

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The February and March meetings of the Louisiana Historical Society at New Orleans were devoted to a symposium on "Mardi Gras: A History of Carnival in New Orleans".

The South Dakota Historical Society started publication in April, 1947, of a small monthly news bulletin named "Wi-iyoki", meaning "each or every moon" — monthly in Sioux.

Julius T. Muench was the speaker at the meeting of the Missouri Historical Society at St. Louis on January 31, 1947. His subject was "The German Contribution to Missouri".

Thirty-six filing cases of the papers of Harry S. Truman as Senator and Vice President have been deposited in the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection maintained at the University of Missouri.

Cornell University has recently issued the *Second Report of the Curator of the Collection of Regional History, 1945-1946*. The major purpose of this collection is the preservation of documents, newspapers, periodicals, broadsides, and other source materials relating to the State of New York, but much additional material is included.

The ninety-eighth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society was held at St. Paul on March 3, 1947. The program included greetings by Governor Luther W. Youngdahl; "One Hundred Years of Newspapers", by Quentus C. Wilson; "Minnesota Centennial", by L. A. Rossman; and "The Lawyer, the Historian, and Truth", by Jim Dan Hill.

The American Association of State and Local History held a joint meeting with the American Historical Association at New York on December 27, 1946. The general topic was "New Approaches in Local History". Two papers were: "A New Approach to Local Business History", by Leon S. Gay, and "His-

tories of American Military Units, World War II", by Captain Thurman B. Wilkins of the War Department.

In December, 1946, a group of St. Louis historians, headed by Charles E. Petersen of the National Parks Service, organized the St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, Inc. The first publication of the organization is to be a two-volume collection of documents relating to the upper Missouri, translated and edited by Abraham P. Nasatir. The publication of these volumes is to be financed by Joseph Desloge.

The Minnesota Historical Society has been designated as the official agency for planning the observance of the territorial centennial in 1949. An appropriation of \$50,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1947, and \$100,000 the following year was made by the Minnesota legislature. The program will be fourfold—educational, to reach the schools; industrial, to present the evolution of Minnesota industries; social; and agricultural. The Society will celebrate its own centennial the same year.

The Illinois State Historical Society held its annual spring meeting and tour on May 2 and 3, 1947. The group assembled at Hotel Kaskaskia in La Salle for a dinner and evening meeting on May second. The following day visits were made to Starved Rock State Park (the site of Fort St. Louis), Buffalo Rock State Park (site of Fort Ottawa), the site of one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, the homes of W. H. L. Wallace, Burton C. Cook, John Hossack, and James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, and many other historic sites.

The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society held its sixty-second annual meeting at Columbus on April 10-12, 1947. On the first evening, Ernest J. Wessen of Mansfield gave a talk on "Anecdotes of a Collector". On the following day Ernest H. Hahne gave an address entitled "Ohio's Educational Problems" and at the dinner on April 11th, Alan Lomax gave an address on "Folk Ballads and Music". The session on April 12th was devoted to a series of papers or talks on the medical history in Ohio. voted to a series of papers or talks concerning the medical history of Ohio.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Indiana History Conference was held at Indianapolis on December 13 and 14, 1946. "The New Historical Markers Program", by Howard H. Peckham; "The Indianapolis Industrial Exposition", by Herman G. Deupree; "The Projected State Museum", by Robert Starrett; "The Restoration of the American Pattern", by D. Elton Trueblood; "Democratization of Indiana Territory", by John D. Barnhart; "Clio, The Voice of the People", by A. T. Volwiler; "Early Man in the Great Lakes Region", by Emerson F. Greenman; and "First Fruits of Johnny Appleseed", by Robert Price, are among the papers and addresses presented at the meeting. An account of the meeting is given in the February-March number of the *Indiana History Bulletin*.

## IOWA

The Pocahontas County Historical Society met at Pocahontas on April 8, 1947. Plans were made for the annual old settlers' picnic in August and for an album of pictures and biographical sketches of women of Pocahontas County who served in World War I or II.

The Mahaska County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Oskaloosa on May 14, 1947. The officers elected were: Stillman Clark, president; Charles A. Kent, vice president; Mrs. Burl D. Elliott, secretary; and E. L. Butler, treasurer.

Ava L. Johnson, who is presenting a series of broadcasts on "Stories of Early Life in Iowa" over Radio Station KXEL on Saturday mornings, devoted the broadcast on March 22nd to the work of the State Historical Society of Iowa. The research and publication work of the Society through its ninety years have, Miss Johnson stated, made it possible for her to find materials for many of the stories told on this series of broadcasts.

The Tama County Historical Society held its fifth annual meeting on April 9, 1947, at Toledo. The program included a talk on "Orford in Early Days", by Lucie Stevens; "Interesting Days in Early Perry Township", by Mrs. R. C. Woods; "Toledo Then and Now", by Mrs. H. P. Giger; "Improvements Indians Have Made Since the 1890's", by Mrs. Delbert Bricker; and "Early Music

in Tama County", by R. G. Stoakes. Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, of Tama, was reelected president, Mrs. R. C. Woods, vice president, and Thelma Carmichael, secretary-treasurer. Plans were made for a picnic to be held at Toledo on July 4th.

Descendants of Mormon emigrants who crossed Iowa in 1846-1847 on their way to Salt Lake will observe the centennial of the mass exodus by a caravan trip from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City. The group of one hundred and forty-eight persons will leave Nauvoo on July 15 in 72 automobiles, with covered wagon tops, representing the 72 wagons in the original company. The caravan will follow Highway 34 through Iowa and expects to reach Salt Lake City on July 22nd, the date the vanguard of Brigham Young's company reached the site in 1847. In Iowa the caravan will have lunch at Centerville, spend the night at Garden Grove, pass through Talmage, Creston, and Corning, have lunch at Red Oak, and spend the night of the 16th at Omaha.

The Iowa Centennial Committee has recently issued its final report, addressed to Governor Robert D. Blue, the Interim Committee, and the Fifty-second General Assembly. A brief history of the creation and work of the Committee recalls that the Fiftieth General Assembly appropriated \$1,000 for the promotion of the Iowa centennial celebration, but it was not used at that time and was continued by the next General Assembly. Late in 1945 Governor Blue appointed twenty-two members of the Centennial Committee which held its first meeting at Des Moines on January 16, 1946, and elected Lester Milligan of Mason City chairman. The Interim Committee granted the Committee \$15,000 for expenses and Mrs. Edith W. McElroy was named executive secretary.

The activities of the Committee included a statewide rally at Des Moines on April 19, 1946, at which MacKinlay Kantor spoke, publication of a weekly bulletin and a weekly news letter, radio broadcasts, and dissemination of publicity. The Committee also sponsored a commemorative stamp which was put on sale at Iowa City on August 3, 1946, and a half-dollar commemorating the centennial. The report of the Committee indicates that most of the 100,000 coins had been sold for \$2.50 apiece by the time the

report was issued, leaving a balance of over \$195,000 in the hands of Governor Robert D. Blue. The report of the Committee suggested that \$5,000 of this fund be put aside for the sesqui-centennial celebration in 1996 and another \$5,000 for the bi-centennial in 2046.

Of the \$16,000 in the hands of the Committee, it was estimated that \$1,150.44 would remain after all payments were made, including \$2,000 for a centennial brochure prepared by Dr. William J. Petersen.

#### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

A large collection of posters used during World War I has been donated to the State Historical Society of Iowa by Dr. Wilbur A. Robbie of Iowa City. The collection includes posters printed by the various war agencies in the United States and many posters from foreign countries.

On April 3, 1947, Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave his "Tall Tales of the Mississippi" to members of the University Club at Iowa City, and on May sixth he gave the same talk before the National Story League. He gave his illustrated lecture, "Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi", before the Waterloo Kiwanians and their wives on the evening of April 29th.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mr. Russell C. Grahame, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. R. H. Gustafson, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Ralph B. Smith, Keokuk, Iowa; Mrs. Ira Stetzel, Carroll, Iowa; Mr. Carlton H. Vernon, Corning, Iowa; Mr. Alois J. Weber, Keokuk, Iowa; Mrs. Leola N. Bergmann, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. C. W. Ellyson, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Dale A. Howard, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. A. E. Muir, Onawa, Iowa; Mr. Melvin G. Roth, Wayland, Iowa; Rev. George E. Steele, Marengo, Iowa; and Mr. Edward Younger, Charlottesville, Va.

Mr. Elmer Swartzendruber of Wellman, Iowa, has been enrolled as a life member of the Society.