

be issued during the present year. Mr. Isaac Lyon, now in his eighty-ninth year, continues, voluntarily and without recompense, to supervise the cabinet department, with the same intelligent zeal and interest as in former years.

The Society has sustained a serious loss in the death of Hon. Andrew Proudfit, long one of its life members, and for the past thirteen years an honored member of the executive committee. He was a liberal contributor to the binding fund, and befriended the Society both in and out of the legislature. His benevolent deeds and honored name will long be held in grateful remembrance.

Thirty-first Report, January 2, 1885

Library organizations, as well as States and individuals, have their epochs. After three years of abortive efforts, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, originally suggested by Richard H. Magoon, was organized January 30th, 1849, having received its baptismal name from Gen. Wm. R. Smith. During the ensuing five years, the Society received from Frank Hudson two volumes of *Transactions* of the American Ethnological Society, also an original drawing of a lizard shaped mound discovered by him, in 1842, near Third or Monona Lake, Madison; a bibliographical volume on the *Literature of American Local History*, from the author, Herman E. Ludwig, of New York; a patent deed of land in New York, signed by Gov. George Clinton, 1794, from Dr. J. W. Hunt; a set of Territorial and State legislative journals, from Gov. Farwell, in behalf of the State; and an unbound file of five years of the *Weekly Wisconsin*, from Wm. E. Cramer. The whole did not exceed fifty volumes, and they only partially filled the small book-case, three and a half by four feet in size, which the Society preserves as a memento of this primitive epoch of its history—an epoch of “helpless infancy,” as significantly expressed by our late worthy associate, Dr. Lapham.

During the last of these years, 1853, the late Rev. Charles Lord, the then recording secretary, and the present corre-