

WISCONSIN'S WAR HISTORY COMMISSION.

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On March 8, 1918 the Wisconsin War History Commission, appointed by Magnus Swenson, chairman of the State Council of Defense, held its first meeting. The members, consisting of M. M. Quaife of Madison, William W. Bartlett of Eau Claire, Carl Russell Fish of Madison, J. H. A. Lacher of Waukesha, W. N. Parker of Madison, A. H. Sanford of La Crosse, and Captain H. A. Whipple of Waterloo, met in the office of the Superintendent of the State Historical Society and outlined plans for collecting and saving Wisconsin's war history.

The organization of the War History Commission was the outgrowth of steps taken by the National Board of Historical Service in Washington, shortly after the United States had declared war on Germany. That organization, by cooperating with the Bureau of Public Information and the United States Bureau of Education is now rendering a most valuable service to our nation and the reading public. They have determined that the people shall know the truth about this war. And while their chief function is that of supplying the national administration with that historical knowledge so necessary in a crisis like the present, they have also caused a rebirth of interest in the collection and preservation of our state and national history.

In undertaking this work in Wisconsin, the first move on the part of the War History Commission was to appoint a local war history committee in each county of the state to collect and preserve all the records pertaining to that county's activity in the war. The local committees were appointed upon the recommendation of the chairman of the county council of defense, and by cooperating with that organization, the public library, the schools, and the local historical societies, they have undertaken to collect every war record, and every fragment of material that shows the part played by their county in this great struggle.

The material to be included in building up this war collection consists of all records and official reports issued by the county council of defense, the liberty loan committees, the Red Cross chapters, the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. committees, the Loyalty League, the woman's branch of the county council of