ASSOCIATION NEWS

The regular spring meeting of the council was called to order by President Gipson at five-twenty-seven p.m. on April 16 in Parlor D of the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg. In addition to the president Messrs. Wright, Barnes, Fortenbaugh, Godcharles, Heckman, Hunt, Neel, Nichols, Oliphant, Reitzel, Russ, Stough, Martin, Nolan, and Selsam and Miss Frances Dorrance were present. After the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, Mr. William Reitzel and Mr. James A. Barnes were introduced as new members of the council.

The treasurer's report, presented by Mr. Ross Pier Wright, was encouraging. The association has several hundred dollars in its account and is financially in position to continue its publication program. The secretary called attention, however, to a noticeable decline in membership, and several suggestions were presented for remediying this situation. Mr. Stevens of the Historical Commission and Mr. Heckman of the Department of Public Instruction urged that social-studies teachers in the high schools of the state be contacted, and they volunteered to provide the secretary with a list of names for this purpose. It was agreed that a copy of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY together with a letter of explanation should be sent to each of these individuals. The secretary has already completed preparations for the solicitation.

Editor Barnes brought up several matters relating to the publication of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY. A definite policy of submitting six complimentary copies of the magazine to each main contributor and three to each secondary contributor was approved. Suggested changes in the format of the cover were discussed, and Mr. Barnes was authorized to incorporate such improvements in the appearance of the magazine provided they could be made within reasonable cost limits. Because of the present uncertain
conditions, however, no decision has yet been reached in the matter. The magazine has recently been accepted as second-class mail at the post office in Gettysburg.

Attention of the council was called to the fact that Mr. Brunhouse had resigned his editorship of the projected Pennsylvania bibliography on account of his expectation to be inducted soon into the armed forces, and Mr. Norman B. Wilkinson of the University of Pennsylvania history department was designated to continue and complete the work. Miss Dorrance spoke of the progress made by the Pennsylvania Archives Committee on which the association is represented, and the prospect that a satisfactory state archives building would receive favorable consideration in the public-works program.

THE FALL MEETING

President Gipson has announced that the annual meeting of the association will be held in Harrisburg on October 30-31 with headquarters at the Penn-Harris Hotel. Earlier plans to meet in Sunbury were abandoned because of wartime transportation difficulties. The sessions will open with a luncheon Friday noon, October 30. The afternoon will be devoted to the presentation of papers on Pennsylvania history by college and university professors, graduate students, and local historians from many sections of the state. Mr. Joseph Hergesheimer, American novelist, will be the chief speaker at the annual dinner on Friday evening. On Saturday there will be a business meeting, a regular session, and a luncheon session. Papers on the lives of Governor Simon Snyder, General Jacob Coxey (a native of Selinsgrove) of Coxey's army fame, and Senator William Maclay (a native of Harrisburg) have already been arranged for by the program committee, of which Mr. Paul Giddens of Allegheny College is chairman.

The Dauphin County Historical Society, in cooperation with other county historical societies of the surrounding region, will act as host to the association. The usual extensive tours of adjacent places of historical interest will be limited this year, however, to visits to points within easy walking distance.

Further details concerning the meeting may later be obtained from the secretary of the association, Mr. J. Paul Selsam, State College.
**HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

In the April "News and Comments" mention was made of the plan of the Mifflin County Historical Society for developing a new approach to the problem of conducting a local-history contest in the schools. The objective test substituted for the usual essay contest was completed in April. A much larger number of pupils participated than formerly. The tests, which were prepared by an outside educator, were given by teachers in the secondary schools of the county. The results of the arrangement as a new educational feature were very satisfactory. Mr. J. Martin Stroup, in care of the society at Lewistown, will be glad to furnish further information to anyone interested.

Several societies throughout the state are taking an active interest in keying their activities to wartime conditions. Some organizations have delegated committees to coöperate with the Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources, particularly in connection with possible problems resulting from the general salvage campaign. Others are assuming some responsibility for the collection of local material relating to the history of the war. In this connection it is especially significant that the chairmen of several county councils of defense have been approached regarding preservation of their records for the societies. The Historical Commission expects ultimately to set up in each county of the state a committee of correspondence which will endeavor to coordinate the war effort of all of the societies and related organizations. The initiative already displayed by the local historians will provide a sound foundation for such a program.

The Pioneer Historical Society of Bedford County under the leadership of Major S. M. Lutz has engaged in a most interesting project, that of preserving as an educational and historical shrine one of the oldest stone schoolhouses in western Pennsylvania. The structure, which was built about 1810 in Bedford township, was formally dedicated on May 17, and the restoration is now nearly finished. Funds and labor for the enterprise were secured locally. Scattered throughout Pennsylvania are many other buildings worth preserving which are of genuine historical consequence locally but are not of such importance as to justify acquisition by
the state and the expenditure of public funds for their restoration. These may well be reclaimed and maintained by local historical societies.

The Adams County Historical Society has at last been able to secure its long-desired permanent quarters in the county courthouse for a library and museum. Mr. Frederick Tilberg, president of the society, is to be commended for the energy with which he has pursued this objective. It is encouraging to note that throughout the state county officials are assuming more and more responsibility for the support of local historical activity. In many cases societies have been able to secure increases in appropriations within the limits provided by present legislation, while elsewhere, as in Adams county, the aid is in the form of space. The Chester County Historical Society has suggested that the amount of permissible appropriation by the counties be increased; it is expected that this proposition will be presented at the next regular session of the general assembly in 1943.

The Keystonians, an informal organization of residents of Harrisburg who are interested in local history, has continued during the current season under the leadership of Mr. John Dight to present a series of unusually interesting programs. The society meets monthly at the Engineer's Club of the Pennsylvania railroad station annex in Harrisburg. There are no dues, and the informality characteristic of the meetings of many leaders in Harrisburg affairs who are members of the Keystonians is one of the most pleasant features of the organization. Mr. Fred W. Hosler, director of the Public Service Institute of the Department of Public Instruction, spoke at the April meeting on "Public Service in Civil Defense in Pennsylvania."

The Erie County Historical Society, headed by Mr. Allyn S. Wright, recently presented its members with copies of a mimeographed bulletin, "The Expedition of Baron de Longueuil." This expedition has particular appeal to northwestern Pennsylvanians in that it carries the written record of the French occupation back to 1739. Material concerning the expedition was collected from French and Canadian archives by the Pennsylvania Historical
Survey. The society is assuming an active role in endeavoring to establish contact with the schools for the purpose of promoting understanding of local history. Mr. John W. Harpster of the University of Pittsburgh extension center in Erie recently addressed the society on the objectives and possible achievements of local historical organizations. He pointed out that historical societies can be useful in interesting both school children and adults in local history as well as in contributing to the fund of scholarly knowledge. The historical society, he said, has three principal purposes: "the creation of interest in local history upon the part of these groups; the explanation of American institutions and ideals in local terms; and the collection of local historical and museum materials providing a visual and documentary record."

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania held at its meeting on March 31 a discussion on teaching the history of western Pennsylvania in the public schools. Mr. R. O. Hughes, director of citizenship and social studies in the Pittsburgh schools, led the panel; and Miss Lily Lee Nixon, Miss Hilda Noble, and Miss Ruth C. Lewis, all Pittsburgh teachers, and Mr. Alfred P. James of the University of Pittsburgh took part. Mr. Hughes has been active in promoting the teaching of the history of western Pennsylvania in the Pittsburgh school system, and attention was called to many problems connected with its presentation.

Mr. Paul Swain Havens, president of Wilson College, recently presented before the Kittochtinny Historical Society a paper on the history of the college from its earliest days to 1883. He is now working to bring his study up to the present. A full-length history of the institution, being prepared by Dean Mary B. McElwain of Smith College, is scheduled for publication in 1944 in connection with the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

Mr. Floyd G. Hoenstine, well-known historian of central Pennsylvania, has been appointed director of the Blair County Historical Society. While the position, newly created, will not for the present be a full-time one, Mr. Hoenstine, who had been serving as secretary, will devote more time than formerly to the management and direction of society affairs. The acquisition of the
Baker mansion, the ownership of several other historic sites and monuments, and the operation of an office and reference library will all together require an amount of attention which previously the organization was unable to provide. The society has established an excellent research and reference center in the courthouse at Hollidaysburg, where those interested in any phase of the history of the section may consult the society files. A nearly complete collection of the records of the Allegheny Portage Railway Company has lately been located in the Carnegie library in Pittsburgh. There is a possibility that this material may be added to the already extensive Blair county collection on canal history.

The Juniata County Society has been reorganized and relocated. Mr. R. P. Banks, who served for many years as president, has taken over the secretarial duties, and Mr. Thad S. Jamison of McAlisterville has accepted the presidency. The manuscripts and other historical and museum material of the society have been placed in a newly renovated room over the Banks’ drug store on North Main street in Mifflintown. A drive for increased membership is under way.

The movement toward regional organization of historical interests is exemplified in the Delaware Valley Historical Society, organized some time ago by individuals from New Jersey and Pennsylvania concerned with developing a history of the upper reaches of the Delaware river. The society meets twice a year for presentation and discussion of papers relating to the history of the section. Mr. LeRoy J. Koehler, president, reports that the group is gathering material for prospective publication.

The Swedish Colonial Society recently made available an excellent volume on Swedish-American history—*Tornquist’s Naval Campaigns of Count De Grasse*, by Amandus Johnson. The organization has consistently supported outstanding contributions of this type. Its efforts to preserve the Swedish backgrounds of state and national history through its own activities and its association with the development of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia have of late been especially fruitful.
The April issue of the *Historical Review of Berks County* is full of interesting information on the early cultural history of this section of the state. Among noteworthy items are articles on the library movement in Reading; Jacob Eichholtz, portrait painter; and Ludwig A. Wollenweber, printer and newspaper publisher of Reading. The bulletin includes a special appeal for aid in collecting and preserving war records and literature pertaining to civilian and other war activities. The society is cooperating with the Reading library in the collection of this material for Berks county.

At the regular spring meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, held at Hershey on May 23, Messrs. Bliss and Carpenter, connected with the Historical Commission archaeological projects of the preceding months, were the principal speakers. Mr. Richard Light, director of the Hershey Museum, was reelected president and Mr. Donald A. Cadzow secretary. Mr. Claude E. Schaeffer, assistant state anthropologist, was made editor of *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* to succeed Mr. Godcharles, who had resigned because of the pressure of other work. The society decided on account of war conditions and the scarcity of available material to adopt the policy of intermittent publication of its magazine for the present. The organization reports several additional members.

Mr. George E. Fisher of Selinsgrove was reelected president of the Snyder County Historical Society at its meeting on February 23. Mr. William A. Russ, Jr., is second vice president. Mr. Dunkelberger and Mr. Russ presented papers. The meeting on April 13 was held in Middleburg; Mr. Ira L. Yoder, county agent, read a paper on "Agriculture in Snyder County."

At the January meeting of the Northumberland Society at Sunbury Mr. Frederick A. Godcharles was reelected president. Mr. Heber Gearhart, secretary of the organization since its founding in 1925, resigned from office, and Mr. Charles F. Snyder was elected to succeed him.

The Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County is among those which have adopted projects of photographing historic
spots and making colored lantern slides available for public presentation. Attention has been called several times in this department to the work of Mr. Barton at Bloomsburg in the field. Those who have experimented with this method of preserving and popularizing local history agree on its worth. The March meeting of the society was held in conjunction with the local chapters of the D. A. R. and the S. A. R. Plans are being made to further the preservation of family and individual records as a part of the historical collection of the society.

Historical highlights in the development of the history of Harrisburg were reviewed at the meeting of the Dauphin County Historical Society on April 20 at the John Harris mansion. Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton discussed the original John Harris lot book, prized possession of the society, and Mr. J. Horace McFarland spoke of the Harrisburg improvement program during the past decades. Other phases of the history of the city were touched upon by various speakers.

On February 28 the Chester County Society formally opened its completed building to the public, thus culminating a long drive for improvement of facilities which began with the organization of the group in 1893. The society held its meetings first at the West Chester public library and later at the State Teachers College. In 1938 it moved into its present headquarters in the building originally known as Horticultural Hall, designed by Thomas U. Walter and built in 1848. Since that time the group has by determined effort secured the financial assistance necessary to restore the old structure and erect the addition. The society, whose membership now numbers 571, has become one of the finest historical organizations in the state; this spring it won the annual federation award for distinguished achievement. Its newspaper files, museum materials, and microfilm materials are especially valuable.

Recent programs of the Historical Society of Frankford have been particularly noteworthy. The program on March 10 featured "Interesting Facts About Frankford from Papers Published in the 1700's," by Horace W. Castor. In March Dr.
Charles N. Sturtevant presented a third in a series of "Biographies of Frankford Physicians," and in April Mr. David I. Moore of the City History Society of Philadelphia gave an illustrated lecture entitled "A Jaunt Through Old Philadelphia."

On April 8 the Mifflin County Historical Society celebrated its twenty-first anniversary at a dinner held in cooperation with the Lewistown Kiwanis Club. Mr. J. Paul Selsam delivered the principal address, "Pennsylvania and the Bill of Rights." The proceedings were broadcast over the local radio station, WMRF.

The development of education in Lancaster from early times to the rise of the city schools was presented recently before the county historical society by Mr. P. M. Harbold, professor of education at Franklin and Marshall College. This study constituted one of a series of programs which the society is centering on the history of the borough. The papers are followed by general discussions. The society recently took the lead in erecting a tablet commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Lancaster as a borough, and this year was taken as a convenient time to review outstanding phases of Lancaster history. The city has offered for the use of the society the historic Grubb mansion at the corner of Lime and Chestnut streets, and the suggested plan for a new home for the organization is being given careful consideration.

The regular meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County was held in Historical Hall, Norristown, on April 25. Miss Bertha S. Harry presented "Extracts from Diaries of Susan Yerkes" at the morning session, and in the afternoon Mr. Walter Knerr discussed "Thomas Hovenden, Montgomery County Artist."

At the quarterly meeting of the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania on Monday evening, May 25, Mrs. T. S. O'Connor, liturgical student and contributor to numerous publications, spoke on "Tara Hill: Seedling of the Faith in the Homestead District." The Reverend Paul E. Campbell delivered the presidential address. This meeting marked the second annual founder's day of the organization.
The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, held in Harrisburg on April 16, was unusually successful, in the opinion of a majority of those who attended. The salient feature of the meeting was the attendance for the first time of members of high-school history clubs throughout the commonwealth. Some fifty students and a goodly number of social-studies teachers, representing twenty-five public and private secondary schools, were present. For a first meeting this showing was indeed excellent. Foundations were laid for the organization of a state federation of junior historians. A constitution was adopted, and officials were elected. As part of the program to tie in its activities with those of the senior federation the group made Mr. Stevens executive secretary. Jack Moyer of the Ambridge High School was elected president.

The senior federation elected Mr. Merle H. Deardorff, Warren banker and outstanding historian of western Pennsylvania, president. Other new officials include Colonel Dorrance Reynolds, fourth vice president; Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, treasurer; and Miss Dolores Malloy, assistant treasurer. Messrs. Samuel Goodyear and Charles Martin were reelected members of the executive committee.

On the program were many interesting events and a variety of excellent papers and discussions on local historical problems of the state. Several speakers in the morning session called attention to different ways in which local history may be used to advantage in stimulating the development of morale and citizenship. At the luncheon session, at which Mrs. Arthur H. James was guest of the federation, Mr. Roy F. Nichols, retiring president, spoke on the wartime program of the Historical Commission, of which he is a member, emphasizing the importance of the local historical and patriotic society in assisting this work. Mr. Nichols made an appeal for a return to the spirit of Revolutionary and Civil War days which placed Pennsylvania in the forefront in the defense of democracy and the preservation of the American way of life. In the afternoon the senior historians heard a discussion by Mr. Leon de Valinger, Delaware state archivist, on archival problems and
their solution. Mr. William E. Lingelbach, chairman of the Pennsylvania Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources, talked about the nature of the work of his committee and asked for cooperation from the member societies. The meeting concluded with a brief business session, after which those in attendance were guests of the Dauphin County Historical Society at a reception and tea in its new home in the John Harris mansion.

The result of the first venture of the federation in the publication field is now obtainable. *Pennsylvania Cavalcade*, prepared by the Pennsylvania Writers Project and cosponsored by the federation, was made available in April and has already attracted widespread attention. The book, printed by the University of Pennsylvania Press, is handsomely illustrated. It contains a variety of sketches on a widely scattered range of events of interest and significance in the history of the state. Early reviews indicate that the volume fills a need for a popular type of literature relating to Pennsylvania history. The content of the book is such that it is expected to be widely used in school libraries.

*Notable Women of Pennsylvania*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in May, consists of biographical essays from the Philadelphia *Ledger*. The inspiration for this volume came from the “Book of Honor” prepared by the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee of 1926. In view of the difficulty of securing adequate biographies of many prominent Pennsylvanians, the work is a particularly useful contribution to state history. The volume was displayed in connection with the May meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Women’s Clubs in Harrisburg.

The newest addition to federation membership is the Carl Schurz Foundation, which has contributed a great deal to Pennsylvania history in the development of the Landis Valley museum project and the preservation of the old customs house in Philadelphia.

**OF MEN AND MANY THINGS**

The commission-sponsored radio series, *Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy*, has been expanded to include thirteen more programs, making a total of thirty-nine. This addition will extend
the presentation into early 1943. The first twenty-six scripts and recordings have been completed, and the remainder will be developed during the summer. As soon as they are used at stations, the records are returned to the commission office to become the nucleus of a lending library to schools and interested organizations having radio play-back equipment for educational uses. The school systems of Altoona, DuBois, and Allentown used the material during the closing months of the recently completed term, and it is expected that many others will make arrangements to do likewise in the fall. Mimeographed copies of the scripts have already served for dramatization purposes in several schools of the state. Those desiring further information concerning the material and its use may contact Mr. Stevens at the commission office in the State Museum Building, Harrisburg.

As another feature of the utilization of Pennsylvania history as a morale resource the commission has inaugurated under the heading “Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy” a series of weekly newspaper releases on various phases of the commonwealth’s contribution to the development of American democracy. These are appearing in several dailies in different sections of the state, and historical societies are encouraged to assist in bringing them to the attention of more local editors. Several organizations have already aided in sponsoring the material; the commission will be glad to cooperate with any others caring to use it as part of their own publicity programs. Another weekly news release, appearing under the heading “The State at War” in the Capitol News, commonwealth publicity sheet, is a column summary of the most important phases of Pennsylvania’s war effort during the preceding week. The releases, prepared by Mr. Frederick W. Stabley, who has recently joined the commission staff as research assistant, are being published by an increasing number of newspapers.

Mention was made in the April issue of the fact that Mr. Henry Young, director of the York County Historical Society, had been inducted into the armed services. He is now in California and may be addressed at the 1st Platoon, Company C, 83rd Infantry Training Battalion, Camp Roberts.
Mr. William Reitzel, director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, has been called into service by the Navy Department. According to latest reports he is doing special work in Washington.

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources was held on May 8 in the rooms of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. In addition to the chairman, Mr. William E. Lingelbach, Messrs. Keator, Kimball, Carpenter, Nichols, Price, and Stevens were present. Mr. Stevens was elected permanent secretary. The committee commenced plans to survey libraries and historical societies of the state for evaluation of collections, establishment of methods of removal in case of danger, and location of additional emergency depository space. A survey of banks of the state is being undertaken in order to secure adequate information as to the amount of safe storage space in these institutions for particularly valuable items. The committee is endeavoring to encourage state and local governmental agencies to examine their own records with a view to their protection against hazards of war and salvage campaigns. Members of the association are again urged to be on the alert to help solve local difficulties growing out of the conservation programs. Anyone with problems connected with the preservation and protection of records, documents, and art or museum materials is invited to contact the committee through the chairman or the secretary, who will see that every effort is made to give assistance and advice. The American Philosophical Society has provided office space for the use of the chairman together with a small fund for necessary clerical expenditures. Much of the work of the committee will be undertaken in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Historical Survey.

From January to June a series of experimental archaeological investigations was conducted in Pittsburgh under the auspices of the City Planning Commission in a search for the foundations and location of old Fort Pitt. The results of the preliminary survey, which was under the supervision of Mr. Wesley Bliss, who directed the Historical Commission archaeological work in northwestern Pennsylvania last summer, were remarkably successful. The
foundations of the colonial fortification were rather definitely es-
tablished, and valuable information was accumulated. It is hoped
that the findings will contribute to the ultimate development of a
park area including most if not all of this historic site and possibly
a restoration of Fort Pitt.

Renewed attention is now being given to the long-discussed proj-
ject to establish an Independence Hall park area in Philadelphia.
The program calls for the destruction of the more recently erected
structures in the vicinity and the preservation or restoration of
as many of the original buildings and grounds as possible. Ac-
cording to the plan the old portion of Philadelphia would be
restored to its condition during the colonial and early federal
period.

\textit{Gloria Dei} (Old Swedes' Church) in Philadelphia has recently
been acquired as a national park site. This achievement is largely
a result of the work of Mr. Frank W. Melvin, former chairman of
the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, who has been active in
the preservation of Swedish-American history. Both Mr. Melvin
and the Swedish Colonial Society are to be congratulated.

Mr. Edward R. Barnsley, member of the Historical Commission
and president of the Bucks County Historical Society, has been
inducted into the armed forces and is now stationed at Camp Lee,
Virginia. Mr. Barnsley's many friends will look forward to his
return to participate in historical activities.

Pamphlets recently issued by the Historical Commission in
connection with its morale program include \textit{Pennsylvania History
and Morale}, \textit{Pennsylvania History in Outline}, and \textit{Some Pennsyl-
vania Leaders}, all prepared by Mr. Stevens. Another bulletin in
the series, \textit{What to Read about Pennsylvania}, compiled by Mr.
Oliver S. Heckman, provides an excellent up-to-date bibliography
of Pennsylvania history and historical fiction.

An increasing number of libraries throughout the state are
concerning themselves with the preservation of local war-history
material. Miss Rose Demorest, librarian of the Pennsylvania
room at the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, has done especially valuable work in this connection. Miss Demorest began the collection of materials relating to the history of Pittsburgh's role in the war as early as December 8, 1941. Her program includes a scrapbook of newspaper clippings as a separate section of the regular Pennsylvania room scrapbook file, a directory of governmental and other offices in Pittsburgh, photographs and posters, and a variety of miscellaneous materials pertaining to the participation of the Pittsburgh area in the war and the repercussions of the war itself upon Pittsburgh life. Miss Katherine Bennet of the James V. Brown library in Williamsport also has been active in the same field.

Many public libraries throughout the state are actively engaging in the collection and preservation of local historical materials, particularly newspapers and newspaper clippings. A surprising number have been maintaining clipping bureaus for some time, and these have been organized in such fashion as to provide valuable reference matter. Because of the general absence of newspaper indexing, methodically arranged newspaper materials of this type are an important source of information. It is hoped that the war-history program carried on by the libraries of the state in cooperation with the historical societies will do much to popularize this system as well as stimulate direct contribution to the preservation of war history.