

THE PERIOD OF OUR ORIGINS

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ORGANIZATIONS somehow or other never burst into existence spontaneously; most of them have a long evolution. For at least seven years an idea has been germinating—the idea of forming an historical association which would hold meetings in various parts of the state, emphasize research, spread knowledge of Pennsylvania history by publication and teaching, as well as otherwise promote more enthusiasm for the cause. As far back as 1925-26 when plans were maturing for the Sesquicentennial an attempt was made to organize, and thereafter some such project was discussed by a few Pennsylvanians at meetings of the American Historical Association in 1928 and 1930. When the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey was inaugurated and Dr. Solon J. Buck came into the state, renewed impetus was given to the move. Finally, the first step was taken by the History department at Pennsylvania State College by Professors Martin and Dunaway. The former wrote to a number who were interested in April 1932 and invited them to an informal conference.

The small group which enjoyed the hospitality of the department at State College participated in one of the most frank and free discussions of the situation which has ever been indulged in and concluded to call a state convention to consider the advisability of organizing. Miss Frances Dorrance was placed in charge of the arrangements and began work. The Executive Committee of the State Federation together with the Historical Commission coöperated and such a convention was held Sept. 15-17, 1932, with State College acting as host. Here an enthusiastic and numerous attendance was taken as a sure sign that the hour was at hand. The convention voted unanimously to organize. Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, Dr. Roy F. Nichols and Dr. Paul W. Gates were made temporary officers.

Once more the work was projected on a larger scale. The Pennsylvania group again took advantage of the meeting of the

American Historical Association, held in Toronto at the close of 1932, and in a comfortable lounge in Hart House at the University of Toronto, plans were made for the inauguration. Dr. Lawrence H. Gipson who extended an invitation from Lehigh University was made chairman of the program committee and his tireless efforts resulted in an interesting and varied program at Bethlehem in April, 1933. Reports on research projects were given, papers on local history caused lively discussion, a constitution was adopted, historic spots were visited, and permanent officers were elected. At a dinner, the association was formally inaugurated; Dr. Charles R. Richards, President of Lehigh University, welcomed the new organization, Dr. Conyers Read, executive secretary of the American Historical Association, sponsored it, and Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, President of the New York State Historical Association, in stirring terms described the great opportunity which lay before the new enterprise. On April 28-29, 1933, therefore, the Pennsylvania Historical Association became a reality.

RECENT ACCESSIONS OF VARIOUS DEPOSITORIES

BY CURTIS W. GARRISON, PH.D.

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HISTORICAL Society of Pennsylvania. *By Purchase.* The only known copy of a *Tribute to Cæsar*, probably printed by Andrew Bradford in Philadelphia in 1715.

An important Franklin imprint of 1741, entitled the "Sum of Religion," and heretofore known only by an advertisement in Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

Lord Lansdowne's copy of the first map of Pennsylvania (1681). Although made in anticipation of settlement, it does not show Philadelphia nor its proposed site. The original owner of the map was Sir William Petty, a friend of William Penn, and the father of John Petty who gave his name to Petty's Island.

A collection of Penn letters and documents. Among the signers are Admiral Penn, William Penn, the Founder, his wife, Hannah, and their sons, John and Thomas; William Penn's Power