THE CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL HISTORY TO MORALE AND CITIZENSHIP

THE HE contribution of local history to morale and citizenship is a subject of much recent discussion. Pride in locality may be thought of as a sort of elemental patriotism, and unless carried to the point of extreme provincialism it can well be the basis of many desirable attitudes and lead to the acquisition of many interesting facts. All sections of the country have made important contributions to national development. Like many other states Pennsylvania has a magnificent fund of untold history, so much of it still scarcely touched that there are fertile fields in which local and state historians may work to great advantage.

Ideally the high-school history club utilizes community resources to enlarge understanding and appreciation of national history and citizenship. The seventeen students who organized the Ambridge Local History Society in April, 1933, were enthusiastic about the prospect of exploring such close-at-hand places of historical interest as Anthony Wayne’s Legionville, the then mythical Logstown, and Old Economy. Early plans of the club seemed completely out of proportion to its size, but a two-mile field trip to Legionville plain to make a rough sketch of the place gave additional impetus. When we had climbed the tree said to be the descendant of one located on the site of the old octagonal powder house erected by Anthony Wayne (the rough outline of the foundations of which is still there), walked around and over a trench dug by soldiers of the “legion” of 1792-93, and searched the plain for other evidences of legion occupation, we were all fascinated by the possibilities unfolding before us. The boys of the club especially were delighted with having something concrete
with which to work. Plans for the coming year were made, a motto and an emblem were evolved, and a constitution was written. From that time on we have had splendid success.

Officers of the organization consist of a president, who has generally served as vice president for the preceding year; a vice president; a recording secretary; a corresponding secretary; a treasurer; a chaplain, who conducts the devotions; a sergeant at arms, who leads the flag salute and acts as doorkeeper and messenger; a librarian, who keeps the club scrapbook; and a program chairman, who at the beginning of the year presents a plan of the club programs for the entire year. The meetings are arranged so that there is at least one business session each month for electing new members, planning projects or trips, and discussing club problems. In addition there are monthly meetings to which are invited men and women from the town who can bring messages of particular interest to the group. The regular meetings are held on Tuesday mornings from 8:21 to 8:55. Occasionally during the year there are night meetings also for presenting special programs, and to these are welcomed parents and friends. Once a year the club has a dinner (served by the school home-economics department), to which some outstanding person is invited as guest speaker. This affair is attended by friends, parents, alumni, and active members, and the students are responsible for selling tickets and collecting the money, making reservations, securing newspaper publicity, and planning the entire program. Since the first year attendance has never fallen below one hundred and thirty-four; because there is room for only one hundred and thirty-five guests, many people must be turned away. The occasion brings together townspeople and students more than does anything else of an academic nature. Often at the beginning of a school year parents of former members ask the date of the dinner, explaining that they have attended ever since 1933 and do not want to miss the event.

Frequently the mother or the father of an eighth-grade pupil says that he wants Johnny to study hard so that he may be elected to join the historical society when he is a sophomore because brother Bill or sister Mary belonged in high school—"and you do so many nice things in that club." Indeed, the society has engaged in very diverse projects. It started with the highly ambitious one of writing a pageant in four episodes based on the
history of Ambridge, which began with an Indian council at Logstown, and ended with a picture of modern cosmopolitan Ambridge. The group was fortunate in attracting the attention of Commissioner Gregg L. Neel, whose enthusiastic interest in Old Economy, Logstown, and other western Pennsylvania historic sites has done more to make southwestern Pennsylvania history-conscious than has any other factor in the past decade. Through his efforts and the assistance of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission there have been accomplished restoration work at Economy and survey work at Logstown, for which the people of Ambridge are grateful. It is the dream of every local history student that an archaeological survey as complete as that at Sugar Grove in Warren county will be done eventually. Other accomplishments are a directory of Ambridge and an embryo museum; and yearly pilgrimages are made to such places as Gettysburg, Fort Necessity, Washington's Mill at Perryopolis, Mount Vernon, and Washington, and shorter field trips to the Carnegie museum at Pittsburgh, the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society museum, the blockhouse at old Fort Pitt, Old Economy, Legionville, and Logstown.

At the present time the organization has an active membership of forty-six (which is the limit set by the constitution), a waiting list of twenty-six, and an alumni membership of one hundred and eighty. Usually students become active members when they are sophomores and remain in the society until they graduate, when they become alumni members. No money assessment is ever made except the annual collection of ten cents from each active member to take care of Pennsylvania Federation and Western Pennsylvania Historical Society dues. The field trips are financed by the individuals who participate in them, and the dinner is served at cost to students and guests.

Qualification for membership includes a grade of A or B in one of the social sciences, preferably history, for the quarter preceding election to the society. Names of prospects are posted two weeks before election. In the meantime active members become acquainted with the general qualifications of every applicant in order to be able to make good selections. There is little personal partiality shown in electing new members; some students have been known to reject their best friends, so desirous are they of maintaining constructive membership.
Of great value to the club have been the cooperation of Principal N. A. Smith, who is an ardent advocate of extracurricular activities, and the encouragement of townspeople and friends. Some of the latter prefer to remain anonymous; one unidentified well-wisher sends every spring three crisp new dollar bills, with a typed note reading, "A small contribution for the Treasury of the History Society."

The students have so completely convinced their parents of the worth of the activities of the club that repeated requests have been made that the organization be expanded to become a town or county society with the school society a junior branch. Interest has been intensified throughout the past year. There have been many demands, particularly since the beginning of the restoration of Old Economy and the search for Logstown, for speakers to address civic groups on the work done there, and often students are heard quoting statements of "my grandfather who was a shoemaker for the Economites" or "my great-uncle who as a boy used to chase rabbits over the trenches of Legionville" concerning these historic spots.

Not only children of the old established families but also second-generation youngsters, who constitute approximately eighty per cent of the student body, are vitally interested in the community projects, even though the town is not tied up with their background. Year before last a girl of Estonian parentage won second prize on "Old Economy." At the dinners parents who have difficulty speaking correct English proudly applaud when a son or a daughter is honored as recipient of the year's citizenship medal awarded by the Colonel Henry Bouquet chapter of the D. A. R.

The experience of the Ambridge Local History Society is convincing proof that such an organization can contribute a great deal to the community. Certainly in arousing the enthusiasm of the townspeople it must help to make for the building of morale and patriotic citizenship.
THE Pennsylvania social-studies bibliography represents an attempt to call attention to some of the more readily available materials relating to Pennsylvania history and government which would be of most use to teachers seeking to utilize Pennsylvania resources in the classroom or desiring to accumulate small working libraries. All the items, which are up-to-date and present important recent information concerning Pennsylvania, may be obtained without much difficulty from a few principal sources. What material is not free is relatively inexpensive.

The compiler has not endeavored to list every book obtainable from the chief sources of supply. It would be well for teachers and school librarians to establish contact with agencies such as the university presses and ask to be kept informed whenever new publications of interest are made available. Private publishing services are always very happy to cooperate. In the case of government publications for free distribution particular bureaus or departments are usually glad to add schools to their permanent mailing lists. The Division of Documents, Bureau of Publications, Harrisburg, has a List of State Publications which will be sent free of charge on request. This is designed as a guide to be used in ordering state publications for which there is a charge.

Under various general divisions, based mainly on the places from which the publications are available, are summarized briefly the general types of materials which may be secured from each source. Some outstanding specific titles also are listed. In each case more detailed information may be secured by the means indicated above.

State Publications

One of the outstanding commonwealth publications of interest to teachers of social studies is the biennially issued Pennsylvania Manual, obtainable from the Division of Documents for $1.00,
which contains an amazing amount of information concerning the history, government, and resources of Pennsylvania and should be in every school library. The Department of Internal Affairs publishes every three years an *Industrial Directory of Pennsylvania* ($2.00), which contains valuable data. The same department issues a monthly bulletin which under Secretary Livengood has come to contain a miscellany of information on Pennsylvania history and affairs. This publication is free of charge, and schools will be placed on the mailing list on request to the department's director of information. Another service is the distribution at a small charge of a variety of publications dealing with the geology and the mineral resources of the state.

The Department of Agriculture makes available bulletins which contain agricultural statistics and information concerning Pennsylvania farm crops and agricultural life. The Department of Forests and Waters has charge of several state parks, some of which have historical connections, and has published pamphlets concerning a few of these, as well as some excellent maps of the state showing streams, recreational areas, and so forth. The Department of Labor and Industry produces several bulletins which provide studies of various phases of Pennsylvania labor and industry. Much of this information would be of value in courses which deal with current social problems such as wages and hours, workman’s compensation, and unemployment. The Legislative Reference Bureau has available at a cost of thirty cents the *Administrative Code of Pennsylvania*, which is indispensable to an understanding of the governmental organization of the state. It publishes also the compiled *Pennsylvania Laws* at $1.50 per copy.

The State Planning Board conducts many important studies connected with the economic and social problems of the state. It puts out a monthly bulletin known as *Pennsylvania Planning*, which is frequently very useful. In addition, the board has provided a series of publications now numbering over a dozen, which may be secured by representative libraries. The Department of Public Instruction recently made available a digest of some of the studies of the Planning Board entitled *Pennsylvania—An Inventory*, a very valuable survey of the economic and social problems of present-day Pennsylvania.
The Department of Public Assistance publishes several bulletins and reports dealing with relief problems in the state. The Department of Welfare, which has jurisdiction over the state correctional and welfare institutions, does likewise. For information concerning material available from such departments requests should be made directly to them.

The Department of Public Instruction has provided in the past few years an increasing number of publications, a full list of which may be obtained on application. Of especial interest for the purposes of this bibliography are the following items:

One Hundred Years of Free Public Schools in Pennsylvania, bulletin 9
Pennsylvania—An Inventory of the Human and Economic Resources of the Commonwealth, bulletin 204
Penn Day, bulletin 210 (not up-to-date in its statistics, but inclusive of a variety of information)
Pennsylvania in Music, bulletin 372
Suggestions for Developing a Social Studies Program in the Secondary Schools, bulletin 411
How Pennsylvania Is Governed, bulletin 202 (a manual analyzing the activities of the state government with explanatory charts)
Public Education (monthly bulletin of the department which contains a page on Pennsylvania history)

The State Library, a division of the Department of Public Instruction, has available a variety of useful publications and services. The Pennsylvania Archives, eighth and ninth series, are valuable additions to any library. The museum maintains a lantern-slide service, through which slides bearing on biography, geography, literature, music, and history may be obtained on loan. Detailed lists and further information may be secured by writing to this division of the State Library and Museum.

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission is responsible for the preparation and distribution of publications relating to the history and archaeology of the state. Principal archaeological publications available for distribution include:

Three Archaeological Sites in Somerset County
A Study of the Delaware Indian Medicine Practice and Folk Beliefs
Archaeology of the Delaware River Valley
A Study of the Delaware Indian Big House Ceremony
Petroglyphs (Safe Harbor Report number 1)
Archaeological Studies of the Susquehannock Indians
(Safe Harbor Report number 2)

The historical volumes are:

*Pennsylvania Bibliography* (an index of the leading articles in historical society publications)
Gidden’s *Beginnings of the Oil Industry in Pennsylvania: Sources and Bibliography*
Brunhouse’s *Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania* (political history about 1790)
*Guide to Manuscript Depositories in Pennsylvania* (a list of most important libraries, etc., where source material may be found)
*A Guide to Pennsylvania County Archives* (a valuable handbook designed to aid in securing material on local history and government from county records)
*Pennsylvania Newspaper Bibliography: Philadelphia* (a check list of the names and locations of collections of Philadelphia newspapers)
*What to Read about Pennsylvania* (bibliography of available history and fiction)
*Pennsylvania History in Outline* (a detailed outline of the state’s history)
*Pennsylvania Leaders* (a list of outstanding figures in the state who have helped build America)
*Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy Radio Series* (scripts and recordings for use by schools dramatizing twenty-six episodes in Pennsylvania’s contribution to democracy; scripts available on request; recordings loaned for use by schools having radio recording playback equipment)

These latter publications are now in the process of printing. Leaflets on the history and development of the different historic sites such as Pennsbury Manor, Cornwall Furnace, Boone Homestead, Old Economy, and Fort Augusta are available.

Through the Pennsylvania Historical Survey of WPA the commission is producing several mimeographed publications, re-
quests for which should be addressed to the State Historical Survey, Box 942, Erie. Included among these are:

- *The Papers of Col. Henry Bouquet*
- *Journal of Chaussegros De Lery*
- *Expedition of Baron De Longueuil*
- *Manual for Historical Work* (a useful handbook guide to the collection of historical material)
- *Manual for Newspaper Transcription* (a guide which might be useful in advising pupils as to ways and means of securing material from newspapers)
- *The Venango Trail*
- *Report on Archaeological Explorations at Fort Le Boeuf*

It should be remembered that biennial reports to the governor made by the different divisions of the state government on their activities are published. The old records in many cases yield valuable historical information. For example, the reports of the superintendent of public instruction, dating back to the establishment of the public-school system, constitute a very important source on the history of public education in the state. Copies of these old documents, either in series or as individual volumes, are frequently obtainable from secondhand book stores at relatively low prices. In some instances local historical societies have additional copies. Former members of the legislature also often have them, and some would probably be glad to donate them to school libraries.

**WPA Agencies**

During the past several years the Work Projects Administration in Pennsylvania has furnished a considerable quantity of material which is of importance to the social-studies teachers. The Pennsylvania Historical Survey has available and in preparation a series of *Inventories of the County Archives of Pennsylvania*. These are being published at present in cloth-bound six-by-nine volumes of convenient size. Each *County Inventory* provides a variety of information which is directly adaptable to school use by both teachers and pupils; it contains a historical sketch of the county, valuable information concerning the organi-
zation and the history of the evolution of the different units of county government, and illustrative maps and charts. The inventory offers a handy guide to the county records which include material on county history and government. Volumes on Adams, Berks, Blair, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Lancaster, Lawrence, Luzerne, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Westmoreland counties have already been published, and others are in the process of publication. The survey is also making available inventories of manuscript collections, church records, and similar documentary materials of value in research on special studies. Information concerning the latest publications may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Historical Survey, 100 North Cameron street, Harrisburg.

The WPA Writers' program has prepared during the past few years several items of interest. The project is now engaged in the production of a series of county histories designed especially for school use, the first of which, entitled *A Picture of Lycoming County*, was sponsored and distributed in Lycoming county by the county commissioners at ninety-four cents a copy. The project has also made available several *Guides*, a list of which is appended, and prepared several historical pamphlets. Its publications are listed below, together with prices and publishers. These must be purchased directly from the publishers. Lists of most recent publications may be obtained from the WPA Writers' Project at 100 North Cameron street, Harrisburg.

**WPA Writers' Program**

*Pennsylvania, a Guide to the Keystone State*, Oxford University Press, New York, $3.00

*Northampton County Guide*, Times Publishing Company, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, $1.75

*Story of Old Allegheny City*, Herbick and Held Printing Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*A Picture of Lycoming County*, County Commissioners, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, $.94

*Horse Shoe Trail*, Horse Shoe Trail Club, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, $.25

*Erie, a Guide to City and County*, Mayor of Erie, $1.50

*Philadelphia Guide*, William Penn Association, Box 467, Harrisburg, $2.50
Bid for Liberty, ibid., $.25 (pamphlet on the Revolution)
Harmony Society in Pennsylvania, ibid., $.25
Hikes in Berks County, ibid., $.25
Johnstown Flood, ibid., $.25
Tales of Pioneer Pittsburgh, ibid., $.10
Pennsylvania Cavalcade, University of Pennsylvania Press, $3.00
A Picture of Clinton County, Clinton County Commissioners, $1.50

Pennsylvania Book Service

The Pennsylvania Book Service, located at Cameron and Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, has made available several volumes of considerable importance. Prices may be secured directly from the service. In addition to its publications this organization assists in supplying all types of Pennsylvaniana. A few of its most significant items are:

Singmaster, Elsie, Stories of Pennsylvania, volumes 1-3
Alshouse, Herman A., Builders of the Keystone State; Eminent Pennsylvanians
Theiss, Lewis E., A Journey through Pennsylvania Farm Lands, volumes 1-2
Murphy, Raymond E. and Marion, Pennsylvania, a Regional Geography; Pennsylvania Landscapes, an Elementary Geography
Tanger and Alderfer, Pennsylvania Government, State and Local
Alderfer and Sukel, American Citizenship for Pennsylvanians
Fortenbaugh and Tarman, Pennsylvania, the Story of a Commonwealth

The University of Pennsylvania Press

The University of Pennsylvania Press in Philadelphia has been very active in publishing material relating to Pennsylvania. A complete list of its available publications may be secured upon application. Its most ambitious recent project is the inauguration of a series known as Pennsylvania Lives. With the aid of a dis-
distinguished advisory board the organization has undertaken to secure biographers for a large number of outstanding Pennsylvanians in all walks of life. The volumes are written in a readable fashion and published in an attractive format. Footnoting has been dispensed with in favor of a brief biographical note for each personality. The volumes may be bought individually or at a reduced rate for the entire series. The following biographies have thus far been published:

Tinkcom, Harry M., *John White Geary: Soldier and Statesman, 1819-1873*
Earnest, Ernest, *John and William Bartram: Botanists and Explorers*
Nixon, Lily Lee, *James Burd*
Klein, Walter C., *Johann Conrad Beissel*

In cooperation with the Buhl Foundation and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania the University of Pittsburgh some years ago undertook what became known as the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey. This project was organized to undertake research in various neglected phases of the history of western Pennsylvania. A vast amount of material was collected by a group of competent historians. The resulting volumes, which constitute one of the most worth-while recent contributions to Pennsylvania historical literature, have gradually been made available by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Through the cooperation of the Buhl Foundation they have been widely distributed without charge to the libraries of the state. It is possible that school libraries may be able to take advantage of this arrangement, but if not they will find the publications well worth their moderate prices. Details may be secured from the University of Pittsburgh Press at Pittsburgh. Some of the especially outstanding volumes presented to date are:

Wright, J. E., and Corbett, Doris S., *Pioneer Life in Western Pennsylvania* (designed especially for use by younger readers)
Baldwin, Leland D., *Whiskey Rebels* (a story of the so-called Whisky Rebellion in Pennsylvania); *Pittsburgh, the Story of a City*
Guide Book to Historic Places in Western Pennsylvania

Harpster, John W., Pen Pictures of Early Western Pennsylvania

Downes, Randolph C., Indian Affairs in the Upper Ohio Valley

Buck, Solon J., The Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania

Ferguson, Russel J., Early Western Pennsylvania Politics

Historical Societies

County and local historical societies throughout the state make available from time to time valuable publications dealing with local historical topics. In addition, these societies maintain in many instances museums and libraries containing materials of importance in the study of local history. Many of them have excellent local newspaper files, an extremely valuable source of information. The majority of these societies are organized in the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, and they are listed, together with their principal publications and information as to library and museum facilities, in the federation's Year Book, which may be obtained by interested teachers from the executive secretary, Mr. S. K. Stevens, at the federation office, State Museum Building, Harrisburg.

Pennsylvania History, published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Historical Association, carries informative articles on Pennsylvania history and maintains a special department for the public-school teachers with helpful suggestions as to ways and means of using Pennsylvania history and government in the social-studies program. Individuals and librarians may subscribe to the magazine or secure sample copies on application to the secretary, Mr. J. Paul Selsam, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania.

The Historical Society of Berks County, 940 Centre avenue, Reading, presents the quarterly, *The Historical Review of Berks County*. The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology publishes the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. Several other societies publish annual proceedings or occasional papers.