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NEWS DEPARTMENT

American Historical Association.

The Quarterly presents two important articles in this issue which were read at the twenty-third annual meeting of the American Historical Association, these two papers being read in one of the five special conferences. For that reason they will not appear in the regular publication of the proceedings. Historians and other students on the Pacific Coast are deeply interested in Oriental problems, and it is therefore a pleasure to lay before them the papers by President Charles D. Tenney of Pei Yang College and Professor K. Asakawa of Yale University.

The meeting was a brilliant success and Madison, "the city of laws and education," certainly showed herself a cordial and appreciative host of more than a thousand scholarly men and women. The proceedings will be published in full in the annual report published by the United States Government, and the papers will appear in the American Historical Review.

Professor George B. Adams of Yale was elected President and Professor Frederick J. Turner of Wisconsin, Vice-President, for the ensuing year. These honors are among the greatest to be achieved by historians in America. Next year the First Vice-President, Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard, will be promoted to the presidency.

Tribute to the Pioneers.

Henry E. Reed, Director of Exploitation of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, has written from Washington City to Director General Nadeau that on February 3 Senator Samuel H. Piles received such an ovation as has been seldom, if ever, given to a young Senator. The galleries were packed to hear the Senator's great speech on the Exposition and the West. The address was a masterly effort and deserved the showers of compliments from his fellow senators and the prominent men assembled in the audience. Every pioneer and every one of the newcomers who are interested in the history of the Old Oregon country should secure from the Senator a copy of the complete address. Space is taken here for the concluding sentences, giving, in part, the Senator's glowing tribute to the pioneer:

"And, sir, who peopled that region and founded those cities? It was the pioneer and his children, who fought, with a desperation surpassing the heroic, the most effective battle of all—the battle of the supremacy of the white man over the aborigines and the elements, coupled with isolation and want, that that immense stretch of country might not fall into alien hands. That they prevailed, sir, history records.

"But, Mr. President, had the pioneer been as timorous or as indifferent as were some of the statesmen of their age, their efforts would have been but 'a twice-told tale,' remembered only as are 'the footprints of the traveler over the sand;' and that land, formerly known as the 'Oregon Country,' instead of being, as it now is, the common heritage of all our people, would be to-day one of the possessions of the British Empire.

"It is therefore fitting, in view of their achievements, that Congress should aid the people of the Pacific Northwest in their desire to exhibit to an astonished world the progress that in so brief a space of time, and under such trying and difficult conditions, has been made in the arts, in science, in commerce, in agriculture, in mining, and in manufacturing, and in all, sir, that goes to make a great and glorious land."

The Oregon Trail.

Ezra Meeker, the venerable pioneer, has returned to his Puget Sound home after his remarkable and arduous undertaking of retracing the famous Oregon Trail with an ox-team. A number of his friends and of historians gathered at the home of his son-in-law, Eben S. Osborne, in Seattle, to receive Mr. Meeker's report and suggestions about permanently marking the trail. He said Congressman Will E. Humphrey had introduced a bill to accomplish that desired end, and before the meeting adjourned it resolved to recommend to President Roosevelt that, in case the Humphrey bill is enacted, Mr. Meeker, George H. Himes, of Portland, Oregon, and Clarence B. Bagley, of Seattle, be chosen as a commission to carry out its provisions. Mr. Meeker's hardihood in carrying on the work up to this point is meeting with deserved praise and approval on every side.

Honoring Whitman's Memory.

Walla Walla was the scene of interesting exercises on November 29, 1907. It was the sixtieth anniversary of the martyr-

dom of Marcus Whitman and his wife during the terrible Indian massacre at the old Whitman mission.

Governor Mead and his staff, troops of the United States cavalry, with the band, students of Whitman College, survivors of the massacre, pioneers and many citizens, made a pilgrimage to the grave and listened to part of the programme, which was concluded in the evening. Addresses were made by Governor Mead, President Penrose of Whitman College, and others. The address by Edwin Eells, whose father was a colleague of Whitman, is reproduced in this issue of the *Quarterly*.

One announcement, that brought forth applause, was made by Rev. J. C. Reid, to the effect that the debt that had hung over the Whitman monument for ten years had at last been cancelled.

Bibliography of Pacific Northwest History.

Mr. Charles W. Smith, of the University of Washington Library, whose expansion of the Dewey Decimal Classification appears in this issue of the *Quarterly*, has initiated a movement toward the preparation of a co-operative bibliography of Northwest history. His plan is for each important library in the region of Old Oregon to prepare a slip list of the books and pamphlets in its possession relating to the history of the Pacific Northwest. These slips are then to be incorporated into one straight alphabetical list, representing the resources of the libraries co-operating. By means of an initial letter or abbreviation placed after each item, will be indicated the libraries in which each book or pamphlet can be found. The list when printed will thus become a catalogue of each individual collection, as well as a combined check list of the whole.

Such a check list has long been needed, but its preparation has seemed too laborious for one person to attempt. The present co-operative plan seems to be a feasible one, and we believe that its success is assured.

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

The fourth annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association was held in San Francisco on November 29 and 30, 1907. The programme was as follows:

(1) A general session on Friday afternoon, beginning at 2:30 o'clock, with papers by Professor Bernard Moses, of the University of California, on "The State of Chile in the Last Decades

of the Eighteenth Century;" by Professor H. L. Cannon, of Leland Stanford Junior University, on "Some Inherent Difficulties in the Study of History;" by Mr. John Jewett Earle, of Oakland, on "The Sentiment of the People of California with Respect to the Civil War;" by Professor C. A. Duniway, of Leland Stanford Junior University, on "Political and Civil Disabilities of the Negro in California, 1849-1861."

(2) The annual banquet at the Hotel Jefferson, corner of Turk and Gough streets, facing Jefferson Square, at six o'clock Friday evening, open to invited guests as well as members. The price per plate was \$2.00.

(3) An evening session, with the annual address by President W. D. Fenton of Portland, on "Edward Dickenson Baker;" a paper by Professor Max Farrand, of Leland Stanford Junior University, on "The West and the Declaration of Independence;" an account of the resources of the Bancroft Library, by Professor H. Morse Stephens and others, of the University of California.

(4) A session on the teaching of history and government on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Mr. Anderson, of the San Francisco State Normal School, led a discussion on the California State text-book history, and Dr. Roberts, of the University of California, presented the subject of local government.

(5) A business session, for the consideration of reports of committees and the election of officers.

Teachers Interested in Local History.

Teachers in other parts of the State of Washington, as well as general readers, will be interested in the announcement of a programme of a teachers' meeting recently held in Wilbur, Lincoln County. It was devoted wholly to the history of the Pacific Northwest, and besides several appropriate musical numbers consisted of the following:

The Discovery of Puget Sound.....	Miss Phelps
The Romance of Astoria.....	Miss Dalton
Dr. John McLoughlin.....	Miss Lyons
The Log School House on the Columbia.....	Miss Fox
The Oregon Pioneer.....	Mr. Matthews
The Two Islands.....	Miss Phillips
Our Western Poets.....	Miss Wilson
The Bridge of the Gods.....	Miss Chandler
Was Marcus Whitman the Savior of Oregon?.....	Mr. Kohlstaedt

Oregon Missionary Honored.

The well-known pioneer clergyman and missionary of Oregon—Rev. A. L. Lindsley, D. D., LL. D.—was beautifully re-

membered in South Salem, New York, last December. A memorial tablet in the Presbyterian church of that city was unveiled. During the exercises the following poem was read. It was written by Marion P. Lindsley, the wife of A. A. Lindsley, of Portland, Oregon:

A MEMORIAL.

Give me a mind, Oh Lord, like his, most just
To choose between the right, the true and wrong,
With mercy generous, and in action strong.

Give me a heart like his, steadfast and deep
To see temptation and forgive the fall,
As Christ, Thy Son, forgave the sins of all.

Give me a soul like his, with wings to soar,
Uplifting on its pinions to the skies
The souls of others that else could not rise

Revolutionary Letter by Baron de Kalb.

The study of history constantly reveals unexpected sources in out of the way places. The Library of the State of Washington has an old letter written by Baron de Kalb. The story of how it came there is itself interesting history.

On August 9, 1898, Herbert Bashford, then Librarian, received a letter from Jesse Baker, Assessor of Wahkiakum County, which contained the following information:

"I don't remember whether I told you how I came in possession of the letter I am sending. I will do so now. I was a member of Co. H., 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and in March, 1862, several companies of my regiment, mine among the number, captured Columbia, Tenn., and occupied the court house for quarters. Previously several companies of a Confederate regiment had occupied the same building, and in the building was a room occupied by an antiquarian society. Before the Confederates left they had scattered the property of said society all over the floor. In looking over the letters on the floor, I found the one enclosed, and also one from Gen. Nathaniel Green to Gen. Washington, and also a twenty-pound colonial bill. These three I sent back to Polo, Ogle County, Illinois. Baron de Kalb's letter I recovered while back in Illinois last summer, but the last two seem to be lost entirely.

"The two holes in the letter I think were caused by being torn from some kind of clasp in which the letters were confined; but the general meaning of the letter can readily be determined so one can get the sense of the whole. In looking over the history of the United States, I should judge that Baron de Kalb

was killed a short time after writing the letter, in fact, I should think in the next fight he had with the British, of whom he is trying to get intelligence as to strength and position."

Mr. Baker's conjecture about the Baron's death following close upon the writing of this letter is well borne out by the brief sketch in the Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography. The letter was written on July 7, 1780, and the Battle of Camden took place on August 13. Says the above book: "Neither party was aware of the close proximity of its opponent until the advanced guards met, about two o'clock in the morning. In the battle that ensued soon after sunrise, Kalb commanded on the American right and was driving his adversary, Lord Rawdon, before him, when the defeat of our left wing exposed his flank and rear to the assaults of Webster and Tarleton. Kalb was thus attacked on all sides, but remained during the whole encounter, fighting bravely to the last. Bareheaded and dismounted, with sword in hand, he engaged in one personal encounter after another, encouraging his men with his voice as well as his example, till he had received eleven wounds. His lieutenant, Du Buysson, saved him from instant death. He died three days afterward and was buried at Camden. A marble monument was erected to his memory by the citizens of that town, the corner stone being laid by General Lafayette in 1825."

The letter, as near as can be made out, is as follows:

Camp on Deep river near Wilcoxes.
July 7th, 1780.

Sir:

The provisions I expected not only for four or five days march but also all magazin of some days here to have to in case of necess coming in that it will be imposs or me to move several days; as soon it will be possible, will do myself the honor to acquaint you therewith if you will please to inform me of your direction and march. The troops here are greatly distressed for want of meat, the men of our party that are sent out to drive them are not at all proper for that business—the more as they have no horses: they have much to do to get cattle and lose them again in the woods.

If you could favor me with a party of your light horse-men to be employed in, and provide for the purpose, I should be highly obliged to you.

As we act with great caution when once at Cole's bridge, the the enemy's reinforcing at Cheraws, it would be very necessary to have the best intelligence of their forces, situation, and design. If you had two or more proper officers or other persons to go among them, and get the best information, it might be of great service to us all.

It is possible the enemy's informed of our march and perhaps of our forces, to collect all theirs to march against us, being much superior to us in horse, and for what I know in infantry too, it would be unfortunate to go beyond Cole's, especially if we were not assured of the enemy's position, and of having laid in a certain quantity of flour in our rear on Deep river—(And indeed it would be necessary to have magazins in several other parts of this State)

I have sent on to-day to post at Cole's bridge, the South Carolina Volunteers about fifty in number, and to employ themselves in collecting flour, cattle &c towards our arrival.

With great.....and esteem, I the honor to be
Dea.....

Your very hu..... nd most
Obedient Servant

THE BARON DE KALB.

The Hon'ble

M. G. Caswell.

On the back was written: Express. Public Service. The Hon. Maj. General Caswell, Head Quarters.