1943 The State Historical Society of Wisconsin prepared an educational exhibit for its museum showing schools as they were in early days and their development. Later an exhibit featured the life and work of Stephen Moulton Babcock, the great dairy scientist who devised the Babcock test for butterfat.

Publication of the WPA inventory lists of American imprints is to be resumed with Douglas C. McMurtrie as editor-in-chief. The supervisory committee consists of Clarence S. Brigham, Julian

P. Boyd, R. W. G. Vail, and Thomas W. Streeter. The editorial work will be carried on at the Newberry Library in Chicago and the first list to be published is the bibliography of Rhode Island imprints through 1800.

The American Association for State and Local History held its third annual meeting at Princeton, New Jersey, on November 16 and 17, 1943. The dinner session on the first day was devoted to a discussion on "The Present Status and Problems of State and Local History Activity". Dr. Edward P. Alexander, of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, president of the Association, presided and the discussion was led by Lester J. Cappon of the University of Virginia. Tuesday evening the Association and the Society of American Archivists held a joint meeting. On Wednesday morning the group discussed "Publicizing American History". At the luncheon meeting an illustrated lecture, prepared by Donald A. Cadzow and G. Edwin Brumbaugh, was presented. The title was "Recent Historical Restoration Work in Pennsylvania", a description of the restoration of the Ephrata Community. The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of "War and Post-war Problems and Plans of State and Local Historical Societies", led by James W. Foster.

#### IOWA

The Ringgold County Historical Society is planning a centennial celebration in connection with its annual reunion on July 20, 1944.

The annual reunion of the Southwest Iowa Pioneer Association was held at Shenandoah on October 8, 1943. Guest speakers were W. D. Jamieson and W. G. Reninger.

Citizens of Traer are planning for the preservation and reconstruction of the log cabin built by Giles Taylor in 1852. The building is now owned by Henry J. Whannell. The late E. E. Taylor, editor of the *Star Clipper* for sixty-four years, was born in this cabin.

The Denmark Association of Congregational and Christian Churches held a meeting at Denmark on October 5, 1943, to com-

memorate its hundredth anniversary. The association was organized on November 3, 1843. Reverend Claude C. Hobson of Olds was elected moderator.

The Pocahontas County Historical Society held its fifth annual meeting at Pocahontas on August 26, 1943, with Miss Matie L. Baily, the president, presiding at the meeting. A committee was appointed to see that a marker is placed on the site of the first courthouse at Old Rolfe.

The Reverend James A. Geary of the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., has recently completed the translation of an Indian manuscript which relates a legend of the Sac and Fox Indians. The manuscript was obtained by Dr. Truman Michelson of the Smithsonian Institute just before his death in 1938.

Dr. Louis Pelzer of the State University of Iowa is one of the fourteen members of the committee selected by the American Historical Association, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, and the National Council for Social Studies to study the problems of teaching history. A report will be issued as soon as the survey is completed.

The State Interim Committee has approved an allotment of \$3,225 for repairing and redecorating the house built at Iowa City by Robert Lucas in 1843. It was then in the country. Now it stands as the only house on Switzer Avenue. Furniture purchased by the State from heirs of former Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood will be used to refurnish the historic house.

#### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, attended the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History held at Princeton, New Jersey, on November 16 and 17, 1943.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave his illustrated kodachrome lecture on the "Log of the *Herbert Hoover*, June, 1942", before the Community Club at Hopkinton, on October 4, 1943. On November 16th

he presented his illustrated lecture, "Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi, 1823-1943", before 260 members of the Davenport Teachers' Association.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. F. E. Bissell, Jr., Dubuque, Iowa; Miss Grace Douma, Northwood, Iowa; Miss Ruth Miner, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. Emma Prescott, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Harlan E. Snyder, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Armin R. Bruns, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. Garland Fronabarger, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Mrs. Robert C. Keagy, Pasadena, Calif.; Mr. Albert G. Risch, Clinton, Iowa; Mr. Harry B. Schnoor, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. J. F. Cross, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. Gerald L. Greer, Iowa City, Iowa; and Rev. Marvin Williams, Primghar, Iowa. Mr. J. A. Swisher of Iowa City, Iowa, was enrolled as a life member of the Society.

Dr. Jean P. Black has been added to the staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa with the title library associate. In addition to general library work, Dr. Black will have charge of cataloging the more than ninety thousand volumes in the collections of the Historical Society. Dr. Black received a B. A. degree from Mt. Holyoke College in 1924, a Ph. D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1928, with a major in history, and a degree of B. S. in Library Science from the University of Washington in 1932. In 1926-1927 she studied abroad on an Eleanor Duse Fellowship of the Italy-America Society of New York, and in 1929-1930 she held a Social Science Research Council Fellowship. Her practical experience includes history teacher at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, librarian at the Seattle Art Museum, research associate in the Hoover Library at Stanford University, and teacher of library science at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois.