

## THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ITS NEEDS AND EXPANSIONS

By Charles Evans, Secretary

### INTRODUCTION

The Introduction to this article is placed here as a summary, because many American readers tire rapidly. In this paper, the following points have been proven as to the present possessions of the Oklahoma Historical Society and their possible present and future uses in the education and service of the people of Oklahoma:

### POSSESSIONS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(1) One of the five finest and most modern buildings among the State Historical Societies of America. Cost \$500,000 in 1930; cost two or three times that now. (2) A competent and expert staff, keenly alert to the service and dignity of their work, in charge of eight departments. (3) One of the largest museums among State Historical Societies of America; well supervised and partly classified. (4) One of the best art galleries of eminent Oklahoma men and women, several portraits by great American artists. (5) A Newspaper Files Department with newspapers published in Oklahoma covering a period from 1844 to present time; many eminent critics say it is the best and largest of its kind in the country. (6) The second largest (Washington, D. C.—first) Indian Archives in America; close to three million books, letters, pamphlets, papers on the Five Civilized Tribes and other Indian Tribes. (7) One of the largest libraries among the State Historical Libraries of the United States. (8) The Union and the Confederate army exhibits, occupy two rooms by statutory provision, and are unique among State historical societies. (9) One of the largest and best appointed quarterly journals, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, sent to all members (\$1.00 for annual, \$25.00 for life) and to highschools, colleges, and institutional libraries in the state, free. (10) Machinery set up for close contact with the State Press, schools and general public.

### PRESENT NEEDS

(1) Salaries of staff members and aids increased at least 25%—talent and leadership lost if this is not done. It would take comparatively a small increase in appropriations to give the staff members and aids a living salary increase hereby suggested.

(2) An expert typist and assistant in the Editorial Department, salary about \$2,000.

(3) An index and carding clerk, salary about \$1,800 or \$2,000.

(4) A revolving fund of \$5,000 for printing and sending historical booklets, folders, papers, and informative materials.

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#### POSSIBILITIES IN THE PUBLIC FIELD.

In Oklahoma at this present hour, there are thousands of fairly well educated citizens, and still thousands more who are below that level, who do not know that the State has set up and dedicated an institution, The Oklahoma Historical Society, to the end that its history be preserved and used. If this be a fault or a weakness, it must not be laid altogether at the feet of those who never enter the \$500,000 Historical Building on Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, erected by taxes laid upon all the people of Oklahoma and now supported by moneys supported by the Legislature of the people. A man must not be accused of ignorance or negligence of a thing about which he knows nothing.

The question arises, how can a State Historical Society best serve the most people?

There is no need to go into detail about how slowly and reluctantly the various states of the Union have recognized the value of their history and proceeded to preserve and protect it as a civilized people should. There are several states of the present forty-eight that at this very hour are neglecting to preserve and place the strength and glory of their history before their youth and citizenship in such a way as to confound and dismay any mind that may know the worth of a great state's origin and development. In other words, the State Historical Societies of the United States should ask themselves seriously: "What am I to offer my people?"

The Oklahoma Historical Society, in its respective departments, presents the following services and history to the people of the State:

#### THE EXECUTIVE DIVISION

The Secretary, who in truth is an Executive Manager, acting under the authority of the Board of Directors, divides his work in something like three divisions. The management of each department is based upon the same principles as used by a superintendent of city schools save in one respect: He has little, if anything, to do with the election of staff members; this has been left entirely to elections held by the Board of Directors. He represents the correspondence and contact with the general public. He directs from his office the sending out of letters, pamphlets, periodicals to members of the Society and all elements of contact within the State. He represents the Society before the Legislature, and all other departments of government responsible for the support of the Society, serving and assisting in presenting the biennial budget. He presents to the Board of Directors

the various needs of the Society. He is permitted, and exercises this permit in a large degree, in presenting the needs and service of the Society to clubs, churches, schools, and such duties, which bring him in contact with five to ten thousand people annually in various points of the State; a travel fund of some \$500 is offered him for this service. He also represents the Society in regional and national historical association meetings.

#### EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

The Editorial Department is placed in charge of the Editor and Associate Editor. The Editor directs the general policy of the Society's quarterly journal, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, a publication averaging 125 pages per issue with illustrations. The Associate Editor is largely in charge of publication arrangements—preparation of manuscripts for the printer, lay-out, engravings, proof reading, and correspondence with authors relative to their articles. She is the chief critic of all articles accepted in *The Chronicles*, and is chosen by the Board of Directors for her ability as a State historian known as the author of the State adopted textbook in Oklahoma history for the public schools, and other volumes. She like the Editor is called to various points in the state, and often out of the state, to address schools, clubs, and other important groups. The Editorial Department is the chief representative of the Society's work in contact with the public. *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* is sent to some 3,400 members and institutions in the state and elsewhere in America and foreign countries. Through *The Chronicles* it is conservative to say that there is set up a public reading contact with more than 250,000 annually. This number has been arrived at by close and careful estimate. Evidence is given that the Board realizes a new day of expansion has arrived. This department sends letters at regular intervals to teachers of history in all the public schools; likewise the newspapers in the state are furnished information as to the progress of the Society and the services it renders. Recently a monthly sheet, call the "O.H.S. News Letter," has been inaugurated to give the latest and needed information about the Society to readers in the state and elsewhere.

#### LIBRARY

The library consists of about 25,000 volumes. These are chosen by the Librarian and submitted to the Library Committee and the Secretary, for purchase. For the last decade, this work has been done largely by the President of the Board. The books are chosen chiefly in the realm of Oklahoma history and the Southwest, together with reference books, collections of most valuable papers of eminent citizens, and a large range of magazines representing institutions of all types. The library also has many miscellaneous items

such as cards, posters, leaflets, pamphlets coming from all parts of the country through the years.

This Library has been up to this time strictly one of research. No material of any kind is permitted to be sent out anywhere. It serves its purpose as a research library in a very splendid degree because it is well indexed and because it is presided over by a Librarian and Assistant Librarian who are specialists in this line. They have served in their positions for ten and fifteen years respectively. There is a belief on the part of the Secretary that there is too much of a splendid and positive force lying dormant in this library. He believes that certain divisions should be classified, arranged, and sent out to schools, clubs, and organizations that would prove trustworthy. This must be done without destruction or detriment to the Library as a reservoir of research. Under the direction of the librarian, lectures in the beautiful, and perhaps the largest library room of the State, could be given and the contents of the library be presented. This library is located in one of the finest residential districts of Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City citizenship knows very little, and is not very much impressed, by the romantic, heroic and forceful factors that have entered into making this one of the most progressive states of the United States. It appears to the Secretary that this is a tremendous waste, and preparations should be made whereby the opening of this library to a carefully selected public working at night under the direction of the librarian should be contemplated. This, of course, would require an evening assistant of high historical attainment.

#### ARCHIVES

The rich values and potential history in the Archives Department should be made known to the people of Oklahoma. There are about three million books, periodicals, pamphlets, letters, and other original data—telling the history of the Five Civilized Tribes and other Indian Tribes, all under the supervision of a very competent archivist. This Department is one of the best of its kind in range and worth in America. Everything is well indexed and catalogued so that any paper or volume may be found in a few minutes.

Lying in these Archives is the most dynamic and interesting history of Oklahoma. It is now being used only by students, writers. (many of these out of state) many State officials needing information, some legislators, and a miscellaneous few who are seeking information on various subjects. The lawyers in the state have found these Archives to be very fruitful in developing court cases relative to Indian life. In a certain court trial, a case involving a million dollars was largely decided by the evidence obtained out of these Archives. What is needed is a pamphlet pointed and brief, sent to all the lawyers and others in the state to acquaint them with the value of these documents. How can people possessing so rich a heritage

use such documents unless they know something about them? The Archivist, the Librarian, and Custodian of Newspapers, need a special cataloger in presenting these materials for extensive use in the public schools. Thereby, these hidden archives would become dynamic and a real live part of the history of Oklahoma. Otherwise, they lie dead awaiting a few research students.

#### MUSEUM

There are more than 15,000 relics on exhibit in the Oklahoma Historical Society Museum. These are well labeled, nearly all in glass cases or in frames on the walls, occupying the whole fourth floor well lighted by a \$16,000 indirect lighting system recently installed. Some exhibits are also found in other rooms and in the hallways. Nationally known critics who have visited the Museum have said that the exhibits of Indian arts, crafts, and historical relics are exceptionally fine and their equal not seen in any other museum. The ancient Indian patterns and designs on six rare pottery bowls, for example, cannot be found elsewhere. Among the rare historical paintings on display, that entitled "Indian Rendezvous" by Alfred G. Miller, the gift of the late Governor E. H. Marland, has been estimated worth upward of \$100,000 by an outstanding American authority. Visitors enjoy the exhibits in the Art Gallery, unofficially referred to by some as the "Hall of Fame," where are seen portraits of Oklahoma's governors, United States senators, philanthropists, jurists, army officers of national renown, educators, and public leaders, many of them painted by famous American artists. The value of the historical paintings and these portraits alone as an inspiration to youth is worth more than all the money expended annually on this institution, and how essential it is that the citizenship of the State should know of such rich legacies in the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Museum is perhaps its most popular feature. Four-fifths of the 50,000 visitors who pass through the doors of the Historical Building during the year visit the museum, among them are over 15,000 students from high schools and colleges. This department is in charge of a University graduate who has traveled widely in the United States. Plans are being laid whereby she will have needed assistance in giving lectures to student groups and organizations among the many daily visitors in the Museum.

#### THE NEWSPAPER DIVISION

Too high a tribute can not be paid to the former Secretaries, Boards of Directors and all forces through the years, shaping the Oklahoma Historical Society. This is not revealed better than a presentation here of a department that originated on the day of its birth. On May 26, 1893 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory, the Oklahoma Territorial Press Association met. With other business they set forth rules and regulations whereby an Oklahoma Historical Society would be set up under the laws of Oklahoma Territory, and

appointed a Secretary to begin work at once. One of the chief features of his office was to gather and preserve every newspaper of the Territory. Out of this has grown one of the most remarkable newspaper departments in this country, according to high critics and literary experts who have visited this department. Here are gathered the earliest and latest copies of all State Press Association newspapers and practically all others published in Oklahoma. These have been arranged in annual volumes for each newspaper and have now reached more than 26,000 volumes. These are placed in steel files and are card indexed as far as money and opportunity have afforded. *This is the most valuable and complete history of Oklahoma within the confines of the state.* Writers from over the state and elsewhere use it; research students visit it; attorneys constantly call for information found here; authors from all over ask for assistance from this vast volume of newspaper history. An able and experienced custodian guards and directs this department and as far as possible sends out by letters, information desired by hundreds of researchers. The use of this material is called for by the Legislature in its sessions and by all departments of State. They are pleased with the quick and practical response that is given them.

#### THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL ROOM

The citizenship of Oklahoma is fortunate in that the Legislature of the State enacted a law whereby that part of Oklahoma history that informs and inspires the schools, the colleges, and the whole citizenship, of the valorous deeds of the Civil War performed by pioneer Oklahomans is preserved. One room, the Confederate Memorial, presents the best of Oklahoma's early relations, leadership, sacrificial deeds of the men and women who gave their service to the Confederacy. The law stipulates that the custodian of this room must be a lineal descendant of a Confederate veteran. This is one of the most popular divisions in the Building. The custodian, a college graduate and a lady versed deeply and earnestly in the knowledge of Southern history, takes especial interest in lecturing to groups that enter here.

#### THE UNION MEMORIAL ROOM

The introductory statements relating to the Confederate Memorial Room applies to the Union Memorial Room and its possessions. The precious and invaluable story of Union leaders and soldiers, and the devotion they offered America are found here. There is a solemn dignity, a sort of a lofty sacredness, that both of these rooms give to youth or old age when they enter their confines that is to be seen and felt and not to be described. The writer has witnessed this many times. The custodian is a college graduate and is a lineal descendant of a Federal soldier as required by the State law.

## THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

At a very early date the directing forces of the Society saw that finances must be a very sure and essential foundation for the proper growth of this Society. Books of the most modern type are kept on all incoming and outgoing monies. Close relations were set up between the State Budget office and the Chief Clerk of the Society, who has served in this capacity for many years. The Board of Directors and the Secretary meet and decide in time for each session of the Legislature as to the needs of the Society. This is sent to the budget officer and after careful checking and conferences with the Secretary, it is printed and presented to the Legislature. The legislatures of the State have grown more and more to appreciate the necessity, the growth, the dignity and the particular service of the Society to the State. This is shown in the appropriations made by the legislatures of Oklahoma from 1895 to 1948, as follows: 1895—\$2,000; 1900—\$1,600; 1905—\$1,000; 1910—\$2,000; 1915—\$2,600; 1920—\$18,525; 1925—\$15,000; 1930—\$32,000; 1935—\$20,000; 1940—\$23,055; 1945—\$21,310; 1948—\$34,700. These figures are much too small but they reveal the growth of the Society in recent years.

## CONTROL

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Oklahoma Historical Society is controlled by a Board of Directors which elects its own members. The number of directors is twenty-five and they are eminent citizens representing all sections in the state. The Governor of the State is Ex-Officio member. The Board holds quarterly meetings and all business performed is carefully preserved and presented to the citizens of the State through the Minutes of each meeting published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. No control board in the state reveals more careful interest of an institution than does this Board.

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The highest confirmation of the sympathy of the Legislative and Executive branches of Oklahoma government with the expansion and particular value of this Society to the State lies in the appropriation of \$500,000 in 1929 for a splendid modern building fashioned wholly for historical society service. Too many historical societies in America are now living in unworthy quarters. The Oklahoma Historical Society Building easily stands among the first of the five finest in the United States wholly devoted to State historical service. It is finished in marble and fine wood and with decorative effects in plaster, matching in beauty some of the most inviting public structures in the nation.

It is encouraging to say that the *Planning Committee for the legislature convening in January 1949 has framed a law whereby*

*there shall be allowed* the Oklahoma Historical Society a revolving fund of \$5,000.00 whereby the printing and sales of postcards, folders, booklets, etc., relating to the history of Oklahoma can be offered to those who ask for information about the State's history. Hundreds of visitors out of the State ask for Oklahoma history booklets constantly through the year. It assists Oklahoma beyond measure to furnish them with such information as well as to supply its own citizens. It must be said as before that the Legislators, the Budget Officer and the Chief Executive of the State of Oklahoma, are revealing great interest and giving constant and hearty support to the program of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The citizenship of the State is grateful to these law making and executive powers for such support.

The State Board of Public Affairs has been very protective of the property of the Oklahoma Historical Society in recent years. Through the recommendations of the Budget Office, it has given in the last four years repairs to the heating system more than \$20,000; it has added a new fluorescent indirect lighting system approximating \$17,000; they have placed a new roof on the building at a cost of \$6,000.

A brief summary was made of the future necessities of this Society in the introduction to this article. Oklahoma believes that it stands in 1949 at the threshold of a new era. It is no longer a western cowboy commonwealth. It is no longer a mere youngling in the group of States. It is not merely a territory where oil gives a strange definition to new riches. Oklahoma has become a formidable factor in American leadership. All its institutions of higher learning, its secondary schools, its churches, its homes, and its government rank with the best in other states. Therefore, it is more than right and true to say that the legislative forces and the Executive of this rich commonwealth will take special pride in giving to the Oklahoma Historical Society that guards its most precious heritage—sufficient money for better salaries, better and more equipment, an increase of staff members, all wholly essential to discharge the work of the Society. With the proper view of this kind from these governmental authorities, Oklahoma can claim that there is not a more modern, more efficient, more serviceable historical society in America than is found here.

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#### APPENDIX

Some months ago, in order that I might be able to find something of the nature of the state historical societies throughout the United States, I framed a questionnaire consisting of seven questions. These questions were aimed in the direction of discovering what the State Historical Societies and others were doing to enlarge their contacts with schools, civic groups, patriotic organizations, and the general public. I was desirous especially of obtaining these facts from the State Historical Societies, but the questionnaire went out



to many independent historical societies. Strange to say, the independent societies sent in the majority of the reports. Perhaps it was not meant, but it seemed as though the State Historical Societies dodged or left unanswered most of the questions. From the results of the answers given here to the questions submitted, it reveals one good thing at least for the character of the Oklahoma Historical Society. With much still to do to make it what the State deserves, it is one of the five leading State Historical Societies of America. One of the solemn conclusions one must reach if he or she reads this Appendix is that many States of America and localities are sadly neglecting to support with proper buildings and money their historical societies.

### QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

1. Do you have clubs. County Historical Societies, other historical associations, related to you, served by you? Name them.
2. Have you Junior Historical Societies in your state related to your Society? How many? How?
3. Do you send out historical displays into towns and cities? How done?
4. Do you send out lecturers from your staff to acquaint people with your work and possessions? Explain please.
5. Do you issue small pamphlets and leaflets, letters, etc., regularly to the people, schools, etc.? Explain please. Nature. Cost of this.
6. How much and in what manner do you use the public press?
7. Do you have receptions, lectures, special programs, etc. within your Society building? How often, nature, etc. Explain please.

It should be noted that the eighty-seven questionnaires sent out to historical societies throughout the United States requested only their publicity methods. The gist of the return reports received was as follows:

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#### ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AT MONTGOMERY: This Department was set up in 1901 by the Legislature of Alabama, the Alabama Historical Society ceased to exist; a new organization, the Alabama Historical Association was organized at Montevallo, Alabama in 1946, and now has a membership of about 200 persons. The answer "No" was given to all questions of the questionnaire except number 7, after which the statement was made that luncheon meetings were held at a church every two months.

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#### ARKANSAS

Sponsored county organizations but developed no dealings with them, except attend their meetings irregularly; put on four promotional radio programs; no publications other than quarterly magazine; receive friendly mention from friendly editors occasionally; only one junior historical society in Little Rock which "withered on the vine." Receive no state support—income from membership dues of \$3.00 per year. The association has about 950 members; 1150 copies of the quarterly are printed; all work done by the president and secretary who are paid \$300.00 a year each.

## ARIZONA

The answers were no to all questions.

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## CALIFORNIA

**PASADENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Publish pamphlets and books on Western history; unofficially act in advisory capacity to local societies; managing editor and various directors meet with other groups to acquaint them with work and possessions. Hold monthly luncheon meetings, with speakers, for members and guests, at the Palace Hotel. Courses on California are given in the building with credit as an extension course given the building only by authorization by the Board of Directors. Local his-courses conducted by well known historians. Material may be removed from by the University of California or the University of San Francisco. Said torical talks are given to the public schools, and to many organizations of the city, and lantern slides are shown. Meetings and addresses are fully reported by the press.

**CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO:** Not a state supported society; has no affiliated branches; the largest society in the state; no junior societies. The Managing Director and other members of the Board occasionally lecture to groups on matters pertaining to the Society. Use the public press for pertinent news releases from time to time.

**CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, LOS ANGELES:** \$10,000 was appropriated by the Legislature for the annual up-keep of this Society. The *California History Nugget* is issued, consisting of some 16 to 24 pages. Has been prepared for the general reader as well as the pupils in public schools. This magazine has been a great aid to teachers in arousing historical interest. Longer articles, documents and monographs have been prepared in the form of pamphlets and books.

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## COLORADO

Have some regional historical societies; have not yet sent out historical displays, but plan to do so; have a historical movie which they take to schools, clubs, etc.; have issued pamphlets from time to time; issue weekly news letter to the press; give a buffet supper and program for legislature biennially. No junior historical societies; no displays sent out to other towns and cities but plan to do so.

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## CONNECTICUT

"Our Society House built in 1739 in a summer resort town and is open from June to October. Hold exhibits through summer with refreshments, called a silver tea, to raise money. One exhibit was hooked rugs, another, old baskets, another old glass, etc."

**CLINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CLINTON, CONNECTICUT:** No related societies; no junior societies, no displays sent out. Lectures are given; the press is cooperative, often useful.

**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** A quarterly bulletin is issued to all members and subscribers; lectures given monthly from October through May.

## IDAHO

No title to Society given. Out of the 44 counties in Idaho, each one has an appointed county historian. A biennial report is issued. The Society is controlled by the Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor. The questionnaire was postmarked Boise, Idaho. The writer who answered the questions said that she had been employed with the Society for only four months. She further stated that much of her time had been spent in cleaning up; had not had time to study the possibilities of the Society as yet.

## ILLINOIS

Answer to questionnaire mailed from Springfield, Illinois. Name of Society not given. The answer "No" was given to all questions but modified by the statement that pamphlets, leaflets, etc., were issued. Annual meetings and tours are offered but no meetings held in the building.

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Clark St. and North Ave., Chicago: The Chicago Teachers Historical Association, a group made up of teachers of history and social sciences in Chicago schools, are related to and served by Chicago Historical Society. They use press and radio; lectures are given in connection with the Chicago Teachers and Historical Association. Special programs for clubs, etc. are put on in building.

EVANSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Most all work local; have no building of their own, but expect to have soon. The answer "No" was given to most of the points of the questionnaire.

AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AURORA, ILLINOIS: Activities directed toward Boy and Girl Scout groups, P.T.A., D.A.R., clubs, church groups, etc. Building up a kadachrome slide library that will be available to speakers of local and outlying districts. These feature the contents of the Museum. Publish a bulletin that is mailed from coast to coast.

## INDIANA

Report to questionnaire was made by Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the state government, rather than for the Indiana Historical Society, a private organization. This bureau offers ideas and inspirations to about 40 county historical societies, not federated. Cooperates with local civic and educational groups, also with the schools, especially with the fourth and fifth grades. No junior societies. The public press is used extensively. A Sunday column is published entitled "Now and Then"; a kadachrome slide library is available to speakers; this features the stored gifts that are now on display. Housed in a historic home, use of the building is limited; society often sponsors programs in other buildings.

## IOWA

Auxiliary societies in most of the counties of Iowa; no junior societies; no displays sent out. 500 Editors Sheets are sent out to the press. *News for Members* to be sent out; reprinting *Looking Backward on Hawkeyeland*, making the first of a series for schools. Use press on special occasions. Hold annual meetings and historical tours of the state each summer.

## KANSAS

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Thirty-five local societies in Kansas, three of which are organized as chapters of the State Society. No junior

historical societies; no displays sent out because nothing can be removed from the building according to the laws governing the Society. Staff members give talks to organizations about the activities of the Society. Leaflets and pamphlets are issued from time to time, and sent to schools and individuals upon request. *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* is sent to libraries and members; the printing appropriation for the fiscal year 1948, \$8,500. The press visits the Society regularly for news items. Annual meeting is held in its building each October.

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#### KENTUCKY

Not affiliated with other organizations; no junior societies; no displays sent out at present but plan to do so. Quarterly issued to members, subscribers, and exchanges. Monthly news letter issued to members. The press is used for historical notes of interest.

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#### MARYLAND

No junior societies; no displays sent out. President or staff members speak before various organizations, some 25 addresses a year. Director addresses tour groups or occasionally meetings of outside societies or school classes within the building. Quarterly bulletin issued to members and exchanges. 3,500 copies printed at the cost of \$400.00 a year. The press used to release any information concerning the Society. Standing notice maintained in the Sunday papers under the heading, "At Our Museum", printed free. Monthly meetings held in the building from October through May; nationally known speakers used.

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#### MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Legislature in 1929 made it illegal for any county board to appropriate funds for a county historical society unless such society is affiliated with, and approved by the Minnesota Historical Society. A county or other local society is affiliated by enrolling as an annual institutional member of the state society and paying dues a year in advance; they also must make an annual report to the Society and send delegates to its annual meetings; there are 34 county societies and 11 other local societies. There are 13 junior historical societies as a branch of the Minnesota State Historical Society. The Society publishes periodically during the school year a periodical, *The Gopher Historian*, and awards annual prizes for best historical papers submitted by chapter members. Publishes a quarterly magazine, *Minnesota History*, free to all members and sold to others; cost of publication approximately \$4,000 per year. A four page leaflet, *News For Members* is sent out monthly at a cost of about 50 cents for each issue. The *Gopher Historian*, is mimeographed as is also a monthly news release to the newspapers of the state. Another Minnesota publication, *Minnesota Under Four Flags* is distributed free to all secondary schools in the state. Special programs and tours are held in the building from time to time.

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#### MISSISSIPPI

Name of organization not given; report postmarked Jackson, Mississippi. Gives a few affiliations as Warren County Historical Association; Claiborne Historical Society, University of Mississippi. "No" was given as an answer to most of the points on the questionnaire.

NOTE: The Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, is reported a very active historical society or agent. This report seemingly does not come from it.

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### MISSOURI

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: There are 25 county societies in Missouri, some active, others inactive; all maintain close touch with the State Historical Society. No junior societies; no displays sent out. The Secretary speaks over the state on invitation; Society release weekly news items, published in 85% of counties in Missouri; all newspapers in state receive *Missouri Historical Review*. An annual meeting and dinner is held, with guest speaker on historical subject.

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Saint Louis: Private supported; no affiliations, because might conflict with State Historical Society of Missouri; funds do not permit a junior historical society. Experience in lending historical displays unsatisfactory; usually the items have been badly handled. Believe however, that if small exhibits could be arranged in small cases for use in schools, such a program would be successful. The Director makes talks relating to work; through cooperation with the City Art Museum, St. Louis, two 15 minute radio programs have been given each month throughout the year—relating to museum collection, historical exhibits, etc. The quarterly *Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society* is mailed to paid members and exchanges. Pamphlets are published occasionally. Publication costs about \$1,500. The press extends full cooperation to the Society. Regular lecture-reception meetings are held in the building from October to May, open to members and guests.

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### NEBRASKA

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Lincoln: A few county societies are connected with the State Society; no junior societies as yet, however, committees from the State Society, State Teachers Association, and State History Teachers Association, are working along the line of junior societies. Now have portable dioramas which will be sent out by the University Extension Division, University of Nebraska. Superintend lectures over the State. *Nebraska History*, a quarterly magazine is published; a weekly column, "Out of Old Nebraska" is distributed regularly to all of the state newspapers. An annual meeting is held with a speaker from out of the state.

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### NEW JERSEY

Name of Society reporting not given; mailed from Newark, New Jersey; answered "no" to most of the points on the questionnaire. Keeps in touch with county historical societies; no junior societies; no displays sent out; quarterly magazine sent to members; press is used for publicity for special gifts, and reports of meetings; Society meetings held in the building.

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### NEVADA

Nevada did not return questionnaire; sent letter head reading Nevada State Historical Society, Reno, Nevada; inclosed a leaflet that gave information on the Society.

## NEW YORK

There were four or five reports from the State of New York. A report postmarked Palmyra, New York, did not give name of Society. Organization of Wayne County Historical Society just completed; museum in the courthouse. Materials are available for displays; historical files of local and family history are kept.

BROOM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Binghamton, New York: Sixteen Town Historians and one City Historian work with the main Society. There is a State Junior Society which is supported by the young people of Broom County. No displays sent out. Mainly the points on the questionnaire were not answered.

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Rochester, New York: This is a Society of the City, but it has many out-of-town members. The Society publishes an annual volume of historical papers or documents; this is distributed free to members and all schools and libraries; a 24 page quarterly, *Rochester Historian*, paid for by the City is distributed to schools and libraries at ten cents a copy, printing costs, \$150.00 a year. Other points on the questionnaire were not answered.

CITY HISTORY CLUB, Bronx, New York: This Club consists entirely of children; holds exhibits of work done by children in connection with "Know Your City" broadcasts; almost one million children hear these broadcasts yearly. This program has won three national awards.

ROCHESTER MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, Rochester, New York: This is a federation of historical societies interested in the history of Western New York. Lecturers are frequently sent out. The Museum issues a bulletin, *Museum Service*, with a circulation of 1,500; leaflets, etc., are published from time to time. Employ a full time public relations assistant.

ONEIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Utica, New York: Questionnaire not answered fully. Affiliated with New York State Historical Association. Hall of Fame meeting held once each year at which time prominent residents of Oneida County are elected.

NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, New York City: No affiliations; no Junior Societies; displays loaned to other museums. Send out a quarterly and an annual report to members; other publications are sold. Have a public relations officer, announcements and releases are given wide coverage; staff members contribute to outside journals; many meetings are held in building each year; twelve large exhibits are held with a lecture each year; lectures for school children are held throughout the year; tours of the building are made and historical movies are shown; traveling museum exhibits are constantly circulated through New York City High Schools.

HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Long Island, New York: Questionnaire not returned. This is a wide awake Society and very active. They contribute their historical values to other Societies in the state.

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART, Albany, New York: This is affiliated with the Albany County Historical Association. Have a program of exchanging exhibits. Nine receptions are held yearly; twenty lectures, special programs, dances, music, etc.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Westchester, New York: This is a private Society supported by dues from members; a quarterly bulletin is issued to all members, and an annual dinner is held for members and friends.

NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, Raleigh, North Carolina: Cooperate with all state and county societies. Pamphlets are written by staff members, are printed and sent to all school libraries in the state. News releases are given and reporters come in weekly. Other points on questionnaire not answered.

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NORTH DAKOTA

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: No affiliations; no junior societies; displays are sent out from the Museum during the celebration of special events, staff members lecture on invitation and at celebrations. A quarterly magazine, *North Dakota History*, is sent to members and exchanges; a monthly leaflet, *The Museum Review*, is sent to members, exchanges, public libraries, county superintendents and other interested people. Receptions are occasionally held in the building; members of the Legislature are invited to visit the Building when in session.

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OHIO

STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Columbus, Ohio: Affiliated with State Society and adjacent county societies. No junior societies. Loans for displays are made to local institutions on special occasions. Have good cooperation with the public press; used often. Until the death of the curator, regular schedule of lectures were given to school children; who were assigned to it as part of their curriculum; they were brought by bus and conducted through the building. (Good idea for Oklahoma City).

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OREGON

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Portland, Oregon: Have engaged in organizing county and area historical societies, and affiliating with societies already organized; no junior societies. Materials are loaned to other museums, other organizations, etc., the borrower paying shipping and insurance costs. Offers made to colleges, schools, service organizations, etc., of a speaker for their meetings; the response was good. Two pamphlets published regularly, one for membership promotion, and to acquaint the reader with the Society, and one to publicise the Museum. Do not have own building.

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PENNSYLVANIA

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: No related societies; no Junior Societies; no displays sent out. No pamphlets, leaflets, etc. are issued. The public press is used to advertise exhibitions and lectures. Have receptions, lectures and special programs at least four times a year.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION: Local and county historical societies are members of this Association; no Junior Societies; displays are sent out only at times of the annual convention which is held in different towns each year. Issue a quarterly magazine, and publish historical data from time to time. Have no building of their own.

## RHODE ISLAND

THE JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM HOUSE AND MUSEUM, East Greenwich, Rhode Island: Reported no junior societies, no displays sent out; speakers sent out upon request. The public press is used occasionally. The chief purpose of the Society is the preservation and restoration of the old home belonging to Major General James S. Varnum.

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## SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: No Junior Societies; no affiliations; no speakers. A quarterly, *The South Carolina Historical and Geneological Magazine* is distributed to members and exchanges. A reprint from the magazine, *South Carolina History Notes and Reviews* is distributed to the libraries over the state. No other points on the questionnaire were answered.

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## TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, State Department of Education, State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee, reported. Cooperate with Tennessee county historical societies and Tennessee Historical Commissions. Hold annual meeting with East and West Tennessee Societies. No junior societies; no speakers, no publications. Further points on the questionnaire were not answered.

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## TEXAS

TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, report mailed at Austin, Texas: No related societies. There are 88 chapters of the Junior historians, sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association, with state organization and business and magazine editing from same office. Each September, a copy of the *Junior Historian* magazine is sent along with mimeographed information on the Junior Historian movement to all the public schools of Texas. The Society does not have a building of its own.

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## VERMONT

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Montpelier, Vermont: No affiliations; no Junior Societies; no displays sent out. Director makes addresses before various groups during the year. Issues regular historical quarterly. Regular releases sent to the press.

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## VIRGINIA

Name of Society reporting not given, mailed from Richmond. No related clubs. Several Junior Societies but not related to the Society. No displays sent out, no speakers sent out. No leaflets, bulletins, etc., published. About five meetings with guest speakers held each year; annual meeting held, followed by reception. Issue quarterly, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, the chief avenue of disseminating news of the Society.



WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C. STATE CAPITOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION: No Junior Societies, but definite effort is made to interest young people of the state. Displays are sent out seldom. No speakers sent out regularly, but Director very active in furthering public relations. Publish booklet on the Museum, and news of the Society through Dept. of Public Instruction's Bulletins. Use press at intervals; radio programs are given concerning interesting exhibits, etc.

NOTE: The Director of this Society requests information on how their Society compares with others in the country.

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WASHINGTON

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: No junior organizations; no displays sent out. Many talks given by Director in city and outlying districts. *News Letters* are sent to members, the Legislature, Chamber of Commerce, Editors, and members of associated societies. Fine cooperation given by press, whom are offered aid by research.

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WISCONSIN

Three reports were sent in on Historical Societies of Wisconsin: The Burlington Historical Society, the Beloit Historical Society, and one in Oshkosh. The first mentioned is a local society only, the second, affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the other is a local organization and centers around Old Settlers Meetings.

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WYOMING

WYOMING HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT, Cheyenne, Wyoming: No affiliations; no junior societies, no displays sent out. The State Historian speaks upon invitation. A pamphlet, *Wyoming* is distributed to museum visitors and to schools upon request. News items given to reporters who visit department daily. No special programs are held.

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CANADA

NORWICH PIONEERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Norwich, Ontario: Affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society and supply the Oxford County Historical Society with duplicate exhibits; cooperate with other towns and villages interested in historical information. No Junior Societies; no displays sent out; no publications published; historical sketches are published at intervals by the *London Free Press*, and other newspapers.