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EDITORIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ITS WORK.

The Indiana Historical Society is not a widely advertised institution. Many know in a vague way that such a society exists; the majority of these think of it as in a condition of sere and yellow desuetude; a few know what it really is doing and has done.

This society has the prestige that comes with age. It has existed now for more than seventy-five years, and in the course of that time there have been identified with it, particularly in its earlier years, a goodly proportion of the men whose names are honored in the history of the State.*

Organized for the purpose of disseminating historical information as well as for the preservation of historical material, it has, from time to time, had read before it original papers of distinct historical value. Of late years this custom has practically been discontinued and the society's work has been chiefly confined to its publications. Up to date it has issued three volumes of these publications which in character and value compare favorably with those of the leading societies in the same field. The selecting, the editing, and the papers contributed show at once the supervision of experts and thoroughgoing work at the hands of not a few writers in the State who, turning aside for a moment from their professional vocations, have demonstrated their capability in this line. To be represented for future time in these collections is a distinction that might be gratifying to any one. The great handicap to this work is the lack of funds. By way of permanent endowment it has the interest from \$3,000,

*For example, the officers in 1842 were: President, Samuel Merrill; Vice-Presidents, Jeremiah Sullivan, Charles Dewey and Isaac Blackford; Corresponding Secretary, John Law; Recording Secretary, William Sheets; Treasurer, Charles W. Cady; Executive Committee, Henry P. Coburn, James M. Ray, Henry Ward Beecher, Geo. H. Dunn and Douglass Maguire. A more notable list representing the various parts of the State could hardly have been selected.

\$2,500 of which, to be so used, was donated by the late William H. English; but there is at present little return from membership fees. From time to time modest appeals have been made to the legislature for aid in a work which a few individuals are carrying on gratuitously for the good of the State, but so far, apparently, the Indiana legislature has never been able to see that the history of the State has any value, or that a historical society is worthy of any notice.

Thus much for the actual accomplishments of the society. On the other hand, in the course of its three-score and sixteen years there have been long lapses, sometimes extending over years, during which it seemed to have ceased utterly. The semi-annual public meetings and the presentations of papers originally contemplated in the constitution has dwindled down to one brief business meeting each year which few hear of and fewer attend.

Now, there is a decided sentiment with at least a few that the State Historical Society ought to be doing something in addition to publishing two or three pamphlets a year, and its possibilities are becoming more and more apparent. In various directions it can be seen that the historic interest in Indiana is surely though slowly growing. The old settlers' meeting (though this is, perhaps, the crudest and least reliable manifestation of this interest) has become a fixture throughout the State; the several patriotic societies, such as the D. A. R., the D. R., and others of similar character, based as they are upon the past, are turning attention that way; in the history departments of our colleges a local interest is being evinced, and in the matter of local societies there seems to be a growing activity, which within the last year or so has issued in the formation of several new organizations. What is needed is that these various movements shall work together, borrowing stimulus from each other. The local history societies in particular work in such a narrow field and are so unrelated to the larger movement that they are, very often, of a sporadic nature, and of those that are organized only a small proportion continue to thrive. A larger relation—an atmosphere that shall feed them is possible, and the State society, by virtue of its standing as a State organization, is in a position to take the initiative and create between itself and the

minor organizations ties that shall bind all together on a common working basis. Just how this might be done would be a matter for careful consideration, but some hints may be borrowed from what is being done elsewhere, particularly in Wisconsin. Working from these hints we venture here to present a tentative plan, the intent of which is to stimulate thought in this direction and to call forth an expression of views from others. We would be pleased to have representatives of some of the local societies form a symposium on this subject.

1. Local Societies. A correspondence with the secretary of each local historical society inviting to auxiliary membership. Conditions of membership, an annual fee of one dollar with privilege of one voting delegate at meetings; an annual report from the local secretary setting forth the work of his society for the past year, and transmitting of copies of all programs and other printed matter, the same to be filed away by the State society. In return, the State society to publish an annual bulletin exhibiting the various reports; to transmit copies of these bulletins to local societies, and also copies of all its future publications, including its historical pamphlets.

2. Patriotic Societies. An invitation to the various patriotic societies throughout the State to exchange publications with the State Historical Society, and extending to said societies the courtesy of honorary membership.

3. Libraries. Circular letters to all the public libraries in the State requesting brief account of what has been done by them (if anything) toward promoting the interest in local history, and setting forth the importance of collecting and preserving all local pamphlets and of indexing the current history in local newspaper files.

4. Membership. A circular letter advertising the society and its objects, and inviting into its membership individuals whose interest in these objects is known.

It should be repeated that these suggestions are thrown out simply in lieu of better. The argument we wish to make is that there is a field of possibilities at present unworked, and which is proper to the State society. With a desire on its part to enter upon it, practical and effective ways and means would not be difficult to devise.

A LINCOLN MEMORIAL TABLET.

The Indianapolis Commercial Club some months since stimulated a local history interest among the more advanced pupils of the public schools by inviting essays on this subject, "What historic spot in Indianapolis should be commemorated with a tablet, and why?" Something over 200 essays were submitted, and perhaps a half-dozen places were discussed as eligible to the honor in question, but by far the greatest number were for the spot made memorable by a brief speech of Abraham Lincoln's in February of 1861, when on his way to Washington to be inaugurated as President. This speech was made from the balcony of the old Bates House, on the site now occupied by the Claypool Hotel. In deference to this preference as thus expressed by the young people, the Commercial Club determined to mark this place, and that the pupils of the schools might be still further identified with the movement, competitive designs for a bronze tablet were asked for from students in the art departments of the two high schools of the city. Nineteen designs were submitted, and from among these a Commercial Club committee, aided by an advisory committee of artists, selected one executed by Miss Marie H. Stewart, of Irvington. This design, made into a handsome bronze by Rudolph Schwarz, a sculptor of the city, was set in the wall of the Claypool Hotel on Washington street beneath the place where the speech was made.* The tablet, six feet long by three wide, presents a profile head of Lincoln, the space on the left side being occupied by a log cabin and that on the right by the nation's capitol, symbolic of the two extremes of his life. Underneath is inscribed in bold gothic lettering:

"Here, February 11, 1861, Abraham Lincoln, on his way to Washington to assume the Presidency, in an address said: 'I appeal to you to constantly bear in mind that not with politicians, not with Presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you is the question: Shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generations?'"

On Lincoln's birthday, just forty-six years and one day after

*There is a difference of opinion as to which balcony of the Bates House Lincoln spoke from, some contending that it was one on the Illinois street side.

the speech was made, the tablet was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies and in the presence of a large crowd, the leading feature of the occasion being an address by Governor Hanly. The event was further signalized by a public meeting at Tomlinson Hall in the evening.

HISTORIC SPOTS IN INDIANAPOLIS.

The sentiment in favor of marking historic spots is growing in our midst, and in view of possible future accomplishment in this direction in Indianapolis we would suggest that there is within the city at least two points invested with an historic interest far more essentially related to Indianapolis than the fortuitous Lincoln speech. One of these is the spot on South street, between Delaware and Pennsylvania, where stood the old Madison & Indianapolis railroad depot. The arrival here of the first railway train marks the beginning of a new era in the history of Indianapolis. It was the introduction into the history of the town of a factor which preeminently determined its future and which has made it a metropolis. To commemorate this beginning of the city's greatness is to recognize the significance and bearing of an historical event.

The other spot is the piece of vacant ground overlooking White river between the Washington street bridge and the site of the old bridge. Here stood the cabin of John McCormick, the real founder of the settlement that became the capital of the State, and around this spot Indianapolis had its beginnings. There is indeed a dispute as to whether John McCormick or George Pogue were the first actual settlers here, but there is no dispute as to the relations of the two to the settlement. Pogue, who squatted a mile or so farther east, was isolated and detached; nobody followed him, and he was not an influence in the further peopling of the locality. McCormick, on the other hand, was followed by his brothers, James and Samuel, and with these, or close after them, came those who made the nucleus of a town, which was one of the factors that determined the selection of the site for the capital. Further historic interest attaches to this neighborhood. The first comers to the spot were led hither by Indian trails, a half-dozen of which converged at the mouth

of Fall creek, by reason of a sandbar across the river there. There is a story to the effect that on one occasion Zachary Taylor, on his way to the Wabash with some three hundred troops, came by way of this ford; that, by coincidence, he found there a large force of Delaware Indians camped at the place and in conference with the famous Tecumseh; that that night Taylor encamped across the creek from the Indians, and that the latter, stirred to passion by a speech of Tecumseh's, threatened trouble that was only averted by the influence of William Conner, a trader among the Delawares, and by Anderson, their principal chief.

In brief, the piece of ground referred to, which is now little more than a waste, might appropriately be converted into a little park and marked by the erection on the site of the McCormick home a duplicate of that first cabin, typical of the early Hoosier homes.

REVOLUTIONARY GRAVES.

The following statements as to Revolutionary graves in the State are sent us by Mrs. Elinor Campbell, of Jeffersonville.

Jacob Mikesell, from Kentucky, lies in a private burial ground near Bethlehem, Clark county. Some place between New Washington and Bethlehem is buried John Brinton, whose name appears in the list of Revolutionary pensioners published in 1835, and in a list of coffins made by Robert Tilford at New Washington, March 22, 1847, is one for "Old John Brinton, a pensioner." In cemetery at Rising Sun, Ohio county, are (1) John Elliott (grave unmarked save by a small stone on which is inscribed "A Soldier of 1776," set up by the sexton, Mr. George Dugle), and (2) Noah Miller (grave marked by a slab mounted on four pillars). At Aberdeen, Ohio county, is buried Robert Turner, of Lycoming county, Pa., grandfather of Robert Easton, of Rising Sun. In New Washington, Clark county, is the grave of Alden Smith, a Revolutionary soldier from Massachusetts, who, after the war, emigrated to western New York, and afterward came to Indiana. Near New Washington, in a country graveyard, is Thomas Arbuckle. He was from Rockbridge county, Va. Emigrated to Kentucky, and later to Indiana.

According to an old book called "Barber's History of All the

States and Territories," the following inscription is from a monument in "the graveyard at Fort Wayne."

"Sacred to the memory of Alexander Ewing, one of the bravest soldiers of the Revolution. From the year 1780 to the peace of 1783 he was actively engaged in the ranger service on the frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania. He was a volunteer at the battle of the Thames in 1813, and among the first who broke the British lines on that occasion, so glorious to the arms of his country. Died at Fort Wayne, January 1, 1827, aged 60 years."

From Captain L. C. Baird, of Jeffersonville, Ind., we are in receipt of a list of the burial places of veterans of our several wars. This list contains in all 211 names, classed as follows: Revolutionary War, 2; War of 1812, 1; Mexican War, 4; War of the Rebellion, 182; Spanish War, 3. Nineteen buried in one cemetery are classed as both Mexican and Civil War soldiers. Four cemeteries are specified—"Mulberry Street," "Walnut Ridge," "Eastern," and "Roman Catholic," all of which, we infer, are located in Jeffersonville.

LOCAL HISTORY CONTRIBUTIONS.

A Campbell Family Tradition.—In the *Rockville Tribune* for December 26, 1906, Captain John T. Campbell relates at length a story, traditional in his family, of the capture by Indians, in 1812, of two boys, John Campbell and Vinson Edwards (the former an uncle of the writer). The capture was made in what is now Sullivan county, and the boys were taken northward. Neither ever found his way back home. Of Edwards's after life little was ever ascertained, but Campbell, after being traded about from tribe to tribe, became practically an Indian in his tastes, married among them and eventually organized a band of his own and became a chief. His story is one of the romance tales of Indian days, and is, we believe, unrecorded, except in this narrative of Captain Campbell's. Incidentally the writer tells of several matters that are interesting, as, for example, the ruffianisms of a white man, known as "Woolly Neck," which led to the retaliatory stealing of the boys. There is also a description of a fierce tornado that greeted his grandfather and his fellow immigrants just as they arrived at their Indiana home.

"*The Battle of Cass County.*"—This is the caption of a short article by W. S. Wright in the *Logansport Journal*, January 27, 1907. In it the writer recalls that in 1791 occurred a fight between the Indians of Eel river and the force under General Wilkinson, in his expedition down the Wabash. This has local interest as being within the bounds of the present Cass county.

A Heroine of Civil War Days.—The recent death in Greencastle of Mrs. David E. Badger recalls an incident which is an echo of Civil War times, the particulars of which are told by a correspondent to the *Indianapolis News* in the issue of February 14, 1907. The substance of it is that in a riot in Greencastle precipitated between some Union soldiers there and an overwhelming number of Southern sympathizers, Mrs. Badger, then Miss Lou Walls, fronted the assailing mob with a saber and fairly held it at bay until the tables were turned by the report that Morton's troops were coming. In consequence of her fearless act, says the correspondent, "Governor Morton soon afterward invited her to Indianapolis, and she spent a week in that city, the guest of the State, for she was taken in charge by the officers of the army under the direction of the Governor, and was the guest of honor of the troops then in the camps near Indianapolis. Among the presents she received in recognition of her bravery, was a silk dress from the Governor and his staff, an engraved revolver from the Forty-third Regiment, another silk dress from friends, and many other things appreciated deeply by her."

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES—TIPPECANOE AND CASS COUNTIES.

Since our last issue two local historical societies have been added to the State's list. The first of these, in date, is the Tippecanoe Historical Society, organized last December with a list of about twenty-five active and ten honorary members. Judge Richard P. DeHart is president and Hon. Alva O. Reser secretary. At Logansport a vigorous society has just been formed with a good membership and, seemingly, an abundance of enthusiasm. Judge D. P. Baldwin is president and W. S. Wright secretary. An original feature of their plans is a division and classification of their proposed lines of work. These divisions, each to be under charge of an appointed head, are as follows:

1. Sociology, societies, churches, moral and religious matters.
2. Economic and industrial matters, improvements and agri-

culture, roads, methods of communication, railroads, telephones, buildings, factories, etc. 3. Political and civic matters, public officials, political parties, methods and progress. 4. Science, meteorology, law and medicine. 5. Art. 6. Biography and necrology. 7. Literature and education, writers of books and editors of papers, with copy of all books and papers published. 8. Military, war, etc.

At the organization a resolution was passed instructing the secretary to request of citizens of Cass county, through the medium of the press, memoranda of historical data, including descriptions of historical relics, this data to be furnished in writing for the purpose of filing with the records of the society, and requesting, further, that the public library furnish the society with a list of rare books, pamphlets, newspapers, relics, etc., owned by the library, and of books of local and State interest. A committee on membership and enrollment was appointed, to which was added the editors of various papers and the executive committee, who were authorized to accept names of charter members.

A CENTENNIAL FOR 1916.

Contemporary with the organization of the Cass county society was that of a movement looking to a celebration in 1916 of the State's centenary. This idea, which was launched by Mr. W. S. Wright, the secretary of the society, is being pushed vigorously, and in the State Senate a joint resolution has been introduced providing for the appointment by the Governor of a centennial commission to consist of one member from each county, with the Governor, Vice-President Fairbanks and our members of Congress as ex-officio members, these to serve without compensation or expense, and to report to the next legislature. A part of Mr. Wright's plan is to enlist all the historical societies in this movement.

THE KIND WE LIKE TO GET.

Charlestown, Ind., Jan. 8, 1907.

Editor the Magazine of History:

I send you \$1.00 to continue the magazine. Tipton's and Naylor's papers are worth \$5.00 to me. The old Naylor home is in sight of this town, and is where the Judge was brought up, and where he enlisted in Captain Bigger's company for Tippecanoe. Glorious fellows, weren't they! Sincerely,

JOHN A. H. OWENS.