

## Historical News

By INDIANA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Upon invitation of the county superintendents of public schools of Boone, Grant, Fulton, St. Joseph, Carroll and DeKalb counties, the subject of state and local history was presented to the teachers in connection with the regular sessions of the county teachers' institute, Harlow Lindley, director of the Indiana Historical Commission, speaking before the first five and B. J. Griswold of Ft. Wayne in DeKalb county.

---

Dr. John W. Oliver, who had been director of the Indiana Historical commission since 1918, tendered his resignation in May to accept the headship of the department of history in the University of Pittsburgh. To take his place as director, the Indiana Historical commission has chosen Prof. Harlow Lindley, who has been head of the department of history in Earlham college for a number of years. He has also been director of the department of history and archives, and secretary of the Indiana Historical commission since their creation.

---

Esther U. McNitt, assistant in the department of history and archives of the State library, has been made director of the department, and as such becomes the ex-officio member of the Indiana Historical commission.

The Society of Indiana Pioneers and the members of the Indiana Historical Society made a pilgrimage to Ft. Wayne and the surrounding historical region June 14-15.

---

Plans are well under way for the annual all-state history conference which will be held in Indianapolis at the Claypool hotel, Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8. The annual meeting of the Indiana Historical society will be held Friday forenoon followed by a membership luncheon. The program of the afternoon will be devoted to state historical work em-

phasizing the state historical and archeological survey, and historical work in the schools. An historical pageant is planned for the Friday evening session and the history section of the Indiana State Teachers' association will prepare the program for Saturday forenoon. There will be a session Saturday afternoon and the conference will close with the annual dinner and meeting of the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

---

On Sunday, July 1, there was re-dedicated in the Turkey Run state park the old Bristle Ridge log church which had been moved from its original site four miles north of Turkey Run. The old church has been restored just as it originally stood and is now a part of the state property, dedicated as an open undenominational church.

---

The Paul Dresser memorial incorporated for the purpose of erecting a suitable memorial to the writer of our state song, is making an appeal to all citizens of the state to contribute a small sum for the early accomplishment of the project. The United States Trust Company of Terre Haute has been designated to receive contributions.

---

During the summer months six historical pageants have been prepared and given in Indiana. The first of these was presented at Rockport, Spencer county, July 26, and was written and directed by Mrs. C. D. Ehrman, secretary of the Southwestern historical society of Indiana and curator of the Spencer County historical society. The title of the pageant was "The Hanging Rock," being the original name for Rockport. The pageant was divided into eight scenes or episodes.

On August 3 at Centerville was given the pageant entitled "The Call of Oliver P. Morton," which has been mentioned in connection with the Morton centennial celebration.

August 16 was the date of the pageant presented at Tipton on home-coming day under the auspices of the Tipton County historical society. The pageant depicted faithfully the main events in the history of the county and was written by Marie Purvis, assistant librarian of the Tipton Public library.

On the grounds of the Friends church at Mooresville on the evening of August 18 there was given a pageant entitled "The Spirit of Faith." It was the centennial pageant of White Lick meeting of Friends and was written by a committee under the direction of Clara Sellars and was directed by Miss Sellars. Not only was the history of this particular meeting presented, but it gave a true picture of the history of Quakerism in Indiana.

Randolph county's historical pageant, written by Esther Janett Simon, was given at Funk's park, two miles west of Winchester, on the evening of August 30. Almost one thousand persons took part in the pageant, and about five thousand people witnessed the presentation.

As a prelude to the annual home-coming at New London, Ind., a pageant written by Violetta Cosand and Lilith Farlow was presented Saturday evening, September 1, the history of New London in a series of episodes that carried the development of the community from the first settlement to the present time.

---

August 4 witnessed the centenary celebration of the birth of Oliver P. Morton, Indiana's first native born governor. The event was celebrated at Terre Haute, Tipton, Indianapolis, and Centerville, the celebration at the latter place being the one elaborate event in this connection and was shared in by Wayne county generally and by people from all over the state, Governor Morton having been born in Wayne county near Centerville and having spent his life there until he became governor. Among those making addresses were Governor Warren T. McCray, Ex-Governor Goodrich, Senator James E. Watson and William Dudley Foulke, Morton's biographer. A pageant entitled "The Call of Oliver P. Morton" written and directed by Bessie Buhl of Centerville was presented in a very successful way.

---

Under the active leadership of Dr. P. G. Moore, president of the Wabash County historical society, 106 members have been added to the Indiana historical society.

The Putnam County historical society was organized June 27 with Jesse W. Weik as president and Prof. W. W. Sweet as secretary. The society prepares to observe in an appropriate manner the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Greencastle.

---

On August 28 following an address before the Dekalb County teachers' institute by B. J. Griswold, of Ft. Wayne, on local history, there was organized a Dekalb County historical society with Dr. W. F. Shoemaker of Butler as president, and Jay F. Olinger of Auburn as secretary.

---

Early in the summer the Indiana Historical Commission issued *Bulletin No. 17*, containing the proceedings of the Fourth annual conference on Indiana history.

---

The distribution of volume IX of the *Indiana Historical Collections*, being volume 2 of Esarey's *Governor's Messages and Letters*, was made in July. The volume, comprising 772 pages, covers the period of 1812-1816, completing the territorial period.

---

In August the Indiana Historical Commission published volume X of its *Collections* entitled *A Sergeant's Diary* by Elmer F. Straub, a daily diary kept by an Indiana man who served in the 138th Field Artillery during the World war. The volume contains 156 pages.