

Editorial Department [Our First Territorial Governor]

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ered or carefully prepared papers read, on special subjects of local or general history; and at these meetings an effort will be made to have the attendance not only of the people generally, but especially the teachers and the advanced pupils of the public schools; for it is believed that this country of ours will be saved from impending dangers only by the education of its people, not only in the arts and sciences generally, but by a thorough knowledge of the country's history, and thereby of the principles which have given it life and vitality."

From a late number of *The Reporter* we learn that the Washington County Historical Society was successfully organized and started out upon its good work under very promising auspices. A constitution and by-laws were prepared and adopted providing for regular meetings, dues to be paid by members, the making of collections, the preparation of historical papers, etc., etc. The movement appears to have elicited a good degree of public interest, and as the community is old, populous, and long a noted educational center, there would seem to be an excellent prospect of usefulness before the new society.

There ought to be a similar society in every Iowa county, and its organization should be commenced at once and not deferred until the county is more than a hundred years old. In the case of Washington county, Pennsylvania, this long delay cannot but have resulted in the loss beyond recovery of much precious historical material. But the people turned over a new leaf with the beginning of the new century and the best results may be confidently anticipated.

During the past two months the subject of founding such a local historical society has been discussed in Boone, Scott and Lucas counties. From the standing of the parties who have interested themselves in these matters there would in each locality seem to be a good prospect of success. Wherever a public library has been established, and a building erected, a county historical society might easily be organized. The expenses could be made very moderate and much good accomplished. A volume or pamphlet should be published every year or two, thus making a permanent record of the early history of each county. Portraits of the pioneer settlers, with cuts of early buildings, can be secured at trifling expense as compared with the cost of illustrations a few years ago. Every effort of this character should meet with local encouragement. Once begun, many organizations would assuredly have long and useful lives.

• Our first territorial governor, Gen. Robert Lucas, had also been Governor of Ohio before he crossed the Mississippi. He was one of the most distinguished friends of education of his time in the West. From "A History of Education in the State of Ohio" (Columbus, O., 1876), we learn that he was made president of the first State Convention held in Ohio in the interest of public education. When he was transplanted to Iowa he began at once to use his influence for common schools, public libraries and other means of general education.

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