inquiries have numbered thirteen, and cover a variety of cases from pension claims to bank controversies and settlement of land titles. Business interests have consulted the archives on thirteen different occasions, the last request coming from a stone quarry wishing to know the test made of its product at the time of the erection of the present capitol. Eight miscellaneous requests complete the total which shows the varied field of inquiry which this Department is called upon to serve.

—E. B. V.

NOTES.

What are public archives or public records?

* * * * "the words 'public records' shall, unless a contrary intention clearly appears, mean any written or printed book or paper, or map, which is the property of the State, or of any county, city, town, or village or part thereof, and in or on which any entry has been made or is required to be made by law, or which any officer or employee of the State, or of any county, city, town or village has received or is required to receive for filing."—Laws of New York, 1913, ch. 424, sec. 1194.

Archives have been housed in various places, from attics and storage vaults, old castles, judicial buildings, museums and libraries to the modern archives building specially equipped with iron and steel cases, fireproof vaults and cement floors.

In Europe, in former years, the most valuable papers were stored near the front of the building that they might be easily removed in case of fire or flood.

At Neuwied, Germany, where the archives were endangered by the overflow of the Rhine, papers were placed on shelves in portable boxes which could be easily removed during high water.

The enterprising Dutch archivists have planned and erected some of the best models of modern archives buildings and the cost of these structures has been very moderate. The Germans also, though still utilizing a number of old castles and
public buildings, have erected a few modern structures of the best type.

A movement has been started in the United States to build at Washington, D. C., a home for the National Archives which shall serve as a model of archival architecture for similar buildings in the various states.

The Public Record Office of England in the year 1542 contained the records of 63 courts and departments. These records consisted of 2,211 classes, 401 book pieces, 38,000 rolls of parchment and over 1,000,000 documents.

The Patent Office of England has a subject in its records covering a period of 100 years. This book has been published from time to time and in 1912 consisted of over 2400 volumes. From 200 to 300 trained examiners and 800 assistant examiners work upon this index. It is continued by the chief examiner.

The card index to polls on file in the United States War Department contains over 100,000,000 cards. This index has been created to answer inquiries from the general public and furnishes the military record of every man by registration.

In the Vatican collections in Rome, there is a book written by the American Vicar, the renowned Father of American studies compiled upon various plans and principles. They are kept in one room where they may be consulted by students. One writer has remarked that these indexes "probably form the most interesting body of material in the world for the study of the history of library methods."

A manual of principles and practices of archives classification and administration has been prepared by three Polish archivists. The treatise has proven so useful that it has been translated into German and French.

The Public Archives Commission of the American Historical Association is at present preparing a similar treatise for
the use of archivists in the United States. The work is in
charge of Victor H. Peltzis, chairman of the commission.
It will outline principles and methods of classification and
indexing of archives materials and also discuss sites and
plans of buildings, proper heating, lighting and furnishing
of the space; preservation, repair and restoration of manu-
scripts and the public use of the records.

The city of Brussels maintains a current archives depot
where all the current records of the various city offices accu-
culated by the archivist as soon as the business to which they
related was finished. Every new record received by the city
offices is entered in a general register and sent to the
proper department for consideration. When the decision
of the document was put in a register book, and every and
turned over to the archives. These were either examined
and filed for reference. Every year a filing like 30,000 pa-
ters and 100 volumes are madeup by the city archives.

The French national archives in Paris numbering over
900,000 documents are preserved in the old palace, Mazarin
Street, a part of which was built in 1623. As a result of
the French Revolution, the palace became the property of the
state and the archives were placed there by order of Nau,
Grand Pensioner of the court of the Arts and Sciences, in the
year of 1792. Because of the great loss of the building and in
considerable waste of its capital resources, there is no service
process by artificial light allowed so it would need to be well
many be given a dark or cold day. The classes and two other
offices reside permanently in the palace and state halls
present for receptions.

Among the most interesting of documents are the will
of Napoleon, Marie Antoinette's last letter to the Prince of
Estragon, written on the rising barricades from execution and
a journal of Louis XVI. 1781-1782. Some of the letters of
many interesting papers have been made up to hand in the
past card form and these are on sale in the archives for a
reasonable price.
A very unique department of these archives is the department of seals. Here every seal that is found in the course of the arrangement of the records, is scientifically described and then reproduced by means of casts. These casts are catalogued and the most interesting ones placed on exhibition in the museum.

EDWARD F. WINSLOW.
By WM. FORSE SCOTT.

Edward Francis Winslow was born in Augusta, Maine, September 28, 1837; he died at Canadaiqua, New York, October 22, 1914. He was a descendant of Kenelm Winslow, one of the Pilgrims on the first voyage of the Mayflower. His only school education was in the public schools of Augusta. When nineteen he sought his fortune in Iowa in the construction of railways, then just beginning in that state. He was engaged on the Burlington & Missouri River road, living chiefly at Mount Pleasant when the Civil War began; and had just then been married, his wife being Miss Laura Berry, daughter of Rev. Dr. Lucien H. Berry, a distinguished educator.

When troops were called for to maintain the Union, he stopped all other affairs and enlisted a company, which joined the Fourth Iowa Cavalry as Co. F, with him as captain. He led his company with the regiment in its long and arduous marches through Missouri and Arkansas as part of the army of the Southwest, and after several engagements was stationed at Helena, Arkansas, where he was provost-marshal of the army. Promoted to major in January, 1863, he obtained the assignment of his regiment to Grant’s command in the campaign against Vicksburg, the only cavalry regiment in that army. He soon distinguished himself in action, and during the siege of Vicksburg made many marches in the interior, against Johnston’s forces. He was severely wounded in an engagement at Mechanicsburg in May, was promoted to colonel of his regiment July 4, 1863, and appointed by Sherman chief of the cavalry forces of the Fifteenth Army Corps, several other cavalry regiments having been in the meantime added to the army. He
Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.