THE Pennsylvania Historical Association held its annual meeting (the second for 1935 because of the change in date from spring to fall) in Philadelphia, October 25 and 26, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. The host societies were the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, the History Club, and the City History Society of Philadelphia. The many historic sites of Philadelphia, the magnificent collections in the Historical Society library which attract all students of American history, an excellent program, and charming fall weather all combined to draw a generous attendance from State College, Lewisburg, Harrisburg, Annville, Chambersburg, Allentown, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburgh, and other cities and towns nearer Philadelphia. All sessions were well attended and keen interest was shown in the papers, lectures and reports. The program, prepared under the direction of President Hamilton, President Melvin of the Federation, Miss M. Atherton Leach, Mr. Julian P. Boyd, Dr. James A. Barnes, Dr. Arthur C. Bining and Dr. Roy F. Nichols, and the work of the Reception Committee under the leadership of Colonel John Gribbel and Miss M. Atherton Leach won very favorable comments.

The program consisted of three general sessions and two business meetings. The former were devoted to Pennsylvania legal history, the American Constitution and its present interpretation, and general Pennsylvania history. Inasmuch as most of the formal papers are to be published, it does not seem necessary to abstract them here.

President Melvin of the Federation and Professor Francis Philbrick of the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania arranged the session on legal history which proved to be most interesting and valuable. The two speakers were Justice William B. Linn of the Supreme Court and Mr. Edwin Jaquette Sellers who
gave addresses on "The Colonial Records of Pennsylvania" and "The Long Lost First Volume of Pennsylvania Statutes."

Social history was not neglected. Mr. H. W. Kriebel of the Perkiomen Historical Society presented a paper on "The Contributions of the Schwenkfelders to the Music of Colonial Pennsylvania," and Mrs. Judith Anderson of Lehigh University detailed the activities of "Anna Dickinson, Anti-slavery Radical." The other papers were Dr. L. Dodson's "Philadelphia through the Eyes of a Colonial Governor"; Mr. Frederick K. Miller's "Colonial Farmer at Work in Pennsylvania"; Mr. John H. Powell's "John Dickinson and his Political Ideas"; Dr. Herman L. Collins' (Girard of the Philadelphia Inquirer) "Romance of Pennsylvania History;" and Mr. C. F. Hoban's "Co-operation between the Schools and Historical Agencies of the State." Mr. Gilbert S. Bailey of the Philadelphia City History Society led an historical pilgrimage through central Philadelphia. An exhibition of photocopying devices was arranged at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania under the direction of Dr. James A. Barnes of Temple University and Dr. Albert Cook Myers arranged an exhibition of material belongings to the Genealogical and Historical Societies at their headquarters.

The most popular program of the convention and one which drew a large Philadelphia audience was the Friday evening joint-session at which the approaching 150th Anniversary of the adoption of the Federal Constitution was discussed. The Honorable James M. Beck reviewed the celebration held in Philadelphia forty-eight years ago and suggested that the 1937 celebration follow it closely. Mr. Beck commented upon the recent attitude of public officials toward the Constitution and warned that the road back to 1787 was the only safe road for the country to follow. Congressman Sol Bloom of New York, in a more optimistic vein, pointed out that similar warnings against the extension of federal power had been voiced as early as Washington's administration and that the dire results predicted had not occurred. Mr. Bloom urged that two celebrations be held, one on September 17, 1937, to commemorate the signing of the Constitution at Philadelphia, and the second on June 21, 1938, Constitution Day, when the ninth state ratified it. A message from Governor Earle, printed elsewhere in this issue, was read at this meeting.
At a special session held on Saturday evening when the visiting historians were guests of Temple University's honorary History Club at dinner, Dr. Solon J. Buck, formerly of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society and now of the National Archives, gave a talk on "The National Archives and their Future Development."

The report of Dr. L. H. Gipson, chairman of the program and policy committee, which was authorized at the Pittsburgh meeting, was presented at the business meeting of the Association. The committee stressed the necessity for a careful examination of the field of Pennsylvania history in order to find out what has been done, what gaps exist, and what are the most needed and profitable fields for investigation. A second project recommended by the committee is that of preparing a great comprehensive history of Pennsylvania. Such a work, it was stressed, should be undertaken cooperatively. These recommendations are to be considered at the meeting of the council in January.

The treasurer's report showed a substantial balance in the treasury—more than sufficient to meet all bills for the remainder of the year. The secretary's report expressed concern at the slow collections and high turnover in our membership and urged the prompt payment of dues. An active campaign is planned to place PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY in every library in the state. Dr. Albert Cook Myers was elected an honorary member of the Association.

The members of the Association were much interested in various actions taken by the Federation at its general session on Friday afternoon. These actions are bound to be significant and are reported to the members of the Association as follows:

"WHEREAS, The early court records of the several counties of Pennsylvania, as well as the similar early records of this Commonwealth, both before and after the Revolutionary War, are in many cases lying unknown in county court houses or municipal buildings, uncared for and scattered; and

WHEREAS, the attention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies has been directed to this condition by the
Honorable William B. Linn, Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies sponsor and cause to be introduced into the next General Assembly to be convened, a bill requiring the assembling of all such records prior to the year 1800 in some central location, and for the preservation, repair and indexing thereof, said bill to provide for the necessary expenditures and for the work to be performed by a person or persons to be specially named by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and under its immediate direction and supervision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, to the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and to the presiding officers of each House of Legislation."

"RESOLVED, That the president of the Federation is hereby authorized and instructed to appoint a Publicity Committee including himself to represent the various historical societies, clubs and associations, allied in the Federation, said committee to serve as the medium of contact between the Federation and the Congressional Constitution Committee and kindred historical committees, to collate advance information respecting the adoption of the Federal Constitution and the contemplated sesquicentennial celebration thereof and to give seasonable publicity to the same by supplying data to the public press and by other appropriate means."

"RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies in formal autumn meeting assembled in Philadelphia, suggests that the Pennsylvania State Forest Commission and the State Department of Forests and Waters as early as possible acquire for a public park sufficient land to preserve the view at the site of the French settlement in Bradford county known as Asylum."

The council of the Association voted to hold its next meeting at Harrisburg at the time of the annual meeting of the Federation.
At that session the place and plans for the next annual meeting of the Association will be discussed.

A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR EARLE

"The Constitution of the United States is the firm rock foundation upon which our American orderly civilization is built. One hundred and forty-eight years of use has both proven its worth and inspired our loyalty. I join with the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies and other patriotic organizations in the belief that the home state of Pennsylvania should celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of our great American charter of liberties, and to this end I pledge my full cooperation as Governor of this Commonwealth.

"Changing needs of a complex industrial age may require amendments in the future, as in the past. In Tennyson's happy phrase, this is a land where our 'freedom slowly broadens down from precedent to precedent.' I join with you in honoring the immortal labors of its authors."

GEORGE H. EARLE

¹ Sent to the joint-session of the Pennsylvania Historical Association and the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, October 25, 1935.