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Historical Notes and News

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.—During the war the Executive Board of the society has given up its regular quarterly meetings. Nevertheless, these meetings are desirable and at times indispensable. The Board met June 8 at the Cornhusker Hotel. In attendance were Abbott, Dietz, Garber, Gold, Lawrence, Outhouse, Weaver, Wilson and Sellers (acting secretary).

A number of important matters of business came before the meeting. Mr. T. L. Green of Scottsbluff was named to the Board to fill the unexpired position resulting from the loss of A. B. Wood.

The matter of moving the book collection of the Society into the capitol was considered and authorized by the Board. This collection has been on loan to the University since 1934. It will be a convenience in the work of the staff and increase our facilities for the public to have this collection at hand.

Mrs. C. S. Paine, as librarian on a part time basis, is again on the staff of the Society. She had been in charge of the collection at the University.

The loan to the University over the past ten years has been mutually advantageous. The University Administration and librarians have been most accommodating and cooperative. The moving of the University collections into the new Love Memorial Library makes it necessary to make a conclusive disposition of our book collection. Even at considerable expense to the Society the movement of the collection to the capitol was unanimously approved by the Board.

AUTUMN MEETING.—The plans for the annual program in the autumn were discussed. It seems likely that a meeting will be held September 22. The working out of the details of the program was left to the officers of the Society.

The moving of the library has been pushed as rapidly as possible. The shortage of ready made equipment necessitated

the making of our shelving. Scarcity of help has slowed up the process of transfer of the 16,000 volumes involved. The entire collection should be in the capitol by July 15.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS.—Since publication of our last quarterly, twenty-eight new memberships have been received. The list follows:

Auble, Dr. Glen, Ord	Henningson, H. H., Omaha
Berry, Fred S., Wayne	Hertzler, Prof. J. O., Lincoln
Borgman, Miss Grayce, Winnebago	Huse, E. W., Wayne
Canaday, Mrs. R. O., Hastings	Lederer, Louis H., Garland
Central High School, His- tory Department, Omaha	Ley, Rollie W., Wayne
Carlberg, Hon. Roy B., Pender	Ley, Henry E., Wayne
Coakley, Mrs. Belle H., Guide Rock	Lundberg, Herman, Wayne
Cox, Prof. Henry Miot, Lincoln	Longacre, Mrs. Anna Beatty, Edgar
Crossland, Hon. William A., Wayne	McCurdy, Miss Esther, Tekamah
Dale, Prof. E. E., Norman, Oklahoma	Miller, S. L., Sioux Falls, S. D.
Garber, Hon. Daniel, Red Cloud	Nyberg, Mrs. Dorothy H., Wayne
Hicks, Mrs. Clifford M., Lincoln	Parker, Miss Mary A., Omaha
	Teal, Dr. Frederick F., Lincoln
	Tekamah Public Library, Tekamah
	University of South Dakota, Vermillion
	Wright, Clyde Franklin, Omaha

Gifts to the Museum

Mrs. John Almy, West Point: Articles of Indian manufacture, a pillow top of buckskin with painted ornamentation and a book with cover elaborately decorated with porcupine quills.

Allen R. Beach, Lincoln: Old watch which belonged to donor's grandfather.

Mrs. Charles W. Bryan, Lincoln: Nebraska Standard used at the famous Chicago Convention where in 1896 the Democratic Party nominated William J. Bryan candidate for the Presidency. - - A bust of W. J. Bryan; a number of photographs of Charles W. and William J. Bryan and a very fine specimen of a player organ with stool and rolls.

Col. Dan E. Craig, North Platte: German flag captured in March by the 1st Batt. 134th Inf. Regt. 35th Division under the command of Lt. Col. Dan E. Craig of North Platte and presented to his young son Stephen. The flag was on the German command post at Geldern, Germany and was taken on March 3, 1945 in the battle that linked the American and British armies.

Mrs. George Dewey, Norfolk: A collection of clothing for the museum costume exhibits. Included among the items was a riding habit.

Mr. H. E. Greenamyre, Lincoln: Invasion money, printed by the Japanese for use in the Philippines. This collection was sent to Mr. Greenamyre by Lt. Col. Joseph Stahlin.

Mrs. J. C. Hagensick, Chicago: Hair wreath in frame, child's dress and a feather fan.

A. E. Jones, Hastings: An old nail puller from the collection of Mr. Jones, pioneer auto distributor at Hastings.

Lewis Linebaugh, Ashland: An old cradle used in the Linebaugh family for many years.

William J. Lozier, Lincoln: Framed picture in color, of the famous Reims Cathedral.

J. C. McClung, Lincoln: A group of star-fish from a beach in California.

Daniel C. Mintfield, Lincoln: A collection of medical instruments.

Lily B. Munroe, West Point: Small organ and stool made many years ago in Brattleboro, Vermont. This is a lovely little instrument and has been so carefully kept that the case appears as new.

Dick Nelson, Lincoln: Collection of gun shells.

Lorraine Poleng, Papillion: A stone bearing the imprint of an oak leaf.

Mrs. Eva Polly, Franklin: Collection of badges; many of them owned by James Polly who lived at Naponee many years ago.

Mrs. Anna Ritter, Kearney: Large china cup and saucer with gold decorations. A family heirloom bought in Germany about 1834.

Glen E. Smith, Lincoln: Compass and chain used by Jones Smith, father of the donor who was a surveyor in Pennsylvania 1860-1880.

Floyd C. Swearengen, Lincoln: Three samples of fine pen work about 100 years old. Found in home of Margaret and Elizabeth Thackara in Lincoln.

Mrs. Martha Tangerman, Beatrice: Hand woven towel made from flax grown and spun by Martha Bush, grandmother of Mrs. Tangerman. Other articles included a small collection of old coins.

Albert Wiedenhammer, Beatrice: An old doll buggy.

Margaret Zuerlin, Cheyenne, Wyoming: Japanese money sent from the Philippines by Mrs. Zuerlin's husband.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS PASSING.—The recent condemnation of the old Governor Butler mansion in Lincoln focused atten-

tion on the gradual disappearance of Nebraska's historic dwelling houses and other buildings. It is a matter of regret that so few of these have been preserved. As a result, we have many historic sites to be commemorated but in only a few cases have structures of notable interest been preserved. Sometimes too, preservation has been achieved only by moving the building from its original site. The Pony Express Station at Gothenburg is a case in point, as is, to a lesser degree, the John Brown Cabin at Nebraska City. While this may often be the only practicable method, it detracts much from historic interest and value.

Joseph E. Johnson, talented editor of the *Omaha Arrow* and later of the *Huntsman's Echo* at Wood River, had a proper appreciation of the value of historic buildings. Writing in the *Omaha Arrow*, November 3, 1854 regarding the old Block House at Nebraska City, then less than ten years old, he said:

"The oddly constructed old Block House with its gaping port and loop holes built some years ago as a rallying point for the soldiers of old Fort Kearny in case of an Indian attack, still stands there—it is soon to be arranged and used for a printing office. As an object of curiosity and a memento of by-gone days on the frontier, it should stand undefaced and the next generations will regard it with far more interest than the most gorgeous edifice the hand of man could erect."

MARKING THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL.—Dr. Howard R. Driggs, President of the American Pioneer Trails Association, visited in Lincoln the last days of June. His program of saving the history of America through the identification of historical sites, by marking with appropriate and artistic markers and by the assignment of this responsibility to the youth in our schools, should appeal to all alert and patriotic citizens. A people with little history is a people with little character. A people must know its own history to truly evaluate its own character. Only through the inculcation of inter-

est in the young can a people develop its steadiness and depth of character.

Dr. Driggs has correctly sensed that the natural approach to an individual's historical interest is through association with local knowledge. The Pioneer Trails Association recognizes incidents and characters are the very tissue of history. An interest in the local trail may develop an interest in the locality, generally, and very likely an interest in all trails. An interest in the overland route up the Platte makes the caravans of the Tigris and the Euphrates much more interesting.

Nebraska is rich in its trail history. Lewis and Clark camped on the Nebraska shore of the Missouri 141 years ago. The Trails Association has set this October 10 as the day to mark the camp sites of that greatest North American exploration. The people of Montana are donating 400 appropriate circular plaques to mark the camp sites from the mouth of the Missouri to the mouth of the Columbia. The schools nearest the several sites are asked to assume responsibility as the guardians of the marker. The Historical Society and the Superintendent of Public Instruction will cooperate in identifying the sites and designating the schools to become guardians of the markers.

The circular metal markers should be mounted on a substantial base of concrete or stone. Along with markers will be distributed a popular account of the exploration and a very attractive map. This will be the appropriate occasion for every pupil to become conversant with the history of this pioneer trail. The other trails, beginning in 1946 with the Nebraska City to Kearney Cut-off, will be marked in turn. The highways that follow the trails will thus become doubly interesting. These new markers should mean much in the way of historical interest both to the local people and to the traveler from a distance.

INDIAN SADDLES,—A brief, interesting article by D. E. Worcester in the *New Mexico Historical Review*, for April,

1945, corrects the rather widespread and erroneous idea that Indians always rode their horses bareback. The author points out and quotes extracts from numerous sources which indicate beyond question that, even before 1800, among the Indian tribes which owned horses, the use of saddles and their manufacture was quite general. Only in the most serious enterprises, war and the hunt, when they wished to employ the utmost speed and dexterity of their horses, did the Indians dispense with saddles.

Among many of the Plains Indian tribes there were skilled saddle makers who turned out creditable pieces of equipment. Wood for frames and buffalo hides were the chief material used. In the museum of the Nebraska Historical Society may be seen a collection of the various types of Indian saddles.

CHERRY COUNTY has a new history in preparation according to announcements carried in the *Valentine News* some months ago. The Nebraska Historical Society is always pleased to hear that a new county history is being projected. Lack of adequate histories of many Nebraska counties has often hampered the reference work of the Society.

YORK COUNTY Historical Society held a meeting in late April. The program featured L. F. Richardson, long-time resident of York, in an interview in which he gave many details of early history connected with the city.

WASHINGTON COUNTY Historical Society held its annual meeting at Fort Calhoun on May 7. Reports given showed the society to be in good financial condition with interest and membership increasing. The following officers were elected: Mrs. May Lazure, Blair, president; F. W. Arndt, Blair, executive vice-president; Miss Dora Keindt, Fort Calhoun, vice-president; Mrs. Eda C. Sierk, Fort Calhoun, secretary; George Rohwer Jr., Fort Calhoun, treasurer; Henry Kruse, Fort Calhoun, director, and Miss Kate Mehrens, Fort Calhoun, custodian.

CASS COUNTY Historical Society held a special meeting at Plattsmouth in mid-May to consider the matter of securing a building for a permanent home for the society's historical collections. A committee was appointed to survey the situation.

OREGON TRAIL MUSEUM at Scottsbluff will have a new wing as a memorial to William H. Jackson, famous pioneer artist and photographer. It is expected that construction will begin in the near future. The new wing will house many of Jackson's photographs and paintings identified with the West.

OLD TRAILS RETRACED.—Interesting visitors to the Society offices in July were Dr. William G. Paden and Mrs. Paden of Alameda, California. Dr. Paden is Superintendent of Alameda's school system, but by avocation he is a map maker with special interest in the historic trails to the West. For nine years the family spent summer vacations following the actual route of the Oregon and California Trails. Mrs. Irene D. Paden took the field notes and did the necessary intensive research. The result has been her charming and successful book *The Wake of the Prairie Schooner*. Meanwhile, Dr. Paden had completed a detailed set of Oregon-California Trail maps.

Now the Padens are following the route and studying the Mormon Trail which crossed Nebraska on the north side of the Platte River. Their plans call for mapping this route and writing its history in much the same manner as that of the Oregon Trail.