THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BY PAUL W. GATES, PH.D.
Bucknell University

THE third annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association was held in Pittsburgh, April 19-20, 1935, jointly with the Annual History Conference of the University of Pittsburgh. Although Pittsburgh may lack the charm and quaint old buildings and customs of Bethlehem and the central location and beautiful scenery of Harrisburg, nevertheless, it proved to be an excellent meeting place. With the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh as hosts, the Program Committee headed by Dr. Alfred P. James, and the Committee on Local Arrangements under the leadership of Judge Robert M. Ewing and Dr. Franklin Holbrook, the meetings were certain of success. Of course, in speaking of Pittsburgh one cannot avoid mentioning the Cathedral of Learning, the Mellon Institute, the excellent Historical Society headquarters and other evidences that within the great industrial periphery of the city contribute the means to the development of a significant culture.

Attendance at all the meetings was gratifyingly large, the total registration being 161. Pittsburgh, as would be expected, was best represented, but there was a scattering of registrations from twenty-two other towns in Western Pennsylvania. Communities in other parts of the state which sent members were State College, Bethlehem, Harrisburg, Annville, Philadelphia, Chambersburg,
Lancaster, Lewisburg, Selinsgrove, Shippensburg and Wilkes-Barre. Neighboring states were represented by eight people.

The program was well diversified, offering something of interest in all fields of Pennsylvania history. Early discoveries, religion, politics, trade, and expansion were among the topics considered. The various papers were well grouped and it was frequently observed that a happy combination of scholarship, human interest, and humor enlivened the program.

The opening luncheon was presided over by Dr. Herbert L. Spencer who welcomed the guests to Pittsburgh. He then introduced the speaker, Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Taking as his subject: "The Real Discoverers of America," Dr. Stefansson in a challenging and provocative address discussed the early explorations of the Norsemen and Irish, and showed that to these groups belong the credit for first visiting and colonizing Iceland and Greenland. From the height of land on the latter island, he contended, the first sight of America was gained by predecessors of Columbus. Dr. Stefansson's address with its challenge to the conventional story aroused much interest and has been widely discussed in the press, both here and abroad. It was an auspicious beginning.

The first general session was held in the Historical Building with the Honorable John S. Fisher, President of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania as chairman. Mr. Fisher introduced Judge Robert M. Ewing who extended the best wishes of the host society to the Association. Speaking for the University of Pittsburgh and its History Department, Dr. John W. Oliver congratulated the Association on its progress and achievements and predicted for it a long and glorious history. In response to the addresses of welcome, Dr. Roy F. Nichols warmly applauded the work of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Historical Survey and pointed out that in bringing Dr. Solon J. Buck to Pennsylvania it had not only made itself one of the major historical societies in the country but had also through him been most influential in bringing about the organization of the Pennsylvania Historical Association.

The first formal paper of the session: "The Personality of Provost William Smith," was given by Mrs. Charles Shuttuck Fox. Mrs. Fox had secured access to a file of correspondence written by Provost Smith while on a trip through England and
Scotland to raise funds for the college in Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania, and from these letters she was able to reconstruct his personality. During the course of the Provost's journeys in Great Britain he came into competition with a representative of King's College, now Columbia, who was likewise seeking funds. Smith's comments on his rival with whom he later teamed were amusing but not always flattering. His experiences and the descriptions of his acquaintances, as told in these letters, comprise valuable information for the student of history.

Dr. Marian Silveus traced in broad strokes the rôle of "The Churches as Agencies of Social Control on the Western Pennsylvania Frontier." The subject which might appear at first glance trite and obvious was developed in an exceedingly interesting fashion and showed what can be done with the subject of religion in local history. Cases were cited from congregational, sessional, and presbyterial records to illustrate church regulation of marriage, Sabbath observance, social activities, business transactions, and personal conduct in such matters as quarreling, telling untruths and talking scandalously. The churches did not make much attempt to check the use of spirituous liquors, however, until the very close of the frontier period. The influence of the church in this period can easily be exaggerated, Dr. Silveus warned in closing, since only one-sixth of the population were members.

A second paper on religious history was read by the Reverend William F. McKinney, the title being: "The Establishment of the Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh." The first Presbyterian clergymen to arrive in Pittsburgh were chaplains, and missionaries to the Indians. The missionaries found it more congenial to work among the white settlers who apparently needed their ministrations, judging by the current accounts of immorality and irreligion which prevailed in Western Pennsylvania. Circuit riding missionaries of the seventeen hundred and seventies and eighties were followed in the last decade of the century by permanent ministers and by the definite establishment of the church.

The Friday evening session at the Hotel Schenley was a delightful combination of food, conviviality and scholarship. Mayor McNair of Pittsburgh revealed his appreciation of history by attending and, stirred by the paper on "Early Lancaster County Politics," took issue with some of the conclusions. The first speaker, Professor Burke M. Hermann, had for his subject:
"The Constitutional Struggle in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790." Professor Hermann showed the bitterness aroused by the constitution of 1776, the social and geographic divisions thereon, and outlined the movement which culminated in the second constitution of 1790. Mr. Philip S. Klein then presented a paper on "Early Lancaster County Politics." The petty bickering and maneuvering of local politicians were recounted, the constant process of disintegration and reorganization going on within political factions was examined, and a miniature picture of politics closely resembling the state and national politics of the period was outlined.

The final paper of the session was given by Mr. J. Cutler Andrews on "The Anti-Masonic Movement in Western Pennsylvania." That there is much latent humor in politics and especially in such an emotional movement as the swift rise to prominence of the Anti-Masons was well demonstrated by Mr. Andrews. Here again a careful analysis of a cross section of a national political movement gave the listeners a clearer insight into political history than can be gained by slavish study of the national whole. The Anti-Masonic movement in Western Pennsylvania with all its peculiar manifestations and ramifications was stripped of its cloak of idealism and revealed as a sordid struggle for power by a few shrewd leaders who seized upon an emotional issue for their own ends.

The Saturday morning session on archives and research was fittingly presided over by Dr. Wayland F. Dunaway whose research into the history of Pennsylvania has led him into much of the archival and manuscript material within the state. Dr. Curtis W. Garrison of the State Library gave the first address on "The State Archives." He described the major collections contained therein and threw out a number of valuable suggestions for research workers to pursue. The state archives of Pennsylvania are in better condition than is the case in many states, but much additional work is necessary to secure for them material still retained in offices which are not able adequately to preserve or make available to students their records.

Dr. Roy F. Nichols, in the absence of Julian Boyd, spoke on "Archival Materials in Philadelphia." Passing rapidly over the subject, he mentioned the chief collections in the following institutions: the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the American
Philosophical Society, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Biddle Law Library, and the Swedish Colonial Society; and the archival materials in the City and County Archives, the Arsenal, the Custom House, and some of the religious societies.

The last paper of the session was presented by Professor Dora Mae Clark on "The British Treasury and the Administration of Military Affairs in the American Colonies, 1754-1774, with Special Reference to Pennsylvania." From her use of British colonial documents, Professor Clark drew material which helps to explain many of the problems and policies of colonial administration. The difficulties of transferring specie, types of currency, the purchase of supplies, and the problem of maintaining adequate stores were among the topics discussed.

The Saturday luncheon conference was presided over by Dr. Alfred H. Sweet, who introduced Miss Helen Kiester. "Western Pennsylvania and the Opening of Mississippi," was the subject of her paper and in it Miss Kiester showed the interest which Pittsburgh had in the opening of the Mississippi. She maintained that it was not only the settlers of the Ohio Valley who were exercised over this matter, but that the interest extended to western Pennsylvania as well.

On Saturday afternoon the Conference on the Teaching of the Social Studies took under consideration the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee on Social Studies of the American Historical Association. Sharp disagreement developed among the various speakers and warm and eloquent were the speeches. Mr. Ray O. Hughes vigorously criticized the Conclusions and Recommendations, especially as to the frame of reference with its prophecy of collectivism, though he also stated that the amount of discussion which had been caused among teachers was a valuable thing. Dr. Percival W. Hutson defended the frame of reference, but took vigorous exception to a number of pedagogical suggestions contained in the Report. In the discussion that followed Professor Emerson H. Loucks and Mr. Percy B. Caley cleverly defended the Report and there was considerable discussion from the floor.

The final meeting with Dr. Arthur P. Whitaker as guest speaker was a fitting climax to a most successful conference. Dr. Whitaker's paper: "Capitalism, Agrarianism, and Territorial Expansion, 1800-1850," was a scholarly and brilliant challenge to the
thesis of Dr. Charles A. Beard that our expansion in its early
days was primarily agrarian for the purpose of obtaining more
land for farmers. He contended that trade had a great deal to
do with this desire for more land. Dr. Whitaker then went on
to explain his belief that our interest in expansion was not due so
much to economic causes as it was to imponderable factors—
a restless desire to expand, a lust for dominion, and a belief in
the manifest destiny of a superior race.

The annual business meeting of the Association was held in
the School for the Blind. Dr. Roy F. Nichols presided in the
absence of President A. Boyd Hamilton. The Secretary reported
that the Association had enjoyed a most successful year. One
hundred and eight new members have been secured during the year
while thirteen have died or resigned. The total membership,
including subscriptions, is shown by the following table:

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<th>Class of Membership</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1934</th>
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<td>Sustaining</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11</td>
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Unfortunately, these figures are somewhat more optimistic in
appearance than in actuality, since, like all similar organizations,
the Association is already incurring delinquency among its mem-
ers. It is hoped that this situation will be rapidly improved by
the prompt action of each individual member who is in arrears.

The Treasurer's report is as follows:

- Cash balance, April 1, 1934 $137.29
- Receipts, May 1, 1934-April 1, 1935 653.25

Total $790.54

Expenditures, bills approved and paid 669.75
Cash balance on hand, April 1, 1935 $120.79

The expenditures are entirely devoted to the publication and mail-
ing of the magazine, together with postage for the Secretary
and Membership Committee.

The Chairman of the Membership Committee, Miss Frances
Dorrance, reported the results of work for the year. Most suc-
cessful had been the campaign among the summer school students. It was emphasized that future memberships can best be secured by present members taking an active part in the membership campaign by urging their associates and the institutions with which they are connected to join.

Resolutions were adopted expressing deep sorrow at the death of Dr. Herman V. Ames, one of the foremost historians in the country. Also resolutions were adopted expressing appreciation to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind for the splendid facilities provided by them for the convention. Dr. A. P. James and the members of the Program Committee were thanked for providing such an interesting and varied program.

Mr. Julian Boyd was elected to the Council and Dr. L. H. Gipson and Dr. H. R. Mueller were reelected. Professor Russell J. Ferguson and Dr. Dora Mae Clark were elected to the Editorial Board. Dr. Nichols announced that the Council had voted to hold the annual meeting in the fall instead of the spring and had accepted an invitation from the Department of History of the University of Pennsylvania to meet in Philadelphia in October. The Council likewise voted to cooperate with other groups in an effort to have a statue of William Penn placed in the Hall of Fame, and also to urge the proper authorities to publish the early statutes of Pennsylvania.