

NEWS AND COMMENT

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

The annual meeting of the Association will be held at Reading, November 13 and 14, 1936. Professor Milton W. Hamilton of Albright College, chairman of the program committee, promises a varied program which will be attractive to all. Dr. Ferguson of the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Barnes of Temple University will take part. Professor S. K. Stevens of Pennsylvania State College will discuss: "The Election of 1896 in Pennsylvania," while Mr. E. B. Cale will present a paper: "Editorial Sentiment in Pennsylvania During the Campaign of 1860."

Dr. Frank Monaghan of Yale University and Dr. John A. Krout of Columbia University are expected to participate in the program. Albright College will entertain visitors at a Saturday evening dinner at which it is expected Doctor Krout will speak. The attention of public school teachers is especially directed to a Saturday morning session devoted to the interests of their group. An increased attendance for this feature is to be hoped.

The Berks County Historical Society and Albright College are joint hosts and the hospitality they are extending should be enjoyed by one of the largest annual meetings of our history. Mr. Bennett Nolan is chairman of the committee on arrangements.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

This summer seems to have been an unusually productive one in the historical society world. Ordinarily, these months mark a certain natural lassitude in such fields of activity. A review of some of the developments of the past few months will serve, however, to dissipate this impression.

One feature which has become an annual event of justly recognized importance in the summer historical program is the Historical Tour conducted by the Historical Society of Western

Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh Summer Session. This year the tour of July 17 and 18, 1936 was directed from Pittsburgh to Clarion by way of Butler, Brady's Bend, Oil City, Titusville and Cook Forest. Leaving Pittsburgh at noon on Friday, the party reached Oil City for eventful evening ceremonies featuring three major papers on the history of the oil industry in the region. At Titusville the following noon, the group was treated to a paper by Dr. Paul H. Giddens on "The Seneca Oil Company." Clarion State Teacher's College was the host at the evening dinner meeting the same day, and the Honorable Theodore L. Wilson spoke on "Pioneer Furnace Masters and Iron Furnaces," while Reverend Daniel A. Platt discussed "Lumbering on Local Streams." The tour was an outstanding success.

The May meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was given over to a program presented by graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. William J. Bining of Ambridge High School presented a paper on "Early History of Glassmaking in Western Pennsylvania," while Miss Callista Schraum of Knoxville Junior High School discussed "William Findley in Pennsylvania Politics."

An important by-product of the Folk Festival at Lewisburg has been the reorganization of the Pennsylvania Folk Lore Society, originally organized by Bishop Darlington in 1917. The first reorganization meeting was held at the President's House, Bucknell University, June 8, 1936 and was presided over by Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker. A general discussion was followed by a unanimous decision to revitalize the society, and Colonel Shoemaker was made chairman and preparations made to draw up a constitution and appoint regional representatives to aid in the work. Mr. William S. Troxell, of Allentown, invited the group to his city for their next meeting. On July 27th another meeting was held in the Allentown High School to continue the work of reorganization. Reverend Thomas Brendle served as temporary chairman in the absence of Colonel Shoemaker, while Mr. George Korson assumed the secretarial rôle. Mr. Oliver J. Decker of Williamsport reported the new constitution, which was unanimously approved. New officers elected were Colonel Shoemaker, president; Mr. Oliver J. Decker, Dr. Herman L. Collins, Dr. Frederic A. Godcharles, Mr. Ernest G. Smith and Reverend Thomas R. Bren-

dle as vice-presidents; Mr. George G. Korson of Lewisburg, secretary with Mr. Dayton L. Ranck as treasurer. The Board of Directors is to be made up of former Governor John S. Fisher, President Martz of Bucknell University, Miss Frances Dorrance, Mr. O. R. Howard Thomson, Mr. Philip H. Dewey, Mr. E. W. Hess, Mr. William S. Troxell, Miss Louise C. Schroeder and Mr. J. Herbert Walker.

It is certain that all members of the Pennsylvania Historical Association will welcome this revival of the Pennsylvania Folk Lore Society. Some of our members are active in this newly functioning sister organization and it is to be hoped that many members of the Association interested in folklore as an important part of Pennsylvania history will see fit to support the society. Conversely, we will welcome affiliation by its members who are not already with us in the broader work of the Association. We await with interest the further activities of the folklorists.

The Cameron County Historical Society and the Potter County Historical Society united on July 18, 1936 in a picnic, held at Cowley Run Park near Sizerville in the former county. The Cameron county people furnished the program and mutual interchanges of a similar character are looked forward to for the future.

The Greene County Archaeological and Historical Survey sponsored by WPA got under way with seventeen workers early in August. An inventory and description of county records, newspapers and manuscript collections will constitute the historical work. Excavations, mainly in search of Indian lore, will feature the archaeological side of the project. The latter work has already proved fruitful. Near Waynesburg two mouldy but well preserved lead plates have been uncovered which seem definitely to prove that the French laid claim to the region in 1751.

The Erie County Historical Society and the Crawford County Historical Society coöperated in a joint tour, with representatives from New York and Ohio, on August 26, 1936. The journey began at the Old Customs House, State and Fourth streets, Erie, and was devoted to a survey of the French occupation of the region. William Mann explained maps copied from originals in the French archives and secured through the coöperation of Mr. Ross Pier Wright.

Further evidence of this same commendable coöperative spirit was exhibited by the joint pilgrimage of the Union County Historical Society and the Snyder County Society on July 11, 1936, to points of interest in the former county. A group of over fifty, including some representatives from the Northumberland County Historical Society, visited old Winfield Iron Furnace, Dreisbach's Church and several other sites. Next year it is planned to coöperate in a tour of Snyder county shrines.

The ninth annual summer tour of the Northumberland County Historical Society was undertaken August 19, 1936 from Sunbury Court House. Sites of the Blue Ball Tavern, McKee's Trading Post and many other points of interest were examined and their history recalled.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Lancaster County Historical Society was celebrated June 27, 1936 with a pilgrimage to Wheatland, the Bayard Taylor ancestral home, the Simon Cameron home and a tour of Lititz and Ephrata. The society reports the acquisition of several new items for its already rich collection.

The Manuscript Survey undertaken for the Chester County Historical Society is well under way. Old church records, maps, manuscripts and other items are being collected and properly classified. The society is hopeful of securing funds in the future for the construction of a new fire-proof building in which to house its growing collections.

The Erie County Historical Society at its July, 1936, meeting laid plans for a year of fruitful activity. Mrs. Lucy Birchard, in charge of classifying papers and records, reported the work well under way. Plans were considered by which the society might coöperate with the schools in forwarding knowledge of and interest in local history. The society expects to devote more effort in the future toward effective publicizing of its activities. It is hoped also to hold several general or community meetings with the aim of insuring a wider interest in the work of the society.

Clinton county historians are looking forward to a year of renewed activity. The society suffered the past year from the death of its able and aggressive head, County Superintendent of Schools Guy C. Brosius. Mr. J. F. Puderbaugh, head of the Lock

Haven school system, is the newly elected president. A WPA project was begun July 1, 1936, designed to prepare a suitable history of the county.

James Gregg, Greensburg attorney, recently for the fourth time, was elected president of the Western Pennsylvania-Fayette branch of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. The organization plans the early publication of at least three monographs designed for use in local schools. One will deal with the Whiskey Insurrection, another with the campaigns of Washington in the area, and a third with the colonization of the Ohio country. It is hoped that a fourth monograph on the early iron industry of the region can be prepared within a short time.

The Lehigh County Historical Society was the recipient recently of a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Mrs. C. Rosa Troxell of Wilkes-Barre.

County Superintendent I. D. App was the principal speaker before the ever active Dauphin County Historical Society at its June, 1936, meeting. Mr. App traced the history of Berrysburg, Gratz, Pillow and surrounding townships from their early origins. The Dauphin county historical collections have been enriched greatly by gifts from Dr. George A. Gorgas, Mr. Vance C. McCormick and others.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The outstanding event of the summer in the realm of Pennsylvania history was the successful completion of the projected Folk Festival at Lewisburg. Sponsors of the affair estimate that nearly thirty thousand persons witnessed the four days and nights of events based upon the early customs and traditions of the state. A national radio hook up headed by station WJZ, New York, broadcast excerpts from some of the more noteworthy features of the program, a striking testimonial to the attention now centered nationally upon folklore.

Space does not permit a complete account of the varied features of the program beyond that presented in the last issue. It was a difficult task indeed visited upon the judges responsible for deciding the winners of various contests. Garbed in the dress typical of the Pennsylvania German settlements—men wearing somber,

black coats reaching nearly to the knees, and women attired in long, flowing dresses of the same color—the Allentown square dance team was first for this feature. Mr. Robert Wheeler, likewise of Allentown, took honor in the tall story contest, while Mr. Alton Knorr disposed of an Indian blanket to capture the auctioneer's crown. Don Walsh, of Centralia, garbed in old-time miner's costume with oil-burning torch, won honors in the ballad contest with a song of the early days of anthracite mining. Mrs. Florence Holiday of Philadelphia, placed first among street criers, while Mr. Archie Miller of New Berlin was declared the best fiddler; jig dancing honors went to Mr. C. Cramer of Ashland.

The program was brought to a fitting climax on Sunday with a great choral program of sacred music from the pens of Pennsylvania composers. The earliest composition included was William G. Fisher's well known "I Love to Tell the Story," written in 1835. The Shawnee Choral Society of Plymouth, Pennsylvania, sang three of the religious compositions of Gwylim Gwent, noted Welsh miner-composer. A massed choir, including representatives of churches in several counties, sang several hymns ranging from those of an early day to the more recent work of Dr. Will George Butler. Mr. W. Caldwell Mathias of Milton directed the choir. Another special choral group presented hymns typical of the Moravian faith.

The highest praise is due the untiring efforts of those responsible for the success of this great enterprise. Led by Mr. George G. Korson, numerous individuals in all sections of the state assisted in organizing the regional festivals and finally staging and adequately advertising the concluding major festival. The work of organization and advertising was especially well handled. It is stated that any profits accruing from the enterprise will go toward the erection of a permanent museum at Lewisburg, devoted to housing material illustrative of the social and economic history of the Commonwealth.

Writing of the Lewisburg festival calls attention to the important work recently accomplished by the Allentown Recreation Commission. The Commission recently secured the recording of some forty-five ancient folk songs and ballads of the Pennsylvania Germans. Mrs. Jane Masonheimer, seventy-eight-year-old resident of Egypt, Pennsylvania, was "discovered" by Reverend Thomas R.

Brendle and is reputed to be the only living person acquainted fully with the words of some of the older Pennsylvania German ballads. The recording of these ballads by the Commission with the cooperation of Mrs. Masonheimer is most commendable.

The Clarion (Pennsylvania) Republican presented in the late July and early August 1936, issues, a valuable series of articles by Mr. Theodore L. Wilson of Clarion, dealing with the history of the iron industry in that county. Mr. Wilson calls attention to the fact that over half the iron made in northern Pennsylvania between 1845 and 1854 came from Clarion county, which was known in many quarters as "The Iron County." The articles contain much valuable information, including a list of furnaces and much statistical material.

August 8, 1936 marked the annual recognition of a later chapter in the history of the Pennsylvania iron industry. At Scotia, Centre county, some six hundred former residents of this now deserted village gathered for an annual picnic. Begun in 1922, it has become a yearly means of recalling the memories associated with the once flourishing village built up about the Carnegie mining interests. A rich exhibit of photographs, relics and other materials served to recall the scenes of former days. Mr. Harry Williams of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, is preparing a history of the Scotia operations which should provide a valuable contribution.

A recent press release of the State Highway Department reveals interesting facts about our transportation system. Based upon the archives of the Department it shows that Pennsylvania in 1830 had in operation 2,500 miles of toll roads. By 1911, when the legislature created the Toll Roads Commission, but 722 miles of these roads remained in operation, though there were over one hundred companies with a capital investment of \$3,199,535 still active. Later in the same year, with the establishment of the State Highway system by the Sproul Act, 521 miles of these roads were taken over by the state. The first to be purchased was the Chambersburg and Medford turnpike, 18.6 miles in length and costing the state \$17,121.18 when acquired April 2, 1914. The last purchase was made but six years ago when the Lancaster and New Holland turnpike with 5.39 miles from Lancaster to Mechanicsburg was taken over at a cost of \$39,000. During the period from

1914 to 1930, while the state was taking over these turnpikes, the companies were forced from natural causes to abandon about 200 miles without purchase.

From the *Lancaster New Era* of July 30, 1936, we learn that Mr. H. Frank Eshleman, attorney and local historian, has collected important data in England regarding the early settlement of Lancaster county by Hans Herr and his fellow Swiss Mennonites in October, 1710.

The Scenic and Historic Commission has prepared for distribution free of charge several thousand map folders which are of interest. They may be secured from the Commission, Room 106, North Office Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

July 4, 1936 was celebrated the length and breadth of the nation, but perhaps most significantly at Philadelphia where the events which gave cause for the celebration had their original setting. Observances there were featured by afternoon ceremonies at the Liberty Bell where Mayor Wilson gently tapped with a rubber mallet notes picked up by radio and broadcast to the world. Religious and patriotic groups joined in a union service at Old Christ Church, Second Street above Market, where Washington worshipped and Robert Morris and James Wilson lie buried. Reverend E. A. Palmquist of the Federation of Churches delivered the principal address, characterizing the founding fathers as "leftists" who forged ahead to found a new political and social order, conservative warnings to the contrary. An official celebration was staged at Independence Hall by the City Council and attended by city officials and naval officers with some three thousand others.

Secretary of Internal Affairs Thomas A. Logue announces that the department has reprinted copies of the genealogical map of Pennsylvania on 12 x 18 sheets suitable for framing, showing the evolution of the Commonwealth from 1682 to the final sixty-seven counties. Copies may be secured free of charge by addressing the Secretary.

The Thaddeus Stevens Memorial Committee staged, on August 15, 1936, the annual visitation to the grave of the great Pennsylvania parliamentarian and humanitarian. Mrs. Crystal Bird Fauset, associate state WPA administrator, and Mr. T. F. Wood-

ley of Bangor, Pennsylvania, Stevens authority, were speakers for the occasion. Lancaster city officials participated in the ceremonies.

Mark Sullivan in one of his recent columns commented upon the results of some research undertaken by him a few years ago to determine the number of American business enterprises in the hands of one family for a century or more. The total number he found to be somewhat less than one hundred, of which over forty were located in Philadelphia. The oldest family firm Sullivan asserts is the Francis Perot's Sons Malting Company of Philadelphia, founded in 1687. Lancaster, characterized by Mr. Sullivan as "one of the most interesting small cities in America," is listed with several firms. The drug store founded by Carl Heinitzch (now Heinitsh) in 1780, the Steinman Hardware Company in 1744, Hager and Brother Department Store, founded in 1821, and H. C. Demuth, tobacco manufacturers, were all listed as remaining in the control of one family for one hundred years or more. Undoubtedly, Mr. Sullivan would appreciate any corrections or additions that might be made to his list.

This subject reveals a fruitful source of research and study in economic history. How much light could be shed upon the evolution of business institutions and methods through a careful study of one of these firms over a century and based upon original records. Many historical societies are appreciative of the value of business records as sources for economic and social history, and it is hoped that more may be done in the way of collecting such materials in the future.

The summer has been fruitful in religious anniversaries. In every section and among almost every denomination we find records of a century or more of religious service. At Bally Mission, Berks county, July 26, 1936, was given over to a district assembly of the Holy Name Societies Union of that and near-by counties in tribute to the 195th year of the old Catholic Mission there, third oldest Catholic church in Pennsylvania. Established by the Jesuits, this place became a center for the training and direction of missionaries whose influence radiated out over a wide area. The old log building has long since been replaced by a brick structure which today houses a priceless collection of materials relating to early Jesuit activities.

At Sugar Creek the Catholic Chapel celebrated on August 23, 1936, the anniversary of its founding in 1806 by Father Sylvester Phelan. The old log chapel is still standing and is one of the historic religious shrines of Western Pennsylvania.

In the same section, September 5 and 6, 1936 were devoted to recognition of 150 years of service by Methodism at Fells Methodist Church on the West Newton-Donora road. A historical pageant was presented. At Brownsville, Pennsylvania, 161 years of Methodism were reviewed in an anniversary celebration July 5 and 6, 1936. In central Pennsylvania another Methodist ceremonial on August 16th paid tribute to 149 years of the Methodist movement in what is now Centre county with services at Curtin Methodist Episcopal Church. A tablet, authorized by the Historical Commission, was unveiled in memory of Philip and Susan Antes in whose log cabin near the present church the first Methodist services were held by Reverend David Combs, a circuit rider, in July, 1787.

Baptist anniversaries were not wanting. Sunday, August 2, 1936 marked one hundred years of growth of the South Ten Mile Baptist Church where the first Baptist congregation in the Waynesburg area held its meeting in 1836. In the east, Great Valley Baptist Church, Devon Road, Valley Forge, marked 225 years of activity with appropriate ceremonies on June 22, 1936. This was the second oldest church of the denomination in this area and it became the parent of many other churches which developed as the Baptist faith spread in the region.

At Mingo, Pennsylvania, Presbyterians gathered September 12 to 15, 1936 in tribute to 150 years of the faith and presented an historical pageant. In Lancaster, historic Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church unveiled a beautiful monument to the pioneer activity of Scotch-Irish immigrants in establishing that faith in this section.

The Denmark-Manor Evangelical and Reformed Church at Greensburg on June 25, 1936 celebrated 150 years of its history, and in Philadelphia elaborate ceremonies were devoted on June 20th to recalling the history of Old Swedes Church, oldest religious center in the city. At Radnor, September 6, 1936 Old St. David's Episcopal Church observed 222 years of continuous religious work.

Pennsylvania material recently acquired by the Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division, includes papers of Frederick A. C. Muhlenburg, former Governor Heister and Mathew S. Quay. A manuscript autobiography of Conrad Weiser has also come into the possession of the Division.

We are sorry to note that Dr. Paul W. Gates, our able secretary and recently appointed member of the Historical Commission, is leaving the state to accept a position at Cornell University. Perhaps no one has given more generously of time and effort to build up the Association than Dr. Gates and his loss to the historical fellowship of the state is indeed a great one.

Dr. Arthur P. Whitaker, formerly of Cornell University, has accepted a position at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Whitaker has distinguished himself by his work in early American diplomatic history and in Spanish-American history. Those who attended the meeting of the Association at Pittsburgh in April, 1935, will remember his able address at the concluding dinner meeting. We welcome Dr. Whitaker to Pennsylvania and trust that he will become a valued participant in the activities of the Association.

The June, 1936, number of the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* contains an article by Marian Silveus entitled "Churches and Social Control on the Western Pennsylvania Frontier." This paper was presented at the annual meeting of the Association at Pittsburgh and those who remember it may wish to review it. The same issue presents an extremely interesting article by Dr. Solon J. Buck on "Frontier Economy in Southwestern Pennsylvania."

The July, 1936, number of the *American Historical Review* contains an outstanding paper by Dr. Paul W. Gates entitled "The Homestead Act in an Incongruous Land System." Dr. Gates opposes the old theory of the Homestead Act of 1862 as opening the rich public domain of the nation to the common man. He narrates the rôle of speculation and private manipulation in the utilization of our vast heritage of public lands after 1862 in a manner that is so thorough and convincing as to change our point of view about this entire matter for the future.

Significantly, the same issue contains Dr. Fred Shannon's article on the "Homestead Act and the Labor Surplus." Dr. Shannon is from Kansas State College and he disputes vigorously the thesis of the frontier as a reservoir into which was drained early social discontent.

The sesquicentennial and centennial spirit which seems to have captured the nation has not passed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While no mammoth expositions have thus far blossomed forth, the past summer will go down in history as the summer of centennial observances in every section of the state. All of them have been interesting and no doubt extremely valuable in recalling early history and expanding a historical consciousness upon the part of the people.

One of the earliest observances was the recognition on June 17, 1936 of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Monroe county. Celebrated as a part of the annual Laurel Blossoms Festival, this one day was given over to an historical pageant at Stroudsburg portraying fourteen different episodes in the history of the county.

At Berwick, Pennsylvania, a more pretentious program occupying an entire week was devoted to the proper celebration of the sesquicentennial of this thriving industrial center. Sheriff Fleming, personal representative of King Edward VIII, Mayor Phillip Spowart of Berwick-on-Tweed, Scotland, and the Sergeant Mace of the same community were guests who came from abroad in honor of the event. Governor Earle and other dignitaries honored the occasion, while an outstanding feature was an elaborate pageant utilizing some hundreds of persons portraying the evolution of the city. The celebration was opened June 29th, and closed with a Fourth of July parade.

At Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a WPA project provided the basis for the presentation on the evening of June 29, 1936 of a pageant depicting the history of Cambria county from 1731 and the Indian settlement on the present site of Johnstown to the present. The evolution of transportation, the rise of education and the development of law and justice were stressed as distinctive aspects of the evolution of the area.

Hooversville, Somerset county, devoted the week of June 21st to the review of a century of history. Laid out in 1836 by Jonas Hoover, the borough was incorporated in 1895 and its history has

been associated with the mining industry. The week was devoted to varied forms of entertainment and the recalling of landmarks in the history of the village.

August saw the number of anniversary celebrations reaching a peak. In northern Pennsylvania, 150 years of the development of Athens township was fittingly observed August 4, 1936 by Athens and Sayre. An historical address was delivered by Abner Wright of Lowman, New York, and other appropriate ceremonies were observed. At Sheffield, Warren County, the later half of the same week was given over to a centennial observance.

In western Pennsylvania, Fulton County and McConnellsburg began on August 1, 1936 four days of pageantry, addresses and entertainment marking the centennial of the founding of McConnellsburg. Bishop Francis McConnell and Governor Earle were among the notables present. The program closed with an elaborate pageant depicting local history.

Historic Hollidaysburg began on August 9th a week of gala celebration in recognition of a century of progress. This history of this village is in a large part associated with the history of transportation within the state, and quite naturally the ceremonies stressed this phase of its development. Five presidents of the Pennsylvania Railroad began their rise in Hollidaysburg, and it was here that Andrew Carnegie also spent some early years. The Pennsylvania Canal brought many celebrities to the village and made it an important center in the development of this early type of transport. One interesting feature of the celebration was a Sunday devoted mainly to services in the various churches of a historical nature reviewing religious history. Historical exhibits were varied and a pageant contributed much to the success of the ceremonies.

The 253rd anniversary of the arrival of the first German settlers in the Lehigh Valley was commemorated August 9, 1936 at Beethoven Waldheim with a German Day festival. Addresses and folk music of both instrumental and vocal varieties featured the day.

July 3rd marked the 158th anniversary of the Wyoming Massacre and suitable services were held on that date at the site. The speaker was Mr. Julian P. Boyd of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania who discussed the "Political Ideals of the American Revo-

lution." Miss Ann Dorrance introduced the speaker and presided over the ceremonies.

President Roosevelt has appointed a committee to cooperate with the state in the observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Senator Guffey, Governor White of Mississippi, Representative Jones of Texas and Representative Haines of Pennsylvania are members of the committee headed by the Secretary of War.

At Cherry Springs Park, Potter county, on the famous Couderdport-Jersey Shore pike, CCC workers are busily engaged in a restoration of the famous Cherry Springs tavern. The old tavern having disappeared, an exact log replica is being constructed.

The Scenic and Historic Commission reports a marked expansion of tourist interest in Pennsylvania. From all quarters of the country have come requests for the literature provided by the Commission. It is felt that it is already justifying the purposes of its creation in broadening appreciation of the historic and scenic possibilities of the state.

At Harrisburg on June 11, 1936 Colonel Ernest G. Smith of the Commission urged upon the Pennsylvania Parks Association the wider advertising of the Commonwealth in respect to these matters. Charles H. Taylor of Washington, D. C., assistant director of the CCC described the work of this organization in developing the forest and park facilities of the state. Dr. James F. Bogardus, secretary of Forests and Waters, detailed the ambitious park program of the state administration which, he declared, would place Pennsylvania second to none in respect to its public parks and forest recreational areas.

Teaching the Social Studies in Secondary Schools, by Arthur C. Bining and David H. Bining, has been recommended by the National Education Association and the American Library Association as one of the best educational books of 1935. The book is being used as a text in a large number of teacher-training institutions. The volume is published by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York.

The first three volumes of Dr. Lawrence H. Gipson's work on *The British Empire Before the American Revolution* have been published recently by the Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho. They will be reviewed in the January number of the magazine.