ASSOCIATION NEWS

Dr. Lawrence H. Gipson, chairman of the Committee on Program for the October 27-28, 1939 meeting has kindly provided us with some revisions in the tentative program previously announced in the last issue. We are assured it is improbable that any further important changes will be made. The program as of the present date is presented below.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:00 noon  Luncheon at the D.A.R. home, sponsored by the D.A.R. and S.A.R.
Chairman, Mr. J. Bennett Nolan, Reading, Pa.

2:30 p.m.  Meeting, Packard Building, Lehigh University.
Chairman, Professor Alfred P. James, University of Pittsburgh.

5:00 p.m.  Musical Vespers at the University Chapel.
7:00 p.m. Formal Dinner, Hotel Bethlehem.
Chairman, President Roy F. Nichols.
Welcome to the visitors by President C. C. Williams,
Lehigh University.
Address: "The National Archives and Pennsylvania History," Dr. R. D. W. Connor,
National Archives.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

8:30 a.m. Breakfast meeting of the Council of the Association, Hotel Bethlehem.

9:30 a.m. Business meeting of the Association, Hotel Bethlehem, President Nichols presiding.

Chairman, Dr. Asa E. Martin, Pennsylvania State College.
Paper: "Social and Economic Factors in the Revolution in Pennsylvania," Mr. Benjamin Keen,
Graduate School, Yale University.
Paper: "A Scottish Loyalist in the American Revolution," Professor William T. Johnson,
Bucknell University.
Paper: "Thomas Fitzsimmons, Revolutionary Merchant Prince," Miss Catherine McCandless,
Bethlehem High School.

12:30 p.m. Luncheon, Ball Room, Hotel Bethlehem. Sponsored by the Northampton County Historical and Geological Society, The Lehigh County Historical Society, The Moravian Historical Society.
Chairman, Dr. W. N. Schwarze, Moravian College and Theological Seminary.
Paper: "William Parsons: Easton's First Citizen," Mr. A. D. Chidsey, Jr., Easton.

2:30 p.m. Historical Pilgrimages: Tour of Moravian Buildings, Trout Hall, Muhlenberg College and Cedar Crest College, Allentown.
6:30 p.m. Old Moravian Supper at the Moravian College for Women.

8:15 p.m. Central Moravian Church. Musical Service. Early Moravian Music by the Central Moravian Choir.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

In the July number of Pennsylvania History, mention was made of the contest series sponsored by the Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society, with the aid of prizes made available by Mrs. Henry Clay Frick. The prizes were awarded at the June 17 meeting in the Historical House at West Overton at a special "Founders Day" program. First prize for an essay on local history was won by Robert B. Wright of the Uniontown High School. Three other essay prizes ranging down to $15 were presented; the first prize amounted to $100. A total of $125 was awarded in handicraft contests for boys for first and second prizes, while a $25 third prize was announced. A girls' handicraft contest carried prizes totaling $150, while an art contest with some incident in local history as the subject was another feature of the competition. It is reported that the contests were responsible for arousing widespread interest upon the part of high school students in the two counties. Mrs. Frick is to be congratulated for her generous contribution to local historical effort, and the society for its initiative in making use of the assistance thus available.

Indiana county has been without an historical society for some time. Recently the remnants of the former society were united with a genealogical association and the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County was the result. On August 3, a meeting was held in the public library and several papers were presented on local history. Another meeting was held on August 17. Those interested in the local history movement will look forward to further growth in numbers and influence on the part of the society and wish it every success.

The Pottstown Historical Society is able to report that its crusade to preserve the historic home of John Potts, "Pottsgrove," just outside of Pottstown has met with success. Mrs. James I.
Wendell of the Hill School and a lineal descendant of John Potts played a leading role in making the purchase. The mansion was built in 1752 and stands today with few additions or alterations. It was visited by Washington during the revolutionary campaigns in the area and possesses considerable architectural merit. It will be fully repaired through assistance of the WPA under local sponsorship. It is ideally located and laid out to serve as a fine museum and headquarters for the growing society. All those interested in the preservation of Pennsylvania's historic buildings will welcome this display of local initiative. Too frequently, of late, it seems that those concerned with such problems have been concentrating effort upon turning all such properties over to the state. This is desirable in the case of a few selected properties which have more than local interest. To become a Commonwealth property, however, a historic building should have great significance in state and even national history. There are literally dozens of other buildings scattered throughout the state, however, which deserve local attention. Local historical societies will do well to emulate the Pottstown example and endeavor to raise funds for their preservation and use.

The Union county historians under Dr. Frank P. Boyer, county superintendent of schools, are continuing to erect historical markers of importance in coöperation with local patriotic societies. On August 12, the group coöperated with the local D.A.R. and P.O.S. of A. in dedicating a marker at Winfield to the memory of Major John Lee. Mr. Heber G. Gearhart, the well known secretary of the Northumberland County Historical Society, spoke on "Major Lee's Career in Neighboring Counties," while Hon. Charles R. Reagan of Winfield, Union county representative in the Assembly, discussed "Major Lee's Career in Union County."

The recently organized and very aggressive Sullivan County Historical Society organized a historical tour in coöperation with the county Chamber of Commerce on July 26. The object of the tour was to visit the mother counties of Sullivan. Carrying this through, the group visited the famed headquarters of the Muncy Historical Society in Lycoming county, the mecca of local historians throughout this region. The home of Joseph Priestley at
Northumberland was also visited, together with the site of Fort Augusta and the headquarters of the Northumberland County Historical Society in Fort Augusta Mansion. Luncheon, with a brief program, was held on the roof garden of the Neff Hotel in Sunbury. Captain Frederic A. Godcharles, Mr. Heber Gearhart, Dr. T. Kenneth Wood and Mr. George Neff were hosts at various points to the visiting caravan of about sixteen cars and nearly sixty people. The Sullivan countians have a lively historical interest and have succeeded in raising a fair share of the funds necessary to build a fine library and museum at Laporte.

The recently reorganized Clinton County Historical Society under the presidency of Mr. George Hess of Beech Creek is planning to assume leadership in sponsoring some time this autumn a proper observance of the centennial of the county. The September meeting gave consideration to the problem and it is expected that a ceremony of a historical character may be made possible. The Clinton historians are also endeavoring to secure funds for an addition to the Ross Library in Lock Haven in order that it may become a depository for museum and library materials bearing upon county history.

Brandywine Creek, from Downingtown to the Delaware state line, was the route along which members of the Chester County Historical Society toured by automobile on June 24. The program was in charge of Dr. Arthur E. James and Mrs. William Ball, Jr. Mr. Edwin B. Wagner, Downingtown borough engineer, spoke at Kerr Memorial Park on some of the early history of that area. Historical landmarks were observed in the course of the trip. Mr. Nathan R. Rambo of West Chester, county engineer for twenty years, spoke on the historic bridges of Chester county. Dr. Thomas D. Cope of the physics department of the University of Pennsylvania discussed the old E. T. Cope and Sons machine works, while Mr. W. W. MacElree spoke on the local history of the region. The tour concluded with a picnic lunch followed by a program. Mr. Robert F. Brinton of West Chester, Dr. Albert Cook Myers, Dr. Francis Harvey Green, Dr. Arthur P. Kelley and Mr. J. Carroll Hayes were among the speakers for this occasion. Dr. Green's address on "The Brandywine in Literature" was of especial note.
The Muncy Historical Society was by no means inactive during the summer. An historical tour was conducted and enjoyed by a large number of the members. The society was recently the recipient of a gift of $100 as well as many gifts of books and additions to the museum. The formal garden at the rear of the building maintained in cooperation with the Garden Club attracted much attention and comment during the summer months. The society building was visited by students of the Bloomsburg State Teachers' College summer session during July, another tribute to the widespread appreciation of the richness of its contents. The 1939-40 program season opened in September with a "New Members Night" designed especially to welcome to the society the many new members the product of a recent systematic membership drive.

The Lancaster County Historical Society under the leadership of Dr. Herbert Beck attracted nation-wide attention on August 12 when a monument in honor of "General" John A. Sutter was dedicated in the public square at Lititz, and a tablet was placed at the nearby Moravian cemetery where Sutter is buried. The borough of Lititz co-operated with the society in making possible both memorials. Representatives of the state of California, the republic of Switzerland and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took part in the program. Mr. Maurice J. Rohrbach represented the Swiss legation from Washington, while Congressman Frank H. Buck spoke on behalf of California. The Lancaster society is doing outstanding work in erecting markers and deserves the commendation of the Association.

Mr. Evan J. Miller, head of the Dauphin County Historical Society, reports that the headquarters at 9 South Front Street in Harrisburg, familiar to Pennsylvania historians, continues to receive valuable additions to already worth-while collections. Additional copies of early Harrisburg newspapers have been presented and no student of Pennsylvania history can now afford to overlook the newspaper collection of the society. The June meeting of the society as devoted by the program chairman, Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton to the history of the frontier forts of the Harrisburg area. The strategic importance of this particular area during the dark days of the French and Indian War was fully set forth
in papers by Mrs. Margaret W. Meigs, owner of Fort Hunter and an authority on its history, and remarks by Professor Nevin Moyer of Linglestown and Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton pointed out the connection of John Harris with the development of frontier defense measures.

We are informed that Rev. Kline Engle of Selinsgrove has been appointed archivist in charge of the collections of the Snyder County Historical Society. The society has several manuscripts, especially early land patents, together with considerable material on local and state history. It is expected that Rev. Engle will be of service in making this more usable.

Mr. Heber Gearhart presented the address at the June meeting of the Northumberland County Historical Society at its rooms in the Hunter Mansion on the Fort Augusta property, June 20. "Reuben Haines, the Proprietor of Northumberland, and his Successors," was the subject of the address. The WPA historical project under Mr. Gearhart's direction has been renewed and will make possible the sorting, indexing and copying of historical data relating to the early history of the Fort Augusta region. Especially important is the prospective indexing of the newspaper collections of the society. The society recently became the proud possessor of a late eighteenth century English cannon which is believed to have been a part of the original battery at Fort Augusta. It is believed to have been taken to the fort by boat from Harris Ferry shortly after the erection of Augusta. Mr. J. S. Kline of Sunbury has presented the society with a very old hand printing press, used as early as 1812 and probably the oldest one remaining in the area. The society's annual historical tour was held late in July and centered mainly about the neighboring county of Snyder. The model of Fort Augusta on the front lawn of Fort Augusta Mansion has been completed and is attracting very favorable attention. It is an important addition to the historical attractions already possessed by this Commonwealth-owned property.

Northampton county historians have been characterized by a series of distinguished accomplishments during the past year. The headquarters of the society have been improved, its collections have grown and are increasingly useful under the capable direction
of Librarian Marx. Not a little of the new activity of the already distinguished society has been due to the work of its editor, Mr. Edward Reimer. One of the brilliant occasions of the year was the Court House Commemoration dinner held at Hotel Easton under the auspices of the society on May 5. The dinner climaxed an afternoon of commemorating the historic old Court House in Easton and several hundred members and friends of the society were present. Not least among the attractions was an extremely interesting and scholarly paper on "The Old Court House," prepared by Mr. A. D. Chidsey, Jr. Mr. Chidsey presented in his paper what amounted to a review of the history of Easton and did it in a most excellent fashion. It is a pleasure to note that this prominent local historian is to appear upon the Association program at Bethlehem.

Members of the York County Historical Society suffered a severe loss in the recent death in July of its distinguished and longtime president, Judge Henry C. Niles of York. Judge Niles was sincerely devoted to the cause of York County history and under his administration the society became one of the leading historical organizations of the state with distinctive historical and genealogical collections and an able researcher and director in charge. The interests of Judge Niles, however, extended beyond the limits of his county. Since 1931 he had served the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies in various official capacities and was a Vice President continuously for six years. All friends of Pennsylvania history will mourn his passing.

**PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

The Federation continues to gain in membership with the Magna Charta Historical Society and the Waterford chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists recently affiliating. It is expected that the 1939 Year Book will be available by the October meeting of the Association. Strenuous efforts to secure earlier publication failed due to the inability of several societies earlier to report fully
upon the year's activities. It is expected that at least double the usual number of copies will be made available due to increased demand. The 1938 edition has long since been exhausted. Requests have been received recently from leading libraries throughout the United States requesting files of past issues and as a result these are no longer available.

Continuing its program of establishing committees to consider problems of state-wide historical importance, plans are under way to appoint committees to assist in aiding several good causes. Of immediate moment to northwestern Pennsylvania is the question of what will become of the Cornplanter Indians in Warren county when the projected Kinzua Dam is erected as a part of the federal flood control program for the upper Allegheny. Few Pennsylvanians probably appreciate the fact that bona fide Indians still live on Pennsylvania soil. However, some forty of them do and about five hundred others have a title to land in Warren county originally granted to Chief Cornplanter by the Commonwealth. These lands and their inhabitants have been sadly neglected by the state, but their future is now brought to notice among state problems by the fact that the new dam will result in a flooding of this property. Should the Pennsylvania Senecas go with their New York brethren to lands in the Empire State which will be provided by the federal government, they will take with them the remains of Chief Cornplanter in whose honor a monument was erected in 1866 by special act of the Pennsylvania Assembly. Pennsylvania, at a time when it seeks to increase tourist interest, would then lose a superior historical and popular point of great potential value. There are many ramifications of the problem, but it is apparent that intelligent action by Pennsylvania could keep the Indians in Warren county and place them in a position where they will be much better off than at present. Mr. M. H. Deardorff, prominent banker and historian of Warren, has consented to act as chairman of a committee under Federation auspices which will endeavor to establish a state-wide interest in this problem.

The preservation of the remains of the Pennsylvania Canal and the folklore and antiquities connected with its history has become also a matter of increased concern. There is a possibility that the
Pennsylvania Railroad may return to the state some of the better preserved locks of the old canal, many of which are in an excellent condition and observable near present leading highways. A few relics of the canal operations are still to be gathered together, provided action is soon taken. The rich folklore and stories of canal days, so successfully exploited in New York by Walter Edmonds with his Erie Canal series of novels, are fast disappearing with the death of the old boatmen and residents along the canal. Realizing the importance of the problem, the Federation has secured the services of Captain Frederic A. Godcharles to head a committee to consider ways and means of promoting the preservation of canal remains, its antiquities and folklore. Additional appointments to both committees will be made shortly and in cooperation with the chairmen.

**OF MEN AND MANY THINGS**

The new Department of Commerce established by the last General Assembly upon recommendation of Governor James is devoting considerable money and attention to the publicizing of Pennsylvania historical attractions. A new historic and scenic map will shortly be made available, and *Pennsylvania Has Everything* has been revised and improved. The functions of the former Publicity Commission have been absorbed by the new department and its head, Mr. Richard P. Brown, is anxious to insure a high degree of accuracy in all historical material. The Pennsylvania Historical Commission is cooperating closely with the department.

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission has assumed since September 1 sponsorship for the Historical Records Survey in Pennsylvania. The important work under way will thereby be assured of continuance and the possibility for final publication of results of the survey will be greatly increased. It is expected, also, that the services of the survey will thereby be made available more widely to historical societies to aid in cataloging and systematizing their collections. Plans for such cooperation are now under consideration.

The return of former Governor John S. Fisher from a vacation will make it possible for the Federation committee on preservation
of local records to begin its work. A compilation of all statutes relating to the preservation and care of governmental records in Pennsylvania has been made. The first move of the committee will be to contact officials concerned and call to their attention the possible advantages of using existing statutes and giving earnest consideration to the more adequate care of records. Miss Frances Dorrance reports for her committee that all historical societies of the state will be contacted soon in order to facilitate the exchange of duplicate historical material.

The last session of the General Assembly was generous in its consideration of historical measures and Governor James has shown a careful regard for adequate support of the historic shrines of the state. The appropriation of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission was considerably increased, though much of the new funds must be used to maintain historic properties rather than for publications and research. Special appropriations were made available for the further development of Pennsbury Manor and the Daniel Boone Homestead. Additional land is required at Pennsbury to provide a suitable park area to landscape the property. The purchase of this land, together with a landscaping program, will do much to make this a leading shrine of the eastern United States. At the Boone Homestead, plans are being pushed forward rapidly to repair the buildings and develop a youth center.

The famous Niagra, flagship of Captain Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie, was turned over to the Pennsylvania Historical Commission by the last session of the Assembly. The Niagra has had a checkered career. In 1913, centennial of the engagement, the ship was raised from the lake bed and a large part of the original vessel found intact. A full restoration was completed, but the ship was neglected and within ten years had fallen into as bad a state as when raised. An appropriation of $50,000, later cut by Governor Pinchot to $25,000, provided for a second restoration. This was completed to the placing of the deck timbers when funds were exhausted. The historic ship has remained in this condition to the present, beached in Peninsula Park at Erie and a familiar sight to tourists. The Historical Commission has been provided with $10,000 to complete the work and with the use of the WPA it is estimated that approximately $60,000 can be spent
on the project. The commission at once undertook a careful study of the previous restoration, which was found faulty in many particulars due to lack of information. Mr. Howard I. Chapelle of Ipswich, Massachusetts, author of *A History of American Sailing Ships* and considered by the Navy Department as the authority on early ship design, has been appointed chairman of a committee to consider and make plans for the most authentic possible restoration. The Dobbins Papers in the Buffalo Historical Society Library and the records of the Navy Department are being combed in an effort to provide further information.

The Department of Internal Affairs is publishing in its *Monthly Bulletin*, issued at Harrisburg, much material of interest to Pennsylvania historians. Articles on the Pennsylvania Canal and the Portage Railroad have appeared regularly in recent months, while every issue contains much of interest to the student of Pennsylvania affairs. Interested persons may be placed on the mailing list or receive back issues by writing the department.

The American-Swedish Historical Museum at 19th Street and Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, has announced the deposit with it of the valuable Peter Rambo manuscript collection through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Ormon Rambo, Jr. The collection is housed on the second floor in a beautiful room furnished in the style of seventeenth century Sweden and to be known as the Peter Rambo Research Library. Attention has been called in previous issues of this magazine to the importance of this organization as a center for historical collections and research. Pennsylvania is fortunate in having such an important center established within its principal city.

Dr. John W. Oliver and Dr. Franklin Holbrook are now full fledged members of the Cornplanter division of the Seneca Indians and members of the Association are warned to act accordingly. The writer is witness to the fact that the two gentlemen took their initiation and necessary vows with the utmost seriousness and that they are accomplished in the art of the Indian dance. It all happened on July 15 in connection with the annual tour of the University of Pittsburgh Summer Session in cooperation with the
Western Pennsylvania Historical Society and the ceremonies were held on the Cornplanter property visited during the tour. As in the past, this year's tour was very successful and very capably conducted. The party traveled from Pittsburgh to Clearfield, Friday afternoon, had a dinner and program there in the evening, and proceeded to Kane for luncheon on Saturday. The afternoon was spent with the Cornplanter Indians and the tour concluded with a dinner in Warren where Mr. M. H. Deardorff delivered a fine paper on "The Upper Allegheny and the First World War," which set forth the importance of this section in the French and Indian War era.

These tours as conducted since 1932 are a splendid institution and making a genuine contribution. It is hoped that other educational institutions in various sections of the state might get the same vision as Dr. Oliver, Mr. Holbrook and former Governor Fisher. The Pittsburgh tours have proved a stimulus in arousing local historical interest as well as acquainting a large number of persons with a considerable amount of Pennsylvania history.