

NEWS AND COMMENT

GENERAL

The Diamond Jubilee to celebrate the drilling of the first oil well in history was observed at Titusville on August 25, 26 and 27, 1934. The celebration recalls stories of the excitement which followed the drilling of the first oil well near Titusville, by Colonel E. L. Drake, when western Pennsylvania became a mecca for prospectors, speculators and adventurers. Towns came into being almost overnight. Millions of dollars were poured into hastily-organized enterprises and within a short time this region was converted into a forest of derricks. Among the speakers and prominent visitors at the celebration were Governor Gifford Pinchot, Governor George White of Ohio, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, Mr. A. J. Byles, president of the American Petroleum Institute, and Miss Grace E. Drake of New Haven, granddaughter of Colonel Drake, who drilled the first oil well seventy-five years ago.

The bicentennial anniversary of the founding of the Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, near Mechanicsburg, was observed on June 24 and 25, 1934. On June 24, 1934, Dr. John Timothy Stone, president of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago, occupied the high colonial pulpit in the quaint stone church. Other speakers on the anniversary program were Dr. T. J. Ferguson, who served the church for half a century, the Rev. E. J. Ardis, present pastor of the church, Dr. George E. Vincent, Greenwich, Conn., Dr. Glenn S. Shafer, Carlisle, and Dr. Hubert C. Work, former Postmaster General and former Secretary of Interior of the United States. A pageant was presented by the members of the church depicting interesting highlights in the history of the church. The pageant was written by the Rev. E. J. Ardis and was directed by Dr. W. H. Norcross of Dickinson College.

On August 31, 1934, Dr. C. Hale Sipe of Butler delivered the historical address at the unveiling of the marker erected at Willow

Grove, near New Castle, by the Daughters of the Colonists, marking the site of the first Kuskuskies village. At the same time the state highway bridge at Willow Grove was christened the Kuskuskies Bridge with the consent of the Pennsylvania State Highway Department.

More than 15,000 students attended summer sessions at Pennsylvania colleges this year. The majority of the students were public school teachers enrolled for studies that will advance their professional standing.

On September 8, 1934, Dr. Henry W. Temple and Dr. C. Hale Sipe delivered historical addresses at the unveiling of the marker on the Hotel Alexandria, Kittanning, commemorating the destruction of Kittanning by Colonel Armstrong 178 years ago.

On October 6, 1934, a marker was dedicated at Fort Hand, Westmoreland county. The chief speaker was Dr. C. Hale Sipe. Fort Hand was the only fort erected in Westmoreland County by the Continental Congress during the Revolution, although many smaller places of protection were erected by the inhabitants or with state assistance.

The 150th anniversary of the founding of Montgomery county was held on September 8, 9 and 10, 1934. The first day of the celebration was designated as Historical Day when visits were made to places of historical interest all over the county. The Montgomery County Historical Society held open house at its headquarters. The second day was Religious Day and all churches with historical backgrounds had prominent parts in the celebration. On the third day, the bells of churches and schools rang once for each of the 150 years since the establishment of the county.

The Magazine of History and Biography, established at Muncy in 1868 and later revived as a quarterly magazine by Dr. T. K. Wood has been discontinued and a column in *The Williamsport Sun* under the title of "Now and Then" will take its place. The change in the form of the publication has been made to tide over

the present period and to permit the continued publication of a wealth of historical and literary material which Dr. Wood, the editor, has accumulated.

A bronze marker, placed on the tablestone monument in memory of Major James McFarlane, who was killed during the Whiskey Insurrection, was dedicated on July 4, 1934, in the cemetery of the Mingo Presbyterian Church, near Finleyville. Dr. George P. Rowland pastor of the Aspinwall Presbyterian Church delivered the dedicatory address.

On September 1, 1934, Dr. C. Hale Sipe delivered the historical address at the homecoming exercises of the historic Jacobs Lutheran Church, near Pine Grove, Schuylkill county. This congregation was founded by the Palatine Germans, who came down from the Schoharie Valley, New York. Their wanderings reminded them of the story of the wanderings of Jacob of old. Hence the name they gave to their church.

Miss Caroline E. Logan of Dillsburg has recently published a pamphlet entitled *The United States History in Rhyme*, which is a synopsis of American history in verse.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

On the morning of July 3, 1934, the Wyoming Commemorative Association held its fifty-seventh consecutive annual meeting at the foot of the Wyoming Monument about five miles north of Wilkes-Barre and near the scene of the Battle of Wyoming, July 3, 1778. Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, President of Union College, was the speaker of the day. His subject was "The Value of Background." Each year the Association publishes its Proceedings. The issue for 1934, containing the program of the exercises, the list of members and the text of Dr. Fox's address was mailed to the members about the middle of September. Non-members may purchase these or past *Proceedings*, which are not out of print, from the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 69 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre.

The annual summer meeting and picnic of the Lycoming

Historical Society was held on July 25, 1934, at Newberry, near Williamsport. Mr. Christ Haist gave descriptions of lumbering operations in that region. Mr. C. Lee Berry read a paper on Long Reach and Reach Road telling of the early settlers there. The program was arranged by Mr. F. W. Coleman and Mr. C. Lee Berry.

The Germantown Historical Society held its annual spring garden party on June 9, 1934, in the garden of the society at Germantown. Miss Edith Stokes Haines spoke on "The Flowers and Herbs of Old Gardens." Mr. Arthur F. Paul discussed "Trees and Shrubs of Old Gardens." The museum of the society is now open daily except Sunday from 2 to 5 p. m.

The Association Committee of Women to the Board of Directors of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania is sponsoring a movement to place the name of William Penn among the immortals in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, University of New York, and asks the support of all historical, educational and patriotic units. The candidates for commemoration are chosen by a College of Electors, over one hundred in number, representing every state in the Union. A three-fifths vote is necessary for election, which occurs every five years. The next election will take place in the early part of 1935. The present Director of the Hall of Fame, Robert Underwood Johnson, former editor of the Century magazine and later ambassador to Italy, has done a notable work in this unique development of the University and has had the financial and moral assistance of patriotic and educational organizations as well as public spirited citizens throughout the country.

Measured by the standards of Plutarch, the tribunal of conscience and the verdict of time, William Penn was a statesman much in advance of his age. His appeal to fundamental liberties under *Magna Charta* at the Penn-Mead trial of 1670, wrote anew into English law and practice the "Right of Juries to give their verdict according to their convictions"—and this for every man for all time. His Frame of Government for Pennsylvania was a masterpiece of statesmanship, which later greatly influenced the destinies of the Commonwealth and Nation. In the Maximil-

laneum of Munich the portrait of the Quaker statesman hangs on walls dedicated to rulers, statesmen and soldiers who commemorate the glories of Bavaria. "One of the great political thinkers in the annals of man-kind," William Penn has earned his right to a niche in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans in the University of New York. Therefore let every Pennsylvanian and the descendants of American colonists who benefit by his legal ability and profound statesmanship, coöperate in this tribute to his memory.

M. A. L.

On September 9, 1934, the Sugarloaf Historical Association of Hazleton held its second commemorative exercises of the Sugarloaf Massacre at the base of the monument dedicated last year in the Sugarloaf Memorial Park, Conynham. The chief address was made by Mr. Charles Roberts, secretary of the Lehigh County Historical Society, Allentown. This address, containing new and interesting material, was published in full in the *Hazleton Plain Speaker* on September 10, 1934, and will be reprinted in the next publication of the society. During this first year of its existence, the society has grown to a membership of 300, has published a brochure containing valuable articles on local history and genealogy, and has established the annual observance of the massacre, which occurred on September 11, 1780.

The Church Historical Society of Philadelphia has recently issued its *Publication* No. VII. It contains the story of the activities of "The Reverend Thomas Bray," during the latter part of the seventeenth century and the first part of the eighteenth, by the Rev. Edgar Legare Pennington, Ocala, Florida.

On July 13 and 14, 1934, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh Summer Session conducted the third of their jointly sponsored annual historical tours through parts of western Pennsylvania. About forty automobiles comprised the motorcade that followed in general the route of the old Forbes Road eastward from Pittsburgh. Visits were made to Bushy Run Battlefield Park, Greensburg Court House, the Frick Memorial at West Overton, General St. Clair's homes on Chestnut Ridge and near Ligonier, Fort Ligonier,

Schellsburg Union Church and Bedford. Overnight stops were made at Greensburg and Bedford. More than 200 people attended one or more of the luncheon or dinner meetings held at Greensburg, Ligonier and Bedford. As another means of stimulating interest in its work, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has put on a series of special exhibits, two in conspicuous locations, one in the business center of Pittsburgh and another at the Allegheny county fair.

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, through the coöperation of the Philadelphia County Department of Health, is preparing a city and county list of burials from 1803 to 1860. Burials from this source, covering the period 1803 to 1808 have been printed in the *Publications of the Society*, Volume I. Those from 1808 to 1823, typed, indexed and bound, are already in its *Collections*, and available for examination by the general public as well as the membership of the organization. The burials from 1823 to 1860 are being tabulated chronologically and alphabetically under graveyards, with the names and ages of the deceased, as in the original entries, and will likewise be available for examination as promptly as possible. This is an undertaking of value to city and state.

Through the coöperation of Dr. Garrison, State Archivist, a shelf-list has been made of the *Collections*, of the society, numbering over twelve hundred manuscript volumes of Pennsylvania church and public records. It is hoped that this list may later be printed as a guide to researchers and students of family history, and may also serve to clarify the fundamental work of the society, which is not the gathering together of printed genealogical works, but of source-materials for such.

Two members of the society have recently brought from the press volumes which are outstanding as to format, illustration, index and general mechanics: *William Preston of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Allied Families*, by Charles S. Belsterling; and *The Johnson Family and Allied Families of Lincolnshire, England, Being the Ancestry and Posterity of Lawrence Johnson of Philadelphia*, by Robert W. Johnson, Sr., and Lawrence J. Morris. The generosity of Philip Ford Nieukirk, a member, has enabled the society to issue the

second *Special Number* of its *Publications: The Van Nieuw Kirk, Nieu Kirk, New Kirk Family. Some Descendants of Garret Cornelisse and Mattheus Cornelisse Van Nieuw Kirk*. The progenitors of this family came from Holland and settled in Ulster County, New York. Their descendants scattered into the colonies of New Jersey, Virginia and Pennsylvania, and after the Revolution many blazed the westward trail of civilization.

The Monroe County Historical Society made an interesting journey over the Old Mine Road along the Delaware River in New Jersey on July 13, 1934. Members of societies from Stroudsburg, Easton, Bethlehem, Port Jervis and other towns joined in the trip. The old road dates back to the seventeenth century. Mrs. Ralph Decker of Stroudsburg, author of a pamphlet on the historic road, gave an informal talk at the luncheon on the historic points of interest along the route.

The Pike County Historical Society held a summer meeting on the afternoon of July 18, 1934. After a brief business meeting, Mr. Arthur Adams, president of the society spoke with enthusiasm on some old pioneer roads. Mrs. Victoria Fields related the experiences of herself and other members to forgotten cemeteries in Pike county. Miss Alice W. C. Young spoke of the Old Mine Road Pilgrimage made by the Monroe County Historical Society on July 13, 1934.

The Cambria County Historical Society is sponsoring a movement to erect a marker to designate the original Kittanning Trail.

In June, the Perry County Historical Society joined with the Juniata County Historical Society in a tour of inspection of places of historic interest in Juniata county.

PERSONAL

Dr. Paul W. Gates, secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Association and associate professor of history at Bucknell University, has been granted an extension of his leave of absence to enable him to make a study of land acquisition by public agencies for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. This study is part of a broad survey of land policy and utilization which is being prepared by a number of federal agencies and is

to be presented to the President for recommendation for future policy. Dr. Gates' Washington address is 2434 Tunlaw Road, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Professor C. W. Patton, on leave of absence from Oklahoma Baptist University, is taking the place of Dr. Gates at Bucknell University for the first semester of this present school year.

Mr. Daniel J. Gage has joined the faculty of the Bucknell University Junior College at Wilkes-Barre as assistant professor of history. Mr. Gage has a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, and is completing his work at Stanford University for the degree of doctor of philosophy. The subject of his doctoral dissertation is *Paul S. Reinsch and Sino-American Relations*.

We welcome the return to Pennsylvania of Mr. Julian P. Boyd, who has been appointed assistant librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Mr. Boyd edited the papers of the Susquehanna Land Company and during the past two years, until last July, was director of the New York State Historical Association.

Dr. Asa E. Martin, professor of American history at Pennsylvania State College, has been granted a leave of absence for the school year, 1934-35. Dr. Martin is travelling in the western part of the United States and is planning to spend some time in Arizona. His place is being filled in part by Dr. J. Paul Sel-sam, who until recently was the director of the historical survey of Pennsylvania.

Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., formerly of DePauw University, was appointed professor of history and political science at Susquehanna University to succeed the late Dr. Herbert A. Allison, and not Dr. G. Morris Smith as was stated in the first number of this volume. Dr. Smith is the president of Susquehanna University.

Dr. C. Hale Sipe, lawyer and historian of Butler, has delivered many addresses on the history of the Commonwealth during the past summer. He has already consented to deliver eight historical addresses during the remainder of the year.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

BY CURTIS W. GARRISON

An attempt will be made to summarize here the most important material which is being currently accumulated. The various historical societies will benefit by coöperating toward this goal. Their degree of activity will be recognized, and each unit will gain strength from observing the growth of the whole.

Among the many interesting manuscripts recently added to the Dreer collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania were John Barry's Account Current of the Crew of the Alliance, April 15, 1783; Jacob Graff's Cash Book of Middle Ward, Philadelphia, 1778-1782; Daniel W. Coxe's Cash Book, 1816-1836, and also his account of sales of lots at Bloomsbury Mills, 1815-1836 (2 vols.); receipt book of Isaac Harvey, Jr., 1809-1838; a cash sales book of James N. Weems, 1812-1814, and also a day book of Weems and Benjamin Rawlings, 1818-1822; land record book of William Wurtz, 1816-1820; vendue book, estate of John Lewis, Plumstead, 1837; and various account books and reports of Company D, 72nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War. Several hundred manuscripts were added to the Simon Gratz collection, including an account book of Thomas Barnes, 1832-1836. The largest single collection acquired was that of General Daniel Parker, 1800-1830, numbering 18,000 pieces, including a few letters of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe. Other accessions were a volume of letters of "Legal Men of Pennsylvania" (1690-1883); eighty-six letters of "Medical Men of Pennsylvania" (1747-1883); 229 letters of governors of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania lawyers and congressmen, 1768-1913; seventy-four manuscripts in the Edward Carey Gardner collection, including the Journal of John Pennington, 1790-1791, the day book of Edward Pennington, 1799-1806, and the Minutes of the Falls Monthly Meeting, 1725; narrative of John Bartleson's Journal, 1790; diary of Isaac Roach, 1812-1847, and other records of the Roach family; the minute and account book of the Philadelphia Marine and Fire Insurance Company, 1814-1815; eight volumes of day books, ledgers and journals of Alexander Lardner, 1830-1847; diary of Thomas E. Longshore, 1835-1840 (3

vols.); seventy-six pieces from Edward S. Hall's papers of the Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon, Soldiers' Home, etc., 1864-1869. Genealogical material acquired included twenty-four manuscripts of the Tyson family, and Bibles (with records) of the following: William and Margaret Wilson, John M. and Elizabeth T. Wilson, Thomas and Price families, and the Pratt family.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has acquired during the last three months the following noteworthy accessions: A sketch map of the "Camp at Loyal Hannon" (Fort Ligonier), 1758, and other papers of Colonel James Burd; groups of patents, deeds, letters and other papers relating to the Coyle, Forward, Lattimore, Sloan, Way and Whitaker families; and photostatic copies of the only known file, still in private hands, of the *Pittsburgh Gazette* for the years 1822-1825.

Recent acquisitions to the Bucks County Historical Society included, among many other things too numerous to mention, the payroll of Capt. Isaac Coren's Artillery Company in the Revolutionary War, Dec. 1, 1777-Apr. 30, 1780; the account books of John Dyer, M.D., 1835-1869 (5 vols.), as well as several manuscripts; a receipt book of the Doylestown & Danborough Turnpike Company, 1845-1890; the marriage register of Rev. Theophilus Heilig, Lutheran minister of Upper Bucks County, 1841-1926; and a typewritten, morocco-bound copy of the Fretz-Johnston Family Tree, by Marguerite Wilhelmina Fretz-Kinsey. Several interesting photostats were received, including those of a 1696 map of the town of Burlington, two surveys of fording places and roads near Bethlehem in 1760 (one by Nicholas Garrison, Jr., and George Wencelaus Holokofsky), and a Jenny Lind concert program of August 22, 1848.

The Tioga Point Museum at Athens lists the following interesting accessions: petition of Asylum Colonists in 1795 for improvements, schools, and roads; Baird's survey book, 1803, containing forty-three sketches with notes of Asylum Company lands from Sheshequin to Williamsport and Shamokin; deed of Henry Clymer et als. to Thomas Meredith et als., dated Dec. 31, 1827,

conveying 16,000 acres along the Philadelphia-Great Bend Turnpike; a diary kept by Edward A. Murray of Athens sporadically from 1855 to 1864, and also his account book from July, 1858, to July, 1859.

The Lancaster County Historical Society reports the acquisition of material relating to the Franklin Literary Association, including a report of the book committee in 1814 and receipts and book bills, 1848-1849. This association was later called the Lancaster Society of Literature and Science.

The State Library of Pennsylvania, through its Archives Division, announces as recent accessions the collection of J. Simpson Africa, former Secretary of Internal Affairs, which includes some items of the two previous generations, and several hundred letters from his own correspondence; a collection of Reah Frazer, lawyer, of Lancaster, which contains several thousand legal papers and correspondence, 1820's-1850's (a selection of the most interesting of Frazer's correspondence was acquired by the University of Pennsylvania); correspondence and genealogical notes concerning the Stark-Duel family of New England and Pennsylvania; and many Taufscheins, genealogical records and photostats of church records.