

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Michigan Historical Commission held a formal opening of the new Michigan Historical Museum on February 8, 1944.

The Minnesota Historical Society has received eighteen albums containing autographs of famous persons. These were collected and presented to the Society by W. H. Amerland of Wabasha, Minnesota.

A movement has been started to preserve the birthplace of George Washington Carver near Diamond, Missouri, as a national monument. Dr. Carver attended Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, and was an alumnus of Iowa State College at Ames.

The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society has announced that, on account of war-time travel difficulties, no annual meeting will be held in 1944. A meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for the latter part of April.

The papers of Dr. Richard T. Ely, head of the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin for more than thirty years, have been presented to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin as a gift from the economist who died in October, 1943.

The second of the series of "members' evenings", sponsored by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, was held at the Columbus Museum Auditorium on November 11, 1943. I. T. Frary, of the Cleveland Museum of Art, talked on "Early Ohio Homes and Their Furnishings".

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association will hold its thirty-seventh annual meeting at St. Louis on April 20-22, 1944. Professor Ralph Paul Bieber of Washington University is chairman of the local committee on arrangements and Professor Harold W. Bradley, of Stanford University, is chairman of the program committee.

The twenty-fifth annual Indiana History Conference met at Indianapolis on December 11, 1943. Quincy Wright gave an address on "Peace Problems Today and Yesterday" and the Reverend James W. Clark talked on "A Canadian Discovers America". There was also an address on "Our Social Lag", by J. Dan Hull, and a panel discussion on teaching American history in schools and colleges.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society used "Dolls of America" as the theme of its historical exhibit in December. In January this was followed by "Lead Mining in Wisconsin". The Society has appointed a committee to assist in working out a policy for the handling of its newspaper collection. It has also named a board of five editors to assist in the selection of books and manuscripts to be published by the Society.

The Louisiana Historical Society celebrated two anniversaries recently. On December 20, 1943, it held a meeting commemorating the one hundred and fortieth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The main address was delivered by Dr. Isaac Joslin Cox on the subject "Trailways to the Momentous Transfer". The annual banquet in commemoration of the Battle of New Orleans was held January 8, 1944. This meeting was a celebration of the one hundred and twenty-nine years of peace between the two English-speaking countries.

The University of Minnesota has accepted a grant of \$50,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation to be used in support of written interpretations of life in the Central Northwest. This area includes the States of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Applications for 1944 were accepted up to February first. No Iowa project was included in the fellowships awarded for 1944. The chairman of the University committee in charge of this grant is Theodore C. Blegen, Dean of the Graduate School.

The fifty-eighth annual meeting of the American Historical Association was held in New York City, on December 28-30, 1943, with various other historical societies coöperating in the program. Barnard College was the host to the meeting. Among the papers of

special interest in the Iowa history field were: "Tenancy: A Step Toward Farm Ownership?", by LaWanda Cox; "Federal Archives", by Oliver W. Holmes; "The Early Pattern of the Common Law", by Nellie Neilson; and "The Origins of Middle Western Isolationism", by Ray A. Billington.

The Maryland Historical Society held a centennial meeting on February 21, 1944, in the rooms of the Society in Baltimore, with United States Senator George L. Radcliffe, eleventh president of the Society, presiding. The program consisted of "A Brief Summary of the Society's Hundred Years", by Judge Samuel K. Dennis, and "The Use of Radio in the Presentation of History", by Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress. There was also a centennial exhibit, representing a parlour and dining room of some one hundred years ago, in the H. Irvine Keyser Memorial Building. The furniture, paintings, china, and other pieces in the display were from the collections of the Society.

The Illinois State Historical Society held its forty-fourth annual meeting at Dixon on October 15 and 16, 1943. At the first meeting, Graham Hulton spoke on "An Englishman's View of the Middle West". The next morning the group visited the Lincoln statue near the Rock River where Judge George C. Dixon spoke on "Lincoln and the Black Hawk War". After a luncheon at Lowell Park, some three miles north of Dixon, Mrs. Beatrice H. Lanphier gave a talk on "Lowell Park and Its History". Later there was a visit to "Hazelwood", the old home of Alexander Charters where Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen, the present owner, told of the early history of the estate. Wayne C. Pownley of Bloomington was elected president of the Society and Paul M. Angle was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

IOWA

The Warren County Historical Society is collecting historical material which is temporarily housed in a vault in the office of C. C. Briggs, the president of the Society.

The Ringgold County Historical Society was incorporated in 1943 with A. T. Bennett, president, Vera Dickens, secretary, and

C. D. Allyn, treasurer. Walter Stacy is curator. The Society is planning a centennial observance and reunion on July 20, 1944. Among the active members of this society is Randolph S. Beall, a brother of Walter S. Beall, one of the Curators of the State Historical Society.

The Tama County Historical Society has made additional collections for its pioneer and historical museum. These include the fur mittens and felt boots worn by E. E. Taylor, former editor of the *Traer Star Clipper*, and pictures of Tama County men who have lost their lives in the Second World War.

The Pocahontas County Historical Society met at Pocahontas on January 4, 1944. Among other business was the report of the committee appointed to provide a marker for the first courthouse site at old Rolfe. Officers elected for 1944 were: Matie Baily, president; Mrs. Ora Malcolm, vice president; and G. W. Hannon, secretary and treasurer.

D. R. Roberts, president of the Fayette County Centennial Association, has recently installed a showcase in the lobby of the courthouse in which the Albert Warner collection of miniature carved models of frontier furniture and machinery will be installed. The case was presented to the Association by the Central States Power and Light Company.

The Hamilton County Historical Society held a meeting at Webster City on October 13, 1943. Miss Bess Lyon, the president, presided and Mrs. O. K. Dick of Iowa Falls gave an account of the coming of Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Dick to Iowa in 1864. An amendment to the constitution providing for permanent membership in society, previously adopted, was read by J. W. Lee, the vice president.

Mrs. Bessie B. Wilson, director of the War Records Division of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, has been active in various counties organizing the work by counties. Among those named to head the county work are Rob Roy Cerney for Cerro Gordo County, Frances R. Kelley for Muscatine County,

Mrs. Mae Copenhaver for Monona County, and Mrs. Fred C. Voigts for Butler County.

The State Conservation Commission has begun the restoration of the old home, once known as Plum Grove, which Robert Lucas built in 1844. Only emergency repairs will, however, be made at this time. Complete restoration will be left until the war is over. After that is completed the furniture belonging to Samuel J. Kirkwood will be placed in the old home and the property will be opened as a State historic monument.

The Upper Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church is planning for the observance of the centennial of organized Methodism in Iowa at the meeting of the Conference at Iowa City on June 14-19, 1944. The first meeting of the Iowa Conference, later divided into the Iowa Conference and the Upper Iowa Conference, was held at Iowa City in August, 1844. The Iowa-Des Moines Conference and the North West Iowa Conference will cooperate in the centennial observance. An interpretation of the history of the church, in the form of a pageant which Marcus Bach is preparing, will be given the evening of June fourteenth.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Jacob A. Swisher, Research Associate of the Iowa State Historical Society, addressed the American Legion units in Black Hawk County on January 31, 1944. His subject was "Iowa's War History".

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently published a number in the series entitled *Some Information*. This booklet, prepared by Miss Ethyl E. Martin, the Superintendent, and dated January, 1944, contains an historical sketch of the Society, an account of historical research, a list of the publications of the Society, data on the Historical Library, and a list of members, life members, auxiliary members, depositories within Iowa, and exchange depositories, and the names of the members of the Board of Curators and the administrative staff.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership

in the Society: Mrs. Paul Dixon, Sac City, Iowa; Mr. Earl G. Swem, Williamsburg, Va.; Mrs. J. F. Brechner, Waverly, Iowa; Mr. William H. King, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Grace M. Meyer, Fayette, Iowa; Mr. Joseph Congleton, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. R. B. Gray, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Frank F. Gutknecht, Hudson, Iowa; Miss Mabel A. Heller, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. R. G. Holmes, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Donald Hunter, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. John McDonald, Jr., Eagle Grove, Iowa; Mr. John U. Plank, Salem, Oregon; Mr. George K. Shields, Waterloo, Iowa; Dr. G. F. Spielhagen, Iowa City, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Epperson Walker, Afton, Iowa; and Mr. W. T. Waterman, Davenport, Iowa.