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## BIENNIAL REPORT

TO

THE GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

1925-1926

Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 3, 1927.

HONORABLE RICHARD C. DILLON,  
Governor,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sir:

The Historical Society of New Mexico during the past biennium, 1925 and 1926, has prospered in its endeavors for the preservation of historical records and objects, in enlisting the interest of the public far and wide, in publishing the results of its historical research, in teaching history and inculcating patriotism. Its work has reached out to every portion of the State and at the same time it is building up a treasure house of inestimable value for the present and future generations. Every Commonwealth deems it a public duty and takes justifiable pride in preserving its historical records, some of them expending many times as much as New Mexico can afford, in order to maintain historical museums and societies. Yet, not another commonwealth has such a wealth of historical material, so splendid and continuous a history, so glorious a record of achievement. In its historical landmarks, in its history, New Mexico has an asset that is being capitalized to a greater extent with each year and today brings into the State thousands of visitors, untold treasure and has cen-

tered the attention of the world on this commonwealth, its people and its resources.

The membership of the Historical Society has more than doubled since the last biennial report. It can be multiplied several times during the next two years if the Society is given the comparatively small appropriation it asks for clerical and stenographic help, which has become the more necessary because of the increase in publication so advisable in order to give the world facts regarding New Mexico history and traditions. A year ago was begun the publication of the *New Mexico Historical Review*, a quarterly that won instant recognition and which is carrying the fame of New Mexico to the farthest corners of the earth. Its success is most gratifying and it has attracted contributors of eminence from other parts of the country, contributors who are delving into archives and chronicles to rescue from oblivion New Mexico history and records of much interest. Other States have such publications and the *New Mexico Historical Review* compares favorably with the best of them. None of the contributors are paid for their articles and the editors, with the President and the Secretary of the Society in charge, give their time and effort without cost to the state. In addition to the *Quarterly*, which is published in co-operation with the School of American Research, the Society has issued the customary number of historical monographs and pamphlets for which there is a continuing demand and which preserve for generations to come something of the record of the men and women who have made or are making history in the Southwest.

The historical exhibits have been completely rearranged during the past two years. As far as space and means permitted, an effort has been made to classify the exhibits, to arrange them chronologically and scientifically, to label them properly and to exclude such objects as do not bear on the history of the Southwest. When more room is available, it is planned to have one or more rooms of the Palace furnished in period style so that a complete visuali-

zation of life in early days may be brought to every visitor and especially to school children and the students of history. The cataloguing of the fine and large library to which many important additions are being made all the time, in the way of maps, manuscripts and books, has been completed. Such units as the historical library of the late Colonel Ralph E. Twitchell have been purchased. Catalogues of dealers in old books are scanned diligently and every once in a while a treasure is secured, so that now the historical library is one of which every New Mexican may well be proud. However, it is inadequately housed and difficult of access. In fact, all the libraries in the museum buildings should be brought together and given the care and attention of a professional librarian, one who would serve students and the general public, making known and securing more far-reaching use of the treasure house of New Mexicana and of historical, anthropological, archaeological and linguistic lore contained in the thousands of volumes. In its class it is unsurpassed by any library in the Southwest. The transfer of the archives from the office of the adjutant general to the State Museum and the return from the Congressional Library of the Spanish archives, have made the combined libraries a repository of original sources of great value not only to students of history but also to those interested in social sciences, in genealogical research and kindred pursuits. The fact that Secretary Lansing Bloom has been enabled to aid many veterans of Indian and other wars to obtain pensions to which they were rightfully entitled, and to aid many families to verify the records of service of some member, in itself has repaid the State many times the modest appropriation made for the maintenance of the work. These combined libraries also include the official record of the seventeen thousand and more men and women from New Mexico who served in the Great War. That this record is priceless and becomes more valuable each year, needs no argument. However, sufficient means should be provided to keep up the work so well begun by the Historical Service.

With a more liberal appropriation, many records and books bearing on the Southwest and its history could be rescued before they are irretrievably lost.

The Historical Society has added to its large number of portraits of Governors and other notables in New Mexico history, paintings by the artist, Gerald Cassidy; of Kit Carson; Juan Bautista de Anza, the Duke of Albuquerque and of Villagras. These works of art will be appreciated more and more as the years go by and as room is provided for more artistic and satisfactory display.

An important piece of work of the Historical Society, without cost to the State for supervision and handling, was the distribution of trophies of the Great War allotted to the State by the War Department. The variety of trophies, the complexity of local demands, made the task an intricate one, but we believe it was handled to the satisfaction of everyone. Every town and city of the State and every State institution, that had put in a request, now is in possession of trophies of the Great War that should be prized as a perpetual heritage. Too much praise cannot be given the Secretary, Mr. Bloom, for his conscientious and competent handling of this duty assigned to the Society by legislative act. His report is hereto appended.

The Historical Society has undertaken the placing of bronze tablets with the names of the fifty-one martyrs who gave their lives so that Christianity might be brought to the Indians in the Southwest. The tablets will be installed in the pediment of the Cross of the Martyrs on Cuma Heights, overlooking not only the Capital City but the ancient pueblo world as far west as Jemez, as far south as the Manzanos, east to the magnificent pinnacles of the Blood of Christ Range and north to Abiquiu Mountain and beyond. The dedication of these tablets is to take place on the evening of August 4, 1927.

As far as possible, regular monthly meetings of the Society have been held. Many of these were attended by persons of distinction from a distance. During the annual

convention of the New Mexico Educational Association, a Kit Carson exhibit by the Society drew thousands to the Historical Rooms. Members of the Society presented papers before various sections of the Convention. Every effort is being made at all times to be of assistance to teachers in the teaching of New Mexico history in the public as well as parochial and private schools of the State. At every meeting of the Society, one or more papers or talks of historical interest were given. Among these have been the following the past two years:

Hon. F. T. Cheetham

- "Laws of Spain in New Mexico"
- "First American Court at Taos"
- "Trial of the Assassins of Governor Bent"
- "Centenary of the Santa Fe Trail"
- "Los Comanches"

Col. R. E. Twitchell

- "Exhibit of English Documents from Cromwell's Time to the Days of George III"
- "De Vargas Papers"

Miss Blanche Grant

- "One Hundred Years Ago in Old Taos"

Fayette S. Curtis

- "The Arms Collections of the New Mexican Historical Society"
- "Baltazar de Obregon"
- "New Mexico War Trophies"
- "Spanish Arms and Armor in the Southwest"

Sylvanus G. Morley

- "Documents in Mexico City Appertaining to Early History of New Mexico"
- "Recent Discoveries in the Maya Region of Yucatan"

Lansing Bloom

- "Apache Campaign of 1880"
- "Expedition of Pedro Vial"
- "The Early Annals of the New Mexico Historical Society, 1859-1863"

Etienne B. Renaud

"Place of Man in Nature from Standpoint of Physical Anthropology"

Paul A. F. Walter

"John Mix Stanley, New Mexico's First Portrait Painter"

"Diary of E. E. Ayer"

"The Marmaduke Expedition"

"The First Meeting of the New Mexico Educational Association in 1886"

Father Theodosius Meyer

"Franciscan Martyrs in New Mexico"

Miss Bess McKinnan

"The Raton Toll Road"

Secretary Bloom has just returned from a lecture tour in the East and Middle West at which his theme was "Spaniard and Indian in the Southwest."

Two memorial meetings were held during the past two years, one for Colonel Ralph E. Twitchell, the President of the Society, whose death robbed New Mexico of its foremost historical writer and the Historical Society of a President who had during a few years given it wide fame; the other for Fayette S. Curtis, who was an indefatigable research worker in New Mexico history and who had given abundant promise of a brilliant career as a historian and writer. The death of Mrs. L. Bradford Prince, Col. W. M. Mills, ex-Governor W. E. Lindsey and Mr. Roberts Walker also deprived the Society of life members and generous friends.

The accessions of the Society during the past two years were many, most of them being by gift. The display of weapons was handsomely augmented by the Borrowdale Collection placed in the Society's care by the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Research, and by the addition of war trophies, so that it is now the most complete in this part of the United States. A number of New Mexico newspapers continue to send the Society their pub-

lications. The files of periodicals possessed by the Society are of great value. It is hoped that adequate funds will be available to bind them substantially and sufficient room to make them accessible to visitors to the Library.

Exchanges are maintained with most of the Western historical magazines and with Government publications. Scattered throughout these are many interesting references - historical and otherwise - to New Mexico. These will be catalogued eventually, provided sufficient clerical assistance is provided from the means placed at the disposal of the Society. Many books from publishers and authors also come as donations to the Library. In fact, the Society is the recipient of many gifts, which otherwise would go to beneficiaries outside of the State.

A glance at the register maintained by the Society will bear evidence to the increasing number of visitors from all parts of the earth, who find the Museum and library of the Society of interest and who carry away with them impressions of New Mexico and its past that must redound to the credit and benefit of the Commonwealth and its people. Not less than thirty thousand people, it is estimated, view the historical collections each year.

One cannot express in money values the worth of the achievements of the Historical Society of New Mexico, but analysis will prove that, directly and indirectly, it has been the means of interesting people in the State who afterwards expended large sums in development or who became residents and citizens contributing mightily to the up building of the State. That it has raised New Mexico in the estimation of many thousands of Americans, is also certain. Quoting from the President's Inaugural address:

"It might be well at this time to set forth and emphasize briefly the objective that should be the goal of the Historical Society. For many years the Historical Society of New Mexico has done yeoman work under enthusiastic leadership, and its achievements are a matter of record, although, strange to say, that record is not nearly as complete as it should be. A historical society, so it has been



recently said, and I quote from an address of Director Arthur C. Parker of the Rochester Municipal Museum, 'is an organization devoting itself to the task of recording, preserving, interpreting and publishing historical records.' The history of our own times will have to be written some day, and for the sake of the future historian let us be faithful in preserving the official records of the present. It is indeed a pity that this Society does not have in its archives the official papers of the Governors of the State, and that such work as that of the Historical Service during the War is not being maintained now. The Spanish archives recently returned to Santa Fe are an example of how much more punctiliously the forefathers kept official records than we do. One of the objects of the Society, therefore, should be the recording of present day history, a most difficult task I admit, but in part realized by keeping up files of New Mexico newspapers and by gathering official documents. An effort should be made to obtain the official files of each State administration. Possibly, legislation might be had that would prevent the burning of official letters, such as the press reported after the death of President Harding. Of course, the records of our own meetings, memberships and acquisitions should be models, and I believe will be, henceforth.

"We have made a good start in publishing historical records, and it is my faith that henceforth this Society will always maintain a periodical publication such as the New Mexico Historical Review which will make available to all of those interested, both source material and the work of those who are writing Southwestern history. As a rule, historical publication is not profitable, and much interesting and valuable work has been lost for lack of publication.

"The indexing of the vast amount of historical material that this Society has gathered and preserved, and to which it is adding daily, has been begun in a scientific manner. That it should be continued and in much greater detail than the mere enumeration of titles of books and authors, is advisable. Much material of consequence never appears in book form. Again, in many a book is hidden material not suggested by title but which throws a flood of light upon a given historical topic. We already have volunteers who will undertake the indexing of files of New Mexico newspapers, a task that should prove most interesting.

"The accumulation of historical records makes necessary proper safekeeping of such archives. Unfortunately, the Historical Society does not command vaults or even

adequate library room. It is my hope that the next two years will see not only the building of a wing across the east end of the patio of the Palace of the Governors, but also the acquisition of the present Armory building and connection with the Public Library of the Santa Fe Woman's Board of Trade. By bringing together all the libraries, and by providing proper facilities for students and readers, something will have been achieved for the Commonwealth that will go far to make it known as a seat of culture. Fortunately, the buildings mentioned are so located that there are no insuperable difficulties in the way of providing adequate space and co-ordination at comparatively small outlay. A concerted effort in the next legislative assembly may bring about the much to be desired expansion and improvement. Imagine the east end of this venerable building extended to the walls of the Armory and that building included in the room available for the Historical Society, its library and archives and connected with the buildings that house the fine accumulation, not only of current literature, but of books and magazines of current history, travel and science. Let us make that one of our goals!

"Ordinarily, it is not the business of a Historical Society to maintain a museum, but force of circumstances has put the Historical Society into the museum business. Here is the distinction: 'The Historical Society is concerned with records and writings of and about men and events; the museum is concerned with exhibiting actual objects and explaining their relations and meanings.' A historical museum therefore is mainly concerned with the exhibition of objects that will illumine the history of the region covered. Fortunately, too, we now have the whole-hearted co-operation of the State Museum, which will make the task of maintaining a historical museum so much easier and more satisfactory. In time, I hope to see at least one room in this Palace fitted up in the style of the Spanish colonial days. As far as possible, we are arranging exhibits chronologically, so that a person entering the west end of the Palace will logically proceed from exhibits illustrating the culture of the earliest primitive days to the exhibits of Pueblo culture, thence to Spanish Colonial and American Occupation periods, the Great War and the present day, and thence into the Library where the student may find everything appertaining to New Mexico, a library such as Dr. J. A. Munk has collected for Arizona and at present housed in the Southwest Museum at Los Angeles.

Let New Mexico never lose its opportunity to possess the most complete collection of New Mexicana, such as Arizona has lost to California.

"The exhibits should be arranged scientifically and placed in harmonious cases and groups. At present, unfortunately again, our exhibits are too crowded, our exhibition cases have been picked up at random from bargain counters. Our labeling should be as precise and informative as that to be found in the best museums of the country. I propose that a beginning should be made at once that will result in all historical material being brought to the east end of the Palace, all ethnological material to the central portion, and that archaeological exhibits be confined to the west end of the Palace as far as possible; or, that a new building be provided for them and the entire Palace of the Governors be given to history and historical exhibits and library. Assurance is had that the Museum authorities will not only cooperate but will readily transfer, as they already have in part, historical material. The Pueblo Pottery Fund has been approached for the loan of some of its finest specimens to complete our pottery exhibits, and the Museum has given such cases as it could spare to be placed in the Pueblo pottery room. However, sooner or later, and we hope that it will be soon, the Museum should have an ethnological building for the display of pottery and other Indian artifacts and art. Can you not visualize a Museum of the Southwest, as is herewith suggested, which measures up to the best in the country, both scientifically as well as in interest and beauty, and that at the same time is as distinctive as the Palace in which it is located?

"Let us be courageous in declining objects offered us for exhibit that have nothing to do with New Mexico history or that are merely curios. We cannot hope to maintain a museum of natural history, or of industry, or of art, or even of archaeology. Nor do we want to maintain what one writer has characterized as 'disorderly collections of junk.' Quoting from a recent number of 'Museum Work:': 'Documents, maps, pictures and old manuscripts become almost forgotten, and an ungodly hodge-podge of good, bad and indifferent things - principally indifferent - assume great importance and their exhibit becomes the jealous concern of the historical society. Wander through the halls of one of the oldest historical societies in America, that in the metropolis itself, and behold Egyptian mummies, sacred bulls, Indian costumes, and other extra-limi-

tal material. One wonders what these things have to do with the history of Gotham. The time to standardize has come, the day of the curio cabinet has gone.'

"Fortunately, the Historical Society of New Mexico has but little material that is not of value, and that does not appertain to the history and culture of the Southwest. The fact that we have applications for membership from almost every state in the Union and even from abroad, attest to the interest and esteem in which this organization is held. In view of all this, should we not set ourselves a goal of a thousand members within the next two years? Surely, every person of education and culture in New Mexico owes it to himself or herself to be interested in what we are doing for the commonwealth, and we are justified in asking for their membership and support."

In conclusion, the President desires to acknowledge the great value to the Society and to the State of the co-operation given by the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Research. Not only has the Director Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, placed at the service of the Society the time and work of its Secretary, Mr. Lansing Bloom, but also of the other members of the Museum and School staff. With their aid, exhibits have been classified, scientifically arranged and catalogued. With their aid, the libraries housed in the Palace of the Governors and the Art Museum are to be brought together. Possessions and exhibits of the Museum and School of greater historical interest than of archaeological or anthropological importance, have been placed in the care of the Society and added to its displays. Heat, janitor service and the supervision of the Museum superintendent have made the Historical Society rooms more comfortable and presentable. Best of all, there is now complete co-ordination of all activities, doing away with duplication, waste and embarrassment, and rendering to the State a service of increasing and priceless value.

Three recommendations the President would make to the Governor and Legislative Assembly:

A statute providing that a copy of every official re-

port, document and publication be placed in the historical library.

A more liberal appropriation to permit the Society to perform for the benefit of the State and its people the functions and duties of a well-conducted historical society and museum.

The building of a wing to the Palace of the Governors extending across the east end of the Palace patio, from the present Museum building to the National Guard Armory, providing vaults for manuscripts and precious gifts, and room for library consolidation together with adequate and well-lighted reading room.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. F. WALTER

President.

## TROPHIES OF THE GREAT WAR

The last state legislature made an appropriation of \$1,500 for the receiving and distribution of the war trophies which had been allocated by the war department to the State of New Mexico, and the officers of the Historical Society were asked to handle this matter for the state.

As soon as the appropriation was available, which was in the early spring of 1926, letters were sent out to ascertain where the trophies were desired, and distribution was made upon the basis of the replies received.

The chief difficulty was with regard to the major pieces of artillery. A total of twenty-five were asked for, which had to be satisfied with only six which had been given to New Mexico. Requests for additional pieces were unsuccessful, and the six pieces were placed as follows:

- 2 minnewerfers with mounts, 250 millimeter E. Las Vegas and the State University
- 1 heavy howitzer, mounted, 150 millimeter Military Institute
- 1 short howitzer, mounted, 105 millimeter State College