

NEWS AND COMMENT

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Under the direction of Dr. Lawrence A. Gipson, the program for October 27 and 28 meeting at Bethlehem has already been completed in tentative form. It is doubtful whether any major changes will later need to be made. Sessions for the conference will begin on Friday with a luncheon at the D.A.R. home in Bethlehem, sponsored by the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Two papers will be presented at this time. Mr. C. R. Roberts of the Lehigh County Historical Society will discuss "The American Revolution in the Lehigh Valley," while Dr. Frederick Tilberg, historian of the National Park Service at Gettysburg, will speak on "The National Park Historical Service."

At two-thirty on October 27, the Packard Building of the University will be the center for an afternoon meeting. Mr. Nicholas Biddle Wainwright will discuss, "The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and its Recent Accessions of Manuscripts," while Mr. Earl Hartman of Slatington will speak on "Josiah White and the Building of the Lehigh Canal." "The Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania," will be the theme of a paper by Mr. R. L. Brunhouse. Five o'clock musical vespers will be held at the University chapel. The formal dinner meeting will take place at seven o'clock at the Hotel Bethlehem, at which time the Association will be welcomed by President Williams of Lehigh University and Mayor Robert Pfeiffle of Bethlehem. Dr. R. D. W. Connor, head of the National Archives, will deliver the address on "The National Archives and Pennsylvania History."

A breakfast meeting of the Council will be held at eight-thirty on Saturday followed by the annual business meeting at nine-thirty. At ten-thirty the hotel will be the location for morning session on the general subject of "The American Revolution in

Pennsylvania." "Social and Economic Factors in the Revolution in Pennsylvania," will be discussed by Mr. Benjamin Keen of the University of Pennsylvania, while Professor Johnson of Bucknell University will speak on "Allan Cameron, Loyalist." "Thomas Fitzsimmons, Revolutionary Merchant Prince," will be the subject of a paper by Miss Catherine McCandless. The noon luncheon will be sponsored by the Northampton and Lehigh County Historical Societies and the Moravian Historical Society. The general theme will be Pennsylvania German influences in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Elsie Singmaster will speak on "The Pennsylvania German," while Mr. Edwin H. Brumbaugh, Philadelphia architect, will speak on "German Architecture in Pennsylvania."

The afternoon will be devoted to the usual historical pilgrimage. A tour of the Moravian buildings will be made, while the Bucks County Museum at Doylestown, Trout Hall, home of the Lehigh County Historical Society, and Muhlenberg and Cedar Crest Colleges in Allentown will be additional points of interest. A very interesting glimpse of Pennsylvania German life and culture will be furnished by the tour.

In answer to the popular demand for such a feature, an old Moravian supper will be served at six-thirty p. m. at the Moravian College for Women. This will be followed at eight-thirty by a special Moravian choir musical service provided at the Central Moravian Church. The meeting is thus prolonged over those of past years, but the committee felt that this was justifiable in view of the added features which were made possible.

Dr. Gipson deserves commendation for the capable and expeditious development of what appears to be a very substantial program. It is especially gratifying to see the combination of the scholarship of local historians with that of the representatives of the colleges and universities on the program. The effort thoroughly to introduce members and friends of the Association to the life of the Pennsylvania German community in and about Bethlehem is also a very desirable procedure. The fact that the program has been early rounded into shape, should make it possible for every member of the Association to advertise the meeting throughout the Commonwealth. Every effort should be made to interest members of the historical societies and teachers in the public schools in attending this important state-wide historical gathering. It

should be kept in mind that the Association will welcome to the meeting anyone interested in Pennsylvania history. Its sessions are not designed alone for the Association membership.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The spring meeting of the Westmoreland-Fayette Branch of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was held on May 11 at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greensburg. Dr. William Blake Hindman, president of the society, presented a paper on "New Light on the Jumonville Incident," while Dr. J. C. McGregor of Washington and Jefferson College discussed "Lessons from History." The Westmoreland-Fayette Society has sponsored another productive season of activities. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Henry Clay Frick it was able to inaugurate a series of contests with valuable prizes which have stimulated great interest upon the part of the schools of the area in historical matters. The contest included prizes for the making of models and for handicrafts. The society has continued its program of distributing to its members in mimeographed form many of the papers and other matters of historical importance presented before the society. Under date of April 17 it distributed a very valuable map of southern Westmoreland county showing the location of the earliest roads.

The Society of the Descendants of the Schwenkfeldian Exiles met for their regular spring meeting on May 13 at the Salford Meeting House near Kulpsville. Mr. Elmer E. S. Johnson spoke on "Salford Schwenkfelders in Commonwealth and Nation," and discussed the contributions and influence of the families and descendants of the early settlers of this section. The afternoon meeting was followed by a supper held in the grove.

Lehigh County Historical Society has joined with the Chamber of Commerce of Allentown in the preparation of local historical material which may be used for publicity purposes. The large volume of World Fair traffic which is expected to pass through the city has called attention to the importance of this type of work. Other historical societies throughout the state may well consider similar projects. The society reports a very successful year of

activity and a very material increase in its collections. Members of the Association will find Trout Hall, Allentown, home of the society, a point of genuine interest in connection with the tour at the October meeting.

Muncy historians completed their season on May 26 with a meeting at their splendid library and museum building. Mr. William Y. Brady of Washington, D. C. presented an address on "Captain John Brady, Revolutionary Soldier, Patriot and Pioneer Landowner of Muncy Manor." The March 31st meeting featured Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker speaking on "A Sentimental Journey up the West Branch," together with an illustrated lecture on "Archaeological Excavations near Muncy" by Mr. Clark B. Kahler. Mr. Kahler is curator of the Museum and has been engaged over a period of some years in excavating the site of the famous Ancient Indian Fortification near Muncy, first reported by Conrad Weiser in 1737. The April meeting was given over to a talk by Mr. Bruce A. Hunt entitled "A Williamsporter Looks at Muncy." Dr. T. B. Stewart, archaeologist and collector of Lock Haven, presented another interesting study of the archaeology of this region.

The Muncy society continues to be something of a model for sister societies of the state in view of its unusual programs during the past year. It is questionable as to whether any other society has presented a more distinguished list of speakers, several of whom have been asked from outside the state. The attendance at the meetings has averaged well over one hundred and tested the full capacity of the building. In fact the attendance has been so great as to necessitate at some meetings rather strict limitations upon the presence of non-members of the society. The society has erected on the principal approach to Muncy from Williamsport a very attractive roadside marker, calling attention to its society building and collections and welcoming interested visitors. This is a procedure which might profitably be copied by other societies.

The Mifflin County Historical Society under the progressive presidency of Mr. J. Martin Stroup has outlined a rather full program of activity in connection with the Mifflin County Sesqui-centennial, in the celebration of which the society is playing a

leading part. A series of open house meetings were held at the society room in the Lewistown Municipal Building on July 1, 2 and 3. The society in coöperation with the American Legion and the D.A.R. recently completed a county-wide historical essay contest project. First prize was a two hundred dollar annual scholarship at Pennsylvania State College made available through the Logan Guard Post of the American Legion and Senator Robert Lee Jacobs. Additional prizes were awarded for essays not entered in the scholarship contest. Miss Margaret L. Rupp of Lewistown was the winner of the scholarship for her paper on "Dorcas Buchanan and Her Times."

The Mifflin historians opened their sesquicentennial observance on March 21st with a dinner meeting at the Grace Evangelical Church in Lewistown attended by nearly two hundred persons. The principal address was delivered by Attorney George Ross Hull of Harrisburg. He spoke on the early history of Mifflin county and its importance in the development of the state and nation. The historical interest aroused by the sesquicentennial was further reflected in the presentation by Lewistown high school seniors of a historical pageant on Mifflin county in the high school auditorium on June 7. On September 16 the society will conduct a joint tour with the Juniata county historians following the route of the famous Rev. Charles Beatty's missionary tour in 1766. Three days later the sesquicentennial will conclude with a large public meeting in the Lewistown High School auditorium. Mr. Merkel Landis of Carlisle will present the principal address. The Lewistown society is to be very much congratulated for the energy and enthusiasm with which it has assumed leadership in this observance. It has succeeded in creating a widespread local interest and the society is rapidly becoming one of the more important historical organizations of the state. It has been extremely receptive to ideas from without and very willing to experiment in new procedures which might be utilized to encourage historical interest.

The Northumberland County Historical Society has had several outstanding meetings during the past few months. Its ability in arranging a monthly program belies the frequent impression that a historical society meeting more than a few times a year is not successful in securing material and maintaining interest. The

Northumberland countians have evidenced no let-down in either respect. On March 21st Mr. C. Marlyn Steese of Mifflinburg addressed the group on "The Attack on French Jacob's Mill"; on April 18 Captain Frederic A. Godcharles spoke on "Governor Simon Snyder," while Dr. Philip S. Klein of Franklin and Marshall College spoke on May 16 on "John Binns and the Impeachment of Governor William Findlay." Work is progressing on the WPA project sponsored by the society and local business men for the restoration of a model of Fort Augusta in front of the Fort Augusta Mansion. It is expected to complete the project in July. The historical project is in the process of renewal and Mr. Heber Gearhart expects to be able to continue this important work during the coming fall. It is hoped that the Historical Commission will be able to coöperate in providing additional source material which may be utilized to write the history of this section.

"Historic Sites of Delaware County and Their Preservation" was the theme for the annual essay contest sponsored this spring in the public and parochial schools of the county by the Delaware County Historical Society. A committee of the society co-operated with representatives of the teachers in arranging for the contest and its judging. Miss H. Daisy Smith of Boothwyn and Miss Caroline Jackson of Chester High School were in charge of the work and assisted by several other members of the committee.

Snyder county historians met under the auspices of the Historical Society in Seibert Hall of Susquehanna University on Memorial Day. Dr. George Dunkelberger of the University, a native of Snyder county and descendant of one of its most distinguished families, delivered an address on "Snyder County History." The meeting was in charge of Dr. George E. Fisher, president of the society. A boulder has been secured and the Albany treaty marker memorializing the famous treaty, the boundary of which passed just north of Selinsgrove, unveiled on November 11, 1938 has now been erected. It may be seen alongside the highway and is an important addition to the growing number of historical markers in Pennsylvania.

The Perry County Historical Society is continuing with its program to mark the principal points of historical interest in this

section. On May 30 at Liverpool a tablet was unveiled in honor of Dr. Elizabeth Reifsnnyder, one of the outstanding women in the early history of Perry county. The Perry County Historical Society is to be congratulated not only upon the number of markers which it is erecting, but also upon their variety. It is providing fitting recognition for the varied interest and institutions which are a part of the history of the county.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania concluded its 1938-39 season with its annual "University of Pittsburgh Night," held at the society building on the evening of May 30. Dr. John W. Oliver was in charge of the program and papers were presented by two University graduate students. "The Johnstown Flood and Pittsburgh's Relief" was discussed by Mr. Nathan D. Shappee of the Johnstown University Center. Miss Catherine Bachofen of Aspinwall High School presented a paper on "Congressman Har-mar Denny." The meeting was very well attended and unusually successful. On March 28 members of the society were present at the Stephen Collins Foster Memorial where an illustrated lecture was presented in the auditorium by Mr. Fletcher Hodges, Jr. on "Stephen Foster and the Foster Hall Collection." Mr. Hodges is curator for the Memorial and is an authority on the life and times of Stephen Foster. The society has interested itself actively in the preservation of the McKees Rocks Indian Mound. A committee has been appointed and largely through its efforts it is probable that it will be possible to preserve and adequately explore this interesting archaeological landmark.

Dauphin County Historical Society observed at its May meeting its seventieth anniversary. Members of the society gathered for the occasion in the Chapel of the Market Square Presbyterian Church, in the lecture room of which the society first assembled in its pioneer meeting in 1869. Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, past president of the society, grandson of its first president and twice president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, presided and delivered an interesting review of the evolution of the organization. The society is to be congratulated by its fellows on the completion of seventy years of worthwhile effort. It now has in its possession over twenty thousand separate items of his-

torical records, a large percentage of which have been catalogued and are readily available to the student. The collection of Harrisburg newspapers makes the society building a center for research in almost any phase of Pennsylvania history and politics. The headquarters of the society at 9 South Front Street have rapidly become one of the more important centers of historical activity in Pennsylvania. The society is increasing in membership and has become especially active in establishing contacts with the schools and other public agencies. The new president, Mr. Evan Miller of Harrisburg, has provided a most excellent administration during the past year.

Titusville Historical Society, which recently affiliated with the Pennsylvania Federation, held its semi-annual meeting in the Benson Memorial Library on May 23. Mrs. C. T. Evans, who was instrumental in founding the society and headed it for a period of three years, retired in favor of Mrs. John W. Caldwell. Mrs. Evans deserves great credit for her success in building a society of considerable size and influence in this small community. The May meeting was attended by about fifty persons and officials reported valuable additions to the library collections which have been established in the basement of the Benson Memorial Building. Mrs. Caldwell may be expected to continue the excellent work of Mrs. Evans.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Huguenot Society was held in the Zion Reformed Church at Stroudsburg on May 13. The Monroe County Historical Society joined with the Huguenots in providing an interesting day of historical activity. A devotional service at ten-thirty opened the proceedings. Following reports of officers, addresses were presented by Dr. John Baer Stoudt, Dr. John A. F. Maynard and Miss Josephine M. Smith. The assemblage was honored by the presence of the national president, Hon. George De Benneville Keini. A noon luncheon at the Penn-Stroud Hotel was in charge of Dr. Robert Brown of the Monroe County Historical Society. In the afternoon a memorial tablet to the Nicholas DuPuy Settlement at Shawnee was dedicated.

Lycoming County Historical Society concluded its program for the season on March 16 at the Woman's Club in Williamsport.

The season's program was unusually interesting and worthwhile and centered about the single theme of Williamsport in the Civil War. The membership of the society continues to expand and has grown since 1936 to five hundred and three. The treasurer reports a very satisfactory balance. Mr. Oliver J. Decker, Williamsport attorney, was selected to head the organization for the coming year. It is expected that the enlarged membership will increase the material resources which will be utilized to further projects for the acquisition of a headquarters building and it is possible that the society may be able to resume a publications program.

The Blair County Historical Society has prepared a very active program for the summer. While many societies remain more or less dormant during this period, the Blair countians under the aggressive leadership of President Floyd G. Hoenstine are not content to conclude their functions with the coming of spring. The Baker Mansion at Altoona was reopened on June 3 and will remain available for public inspection every Saturday afternoon until October 21. Special arrangements may be made for groups desiring to visit the museum during the week. Special exhibits will again be featured and no admission fee is charged. During the previous summer over thirty-five hundred persons signed the society register. Under the direction of Mr. T. S. Davis and Mr. Donald Yoder marked progress in properly cataloging the different items in the museum has been made. It is expected this work will continue during the coming months. The society held a spring tour ending with a dinner gathering on June 17. It is hoped that sufficient interest and funds may be forthcoming to enable the permanent acquisition of the Baker Mansion as the society's headquarters. The society has definite plans for the archaeological investigation in coöperation with the WPA of the site of historic Fort Roberdeau. If funds can be secured, we are informed by Mr. Hoenstine, a replica of the fort may be constructed. The society has coöperated with the Tourist and Publicity Committee of the Altoona Chamber of Commerce in the distribution of fifty thousand scenic and historic folders advertising the attractions of Blair county.

The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology held its annual meeting in Harrisburg, May 14, in the auditorium of the State Museum. The society incorporated within its membership at this time the Pennsylvania Society for the Preservation of American Antiquity, organized recently in Pittsburgh. This organization will become the Pittsburgh chapter of the state organization. The addition brings the total membership of the Archaeology Society to some six hundred, a remarkable tribute to the popular interest in Pennsylvania archaeology. The April meeting was featured by several interesting papers presenting a review of archaeological work in Pennsylvania. Mr. Eugene Gardner discussed "The Archaeological Exploitation and Restoration of Old Fort Augusta." Mr. Harry Schoff in charge of the WPA archaeological project at Erie sponsored by the Historical Commission discussed the work done at Cochranstown in Crawford county. Mr. Henry Deisher of the State Museum staff also appeared on the program. The evening and concluding session was held at the central Y.M.C.A. with a dinner at which Dr. A. R. Kelly, Chief of the Archaeological Sites Division, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., presented the address.

The Pennsylvania German Society has just issued another of its brilliant contributions to Pennsylvania history. The recently published annual, the forty-seventh to be produced by the society, is to be distributed to its membership of seven hundred. One section of the annual contains reports and papers presented through the society. An especially important feature is a comprehensive description of early Pennsylvania German kitchens prepared by Mr. Henry K. Landis of the Landis Valley Museum. Dr. Arthur D. Graeff has contributed valuable information on Pennsylvania German history.

PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Three additional societies have been added to the membership of the Federation since the annual meeting on February 14. The Tredyffrin Easttown History Club, the Haverford Township Historical Society and the Titusville Historical Society have

affiliated themselves with the Federation during the past few months. Several other members are in prospect and it is expected by the 1940 meeting that the record for 1938 will have been equaled if not surpassed. The Federation has undertaken a definite campaign to interest the patriotic societies active in Pennsylvania historical endeavors. Mr. Ross Pier Wright, president of the Federation, points out that the Federation constitution makes it possible for these organizations to become members if they carry on a definite historical program and manifest a genuine interest in Pennsylvania history. Several of the more important patriotic societies are already members. Attention is also called to the fact that many of these societies not only include Pennsylvania historical topics in their regular programs, but are interested in the erecting of historical markers and in some cases have been responsible for historical publications. It is expected that the Federation membership for this source may be materially expanded within the next year.

In former years the Federation was responsible for the organization of several important state-wide committees concerned with Pennsylvania historical matters. In many cases these committees presented reports which contain valuable suggestions for the promotion of historical work. This policy of forming committees is now being resumed. A state-wide committee headed by Miss Frances Dorrance of Wilkes-Barre is working on a program to forward the exchange of duplicate material among the historical societies of the state. If it appears feasible, it is possible that the libraries may be added to the list. Miss Katherine Bennet of Williamsport is serving as vice-chairman and Miss Ruth Nelson, Coudersport; Miss Sara Miller, Meadville; Miss Gertrude Haldy, Lancaster; Mr. Henry Borneman, Philadelphia and Mr. Edward Reimer, Easton, are also serving on this committee.

A committee on promotion of historical society coöperation under the chairmanship of Mr. Albert M. Rung of Harrisburg has also been selected. Miss Rebecca Doty, vice-chairman, Mifflintown. Mrs. Harriet L. Woodruff, Towanda; Professor John L. Finafrock, Mercersburg; Mr. Samuel M. Goodyear, Carlisle; Mr. Walter R. Sloan, McConnellsburg; Dr. Herbert H. Beck, Lancaster, and Mr. Merkel Landis of Carlisle are also members.

The experience of the Historical Records Survey in Pennsylvania has revealed strikingly the need of more adequate attention to the preservation of Pennsylvania's public records. The county and local governmental offices are becoming crowded rapidly as a result of the expanding functions of government and the increasing volume of record material. This is creating a very great danger to the proper preservation of older records. In many cases these are in danger of destruction or removal to places of deposit where they are inaccessible and will rapidly deteriorate and become lost to posterity. Having this in mind, Federation officials have secured the acceptance of former Governor John S. Fisher to act as chairman of a state committee on the preservation of public records. Dr. Franklin Holbrook of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and Mr. Karl Goedecke, State Director of the Historical Records Survey, have been asked to act as vice-chairmen. The list of additional appointees includes Mr. J. Bennett Nolan, Reading; Hon. Frank M. Trexler, Allentown; Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, Harrisburg; Mr. Frank W. Melvin, Philadelphia; Hon. Benjamin C. Atlee, Millersville; Mr. J. DeHaven Ledward, Chester; Hon. Henry C. Niles, York; Hon. Paul N. Schaeffer, Reading, and Mr. Bruce A. Hunt of Williamsport.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

Mr. George M. Widder, Apartment 3 D, 1240 Park Avenue, New York City is planning for one and possibly more historical novels with a Pennsylvania setting. He is especially interested in the folklore of the Pennsylvania canal between Columbia and Hollidaysburg. The activities of Aaron Burr are also under consideration as the basis of a novel. Mr. Widder is interested in anything pertaining to experiences of Burr connected directly or indirectly with Pennsylvania. It is very likely that any work produced by Mr. Widder will be the theme for later motion pictures. Any person who has information or data which might be of value to Mr. Widder may communicate with him at the address listed and such coöperation will be greatly appreciated.

An episode in Pennsylvania history is once more to be made the theme of a motion picture. Many will recall the picture "High

Wide and Handsome" of a short time ago which had for its central theme the drilling of the first oil well at Titusville. RKO Pictures have acquired scenario rights to Neil Swanson's *The First Rebel*, concerned with the activities of James Smith and his famous "Black Boys." It is probable that by the time of this writing, the picture is now in production. We are informed by the Director of Research for RKO that every effort has been made to provide authentic historical detail in the making of the picture.

The Museum Extension Division of the WPA has been recently organized on a new basis with a state-wide sponsorship by the Pennsylvania State College. This will enable a more effective functioning of the Museum Extension than was formerly possible with the system of district organization. This Division of the WPA is very much interested in expanding its museum services. The WPA is anxious to establish a series of museums throughout the state which will be open to the public and provide an opportunity for the display of the many items which are in production through the Museum Extension. Since a considerable percentage of this material is of a historical nature, it is possible that many historical organizations may be interested in it. It should be kept in mind that all of the products of the Museum Extension Project are available to schools and any historical society which receives public support. Interested individuals or societies should contact Mrs. Martha Colt, State Supervisor of the Museum Extension Division, Works Progress Administration, 46 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania unit of the Historical Records Survey is now in a position to make a most important contribution to Pennsylvania history. It has completed its "Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Pennsylvania." This is now in the process of publication by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. It answers a long demand upon the part of students of Pennsylvania history for an adequate guide to the manuscript resources of the various libraries, historical societies and institutions of the state. It should be a genuine stimulus to historical writing and study. The Survey is rapidly completing its inventories of the county archives of the respective Pennsylvania counties. The Fayette

county commissioners some time ago very wisely sponsored the publishing of the inventory for that county. The inventory for Luzerne county has been produced recently in mimeographed form. Anyone who has had the opportunity to look over these county inventories will readily appreciate their importance to the Pennsylvania historian. For the first time in the history of the state, a careful analysis and listing of the different types of public records available in the county archives is at hand. The importance of such a work as a guide for study and research in local history throughout the state is obvious. It is a matter of very real concern to every person interested in Pennsylvania history that all of these county inventories be made available for general use. It would indeed be unfortunate if this important contribution and aid to historical work should either remain unpublished or produced in such small quantities as to make it still generally unavailable.

An especially important feature of the county inventories is the inclusion of considerable historical data on each of the counties and a very excellent outline of the organization and the historical evolution of each county government. The value of this material alone for use in the public schools is very considerable. It would indeed be a very excellent thing if this information could be abstracted from the larger inventories and printed or mimeographed in the form of a separate bulletin for use in the schools of the different counties. It should be emphasized that all of this type of data is carefully documented. While it is probable that in many cases some errors have crept into the inventories and they are by no means one hundred per cent perfect, the work is so important that it would certainly be a serious misfortune were it not utilized extensively.

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission has just prepared for distribution a booklet entitled *Conserving Pennsylvania's Historic Past*. It includes a brief history of each of the important properties in the Commonwealth for the administration of which the Commission is responsible, together with a page of pictures illustrating each. The Commission has also ordered reprints of several publications, the supply of which was exhausted. The reprints include the archaeological studies of the Safe Harbor Petroglyphs and the Susquehannock Indians. *Pennsylvania*

Bibliography, a bulletin of the Commission issued in 1933 and consisting of a bibliography of articles published by the member societies of the Federation is also being reprinted. This bulletin is of very considerable value to anyone working in the field. Under the heading of new publications, the Commission is making available, as previously noted, the *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Pennsylvania* and *Three Archaeological Sites in Somerset County*, embodying the research of Dr. Mary Butler in this area. An informational pamphlet titled *Pennsylvania in History* will also be available.

The Frontier Forts and Trails Survey of the WPA, sponsored by the Historical Commission and operating with headquarters at the Old Custom House in Erie has now advanced to a point where the results of its work are being made available. The first publication of the Survey will be entitled *Wilderness Chronicles of Northwestern Pennsylvania*, a source book giving a picture of the historical evolution of this section from the earliest manifestations of French interest through the French and Indian War, the British occupation and the later American settlement. Contemporary documents, letters and travel accounts are being utilized to provide this interesting portrayal of the early history of this region. The volume should prove to be not only a valuable addition to Pennsylvania historical literature, but a virtual prospectus of the work of the Survey which has accumulated a tremendous amount of new data on the important history of this section.