

## NEWS AND COMMENT

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### ASSOCIATION NEWS

**T**HE Pennsylvania Library Association adopted at its annual October meeting a series of resolutions pointing the way toward improvements in the public records situation in Pennsylvania. The Association authorized the appointment of representatives to a committee coöperating jointly with the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the Federation of Historical Societies and the Historical Commission. The purpose of the committee will be to undertake a careful survey of the archive and record situation in the state, analyze its problems and present constructive recommendations. Since our Association adopted a resolution favoring action on an archives building there should be little difficulty in merging the several interests. The questions connected with the proper preservation and administration of not only our state archives but also the records of local governmental units have long confronted us. Pennsylvania has been relatively laggard in meeting these problems. It is time that some such study as this was undertaken by competent persons with consequent recommendations for positive action. Incidentally, the problem of a public records building in Harrisburg may not be so important as it seemed in the past. It is probable that by the use of microphotography it would be possible to store all of the archives of the several state departments in the rooms allocated at present to the State Archives. This would make it possible for separate divisions to maintain their cherished documents in their own custody and yet at the same time make microfilm copies available at one central point.

The meeting of the Council held on April 9, was sparsely attended due largely to the fact that many of the college representatives were unable to be present as a result of the Easter recess. Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., presented a report on the program for the October meeting which was approved by those

present. Dr. Russ deserves considerable commendation for the spirit with which he has proceeded to assemble a well-rounded program.

The Council unanimously approved a motion presented by Dr. Nichols enabling the president to appoint representatives on the joint committee for the study of the state archival problem. The Association will coöperate with the Pennsylvania Library Association and the Federation in this study. Dr. Gipson selected Dr. A. E. Martin, Dr. Roy F. Nichols, and Mr. S. K. Stevens as his representatives. Federation members are Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, Dr. Franklin F. Holbrook, and Mrs. William E. Lingelbach. Miss Frances Dorrance, Dr. John H. Scheide of Titusville, and Mr. Seymour Thompson, librarian at the University of Pennsylvania, are the Library Association representatives. Miss Dorrance will serve as chairman of the group. It is expected that the committee will make an extensive study of the problems connected with the care and preservation of the public records of Pennsylvania and survey the archival establishments of other states with a view to presenting a comprehensive report.

The program committee, Dr. Russ, chairman, has almost completed the program for the October 24-25 meeting to be held at Gettysburg. A few details are missing as to the titles of papers and chairmen of certain sessions. The main outline of the arrangements for the two-day gathering can, however, be presented at this time. The opening session on Friday will be a luncheon at which a representative of the Historical Commission and the Pennsylvania Historical Survey will take charge of the program and analyze the work of the WPA Historical Records and Research Program in Pennsylvania. During the afternoon the subject of emphasis will be Pennsylvania church history. The president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Dr. Abdel Ross Wentz, and Dr. Raymond Wolf Albright will present papers dealing with Pennsylvania religious groups. The Friday evening dinner meeting will feature an address by Dr. Thomas Wertenbaker of Princeton, well-known authority on American colonial history. Stephen Vincent Benet will also read from his poem, "John Brown's Body."

On Saturday morning the regular business meeting will be

followed by a paper on the influence of Pennsylvania newspapers during the Civil War period by Dr. J. Cutler Andrews of the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Mr. W. J. Bell, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania will discuss reform movements in Pennsylvania in the early nineteenth century. The luncheon will feature Mr. William Kain of York on "The Penn Manorial System and the Manors of Springettsbury and Maske." The well-known Pennsylvania author, Elsie Singmaster, will speak on "Gettysburg in 1863." According to custom the afternoon will be devoted to a tour of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. This will be in charge of Dr. Frederick Tilberg.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Further evidence of the expansion of the local history movement is furnished by the recent organization of the Carbon County Historical Society at Mauch Chunk. The move was sponsored, according to newspaper accounts, by the Lehigh Lodge of Elks and the Mauch Chunk Inter-Boro Women's Club. This illustrates the influence which local civic and fraternal groups may exert upon the development of local history. Judge James McCready acted as chairman for the organization meeting. Richard S. Ruddle has been elected president of the new group with Mr. A. Carl Neumiller of Lansford as secretary. General Frank Beary of the Lehigh County Historical Society assisted in the organization meeting.

The anthracite region is fully alive to its history. Nearby Hazleton has revived the long dormant Sugarloaf Historical Association. A special meeting of those interested held in March resulted in a complete re-organization of the group with prospects for an active program. The Golden Jubilee of Hazleton occurring in 1941 has produced an increased attention to local history in the city and had much to do with the desire for a more effective historical body. The Association expects to be able to cooperate actively with civic and city authorities in sponsoring the commemoration. Mr. Bruce Kremer of Hazleton has been selected as president. Miss Frances Dorrance is another officer.

At Wilkes-Barre, Colonel Dorrance Reynolds has been re-elected president of the Wyoming Historical and Geological So-

ciety. In accepting the presidency again, Colonel Dorrance commented upon the fact that the society was recovering from years of depression and faced the future with every prospect of active achievement. The organization has become one of the bulwarks of historical activity in this section of the state and recognized for the value of its archaeological, mineralogical and historical collections. The introduction of a course on local history in the Wilkes-Barre schools has given an added opportunity for service by the group.

The Berks County Historical Society, which distinguished itself at the Federation meeting once more by winning first award with its quarterly publication, *The Historical Review of Berks County*, announces that Dr. Milton W. Hamilton, professor of history at Albright College, will become the managing editor for the magazine. This will guarantee that the quarterly will continue to be both an attractive and valuable contribution to Berks county history. The society curator, Dr. G. W. Clemens, is making progress with the organization of the museum. All items are being catalogued and an entirely new and educational arrangement of exhibits is planned. On May 16 the society dedicated the model of historic Penn Square prepared by the Museum Extension of the WPA. Dr. Julian Boyd was the speaker. The Pennsylvania Historical Commission met at the society headquarters the same day and the members were guests at the ceremonies.

The Mifflin County Historical Society continues its activity without any slackening of pace. The spring months have been unusually productive of worthwhile achievement. On May 16 the dedication ceremonies at the restored Jacks Creek Bridge at Lewistown were held together with the unveiling of a Pennsylvania Canal marker furnished by the Pennsylvania Edison Company. Incidentally, this calls attention to a new source of support for such projects. Business concerns are becoming historically minded and can be relied upon frequently for support of projects to mark sites of significance in economic history. The Fort Granville model recently completed by students in the vocational department of the Lewistown High School is now on display at the society headquarters.

The society has prevailed upon the County Commissioners to

turn over to it the custody of the old newspaper files in their possession. These represent an important addition to an already valuable collection of county newspapers. This is a matter which other societies might well take under consideration. The County Commissioners of the respective counties are required by law to maintain for public use a file of the leading county newspaper or papers. Many have complied with this legislation and are in possession of bound files of the utmost importance. In some cases the files occupy space urgently needed for current records and materials and as a result are in danger of destruction. In most cases they are now tucked away in basements or other obscure places and are unused. Representatives of local historical societies would do well to look into this matter in their respective areas. The files should be preserved. They are of little interest to county officials and in many cases they would very probably welcome some arrangement to store them with a society to make them available for use.

The Dauphin County Historical Society has had the unusual experience of having a plethora of homes. The John Harris Mansion on lower Front street, one of the most historic buildings in Harrisburg, has been acquired by gift. This splendid old mansion will be used for a permanent headquarters. The Herr property at 19 North Front Street, acquired previously by purchase, has been sold and the society is now in a most fortunate position to develop the Harris property. Much of the credit for this successful management of the society's business must go to its faithful mentor, Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton.

Blair county historians likewise have prospects of a more favorable settlement of the problem of a home site. There is every prospect that the society will be able to purchase shortly at a reasonable figure the Elias Baker Mansion in Altoona which has been used by it during the summer months for some years. A campaign for public aid in undertaking the purchase has met with an encouraging response and the plan has gone far enough to make possible securing an option on the property. Charles Copley Harding of London, England, is the present owner as heir of the Baker estate. On June 14 the society held a special ceremony at the mansion to observe the opening of the museum for another

summer season and also to suitably commemorate the anticipated purchase. In connection with the drive for funds, a membership campaign has been organized. The society wisely decided that a larger permanent membership would be the best guarantee of the future success of the project.

Erie county historians are showing new signs of life under the leadership of the recently elected president, Mr. Allyn Wright. Dr. John W. Ray of the Erie schools, president for two years, has become first vice-president. Mr. J. Elmer Reed, well-known attorney and local historian, who had much to do with the early development and success of the organization, was voted a life membership in recognition of his services. Mr. Wright has held several meetings which have been well attended and plans are being laid for an aggressive membership campaign to open in the fall. Several definite historical projects are also under consideration. The reconstruction of the "Niagara" at Erie is responsible for arousing increased local interest in historical affairs, as has the work of the WPA Historical Survey at the Old Customs House.

The March meeting of the Chester County Historical Society was addressed by Mr. John M. Marshall Phillips, curator of the Garvan Silver Collection of Yale University and a former native of the county, on the subject, "Two Centuries of American Prints." The May meeting was given over to the regular annual business and was the best attended in the history of the organization. Dr. Francis Harvey Green occupied his usual post as president and was re-elected by unanimous vote. The society has been unusually successful during the past year. It has further improved its commodious and handsome headquarters building at West Chester and expanded its collections and services. For three successive years it has been cited at the Federation meeting for distinguished achievement. It has become one of the finest historical organizations in the state.

The second annual banquet of the Pioneer Historical Society of Bedford County was held in March at the Hotel Washington in Bedford with the president, Major S. M. Lutz, presiding. Despite unsatisfactory weather, a fine attendance was on hand and

much interest evidenced in the prospective development of the society's program. Bedford is located in the heart of a region rich in Pennsylvania history, especially in colonial times, and presents a definite challenge to duty for the recently organized historical group under the leadership of Major Lutz. Dr. Claude E. Schaeffer, anthropologist for the Historical Commission, presented the feature address of the evening.

The Lackawanna County Historical Society, winner of the Federation activities award for distinguished achievement among the larger county groups on a basis of its work during the past year, held its annual meeting at the Century Club in Scranton on May 13. Mr. Joseph C. Platt has been elected to the presidency following the resignation of Mr. Gunster who served the society ably for several years. The meeting included an interesting exhibit of photographs, prints and newspapers from the society's important collections housed at the Everhart Museum. After the business meeting, a dinner was served followed by several brief addresses. Colonel Dorrance Reynolds from neighboring Wilkes-Barre and the Wyoming society spoke graphically of the importance of alertness in securing and preserving collections of papers and documents. He pointed out incidents from the experience of his own society illustrating his point and called attention to invaluable collections which were lost by the matter of a few days in contacting the owners. Mr. Worthington Scranton, a descendant of one of the founders, spoke briefly of the early days of Scranton and discussed plans for the forthcoming centennial which is arousing great interest in the city. The secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Keese, spoke of the progress made by the society during the past year in organizing its collections and making them more available for use.

The newly opened museum and headquarters of the Lycoming County Historical Society in Williamsport at 858 West Fourth Street continues to attract large numbers of visitors. The committee in charge has been so impressed by the public interest that the rooms have been thrown open for the summer at least to the general public as well as members from two to five each week day afternoon. Materials continue to pour into the hands of the committee for exhibition until the problem of selection has become serious. The fact that a headquarters building is essential

to arousing public interest in preserving the relics and documents of the past is well illustrated by the experience in Lycoming. Perhaps the most important single exhibit in the museum centers around the story of the central Pennsylvania lumber industry. The society is already noteworthy for its collection of implements and models which tell the story of this important chapter in industrial history and continually receives important new additions. An attractive sign has been placed at the front of the building in order that visitors may easily locate it. A collection of some two hundred American almanacs, many of them rare, is among the more recent acquisitions.

Adams county historians are active under the direction of Dr. Frederick Tilberg of the National Park staff. The history of the medical profession in the county was the subject for the March meeting and was presented by one of the old and distinguished physicians of the county, Dr. Henry Stewart. The paper was based upon source materials including newspaper files, court and medical society records. The June meeting was devoted to arousing interest in the importance of local history and State Historian S. K. Stevens, presented a talk on "The Growing Importance of Local History." The Adams county Commissioners are expected to provide the society with suitable headquarters space in the basement of the Court House.

The sixtieth annual sessions of the Bucks County Historical Society were held at the headquarters building in Doylestown on May 3. About one hundred members were present and seventeen additions to membership were reported. The meeting was presided over by the venerable president, Dr. B. F. Fackenthal, Jr., who delivered a paper on "The Indian Walking Purchase Monument at Ottsville." Mr. Edward Barnsley presented a carefully prepared paper based upon research in selected source materials on "Local Horse Companies." These unique organizations were promoted for the purpose of detecting and punishing horse thieves and were once a flourishing institution. They began to be organized in Bucks County during the first decade of the last century and reached their peak about 1880 when some forty different societies functioned in that area. About ten still survive



and a majority are over a hundred years old. Mr. Barnsley has published an interesting brochure on the subject.

The regular summer meeting of the Friends' Historical Association was held at Pennsbury and Fallsington on May 17. Members and friends assembled in the mid-afternoon at "William Penn's Manor of Pennsbury" where a tour of the reconstructed buildings was conducted by Mr. T. Russell Stackhouse, superintendent of the property. The group then proceeded to Fallsington Meeting House, built in 1841, where Mr. Charles Henry Moon spoke on "The Romance of Pennsbury."

The March 18 meeting of the Northumberland County Historical Society featured an address by Miss Mary Hunter Linn of Bellefonte on "General James Potter, His Life and Times." The following month Dr. Frederic A. Godcharles presented an interesting paper on "Colonel Mathews Smith, Soldier and Statesman." The society has planned a summer pilgrimage into neighboring counties. Dr. Godcharles is busily engaged in the preparation of his forthcoming history of the Susquehanna valley region and central Pennsylvania.

Mr. J. Bennett Nolan, well-known Reading historian and author, addressed the annual meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society on May 26 on the subject, "The Great North Road to Pottsgrove and Reading," an interesting chapter in the transportation history of that section of the state. The society continues to center its program about the restoration of "Pottsgrove." Legislation turning the property over to the state for administration is before the General Assembly.

The City History Society of Philadelphia organized another of its series of spring excursions which operated with success during May and June. On May 10 the American Swedish Historical Museum at 19th Street and Pattison Avenue in Philadelphia was visited. This is a place of increasing interest to historians. The collections of the Museum are steadily expanding and have been well organized. It has become an important center for Swedish-American history. On May 24 the Cathedral at Bryn Athyn was

the point of concentration, and on June 7 Bryn Mawr and its buildings were toured. The regular meeting of the society on April 23 was addressed at the Girard College Library by Dr. Merle Odgers on "Alexander Dallas Bache."

The Potter County Historical Society held its May meeting in Coudersport with an illustrated address by Judge Robert R. Lewis. Judge Lewis also emphasized to those present the importance of preserving historical records. Plans have been formulated for a joint meeting of all the northern tier societies in August at the Masonic Cathedral in Coudersport with the Potter county society as host. An illustrated address on "Cornplanter and his Descendants," will be presented by Mr. Merle H. Deardorff of Warren. This regional get-together has become an annual feature of historical society activity in this area and is one to be highly commended. It would be worthwhile were other societies in definite regional areas to attempt to promote some similar gathering at least once a year. There is need to develop a sense of the importance of regional history in Pennsylvania and this is one means of encouraging such a consciousness.

Under the patient leadership of its president, Mr. J. E. Henretta of Kane, the McKean County Historical Society has succeeded in consolidating all of the scattered historical interests of that county into a single unit. A recent meeting at Smethport, the county town, has resulted in a closer association with the historians of Bradford and Port Allegheny which previously had maintained somewhat separate interests. As a result of the new unification, it is expected that much greater progress in promoting county history may be expected for the future. With the coöperation of the County Superintendent of Schools, a program has been put in operation designed to utilize children in the public schools for collecting historical data, records and documents. All of this material will be deposited with the society at its quarters in the Court House at Smethport.

Recent meetings of the monthly public "Forum" of the York County Historical Society have been of more than usual interest. In March the subject was "Indians Known to the Early Settlers of the Lower Susquehanna Valley," presented by Dr. Herbert

Beck, well-known as president of the Lancaster county historians and member of the science faculty at Franklin and Marshall College. The April meeting was devoted to an interesting bit of social history, "Baseball in York, 1866-1941," presented by Mr. Vernon D. Heilman and certainly a timely topic. In May, County Superintendent of Schools Harvey Swartz, conducted a panel discussion on "Reminiscences of Teaching in York County." At the risk of being repetitious we wish once more to commend this York experiment to the attention of the larger historical societies of the state. The program of forums has greatly extended the circle of society influence and worth. An analysis of the subjects presented shows further an unusual breadth of historical interest.

At the April 29 meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania an interesting paper was presented by Dr. C. Maxwell Myers of the Jeannette High School on "The Influence of Western Pennsylvania in the Campaign of 1860." Dr. Myers recently completed a doctoral dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh on the "Rise of the Republican Party in Pennsylvania, 1854-1860." On March 25 Dr. Paul Giddens discussed "Pittsburgh and the Beginning of the Petroleum Industry." The May meeting was given over to "University of Pittsburgh Night" with two graduate students furnishing the papers. The Rev. James A. Davidson of Warren discussed "The Baptist Church in Early Western Pennsylvania." Miss Virginia Beck of Aliquippa spoke on "The Establishment of Government in Allegheny County." All of these papers represent valuable contributions and are expected to be published in the society quarterly.

Professor William B. Plank, head of the mining engineering department at Lehigh University, is the recently elected president of the Northampton County Historical Society, and Mr. Edward F. Reimer will continue to serve as the corresponding secretary. Dr. Amos Ettinger was a recent speaker before the organization. The June 14 meeting was devoted to a pilgrimage through historic Bucks county to Pennsbury Manor. Leaving the Frenchtown bridge early in the afternoon the party proceeded through the Delaware valley along the route of the Delaware Canal directly to Pennsbury where an address was delivered by Henry Paul Busch, president of the Welcome Society, and the buildings were

inspected. Dinner was held at the Doylestown Inn, after a visit to Washington's Crossing.

### **THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

The April 10 meeting at Harrisburg was well attended despite the fact that it came by constitutional mandate during Easter week. Especially encouraging was the representation of numerous societies in outlying sections which are not frequently in attendance. Comments indicate that the meeting was unusually fruitful and interesting and that those present carried away many new ideas as to the functioning of local historical societies. The morning session was given over to reports from several societies entered in the activities contest. The feature address was presented at the luncheon session by Dr. Christopher C. Crittenden, secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission and president of the American Association for State and Local History, on the subject "History for the People." Dr. Crittenden analyzed with a keen humor the tendency of the professional historian to reduce the study of history to absurdity by severely limiting the field of research to infinitesimal parts of small topics. He emphasized his belief based upon personal experience that the field of local history offered opportunities for unusual contributions to historical knowledge and praised the efforts of local and amateur historians. The address was one of the finest delivered before the Federation in recent years.

During the afternoon another innovation was introduced for the 1941 program in the form of a panel discussion on the general theme "How the Historical Society May Best Serve the Public" directed by the secretary, Mr. Stevens. Mr. Leo Wilt of Towanda discussed the methods by which the Bradford County Historical Society had aroused public interest through the use of newspaper articles and accompanying quiz questions, while Mr. J. Martin Stroup of Lewistown explained the technique of newspaper columning. Dr. G. W. Clemens presented an interesting analysis of ways and means of making the historical society museum a place of educational value rather than a collection of miscellaneous and unorganized relics. Mr. Henry Young of the York County Historical Society explained the functioning of the public forum

as a means by which the larger historical organization could interest the general public in local history without the necessity of frequent meetings for the entire membership. Later comments by those present indicate that this type of practical discussion of historical society problems and practices is worthy of continuation.

The evening session was devoted to reports of committees and awards as well as the election of officers. Mr. Merle H. Deardorff delivered an especially interesting talk on Chief Cornplanter and his peculiar significance in American history followed by a presentation of a color film of the ceremonies connected with the adoption of Governor Arthur H. James into the Cornplanter family last August. Reporting for the Activities Committee, Mr. Bruce A. Hunt declared that the judges had decided to divide the societies in this contest into two groups upon a basis of the size of the county. The Lackawanna County Historical Society was judged to have contributed most to the advancement of local historical endeavor among the larger county organizations, while the Bradford County Historical Society was given the same distinction among the small units. The Berks County Historical Society was once more deemed to have produced the outstanding quarterly magazine among the local societies, while the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania won the award for the state and regional classification. The Northampton County Historical Society was given the merit award for the most distinctive bound volume on Pennsylvania history produced by a society with its *A Frontier Village—Pre-Revolutionary Easton* by Mr. A. D. Chidsey, Jr. Honorable mentions for distinctive historical activity went to Columbia, Mifflin and Chester counties, while Blair county and the Old York Road Historical Society and Tioga Point Museum were cited as having produced worthwhile publications.

The Federation adopted several resolutions intended to chart policy for the next biennium and voted to continue in operation as a standing committee the Legislative Committee set up this year and headed by Mr. Charles Young of New Castle. This committee had already successfully sponsored legislation easing the requirements for aid to historical societies in counties and third class cities. Perhaps the major interest of the Federation for the coming year will be the coöperative study with the Library Association and the Historical Association of possibilities and plans

for the improvement of the public records situation in Pennsylvania. This will include emphasis upon the importance of a proper state archival establishment and necessary steps to coordinate control over local and county records of interest historically. Copies of the complete minutes with considerable detail as to the reports and proceedings may be secured from the Federation office in 216 Education Building, Harrisburg.

Dr. Roy F. Nichols and Mr. S. K. Stevens were returned to the offices of president and secretary respectively. Mr. Merle H. Deardorff was selected as first vice-president. New members of the Executive Committee include Dr. William Reitzel and Mr. Robert Garland.

In response to suggestions from the secretary, Mr. S. K. Stevens, the Social Studies Section of the Pennsylvania State Education Association through its Executive Committee has agreed to sponsor in cooperation with the Federation a program for the state-wide development of history clubs in the secondary schools of the state. This action was approved at a meeting of the Committee held in Harrisburg May 3. Mr. Stevens was appointed chairman of a committee to be organized to promote this objective. Present tentative plans call for concentration of control of the development of these clubs in the hands of teachers in the schools with a maximum of pupil control and participation. A manual of instructions on the organization of such clubs and suggested project activities which may be undertaken by them will be prepared as a first step in encouraging this development. Once the clubs are under way it is hoped that close cooperation with historical societies may be fostered and that possibly a state-wide federation of these junior historical groups may be set up to function alongside the senior historical federation.

### OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

Pennsylvania Historical Commission publication plans are beginning to bear fruit despite delays incident to the routine connected with state printing. The first of several projected volumes has just appeared from the press, *Wilderness Chronicles of Northwestern Pennsylvania*, originally scheduled several months earlier. Leaflets dealing with Fort Augusta, Old Economy, and Pennsbury Manor have been received and are available for distribution to

visitors at the properties and upon request from the Commission office. The volume containing sources and bibliography on the Pennsylvania petroleum industry and the study of the counter-revolutionary movement resulting in the Constitution of 1790 are expected from the printer in the very near future. Plans for the next biennium include as early publications the bibliography of Philadelphia newspapers, the guide to the history and archives of the Pennsylvania counties and Dr. Livingood's manuscript on the rivalry between Pennsylvania and Maryland for the trade of the lower Susquehanna Valley between about 1780 and 1860. Further leaflets on the various properties are also scheduled.

The famed Cloisters at Ephrata have at last become the property of the Commonwealth. Long years of controversy and litigation were ended late in May when a deed formally transferring the property was placed in the hands of Governor James. Responsibility for administration is delegated to the Historical Commission, adding to the already large list of properties under its jurisdiction. Plans for the restoration will be dependent upon funds appropriated for the purpose and will necessarily involve arduous research. The immediate problem will be to prevent further disintegration. Mr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, well-known restoration architect who has distinguished himself by his work at the Boone Homestead and an authority on Pennsylvania-German architecture, will be responsible for the ultimate rehabilitation plan.

Dr. Roy F. Nichols left in May for several weeks research at the Kansas State Historical Society and proceeded from that point to Eugene, Oregon, where he is a member of the summer session faculty at the University of Oregon.

Mr. J. George Frederick has recently published through the Business Bourse, 80 West 40th Street, New York, a volume entitled *The Pennsylvania Dutch and their Cooking*. Pennsylvania Dutch art, home furnishings and cooking were the subject of extended consideration in the June number of *House and Garden*. The artistic background of these Pennsylvanians appears to be providing the inspiration for a definite vogue in art and home furnishings at the present time.

This trend may be given further impetus by the organization and housing of the collections of the Landis brothers with the aid of the Oberlaender Trust of the Carl Schurz Foundation. The interest of the Foundation in the matter has been commented upon previously. Formal dedication of the new museum was held May 17 with Governor Arthur H. James as the principal speaker. The first section of the new museum buildings has been completed. It consists of five units constructed according to plans prepared by architects Charles Muhlenberg of Reading and George Ewing of Philadelphia. The first building has been designed as a typical Pennsylvania German tavern or inn with three floors providing about 3,000 square feet of exhibit space. A typical and fully equipped kitchen for such an inn is to be found on the first floor. The second is to be used as a library and will house 12,000 volumes of historical reference works bearing upon the collections.

Another unit is designated as the "Gunhouse" and is being planned as a typical general utility farm building of this section. The ground floor will be used to show primitive methods in the manufacture of old muzzle loading rifles. Rifling machines and all types of tools utilized when Lancaster county was the center for the manufacture of the famed Pennsylvania rifle of pioneer days will be on display from the extensive holdings of the Landis brothers. A remarkable exhibit of rifles and small arms will also be available in the building. From this unit, the visitor will be able to proceed into the first of two wagon sheds, again of typical Pennsylvania-Dutch design. The two sheds are joined and will display the Conestoga wagons, farm implements, and similar articles which are a part of the Landis collection.

The museum as projected promises to be the most outstanding in the state and certainly distinctive for the entire nation. Those already familiar with the large accumulation of utensils, implements, house-wares, and every conceivable type of equipment which formed a part of the life of Pennsylvania-German people from the days of early Pennsylvania settlement in the possession of the brothers who devoted a lifetime to its collection will readily grasp the potentialities of the project. Those who have not visited it, at Landis Valley just outside Lancaster, should hasten to do so. In order to further the objects of the Landis Valley Museum, Incorporated, the official designation of the undertaking, a Landis



Valley Museum Association has been formed. Individual membership is set on an annual basis at \$2.00. Correspondence should be addressed to Landis Valley Museum Association, Incorporated, Lancaster, R. F. D. Dr. Felix Reichmann is in charge as acting secretary.

Attention might be called to the fact that the April issue of *The American-German Review* is a souvenir edition devoted to the Landis Valley Museum. It contains biographical sketches of Henry and George Landis and a full history and description of the project.

Dr. J. Walter Coleman has been appointed recently as superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park. Dr. Coleman is a graduate of Pennsylvania State College and received his master's degree there in history. His recently published doctoral dissertation is concerned with the story of the Molly Maguires. Dr. Coleman comes to Gettysburg from the Vicksburg National Park site and it is fortunate that a Pennsylvanian has been placed in charge of this nationally known historic shrine. Mr. Bernard Levin, formerly state editor of the Historical Records Survey, has also been appointed a member of the staff at Gettysburg serving under Dr. Coleman and Dr. Tilberg. The Gettysburg Park Staff now includes four professionally trained historians.

The historic old Dobbin House in Gettysburg has recently been renovated and developed as a privately-operated museum in charge of John D. Lippy, Jr. The home is said to have housed the first classical school west of the Susquehanna and is one of the oldest buildings still standing in the village. Every effort has been made to preserve the property in its original state and it has been furnished throughout with utensils and furniture of the appropriate design and period. The property was officially dedicated on May 16.

Steps have been undertaken in Canonsburg to preserve the famous and historic Log Cabin School. The building was moved from its original site some years ago to the high school grounds but has been deteriorating rapidly. One of the oldest centers of learning in the western section, it has long been regarded as a

cherished landmark. It is fortunate indeed that an effort is being made to preserve it through local aid. While there has been evidence during the past few years of a new interest in the preservation and restoration of historic shrines of the state, many feel that there has developed a tendency to wish to turn all such responsibilities over to the state government. While the state is justifiably interested in preserving the more outstanding sites of general state and even national interest such as the Boone property, Pennsbury Manor, Old Economy and others, it is questionable as to whether it should be called upon to undertake the upkeep and management of all properties of historic interest. There is room for healthy local activity in this field. Let each community look to the preservation of its own sites of important political economic, and social enterprise which are significant but with limited state or national interest.