

Historical News

By THE INDIANA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 18 at Waverly Beach, Porter county, Indiana, the Dune-Kankakee historical society was formed, the newest sectional historical association in Indiana. The occasion of the meeting was a joint session of the historical societies from Lake, Porter, Laporte, and St. Joseph counties, held in connection with the Dunes summer camp program. At this joint meeting emphasis was placed upon cooperation among the counties of northwestern Indiana, particularly those situated in the Dune-Kankakee region. It is the plan of the society to include in its organization in addition to the four counties above named, Marshall, Starke, Jasper and Benton. The officers elected include: George B. Beitner of South Bend, president; Louis J. Bailey of Gary, vice president; Mrs. J. H. Willey of Plymouth, secretary. The society will hold at least one regular meeting a year, following the plan of the Southwestern Indiana historical society, by holding their meetings from time to time in the different counties.

The semi-annual meeting of the Southwestern Indiana historical society met June 1 at New Harmony. Approximately two hundred persons attended the meeting and enjoyed not only the interesting papers that had been prepared, but more particularly the historical pilgrimage through the village of New Harmony. Two papers of special interest were: "Historical New Harmony" by Miss Louise Husband; and "General Thomas Posey" by Judge John E. Iglehart, president of the society. A memorial tribute was paid to the late Judge Arthur H. Taylor, vice president of the Pike County historical society.

June 24, 1922, one hundred and forty-four years to the day from the time when Gen. George Rogers Clark departed from the falls of the Ohio river with his little army of less than two hundred men on that historical conquest which led to the capture of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes, a marker was unveiled, located near the site where General Clark's old home stood. Following the brilliant success that attended the

numerous military conquests of General Clark, he settled down in a log cabin which stood on the banks of the Ohio river where he spent the later days of his life. The Ann Rogers Clark chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Indiana society of the Sons of the Revolution, and the Indiana historical commission united in placing the marker that was unveiled near Clark's old home in Clarksville

July 4, the Indiana Historical Commission and the Hoosier automobile association dedicated a marker, a few miles southeast of Kokomo on the Pumpkintown pike, on the side of the road where an automobile made its first successful trial run in America, July 4, 1894. The car was designed and invented by Elwood Haynes, Kokomo, and now is one of the permanent exhibits in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. This "horseless" car, for such it was called, was by special consent loaned to the committee in charge of the exercises, and was brought all the way from Washington to Kokomo where it was on exhibit for three days.

June 14, a massive boulder marking the site of the last French fort built in Indiana, was unveiled in Fort Wayne. The marker was erected and dedicated by the Mary Penrose Wayne chapter, D. A. R. The inscription on the bronze tablet calls attention to the fact that the last fort was erected in 1750; surrendered to the British in 1760; Ensign Richard Holmes and the British garrison were massacred by the Miami Indians on this spot in 1763; and that a battle was fought there October 22, 1790 between Gen. Joseph Hamar and the Miami Indians led by Little Turtle.

A marker at the grave of Thomas Montgomery, Revolutionary soldier and pioneer settler in Gibson county, whither he came in 1806, was dedicated on Sunday, June 18, 1922. The cemetery in which Thomas Montgomery lies, is located back of Miller Montgomery's (grandson) home. Historical papers and addresses were read by Zack Emerson of Cynthiana, Mrs. George R. Simpson, a descendant of Thomas Montgomery, and Judge Lucius Embree, vice president of the Gibson County historical society.

July 3, a marker was dedicated in Shelbyville, Indiana, on the site of the first railroad built west of the Allegheny

mountains. Judge W. J. Peasley, one of the early settlers in Shelby county, during the early part of the year 1834, built a road one and one-half miles long just east of Shelbyville, consisting of wooden ties and rails, on which the cars were drawn by horse power. The formal opening of the road occurred July 4, 1834, and a parade which formed at the courthouse marched to the western terminus of the road. A company of light infantry followed by Revolutionary soldiers, and a committee of citizens formed the parade. Also twenty-five little girls dressed in white, trimmed with blue, bearing the banners of the several states at that time, were in the line of march.

June 14 and 15, 1922, Rush county held its centennial celebration, commemorating the one hundred year's growth of the county since its organization in 1822. Under the direction of Miles S. Cox, chairman of the executive committee, considerable preliminary work had been carried on along educational lines through the schools of the county, clubs, civic and fraternal organizations, acquainting the citizens of the county with the developments that had occurred during the last century. The centennial exercises extended over two days, and an historical parade, addresses and a pageant were the main features of the celebration. A large collection of historical relics was brought together in Rushville for this occasion. Not only were the store windows filled with valuable historical relics, but a newly constructed garage was turned over to the committee and in this spacious building relics and exhibits of rare value were on display. A pageant depicting the growth of different townships in Rush county concluded the celebration.

An outgrowth of the Rush county centennial was the organization of a Rush County historical society, organized June 14. The officers elected are Miles S. Cox, president; Mary Sleeth, secretary; and A. L. Gary, treasurer.

Another centennial celebration that deserves special mention was that held in Shelby county, July 4, 1922. An historical parade, in which the different townships of the county were represented, formed the chief historical feature of the celebration. The "spirit of 1776", followed by the soldiers

of various wars, led the parade. The industrial, commercial and agricultural interests of the county were also represented. Conestoga wagon, floats of George Washington, "The Bears of Blue River" and other scenes and exhibits characteristic of Shelby county history were included in the parade. A special exhibit of relics was on display in the various store windows about the public square. Historical addresses were made at the fair grounds by ex-governor George Kendall of Iowa; a native of Shelby county; ex-mayor Charles W. Jewett of Indianapolis; Rev. James E. Montgomery of Washington, D. C., chaplain of the house of representatives. Spurred on by the historical interests that had been awakened during the celebration, Dr. Samuel Kennedy, one of Shelbyville's most prominent citizens, announced he would donate a lot to the Shelby county historical society if one were organized, to be used for erecting and maintaining a building thereon, to house Shelby county's historical records and relics. On Thursday night, August 3, a meeting was called in Shelbyville at which the Shelby County historical society was organized. Miss Lucy Elliott represented the historical commission at this meeting. More than thirty charter members signed up at the first meeting. R. W. Harrison was elected president; Lottie Chapman, vice president; Mrs. Katharine Kennedy (Mrs. Samuel), secretary; Clarence Crockett, treasurer. A constitution was adopted, and the society voted to hold four regular meetings annually.

Jasper County historical society and a number of interested friends numbering more than fifty, toured the mound region of the central part of Jasper county on Tuesday, June 20. Twin mounds were visited near Groom's bridge, and a mound in the yard of the Pullin farm. Some excavations have been made in the latter mound and two large sized skeletons were found in a sitting posture, elbows on knees and hands on cheeks. John E. Alter, author of *Hoosier Hunting Grounds*, was in charge of the party and is making plans for a second historical trip over the old Indian trail that originally ran through Jasper county. Historical pilgrimages are serving a valuable purpose in acquainting the citizens of Indiana with the interesting history that lies at their very doors.

It is worthy of note that the man who conceived and gave impetus to the rural mail delivery idea was in his boyhood days a resident of Kosciusko county, Indiana. Rural delivery of mail was first officially suggested by Postmaster General John Wanamaker in his annual report for the fiscal year of 1891. The first bill authorizing rural delivery was introduced in the house of representatives January 5, 1892, by James O'Donnell, member of congress from Michigan. This bill carried an appropriation of \$6,000,000, but failed of passage. March 3, 1893, congress appropriated \$10,000 for experimental rural delivery. July 16 1894, the sum of \$20,000 was appropriated for the same purpose, and again on June 9, 1896, an additional \$10,000 was authorized. The first experimental rural delivery service was established October 1, 1896, simultaneously on three routes, from Charleston, Uvilla and Halltown, W. Va.—John B. Stoll in *Indianapolis Star*, July 22, 1922.

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St. Joseph's college at Collegeville, just south of Rensselaer, an Indian school which was erected more than thirty years ago, is being moved this summer to Carthagen, Ohio. This Indian school was founded by Katherine Drexel. Years ago Miss Drexel furnished the Indian Bureau of Washington, D. C. the money necessary to purchase 240 acres of land and to erect a three story building thereon where Indian boys could be educated. In 1888 the Community of the Most Precious Blood came into possession of the estate and each year Indians from Minnesota, Wisconsin, the Dakotas and Michigan were brought to this college where they were enrolled as students.

The Indiana Lincoln Memorial association, organized July 10, 1922, has as its object

the promotion of a movement looking toward the erection and maintenance of a fitting memorial to commemorate the youth of Abraham Lincoln, spent upon Indiana soil; the collection, publication, and preservation of books, pamphlets, papers, maps, pictures, manuscripts, letters, journals, the collection of relics and other material relating especially to the youth of Lincoln, and in general to his life and public career.

This organization was the outgrowth of a trip which twelve loyal Hoosiers, Frank B. Wynn, Kate Milner Rabb, Mary Lucy Campbell, Martha E. Rihl, John W. Oliver, Lucy M. Elliott, Edna B. Gearhart, Ruth L. Armstrong, Vivian K.

Sowers, Kenneth B. Cohee, Eugene C. Foster and Harry Wishard Glossbrenner, took June 24-25, 1922 to Hodgenville, Kentucky. There within the walls of the Lincoln Memorial, on the spot where the martyred President was born, the "twelve apostles" pledged themselves not to rest until a fitting memorial has been erected in Indiana, commemorating the youth of Lincoln, spent on Indiana soil. The officers elected are: Dr. Frank B. Wynn, president; William A. Guthrie, first vice president; Harlow Lindley, second vice president; Kate Milner Rabb, secretary, and Harry W. Glossbrenner, treasurer.

DR. FRANK B. WYNN

May 28, 1860-July 27, 1922

Dr. Frank Barbour Wynn, President of the Indiana historical commission met his death on July 27, 1922, while climbing Mt. Siyeh, in Glacier National park, Montana. Few men in Indiana have served their state better, or rendered more valuable service to its citizens than Dr. Wynn. He was born in Franklin county, May 28, 1860, moved with his parents to a farm near Scipio, Jennings county, in early life; graduated from Depauw university in 1883, received the degree of doctor of medicine from the Ohio medical college, Cincinnati, 1885; and was granted an A.M. degree from Depauw university in 1886. In 1891 he became a member of the medical staff of the Northern hospital for insane at Logansport, Indiana. During the years 1892 to 1893 he engaged in special post-graduate work in New York, Berlin and Vienna. In 1893 he located in Indianapolis, and in 1895 was made the city sanitarian.

In 1895 he was appointed to the chair of Medical Diagnosis in the Indiana University school of medicine, which position he held until the time of his death. He stood at the very top of his profession, not only in Indiana, but in the national organization as well. He founded the scientific section of the American medical association and was chairman of the section for many years. In 1909 he was awarded the gold medal by the medical association for the best tuberculosis exhibit. In

1921 Dr. Wynn was elected vice president of the American medical association.

But in the midst of his busy professional life Dr. Wynn always found time to promote civic, religious, and educational movements. He led in the movement that was organized in 1911, looking toward the centennial celebration of Indiana's one hundred years of statehood, which occurred in 1916.

Dr. Wynn served as vice president of the Indiana historical commission from the date of its organization in 1915 until 1921, when he was elected president. He was also serving as president of the Indiana Nature Study club at the time of his death. Perhaps the movement that was most near to Dr. Wynn's heart at the time of his death was the Indiana Lincoln Memorial association, of which he was the founder. Only a few weeks before he left on his mountain climbing trip he had been responsible for the organization of the Lincoln association, the primary object of which is to erect a fitting memorial somewhere in Indiana, dedicated to the youth of Lincoln spent upon Indiana soil. Dr. Wynn was the first president of this organization.

In his death Indiana suffers an irreparable loss. Student and scholar, a scientific investigator, a humanitarian, a leader in all patriotic and historical movements, a devoted student of Lincoln, and a lover of the great outdoors, his character will always stand for the best type of Indiana manhood.