

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Indiana Historical Bureau has published its annual report for 1944-1945 as an attractive booklet. The report was prepared by Howard H. Peckham, Director of the Bureau.

"The Strategic Foundations of an International Democracy", by Colonel W. F. Kernan, was the address presented at the meeting of the Louisiana Historical Society at New Orleans on November 27, 1945.

The Nebraska State Historical Society and the Native Sons and Daughters of Nebraska held a joint annual meeting at Lincoln on October 12 and 13, 1945. Charles G. Dawes, Vice President of the United States from 1925 to 1929 and a resident of Lincoln from 1886 to 1894, and Dr. LeRoy R. Hafen of Denver were listed among the speakers.

The State of Wisconsin has recently adopted a bill authorizing county boards to establish the office of county historian and to fix the compensation. The present duties of the county historian are concerned with the collection, compilation, and publication of historical data concerning World War II, but the office may be made permanent.

The annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Michigan was held at Grand Rapids on October 19 and 20, 1945. Mr. Hans Berg gave an account of his wood carvings representing Michigan history. Among the addresses was one by Anthony Pound of New York. The second day was devoted to a tour of places of historical interest.

The State Education Department of New York sponsored an Institute for Local Historians which was held at Albany on June 25-30, 1945. The director was Dr. Albert B. Corey, State Historian and Director of the Division of Archives and History. The following subjects were presented: local history, archives and public

records, historical objects, the library and the local historian, elementary and secondary education, and audio-visual materials.

The New York State Historical Association has announced the creation of a fund of \$100,000 to be known as the Dixon Ryan Fox Memorial Fund. The interest and principal of this fund will be used to promote the publication of historical material on the State of New York, to establish a summer institute at Cooperstown for the promotion of research in historical and cultural development, to enlarge the activities at Headquarters House in Ticonderoga, and to provide additional funds for historical museum work.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin expects to occupy the space now used by the University Library as soon as the new University library building can be built. The Society is also planning to microfilm and laminate the 469 folio volumes of the manuscripts in the Draper collection. A grant of \$2,500 was made by the recent session of the Wisconsin legislature to enable the Historical Society to locate and mark the trail followed by Black Hawk and his band in the retreat through Wisconsin in the summer of 1832.

The Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History held their annual meetings at Indianapolis on November 6-8, 1945. The program included "Archival Equipment and Storage", "Manuals for Records", "War Records and Reconversion", "Microphotography: A Solution or a Dilemma?", "Local History and the Schools", and "The Writing of World War II History". S. K. Stevens of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Howard H. Peckham, Indianapolis, Indiana, were named to the council. Dorothy C. Barek is president of the Association and Nell Hines is secretary and treasurer.

#### IOWA

The United Presbyterian Church of Newton celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on December 2 and 3, 1945.

At a meeting of the McGregor Historical Society on September 5, 1945, plans were made for soliciting new members. Another meeting of the society was announced for October 3rd.

An auto caravan sponsored by the Guthrie County Historical Society toured the old Newton stage route across Guthrie County on October 28, 1945. Wilbur Benedict of Casey led the caravan.

The Hamilton County Historical Society held its fall meeting on October 12, 1945, in Webster City. The program included an account of the Wilson family, pioneer settlers in Clear Lake Township.

A roundtable discussion on Iowa's centennial celebration made up the program at the Woodbury County Pioneer Club's meeting on November 24, 1945. Members gave extemporaneous speeches on Iowa and Sioux City history.

The Pocahontas County Historical Society dedicated a marker at the site of the first courthouse near Rolfe on October 14, 1945. The marker was made and presented by Rev. Paul M. Dobberstein, builder of the "Grotto of Redemption" at West Bend.

The annual Southwestern Iowa Pioneer Day was held on October 11, 1945, at Shenandoah. W. D. Jamieson of Washington, D. C., was the principal speaker. The evening's program included an old-fashioned spelling bee and "barber shop" music.

The Polk County Historical Society held a meeting on November 8, 1945, to discuss plans for a centennial exhibition. Officers of the society are: Ray C. Stiles, president; Mrs. Grace Noll Smith, secretary; and Mrs. Margaret H. Hart, treasurer.

The Wyoming Historical Society met on September 4, 1945, to elect new officers. They are: Mrs. Elva Brodersen, president; Mary Briggs, secretary; and Mrs. John Morse, treasurer. The evening's program consisted of a discussion concerning the binding of a file of *Wyoming Journals* and a memorial to deceased members.

Dr. William J. Petersen of Iowa City spoke on "Centennials in Iowa" at the eleventh annual banquet of the Jasper County Historical Society in Newton on November 29, 1945. The following officers were elected to serve during the centennial year: L. O. Brewer, president; Carroll O. Macy, vice president; Fred E. Meredith, secretary; and Mrs. R. B. Hendershott, treasurer.

The Webster County Historical Society held its first annual meeting since the beginning of the war at Fort Dodge on October 19, 1945. The curator of the museum, Miss Maude Lauderdale, gave a report concerning additions and visitors. The following officers were elected: Ned Young, president; W. A. Alstrand, vice president; Mrs. D. M. Kelleher, secretary; Lydia Tuerke, treasurer; and Maude Lauderdale, curator.

The ninth annual reunion of Ringgold County pioneers was held at Mount Ayr on July 19, 1945. Nelson A. Mason was the principal speaker. The Ringgold County Historical Society elected the following officers: president, Earl T. Hoover; vice president, Floy Reed Bliss; secretary, Vera F. Dickens; and treasurer, Clint D. Allyn. The society has recently received the loan of several pioneer articles from Mrs. Eunice Beall.

#### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Jacob A. Swisher, Research Associate of the State Historical Society, gave a talk to the Kiwanis Club of Mt. Pleasant on September 24, 1945. His subject was the historical events and persons connected with Mt. Pleasant and Henry County, including some letters written by Abraham Lincoln to Iowans.

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, delivered his lecture on "Tall Tales of the Mississippi River" before the annual meeting of the Rock Island Rotary and Rotary Anns on November 6, 1945, in the Fort Armstrong Hotel. On November 29th he spoke at Newton before the annual meeting of the Jasper County Historical Society on the subject, "Centennials in Iowa History".

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Dr. Geo. B. Crow, Burlington, Iowa; Mr. Geo. P. Frudeger, Burlington, Iowa; Mrs. Norma H. Johnson, Northwood, Iowa; Mrs. Anna M. Baron, Pocahontas, Iowa; Miss Clara Bauman, Liscomb, Iowa; Mr. H. F. Kuhlemeier, Burlington, Iowa; Mr. Carl L. Leopold, Burlington, Iowa; Dr. Sarah A. Matthews, Pocahontas, Iowa; Mr. Earl L. Brewster, Sheldon, Iowa; Mr. Russell M. Carson,

Red Oak, Iowa; and Mrs. M. Elizabeth Moore, Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Warren E. Pollard of Montezuma, Iowa, has been enrolled as a life member of the Society.

Because war conditions have made it impossible for the State Historical Society of Iowa to issue the usual number of publications, the Board of Curators voted to distribute to each member a book dividend to be selected from the reserve publications. Each member was asked to submit a first, second, and third choice, and more than half of the members have already received the books requested. The wide variety of selections has made it possible to send to most members the book listed as first choice. During normal times the Society publishes one or two books each year in addition to *The Palimpsest* and THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS. Both these magazines have been continued during the war.