

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Iowa City

Officers

S. T. Morrison, President

Superintendent—Dr. William J. Petersen, Iowa City, Salary \$5,340.

PETERSEN, William J., Superintendent

William J. Petersen was born in Dubuque, Iowa, on January 30, 1901. He was educated in the Dubuque public schools, received his B.A. from the University of Dubuque in 1926, his M.A. from the University of Iowa in 1927 and his Ph.D. from the same school in 1930. He was appointed research associate in the State Historical Society of Iowa in 1930 and became Superintendent in 1947. In 1937 he married Bessie Rasmus. Dr. Petersen is the author of several books and almost two hundred articles on Iowa history. He has taught the course in Iowa History in the University of Iowa since 1930.

**Board of Curators**

Elected by the Society—Frank C. Allen, North English; Sutherland Dows, Cedar Rapids; William R. Hart, Iowa City; L. R. McKee, Muscatine; John Mohl, Bettendorf; S. T. Morrison, Iowa City; James Nesmith, Iowa City; W. Howard Smith, Cedar Rapids; and James E. Stronks, Iowa City.

Appointed by the Governor—Mrs. Martha Brunk, Des Moines; William R. Ferguson, Glidden; Mrs. Margaret Jones Hinderman, Washington; Mrs. Esther Narey, Spirit Lake; Ralph Shannon, Washington; F. D. Simpson, Atlantic; John S. Sproatt, Decorah; Mrs. Helen Vanderburg, Shell Rock; and Charles L. Walling, Oskaloosa.

Organized in February, 1857, its purposes are to preserve the history of Iowa and further its dissemination among the people of the state. In fulfillment of these purposes a permanent program of activities has been gradually developed and put into execution. This includes (1) the discovery, collection and preservation of materials of Iowa history; (2) research in the field of Iowa history; (3) publication of the materials of Iowa history, (4) dissemination of the materials of Iowa history through public depositories and members. The society publishes a monthly magazine, *The Palimpsest*, and a quarterly magazine, the *Iowa Journal of History*. In addition, it issues numerous books on the political, social, economic and religious history of Iowa. It has published seven volumes on the Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa, six volumes in the Applied History series dealing with state, county and local government. Among the better books are Mrs. Shambaugh's "Amana That Was and Amana That Is," Gingerich's "The Mennonites in Iowa," Swisher's "Iowa—Land of Many Mills," Petersen's "Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi" and "Iowa—The Rivers of Her Valleys," Richman's "Ioway to Iowa," and Cole's "Iowa Through the Years" and "I Remember, I Remember," Galland's "Iowa Emigrant," Ross' "Iowa Agriculture," Petersen's "Iowa History Reference Guide," Scholl's "Arnewood—The Story of an Iowa Dairyman," Nollen's "Grinnell College," Younger's "John A. Kasson," and Sage's "William Boyd Allison" are recent publications.

The library of the society now includes about 105,000 titles. There are 5,300 active and life members. The official depositories within the state number 236 and the out-of-state depositories and exchanges total 130.