

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

For many years those most interested in the preservation of all data relating to the history of Utah and this intermountain region have—at various times—through the medium of the press and otherwise, suggested the propriety of organizing a State historical society—which should include within its numbers, or membership, all who were interested in such an organization. However, it was not until the Jubilee year that the subject received the definite consideration which brought matters to the point of action and produced positive results. Amidst the manifold preparations incident to the proper observance of the semi-centennial of the discovery and settlement of Utah, the idea was again uppermost in the minds of those who felt that the celebration should be something more than “a fleeting show.”

ORIGIN.

Early in the month of April, Jerrold R. Letcher, clerk of the Federal courts, laid the matter before Mr. Altales Young, Editor of the Salt Lake Herald, and as a result an article appeared in that paper (April 3rd, 1897,) urging the Jubilee commission to take the necessary steps to perfect such an organization. Articles of a similar strain appeared in the other city papers and finally, on the 22nd of June, 1897, Mr. Letcher addressed a communication to the commission, seconding the suggestions made and urging immediate action. This was referred by the commission to Governor Heber M. Wells with a request that he arrange the necessary preliminaries for the organization of the society. An interview followed between the Governor and Mr. Letcher and as a result a call, addressed to the people of Utah and numerously signed by representative citizens from all parts of the State, was issued, designating Thursday, the 22nd day of July as proper time for a meeting to be held for the consideration of the subject.

FIRST MEETING.

Pursuant to the call the first meeting was held at the Hotel Templeton at the date indicated, and was called to order by Governor Wells, upon whose suggestion Jerrold R. Letcher was made chairman and James T. Hammond, secretary of State, was chosen as secretary of the temporary organization.

Addresses were made by Hon. Franklin D. Richards, Isabel Cameron Brown, Hon. Hadley D. Johnson, Hon. John Parry, Prof. Joseph T. Kingsbury, Dr. Ellen B. Ferguson, Heber J. Grant, General John Q. Cannon, Governor Heber M. Wells and James X. Ferguson—all expressive of the feeling that such an organization should be perfected at once.

A resolution was adopted directing the chairman to appoint a committee on permanent organization and incorporation, and as such Heber J. Grant, Clesson S. Kinney, Isabel Cameron Brown, Joseph T. Kingsbury, John T. Caine, Eurithe K. LaBarthe and Matt Thomas were named.

A further committee consisting of General John Q. Cannon, Governor Heber M. Wells, Antoinette B. Kinney, Spencer Clawson, Edward F. Colburn, Dr. Ellen B. Ferguson and Horace G. Whitney were named, to arrange with the Jubilee commission and others for securing all material illustrative of the growth and development of Utah, which might be collected for exhibition during the semi-centennial celebration.

INCORPORATION.

After much unavoidable delay, the committee on incorporation prepared the necessary articles and by-laws and submitted the same to a meeting held December 28th, 1897, at which time they were duly adopted and filed for record.

The objects for which the society is organized were designed to be the encouragement of historical research and inquiry by the exploration of aboriginal monuments and remains—the collection of such material as may serve to illustrate the growth, development and resources of Utah and the intermountain region, the preservation of manuscripts, papers, documents and tracts of value, especially narratives of the adventures of early explorers and pioneers, the establishment and maintenance of science, literature and the liberal arts, the dissemination of information and the holding of meetings at stated intervals.

The membership is to consist of active, life, corresponding and honorary members.

Meetings of the society are to be held annually on the third Monday in January of each year. Its affairs are to be under the management of a board of control, to consist of the officers and an executive committee of nine members.

Applications for membership must be endorsed by not less than three active members in good standing, and addressed to the board of control, by whom they are elected. The regular meetings of the board are fixed for the first weeks of January, April, July and October.

The initiation fee is placed at \$2.00, and the annual dues at the same.

CHARTER MEMBERS.

The charter members of the society—consisting of those who signed the original call or attended the first meeting—are as follows:

Charles Adams, Parowan; Caleb R. Barratt, Robert N. Baskin, Charles W. Bennett, Alexander C. Bishop, Nat. M. Brigham, Isabel Cameron-Brown, Salt Lake; Electa Bullock, Provo; John T. Caine, Angus M. Cannon, John Q. Cannon, Spencer Clawson, Edward F. Colburn, George Q. Coray, Benjamin F. Cummings Jr., Chris Diehl, John E. Dooley, Willard Done, Ellen B. Ferguson, Salt Lake; James X. Ferguson, Helper; Charles C. Goodwin, Joseph Geoghegan, Heber J. Grant, Salt Lake; James T. Hammond, Logan; Harry C. Hill, Tidela Marie Belcher Hamilton, Lewis S. Hills, Salt Lake; John Horton, American Fork; William Howard, Huntington; Hadley D. Johnson, Andrew Jensen, Joseph T. Kingsbury, Antoinette B. Kinney, Clesson S. Kinney, Eurithe K. LaBarthe, Henry Lawrence, Salt Lake; William A. Lee, Ogden; Jerrold R. Letcher, Salt Lake; Robert C. Lund, St. George; John T. Lynch, Thomas Marshall, Salt Lake; Jacob F. Miller, Farmington; Elias Morris, William S. McCormick, Salt Lake; Harry F. McCune, Nephi; Emma V. McVicker, Salt Lake; Aquila Nebeker, Laketown; John Parry, Cedar; Orlando W. Powers, Charles W. Penrose, Arthur Pratt, Salt Lake; Franklin D. Richards, Ogden; Franklin S. Richards, Morris L. Ritchie, Charles R. Savage, Salt Lake; Lewis W. Shurtliff, Ogden; Elias A. Smith, Grant H. Smith, John Henry Smith, Salt Lake; Joseph D. Smith, Logan; Abraham O. Smoot, Provo; George W. Thatcher, Logan; Mat Thomas, Farmington; Emmeline B. Wells, Salt Lake; Barry Wilde, Provo; Heber M. Wells, Horace G. Whitney, Orson F. Whitney, Everett W. Willson, Percy L. Williams, John R.

Winder, Altales Young, Charles Zane, Richard W. Young, Salt Lake.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

Pursuant to the provision of the articles of incorporation the first annual meeting of the society was held on Monday, January 17, 1898, at the Theosophical Hall, West Temple Street, Salt Lake, at which a report was made of the doings of the society for the preceding year and addresses delivered by the president, Franklin D. Richards, Professor Joseph T. Kingsbury, president of the State University and Dr. Ellen B. Ferguson, which will be found in these columns.

An election of officers for the ensuing year was then held resulting in a continuation of the old board, as follows, to-wit: Franklin D. Richards, president; Isabel Cameron Brown, vice-president; Jerrold R. Letcher, recording secretary; James T. Hammond, corresponding secretary; Lewis S. Hills, treasurer, Antoinette B. Kinney, librarian, and the executive committee—one year—Joseph Geoghegan, Electa Bullock, C. C. Goodwin. Two years—L. W. Shurtliff, H. W. Lawrence, Robert C. Lund. Three years—George W. Thatcher, Joseph T. Kingsbury and John T. Caine.

The committee appointed to confer with the Jubilee Commission, submitted a report informing the society that they had secured many relics of value from the late celebration subject to future action of the Legislature and were continued with a request to arrange with the City Library association for a proper depository of such and all other articles that might come into their possession. It is understood that a section of the library will be assigned to the society for the proper exhibit of its articles as well as for other necessary uses.

PRESIDENT RICHARDS'S ADDRESS

President Richards's address, delivered at the first annual meeting above referred to was couched in the following language:

Ladies and Gentlemen: Permit me to extend to you and to the State of Utah my congratulations on the organization of this Historical Society. It marks a step forward and upward on the path of Utah's progress. It has commenced at an opportune period. Half a century having passed since the Pioneers planted the flag of our country, as the signal of civilization, in this then arid spot on the Great American Desert, materials for the compilation of history exist in plentiful and varied forms. The relics of early times in Utah which made an interesting feature of our Semi-Centennial celebration, and which have been generously donated to this society by the Jubilee Commission, will form a nucleus for the accretion of similar articles, valuable for history in that particular direction. The work involved in their accumulation and care will constitute but one department for the consideration of this society.

The agricultural development of Utah embracing the fruit-raising, gardening, stock-growing, sheep-raising and kindred interests will form another department. The introduction, extension and application of the system of irrigation, in which Utah was the pioneer in the United States, will furnish another field from which history may gather a valuable harvest.

The commencement and growth of manufactures, from the simplest hand-labor articles of common necessity, up through the successive improvements in utensils and fabrics to meet the demands of more luxurious times, to the mighty machinery by which the precious metals are obtained from the crude ores forced out of the solid mountains, sugar is produced and crystallized from the carefully cultured beet, and electricity is brought into