

NEWS AND COMMENT

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

The October meeting, held in State College, is reported in detail elsewhere by the secretary and it is necessary in this section only to offer certain comments and suggestions. The gathering was well attended and a larger representation was present from the western and northwestern sections of the state than has been the case for some time. Next year's meeting will be held at Gettysburg, another central and historic location which should attract statewide attendance.

It might be well, however, if those planning for the future would investigate the possibility of holding a meeting in northwestern Pennsylvania soon. This is a region rich in historic associations. One of the oldest and most respected of Pennsylvania's many liberal arts colleges is located at Meadville. Allegheny College possesses one of the finest small college libraries in the state, and the area has several vigorous historical societies. It is the one region which the Association has never visited since its organization. It is hoped that an invitation may be forthcoming from this area in the near future.

The Saturday luncheon meeting held in historic Bellefonte under the direct auspices of the newly reorganized Centre County Historical Society was a distinct success and the best attended of any in Association history. Brief and excellent papers were presented which demonstrated well the ability of local historians to summarize for popular consideration outstanding facts concerning men and events. The event gave a material impetus to local historical endeavor in this section as represented by the activities of the county society. It should encourage those who plan future programs, wherever feasible, to consider the advisability of continuing the practice. The societies will profit from such an arrangement and the Association will certainly promote its announced purpose to "make more effective the efforts of the

local historical societies. . . ." Added publicity for it and increases in membership from the ranks of local historical society members may be expected.

The writer has one suggestion to offer for the consideration of members of the Association and especially those concerned with formulating future programs. Would it not be well to devote some time, at each annual meeting, to a session reviewing the work and accomplishments of the several public agencies engaged in promoting Pennsylvania historical endeavor? We have in mind in this connection, for example, the work of the Pennsylvania Historical Records Survey and the Frontier Forts and Trails Survey. The Pennsylvania Writers' program also has at least some projects under way and under consideration which should be of interest to historians. The work of these agencies represents an outlay of several hundred thousand dollars annually in federal and state funds devoted to various records and research projects which have a vital relationship to Pennsylvania history. The county inventory program, the progress of guides to manuscript collections and depositories, and the newspaper checklists should be of genuine concern to those seeking to promote research in state history. The varied program of the Historical Commission should also be understood by members of the Association.

It is our feeling that all of these agencies would profit from increased coöperation with the Association and in turn that many of its objectives might at the same time be promoted through this approach. At present, there are a multitude of private and public agencies at work in Pennsylvania which have as an ultimate general objective the promotion of greater popular interest in and knowledge of the history of the state, as well as basic advances in research and writing. The success of all of them will be more sure if they can be brought into close contact with each other and each knows what the other is doing. The public agencies utilizing WPA funds for a records and research program have been closely integrated under the sponsorship of the Commission during the past two years. The Association possesses facilities for scholarly editorship and advice, which might be utilized by these agencies. It is interested in certain objectives in terms of publications which are closely aligned with those of these bodies.

We have a feeling, however, that a large majority of the Asso-

ciation members are little acquainted with these varied public activities aiding Pennsylvania history. Those who do have some general knowledge of them probably possess little detailed information. This is not as it should be for the best interests of all concerned. Dr. Buck in his address at the annual dinner paid tribute to the importance of the Historical Records Survey and its varied services. Would it not be well if the Association were possessed of more information concerning the objectives and accomplishments of the program in Pennsylvania and kept in close touch with its development? It would perhaps be advisable if those who make up the programs for the annual meeting would keep in mind that all of the work of importance to Pennsylvania history is not bound up in the specialized and limited researches of graduate students and their professors. The Association properly might broaden its programs to include a place for the review of other fields of activity.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The season of historical society activity is now well under way. The movement to organize new societies has not lost momentum and news comes that the Clearfield County Historical Society is in process of reorganization with prospects of activity following several years of inaction. The newly enlivened Centre County Historical Society has opened a membership campaign, as have several other reorganized societies in other sections. Several societies, notably in Adams and Lycoming counties, are in the midst of developing new headquarters buildings which promise to do much to improve their functioning. The Blair county historians under the direction of Dr. Leonard D. Ray, Mr. Floyd Hoenstine, and their aids are continuing a drive to acquire funds to purchase the historic Baker Mansion on the outskirts of Altoona. The society recently acquired space in the annex to the Blair County Court House at nearby Hollidaysburg which will make possible a permanent depository for its newspaper and other collections. This will enable the group to function on a yearly basis whereas previously the Baker Mansion had to be closed during the winter months. The society is already interested in the commemoration in 1946 of the centennial of the county's organization.

Plans are already formulating which center about the preparation of a centennial history of Blair county.

Friends of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania are delighted to learn of the appointment of Dr. William Reitzel, associate professor of English at Haverford College, to assume the duties of librarian and director left vacant by Dr. Julian Boyd. The society recently held open house to introduce the new appointee to the members. There is no doubt but that the venerable institution will continue to be of its usual inestimable service to Pennsylvania history under the guidance of the new librarian. The Association wishes him success.

The Snyder County Historical Society held its fifth annual pilgrimage on September 14 with a visit to New Berlin and other points. Dr. George F. Dunkelberger of the Susquehanna University staff presented a paper dealing with the interesting and spectacular story of a county Civil War deserter. Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker, state archivist, was present and spoke before the group. Several representatives of neighboring societies took part in the tour. The November 11 meeting was held in the University Library at Selinsgrove. Miss Agnes S. Schoch read a paper on "Floods of the Susquehanna Valley," while Dr. Dunkelberger spoke on "Railroad and Airplane Accidents in Snyder County." Dr. William A. Russ, Jr. read a paper on "Great Fires of Selinsgrove." Dr. George Fisher has been reelected as president. The society is progressing with its plan for a new county history and is coöperating with the Frontier Forts and Trails Survey in gathering material.

The Northampton county historians continue to sponsor elaborate, well planned and significant program activities. September 14 was given over to a tour of the slate belt in the county and the history and present status of this great quarrying industry was reviewed. On November 9 the group arranged to have three historic houses of Easton open to the public. The home of the society at Fourth and Ferry streets, the Parsons Taylor House on the opposite corner now owned by the D.A.R., and the private home of Asher J. Odenwelder with its priceless collection

of Pennsylvania antiques were on view. An admission of one dollar was charged to cover all three and the proceeds devoted to the Easton Hospital Golden Jubilee fund. This exhibition of civic spirit might well be emulated by other societies in the state.

Mr. Henry J. Young continues to direct the York historians in a series of free public forums which are attracting enthusiastic groups to the headquarters at 225 East Market Street. September 12 Mr. Vernon D. Heilman discussed "The Laurel Fire Company of York, 1772-1940," while on October 10 Charles W. Rutschky, Jr. spoke on "Thomas Barton." The November session featured Miss Mildred K. Binder in "Reflections of Negro Slavery in the History of York County." The forums have aroused much interest in local history and have proved an effective means of interesting the general public. Many societies will find that such a series of discussions open to non-members will constitute an effective way of widening the usefulness of the organization. Mr. Young is steadily building up the society collections through the use of microphotography. Revolutionary records in the State Archives were recently filmed for the society, which possesses its own equipment.

The Historical Society of Frankford is presenting its usual worthwhile series of monthly programs. The October meeting was given over to a discussion of "Stiegel Glass, Coins, Antiques and Indian Relics," presented by Mr. Ira S. Reed and illustrated with slides. Dr. Roland Holroyd presented an illustrated lecture for the November meeting dealing with his visits to historic and little known points of interest. The society has a splendid building at 1507 Orthodox Street in Frankford with excellent collections. Visitors are welcome. The ambitious secretary, Miss Caroline W. Smedley, attended the Association meetings in State College and won the distinction of having come the greatest distance to take part in the meeting.

The regular meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County was held in Historical Hall, 18 East Penn Street, Norristown on the afternoon of November 16. The reports of officers were heard along with several interesting papers. The society

is engaged in sorting and arranging a recently acquired collection of some five hundred books, pamphlets and manuscripts from the estate of Dr. W. H. Reed. On October 4 the society conducted a "Chester County Day" tour and became acquainted with numerous points of historical interest in the neighboring county.

The October meeting of the City History Society of Philadelphia presented Rev. Thomas C. Pears with an address on "The Rôle of the Clergy in the Colonial History of Philadelphia." The society reports unusual success with its annual program of tours. On November 9 the group visited the Presbyterian Historical Society headquarters in the Witherspoon Building. This is the oldest church historical society in the United States and its portrait gallery, museum and library housed in the building are of paramount interest. Rev. Pears is the secretary of the society. The annual meeting, held November 27, was addressed by Dr. Edmond J. Farris on "The Wistars and the Wistar Institute."

The Friends' Historical Association, founded in 1873, held its annual meeting November 25 at the Atwater Kent Museum, 15 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia. A short business meeting returned the society's leaders to their respective offices. Mr. Henry S. Jeanes, Jr. conducted a tour of the museum and explained its purposes and aims to the Association members and guests.

The Northumberland County Historical Society has resumed its series of monthly meetings held at Fort Augusta Mansion in Sunbury. The October 15 gathering was given over to an explanation of the work of the Frontier Forts and Trails Survey by Mr. Stevens, Commission historian. The Mansion houses the north-central Pennsylvania office of the Survey under the supervision of Mr. Heber Gearhart, secretary of the society. Mr. Donald H. Kent, assistant historian of the Commission, presented an illustrated lecture on "The First World War and the Upper Allegheny." The November 19 gathering found two of the society's officials discussing matters of much interest. Mr. George Neff spoke on "Old Books," while Mr. Gearhart exhibited and discussed "Pennsylvania German Birth and Baptismal Certificates."

The many friends of the Dauphin County Historical Society will be delighted to learn that there is every prospect that it will be provided with new and suitable headquarters for its activities. At its October meeting the group voted authorization to purchase the Herr property at 19 North Front Street to be used by the society. The location and the size of the property are such as to accommodate satisfactorily the valuable collections and services so long maintained at 9 South Front Street. The progress of the society's activities has been little hampered by the search for a new home. On October 9 the organization undertook its annual autumn pilgrimage. The James Buchanan country in nearby Franklin county was selected as the field for excursion and a stop was made at Chambersburg to view the log cabin in which Pennsylvania's only president was born. Stony Batter, the actual birth-place site now marked by a monument, was another stop. The party had dinner at Mercersburg in the building now used as an inn which was once Buchanan's home. The regular October meeting was devoted appropriately to military history from the days of the Revolution to the World War, with emphasis upon the story of how troops were raised for service. The November meeting returned to another topic in the program series planned by Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton dealing with the development of local religious life and institutions. The Rev. Dr. Philip D. Bookstaber discussed "The History of Jewry in Harrisburg." On November 18 the society opened its annual antique show, sponsored as a means of education and supported by an admission charge. This is a type of activity which might well be considered by other societies of the state.

The Huntingdon County Historical Society, which recently acquired headquarters in the Court House at Huntingdon, is adding gradually to its collections and taking a more active role in local historical matters. Early newspapers, muster rolls and letters are among the recent accessions.

The Pennsylvania German Society held its fiftieth annual meeting at State College October 18 with the College acting as host. This is the second time that the society has had its gathering west of the Susquehanna, but the strong penetration of Pennsyl-

vania German population into many sections of the central area of the state justify its consideration as a part of the Pennsylvania German country. The society was organized in 1891 and has published forty-eight volumes of papers and addresses relating to Pennsylvania German life and culture. The author of the last volume of the *Proceedings*, Dr. Harry Hess Reichard, discussed "Pennsylvania German Poetry" before the society, based upon his extensive anthology. Mr. E. K. Hibshman, alumni secretary of the College, spoke on "The Pennsylvania German in Agriculture," a most appropriate subject in view of the great contributions of this racial group to the agricultural development of the state. Luncheon was held at the Nittany Lion Inn, followed by entertainment and papers of a popular nature concerned with Pennsylvania German folklore and customs, after which the meeting adjourned. Mr. Henry S. Borneman, Philadelphia attorney, is the new president.

Mifflin county historians are planning a vigorous drive for the development of wider membership and interest in their affairs as well as increased financial support. The campaign will be modelled somewhat after the successful effort of Berks county last winter. The society is fortunate in having as one of its good friends General Frank R. McCoy, recently retired and now a part time resident of his native Lewistown. The more active phases of the drive were launched at a dinner on December 3, addressed by Mr. Gregg L. Neel, member of the Historical Commission and active in the work of Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. A representative committee of leading citizens of the county has agreed to assume responsibility for the united effort. Under the energetic leadership of its president, Mr. J. Martin Stroup, the society has already made notable progress and won the distinctive activities award of the Federation in April. The group will without a doubt make a success of its new endeavor and greatly widen its field of service.

The Indiana County Historical Society continues to be active and alert. The November meeting was held in Leonard Hall of the State Teachers' College at Indiana with Dr. Ralph Heiges of the College history staff presiding. The society has given over a

part of each meeting to a "Professor Quiz" program on local history which has proved unusually interesting. Mr. Walter H. Jackson read an extensive paper on early Indiana history.

Berks county already has begun to capitalize upon its added financial support, the result of its vigorous drive for funds last February. Dr. Gurney Clemens has been appointed curator for the society. At a recent meeting before the Reading Motion Picture Forum, Dr. Clemens emphasized the function of the society museum. Repudiating the idea that it was just a place to house "junk," he emphasized that it existed as "an orderly arrangement of cultural objects, to make the past live again in our own lives and in the lives of those who are to come after us." "It is intended to aid the community as a whole," he added. This is an excellent definition of the function of an historical society museum and one which may well be studied with care by others. Dr. Clemens is especially devoted to the development of the society's services in such a way as to make them of maximum use to the schools.

Special exhibits are being arranged for different occasions in order to secure the maximum utility from the collections. This, of course, is a radical departure from the usual historical society practice of fixed exhibits which often are unchanged from year to year. A similar procedure has been employed by Mr. Leo Wilt at Towanda which has resulted in greatly increased interest in the collections of the Bradford county organization. In connection with the recent presidential campaign, the Reading society featured an exhibit of oldtime campaign buttons, banners and posters. At the time of the fall opening of the schools, Dr. Clemens arranged in coöperation with the Reading High School Alumni Association a special exhibit of old textbooks, commencement programs and directors reports. Those interested in further details of this conception of museum management will undoubtedly be able to correspond directly with Dr. Clemens at the society building in Reading.

The Lancaster County Historical Society, under the direction of Dr. Herbert Beck, has taken steps to make its valuable collections of documents and newspapers more available to those

interested in historical study and research. The rooms of the society at 307 North Duke Street in Lancaster will now be open for these purposes on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from two to five o'clock, and Thursday evening from seven to ten. Formerly, it was impossible to secure access to the collections except by special appointment. The November meeting at the society headquarters was addressed by Mr. Luther Heisey on "Railroad and Bridge Builders of Lancaster." The organization has acquired recently sizeable additions to its genealogical file in the form of Bible and cemetery records as well as several scrap-books and pamphlets. Additions to the museum are also noted.

The recently organized Montour County Historical Society apparently is in the hands of those who intend to see that results are accomplished. The borough of Danville has been persuaded to provide light and water facilities for the Russell property which will house the society. Funds have been secured to provide heat and make possible the necessary interior improvements. The society has assurance that further support will be forthcoming provided it demonstrates its usefulness during a one-year period. A charter for the group has been obtained from the county court.

The Fort Washington Historical Society at Fort Washington, occupying historic Clifton House, is opening a season of activity under the new presidency of William Buchanan, Jr. The October meeting took the form of a covered dish supper, following which a program of historical and genealogical talks was presented. Dr. John B. Carrell was the principal speaker.

The regular fall meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology was held October 11 and 12 at Waynesburg with Colonel Lewis F. Acker, president of the society, in charge. Dr. H. C. Shetrone, director of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, was the featured speaker with an address on "Prehistoric Cultures of Ohio and Western Pennsylvania." Dr. Paul Stewart, president of Waynesburg College, spoke at the Friday evening dinner on "Local Prehistoric Trails and Sites." The Saturday morning sessions presented several papers of which the discussion of "Burial Customs of the Prehistoric Americans," by Dr. Claude E. Schaeffer, newly appointed Commission anthropologist, was

especially outstanding. "Archaeological Reconnaissance in South-western Pennsylvania," presented by Dr. Mary Butler of Vassar College at the Saturday evening dinner session, was another paper of especial interest to Pennsylvanians. During the afternoon several sites in the vicinity of Waynesburg were visited by the members.

The Clinton County Historical Society opened its fall season with a definitely outstanding event. The society and the Lock Haven State Teachers' College jointly sponsored a visit to Lock Haven by the noted artist John Sloan. Mr. Sloan is a native of Lock Haven and spent his early boyhood there. He has become recognized as an outstanding American artist. A public address at the College auditorium was arranged for Mr. Sloan. An added feature of the November 15 meeting was an exhibit of the known work of Clinton county artists past and present. The organization has definite plans for a series of monthly meetings for the remainder of the season.

The regular annual meeting of the Delaware County Historical Society was held in the Chester Y.W.C.A. Building at Seventh and Sproul Streets in Chester on November 21. Following the transaction of business, the society heard an address by Mr. H. W. Buse. Rev. G. C. Heyl of the Upland Baptist Church discussed "Contributions of Early Baptists to Delaware County" in another paper. Several friends of the group were present and it was the general sentiment of all that the society has made important progress during the past year.

Berwickians interested in history are very active this autumn. On October 19 members and friends of the Historical Association visited Muncy and the museum and home of the Historical Society. Dr. T. Kenneth Wood of the Muncy organization greeted the guests and explained the history and objectives of the society. The visitors from Berwick came away greatly inspired and anxious to duplicate the achievements of the Muncy people. On Sunday afternoon, October 20, the Association, under the presidency of Mr. Robert Harder of Berwick, sponsored a meeting of the Society of Friends in the form of an old time Quaker meeting. Impressive and inspirational in its periods of silent

meditation and communion, the meeting was addressed by Dr. Wilbur K. Thomas of Philadelphia. The gathering was held in coöperation with the Millville members of the Society of Friends and commemorated historically the influence of this group in the development of this part of the state. Many friends of the Association were present from nearby communities. The meeting was followed by a reception at the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Hensyl in Berwick where an opportunity was provided for the examination of their outstanding personal collection of antiquities.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has outlined an attractive program for the new season and members of the Association are cordially invited to attend wherever possible. The October 29 meeting was addressed by Mr. Merle H. Deardorff, chairman of the Cornplanter Committee and prominent Warren historian and banker, on the subject of "The Cornplanter Grant, Warren County, and its History." Motion pictures of the August adoption ceremonies, taken by the Department of Commerce, were presented as an added feature. The December 5 meeting featured a luncheon at the William Penn Hotel and a paper by the Hon. James H. Gray of Pittsburgh on "Five Generations of Allegheny County Judges and Lawyers." January 7 was devoted to an open house at the society building, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard, with a program furnished by the Pittsburgh Presbytery. January 28 was given over to the annual meeting with election of officers and a paper by Mr. Henry K. Siebeneck on "William Pitt and General Forbes." The February 25 meeting will present Henry Oliver Evans of Pittsburgh in a paper on "Notes on Transportation in Pittsburgh prior to 1890." On March 25, Dr. Paul Giddens of Allegheny College, author of *The Birth of the Oil Industry*, will speak on the history of Pennsylvania petroleum. "Western Pennsylvania's Influence in the Election of 1860" will be discussed by Dr. C. Maxwell Myers of Jeannette at the April 29 meeting. May 27 will be the annual University of Pittsburgh night with a program arranged by Dr. John W. Oliver, head of the history department, University of Pittsburgh. Hon. Robert Garland has been elected to take over the duties of the presidency left vacant by the death of Hon. John S. Fisher.

The Muncy Historical Society has arranged another interesting program series for the coming months. The opening meeting on October 11 presented Mr. Delos Bitler in a talk on "Some Local Canal Construction and Operation," while Mr. Clark B. Kahler evaluated the evidence concerning the location of Fort Brady. Mr. James E. Heath, head of the Columbia County Historical Society of New York, addressed the November meeting. A varied list of speakers for the remainder of the season has been secured but dates not definitely assigned.

Bradford county historians are becoming archaeologically minded. September 27 Dr. William Ritchie, well known New York archaeologist of the Rochester Museum, spoke before the society on "2,000 Years of Indian Culture in the Susquehanna Valley." The New York expert analyzed with care the story of prehistoric life in the upper Susquehanna Valley region, characterizing it as one of the most ancient and historic rivers on the continent. Geologic changes which modified the course of the stream's flow, as well as the history of successive Indian migrations which used the river as an artery of communication, were discussed. The society has also sponsored a program at which Dr. Schaeffer, state anthropologist, spoke and assisted in organizing a local chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology as an adjunct to the work of the Historical Society. With the aid of a WPA project, the group has completed the organization of its library and is now engaged in putting its newspaper files in such shape as to be of the most use to future researchers. A unit of the Frontier Forts and Trails Survey has been installed at the society building under the personal supervision of Mr. Leo Wilt, president of the society.

The October 17 meeting of the Lycoming County Historical Society was held at the Woman's Club in Williamsport. Dr. George H. Parkes, head of the city vocational schools, presented a careful history of the vocational education movement. Dr. Parkes has generously permitted his pupils to assist in much of the work which is to be done in preparing the society's new headquarters building on West Fourth Street for ultimate use. The society was presented recently with the first camera used in Williamsport in 1860. The November 21 meeting presented

Mr. Howard R. Davis, managing editor of *Grit*, in a discussion of "A History of the Newspapers of Lycoming County." A concert was presented by the Williamsport WPA orchestra following the lecture.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Plans for the April 10, 1941 meeting in Harrisburg are developing with rapidity. Members of historical societies and all those interested in the local historical program in Pennsylvania should reserve this date for attendance. Sessions will all be held this year at the Penn-Harris Hotel and will open at ten o'clock in the morning. The morning session will feature a limited number of reports from the constituent societies which have been distinguished for the development of new and unusual ideas and practices during the year. The Federation membership is too large to permit a report from each society. Dr. C. C. Crittenden, secretary and historian of the North Carolina Historical Commission, has accepted an invitation to deliver the principal address. Dr. Crittenden is a former member of the department of history at North Carolina University, chairman of the National Conference of Historical Societies, and a recognized leader in the historical activities of our southern neighbors. He will present observations on the historical problems of this section and analyze the means by which they have been approached. There will be an evening dinner meeting, informal in character, patterned after the first venture in this practice last April. The activities and publications contest awards will be continued as they have been found to constitute a definite inspiration to historical activity throughout the state.

The 1940 *Year Book* was made available early in December and has been distributed to a mailing list of several hundred. A few additional copies are available which will be furnished upon request. The format follows that utilized for the past two years which is regarded as the most satisfactory method of organizing information concerning the society's activities. The volume has come to be recognized as a handbook of information concerning the societies of the state. It is in considerable demand for this purpose and requests come from the leading libraries and his-

torical organizations of the country. The 1940 edition lists a total of ninety-one of the major historical and patriotic societies of the state, representing an increase of four since the last issue. The latest member of the Federation is the Cameron County Historical Society with headquarters at Emporium and under the direction of the County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. C. E. Plasterer.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

Pennsylvania has won another place in the New York University Hall of Fame. Pittsburgh's native son, Stephen Collins Foster, characterized by a recent biographer as "America's Troubadour" was chosen out of a list of 141 nominees and the bust and commemorative tablet will probably be placed early in the spring.

Pennsylvania chapters of the D.A.R. met at Lancaster October 14 to 17 to commemorate the golden jubilee anniversary of the founding of the national organization. The D.A.R. is actively interested in state and local historical activities. An increasing number of chapters are devoting program space to historical topics. The organization has taken a part also in the development of such historic properties as Wheatland, home of Buchanan at Lancaster, and Friendship Hill, home of Albert Gallatin near Uniontown. Historical societies and individuals interested in Pennsylvania history should make every effort to coöperate with the state organization and local chapters in encouraging their interest along these lines.

The Frontier Forts and Trails Survey continues to expand at a steady pace. Units have been opened recently at Lewistown, Hollidaysburg, Bellefonte, Clearfield, Lock Haven and Philadelphia. The Philadelphia unit is engaged in transcribing the valuable but long forgotten collection of Forster Papers in the University of Pennsylvania Library relating to the early history of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The third volume of the Bouquet material has been made available and another is nearing completion. Requests have been received for this series from all parts of the United States and Canada.

Publication plans of the Historical Commission are shaping up successfully under direction of the historian and the Publications Committee consisting of Miss Frances Dorrance and Dr. Roy F. Nichols. Page proof for *Wilderness Chronicles of Northwestern Pennsylvania* has been returned to the printer and the volume should be available by February, if not earlier. The *Journal of J.C.B.*, the contemporary account of the experiences of a soldier of France in western Pennsylvania, has been submitted to the state printer, as well as *Beginnings of the Oil Industry in Pennsylvania: Sources and Bibliography*, a work prepared by Dr. Paul Giddens. The work of Dr. R. L. Brunhouse concerned with the critical political history of Pennsylvania preceding the adoption of the Constitution of 1790 has been approved as a Commission publication and is in the hands of the printer. It is possible that a study of the commercial rivalry between Philadelphia and Baltimore for the control of the early trade of the Lower Susquehanna Valley prepared at Princeton University a few years ago may also be published during the present biennium. *A Guide to the County Archives of Pennsylvania* is in preparation by the Pennsylvania Historical Records Survey and will be a further addition under Commission auspices to the several guides and bibliographical aids which it hopes to make available as contributions to further research in Pennsylvania history. The *Guide* has been prepared in such a form as to constitute a key to the archives of the typical Pennsylvania county. It should encourage their use by students of both history and government. The first volume in the series of Pennsylvania Newspaper Bibliographies will be made available this spring in the form of a check-list of Philadelphia papers.

The Historical Records Survey has made available recently two more of its county archival inventories. Erie and Forest counties have been published in convenient shelf size volumes with board covers by use of the multilithographing process. The survey has been reorganized under the capable direction of Dr. Eugene Braderman, recently appointed as state director. Its work is being concentrated upon the completion of the county inventories and other work started by the project in its early days. It is necessary for some sponsor to provide the funds for publication before a county inventory can be made available. As a

rule, a few hundred dollars will suffice and several boards of county commissioners have been farsighted enough to sponsor the inventories for the counties. Representatives of historical societies should be interested in this work and wherever possible may well use their influence to encourage local county officials to provide these funds. All the county records of Pennsylvania have been surveyed and it would be unfortunate if at least a majority were not published.

The Pennsylvania Writers' Project now has available the long awaited *Pennsylvania Guide*, the preparation of which has taken several years. It has been published by the Oxford University Press, under the joint sponsorship of the Department of Public Instruction, the Commission and the University of Pennsylvania. It is a valuable and interesting guide to the many historic and scenic attractions of the state and has been prepared with such care that it should contain a minimum of errors. It is profusely illustrated and contains well outlined automobile tours covering the entire state. One of the last of the state guide series to be published, it should prove to be one of the best and a worthwhile contribution to Pennsylvania historical literature. Inquiries should be directed to the project headquarters, Board of Education Building, 21st and Parkway, Philadelphia.

Two more volumes have appeared in the Pennsylvania Lives series, sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Press under direction of Mr. Phelps Soule. Lives of *John and Thomas Bart-ram* and *John A. Brashear* are the latest additions to the list. They serve to show the diversity of the series in that they represent a shift from political and military history in the Geary biography to men of letters and science. It is becoming more and more obvious that this is one of the outstanding publications projects in the field of Pennsylvania history. Every library and historical organization should subscribe to the entire series. It is difficult to name a more worthwhile shelf of books representing possibilities of more thorough presentation of an abundance of new information on our state. It is essentially a "must purchase" item for such organizations.