ASSOCIATION NEWS

Plans for the annual meeting to be held in Harrisburg on October 30-31 with headquarters at the Penn-Harris Hotel are completed. A paper entitled "A Century of Urbanization in Pennsylvania, 1840-1940" will be presented by Mr. J. Cutler Andrews of the Carnegie Institute of Technology at the opening luncheon session on Friday. At the afternoon session, beginning at two-thirty, Mr. George F. Dunkelberger of Susquehanna University will discuss "Coxey and his Army," while Mr. George W. Haines IV of the University of Pennsylvania will speak on "Pennsylvania Quakers in Four Wars." As indicated in the July issue, Mr. Joseph Hergesheimer, well-known Pennsylvania author and novelist, will be the principal speaker for the annual dinner meeting Friday evening. A session of the business meeting of the council will be held later in the evening. It is hoped that the original historical drama "Ephrata" may be presented by the William Penn High School players at the William Penn High School auditorium, and it is expected that many members of the association present for the Friday session will be interested in attending.

The Saturday-morning activities will open with a business meeting of the association at nine-thirty, following which Mr. Philip S. Klein's paper on "Senator William MacClay" and a paper by Mr. Nathan Shappe of the Johnstown center of the University of Pittsburgh on "A Steel Town in the First World War" will be read.

The association will close its sessions at a twelve-thirty luncheon meeting, at which Mr. Roy F. Nichols will discuss "The War-Time Activities of the Historical Commission" and Mr. Bernard Levin of the Gettysburg National Military Park staff will speak on "Pennsylvania in the Civil War." Local arrangements are in charge of Mr. S. K. Stevens assisted by Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton.
and representatives of historical and patriotic societies of the Harrisburg area. These groups will sponsor either the Friday or the Saturday luncheon session, and a good attendance from the historical societies adjacent to Harrisburg may be expected. In view of the central location of Harrisburg and its relative ease of access by bus and railway it is believed that the meeting will be well attended despite current transportation difficulties. The increased emphasis on Pennsylvania history as a morale resource in connection with the war effort should give additional interest to the October session, the first wartime meeting of the association. Important business matters are to be transacted, including the election of officers, and for this reason it is urged that all members of the association make a special effort to be present.

The secretary has mailed invitations to membership in the association and sample copies of the magazine to several hundred high-school teachers. Mr. Selsam wishes to emphasize the importance of gaining new members, for service in the armed forces and other factors have led to a recent slump.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Transportation difficulties produced by the rubber and gasoline shortages have already had an observable effect on the summer activities of the historical societies of the state. Several groups had to cancel plans for their traditional summer pilgrimages to points of historical interest. In some cases adjustments were made by providing for series of more purely local meetings rather than attempting to visit several places scattered over a wider territory.

The Lycoming County Society reports that while it could not sponsor a pilgrimage, interest in its museum has increased. Among the visitors in the summer months were numerous former Williamsporters present in the city on vacation. The museum committee is planning frequent rearrangement of displays during the coming months with a view to presenting special exhibits for certain occasions which will add to the usefulness and educational value of the museum. This is a worth-while suggestion for historical societies throughout the state. The fuller development of museum services is one way in which the societies may adjust
their programs to war conditions. Those located in areas near army camps should give some attention to the possible use of their museum facilities by men in the armed forces. Intelligibility and usability of collections may be increased by the preparation of guides or other informational material as well as the arrangement of special exhibits.

The Historical Society of Dauphin County celebrated its seventy-third anniversary and the one-hundred seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the courts of Dauphin county at its May 18 meeting in its new home in the John Harris mansion, Harrisburg. Principal speakers of the meeting were Mr. Mark T. Milnor and Mr. Paul A. Kunkel of the Dauphin County Bar Association, who presented interesting facts concerning the development of the bench and bar in Dauphin county. The society membership is continuing to grow as a result of the aggressive campaign begun last year, and further interesting programs are in prospect for the coming year. The society is planning to hold a reception for the visiting members of the association for October.

The regular monthly meeting of the Adams County Historical Society was held in its new rooms in the courthouse on June 2. A paper was read by Mr. Henry Stewart on "The Early Settlement of Adams County." No meetings of the society were held during July and August, but plans have been made for an active fall program, which is to center around the development of the new headquarters as a museum and library center. Mr. Frederick Tilberg has been continued as president.

Members of the Lawrence County Historical Society enjoyed at a recent meeting an interesting discussion on "Indians of Pennsylvania" by M. H. Deardorff, president of the Warren County Historical Society and of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. Mr. Deardorff called attention to the many fascinating qualities of the Cornplanter Indians and the influence of Chief Cornplanter on the early history of the state and nation. The Lawrence County Society is cooperating with the Historical Commission in the war-history program and has established a center in the New Castle Library for the collection
of materials bearing on the contribution of Lawrence county to the war effort.

Former Judge James C. Furst of Bellefonte was re-elected president of the Centre County Historical Society at its last regular meeting. Mr. J. Paul Selsam of State College was continued as vice president and Mr. J. Thomas Mitchell of Bellefonte as secretary. During the summer the society sponsored two local meetings in the county designed to recognize significant historical anniversaries and promote public interest in county history. On June 27 exercises near State College commemorated the one-hundred fiftieth anniversary of the blowing in of Centre Furnace. This was the first iron furnace in the state west of the Susquehanna river and north of the Juniata and was the precursor of an extensive development of the charcoal-iron industry in central Pennsylvania. It was the rise of this industry in this region which resulted in the emergence of a number of outstanding figures in Pennsylvania history, including Philip Benner, Andrew Gregg Curtin, James A. Beaver, and Daniel H. Hastings. Later in the summer the society co-operated in celebrating the sesquicentennial of Milesburg, one of the earliest permanent settlements in this section of the state.

The Historical Society of Berks County held the first of its series of commemorations of outstanding events in Berks county history on July 4 at Conrad Weiser park. The occasion, a highly patriotic one, was an example of one of the many ways in which the local historical society can contribute to the development of public morale during the present crisis. The meeting celebrated both the signing of the Declaration of Independence and circumstances connected with the life of Conrad Weiser. With the assistance of various civic and fraternal groups the society carried on an all-day program. Addresses were delivered by Governor Arthur H. James and Justice Owen J. Roberts of the United States Supreme Court. The program concluded with a presentation of a pageant based on the life of Conrad Weiser and directed by Miss Mary Moore of the faculty of the North East Junior High School, Reading.

The summer meeting of the Friends' Historical Association was held on May 9 at the Friends' Historical Library, Swarth-
more College, Swarthmore. Members of the association were welcomed by President John W. Nason. Mr. Frederick B. Tolles spoke on the library, and those present were given an opportunity to inspect its collections.

The annual meeting of the Chester County Historical Society was held at its headquarters on North High street, West Chester, on Tuesday evening, May 19. Mrs. Allan D. Hole gave an address on “Scenes from the History of Westtown School.” The annual election of officials and directors was held, with no changes in society leadership. On July 18 the society sponsored a pilgrimage to the Westtown School which was concluded with a supper and a patriotic program featuring local history.

The annual summer meeting of the Monroe County Historical Society on July 18 at Union Chapel, Hauserville, had an excellent attendance. Several local historical sites were examined with interest. A review of the activities of the society during the past season was presented, and plans were laid for the program to be developed during the coming year.

A special meeting of the Northampton County Historical Society was held on June 26 in the auditorium of Christ Lutheran Church, Fourth and Ferry streets, Easton, to commemorate the life and activities of Charles Swaine. The program was opened by an organ recital and followed by an address by Mr. A. D. Chidsey, Jr., in which attention was called to the interesting career of Mr. Swaine. Mr. Chidsey pointed out that Charles Swaine directed the affairs of Northampton county for the Penns for many years and was at one time in charge of two English expeditions which endeavored to discover the elusive Northwest Passage.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania held its regular monthly meeting on May 26 with the annual “University of Pittsburgh night.” Mr. Edward G. Baynham of the Crafton schools presented a paper on “Henry Kleber, Prominent Musical Figure in Early Pittsburgh,” and Miss Catherine E. Reiser of the Westmont-Upper Yoder High School, Johnstown, spoke on “Pittsburgh: The Hub of Western Commerce, 1800-1850.” The so-
society began recently to contribute a regular daily column of about a hundred words on Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania history to the Pittsburgh Press under the heading "Today in History." The undertaking involves a considerable amount of work on the part of the society staff, and it has therefore been decided to make a change in the quarterly publication. At least temporarily the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine will appear in two issues—March-June and September-December. The scarcity of outstanding historical papers available for publication and the necessity of wartime economy were added factors influencing the change. Inauguration of the historical column is a commendable feature and one which might well be considered feasible by societies in other sections of the state.

The recently organized Montour County Historical Society reports that its headquarters, in the Montgomery home in Danville, have since their opening on Memorial Day been visited by increasing numbers during the summer months. Many interesting museum objects have been presented to the society and placed on display. A recent meeting of the Perry County Historical Society resulted in the election as president of H. H. Hain of Duncannon, local historian and author of a history of Perry county. Mr. Hain will succeed Major E. L. Holman, who headed the society for many years and is now in the armed forces.

The annual founder's day of the Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society was held at Historical House on July 15. The meeting, which was held at the old mill now used as a museum, was one of the best-attended in the history of the organization. The custodian of Historical House reported that during the past year some five hundred and fifty visitors had been present as well as more than a hundred school children. The society has announced the engagement of Mr. George W. Gordon, well-known naturalist, to arrange and catalogue the museum and further develop its possibilities for use by the public. Mr. Thomas St. Clair was reelected to the presidency. Mr. Claude E. Schaeffer, anthropologist for the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, presented an illustrated lecture on archaeological work in western Pennsylvania.
Governor Arthur H. James on May 28 accepted for the commonwealth as a gift from the Pottstown Historical Society and the Pottstown borough the recently reconstructed Pottsgrove mansion, which was built in 1752 and is one of the outstanding examples of colonial architecture in the section. The property had been acquired by the historical society in coöperation with the borough a few years ago and restored by means of WPA grants.

PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Most important activity of the federation since its annual meeting on April 16 has been the development in coöperation with the Pennsylvania Social Studies Council and the Pennsylvania Historical Commission of the junior-historian program. Foundations for the state-wide organization of groups formed in the schools were established at the April meeting. During the summer months Miss Avis Cauley of the Ambridge High School, who was employed by the Historical Commission in promoting the development of clubs throughout the state, contacted a large number of school systems, as well as many individual teachers and principals. As a result interest in the organization of local history clubs has grown.

Miss Cauley's work during the summer was so successful that the commission has made available funds with which to continue her employment on a leave-of-absence basis from the Ambridge schools for several months. Miss Cauley will devote most of her time to advising teachers and principals on problems connected with the organization of clubs and perfecting details of the organization of the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians. There is every prospect that by 1943 several hundred of the clubs will be functioning successfully. Plans have been made to provide a bulletin for the exchange of information and ideas among the groups and to furnish a medium for the publication of papers and project reports which may result from club activity.

At the present writing it seems doubtful that it will be possible to hold the annual meeting of the federation scheduled for April 1943, for by that time transportation difficulties will probably have increased. In view of the fact that a federation meeting involves
getting together representatives of historical societies scattered throughout the state it is questionable that an adequate state-wide representation could be secured for a spring meeting. The situation will likewise affect the activities of the junior historians. Original plans for a large representation of members of the junior group to meet in conjunction with the senior federation in 1943 may have to be canceled. School officials are already faced with serious difficulties in terms of the local transportation of pupils, and it is questionable that they would look with favor on a state-wide meeting.

The federation officials do not feel, however, that the inability to hold regular scheduled meetings will seriously hamper the functioning of the organization. Plans are under way to further regular contacts and exchange ideas by means of mimeographed bulletins. By this means it will be possible to keep before member societies as well as junior clubs information and news concerning developments in every section of the state. It is hoped that by such devices the enthusiasm of both the senior and the junior federation may be kept alive for the duration of the war without the meetings.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The Sayre-Athens Lions Club in coöperation with a large number of civic, service, fraternal, and patriotic organizations of the upper Susquehanna valley devoted August 6-8 to a celebration depicting the progress of the community, the state, and the nation. The chief feature of the affair was the presentation of a mammoth pageant involving the participation of over five hundred people. Much of the historical research and detailed study essential to this project had been done by Miss Elsie Murray, who is an authority on the history of the section. Proceeds were devoted to local civilian-defense needs. The entire celebration, a striking example of the use of local and state history as a morale resource, was intensely patriotic.

On May 1 the bicentennial of the chartering of Lancaster as a borough was celebrated. Civic, historical, religious, and fraternal organizations participated in the occasion. An interesting program was presented at the McCaskey High School. There were delegates from more than a hundred and fifty local groups,
many of them representing institutions as old as or older than the borough itself. In a pageant entitled "Men of Lancaster" outstanding episodes connected with the historical evolution of the city were dramatized. The Lancaster County Historical Society had much to do with the success of the commemoration.

The appointment of Mr. Lewis E. Theiss, author and professor of journalism at Bucknell, as centennial historian for Bucknell University has been announced by President Arnaud C. Marts. Mr. Theiss will begin work immediately on the history of the university, to be completed by 1946, when the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the institution will be celebrated. Mr. Oliver J. Decker of Williamsport, secretary of the board of trustees, is head of the Bucknell centennial committee.

The Bedford Gazette began in April a series of stories relative to the history of Bedford Springs over the past hundred and fifty years. Because of the importance of this resort and its connection with many notable figures in national history there are probably many people interested in the series. The editor of the Gazette will be glad to have them contact him.

Plans are progressing for the restoration of the Ephrata cloisters under the direction of Mr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, architect in charge. Mr. Brumbaugh is making a very careful study of the historical details essential to an adequate restoration and has already made some very interesting discoveries. He points out that the cloisters are among the best examples of Teutonic semimedieval architecture remaining in America. The fact that so many original details of the construction of the buildings exist should make possible a restoration which will be of great value. While plans for the complete restoration are being made, attention is at present directed mainly to work essential to the preservation of the buildings against further deterioration.

The Bureau of Business Research at the Pennsylvania State College has recently made available a statistical study on "Industrial Trends in Pennsylvania since 1914," prepared by Messrs. Hasek, Leffler, and Waters of the Department of Economics. Copies may be obtained from the Pennsylvania State College library at fifty cents each.

Mention was made in the July issue of renewed interest in the project to establish an Independence Hall park area. The Independence Hall Association, Incorporated, has been founded to
safeguard historic structures in the old section of Philadelphia and to improve their surroundings. The Honorable Edwin O. Lewis, local jurist, is president of the organization. Other officers include Miss Frances Wister and Mr. Roy F. Larson as vice presidents, Mr. Joseph F. Stockwell as treasurer, and Mr. D. Knickerbacker Boyd as executive secretary. Headquarters of the association have been established in Mr. Boyd's office at No. 4 South Fifteenth street, Philadelphia. Members of the executive committee, the research and planning committee, and the finance committee have met frequently during the summer months, and plans for the development of the project are well under way. The most important immediate objective of the association is to persuade the city of Philadelphia to conclude a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to designate the Independence Hall area as a national historic site. Negotiations to this end began in 1941 but terminated with the death of Mayor Lamberton. Conclusion of the agreement is necessary in order to secure federal assistance in research and planning as well as financial aid.

The Pennsylvania Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources has made available for distribution to schools and other cultural institutions a very interesting and artistic poster designed to call attention to the importance of conserving the cultural heritage of the state. The poster was designed by George Harding, Philadelphia artist, and executed by the Pennsylvania Art Project of the WPA. The committee has sponsored also the preparation of a high-school assembly program of pageant type entitled "Pennsylvania, Birth State of Freedom" in which is dramatized the contribution of Pennsylvania to the development of the ideal of human freedom from colonial days to the present. The pageant was prepared by Mr. Frank S. Neusbaum of the Pennsylvania State College department of dramatics in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

As an experiment in utilizing dramatic techniques in presenting Pennsylvania history Mr. Neusbaum has in collaboration with Miss Katherine Popp, a student of dramatics in the Pennsylvania State College, written an original one-act play depicting the story of Ephrata. The play was presented by the Penn State Players in the Little Theatre at the college and proved so popular that ten performances were given to satisfy the public demand for
tickets, which were distributed only on application. Arrangements are under way for a Harrisburg performance on October 31. The project has already aroused widespread interest, and plans are under way to encourage the development of similar features on a wider scale.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Women’s Clubs is centering attention for the coming program year on the study of Pennsylvania history. The Historical Commission has made available to some eight hundred club groups in the state a variety of material to aid in this study, including copies of the recent morale bulletins especially designed for this purpose.

The Reading radio station WEEU is the latest in the state to broadcast the Historical Commission radio program, “Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy.” Arrangements are being made to place complete sets of the recordings in several of the state teachers colleges, and in many cases they may be procured by schools interested in their use which possess the necessary equipment. Experiments to record the historical dramatizations on regulation twelve-inch phonograph disks have proved successful, and the problem of further production and distribution for educational purposes is being studied. It is possible that some organization such as the American Legion may undertake to purchase sets of the records for use in the schools of the state.

Recent additions to the series of programs include dramatizations of the development of the Pennsylvania canal; the history of the Stourbridge Lion and the beginnings of railway transportation; the story of Jay Cooke and the financing of the Civil War; the adventures of Robert E. Peary and the discovery of the North Pole; the life of Galusha Grow, father of the homestead act; and many other interesting subjects. Complete copies of radio scripts, together with similar sets of the articles in the “Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy” newspaper series are being mimeographed and placed in binders for distribution to schools, libraries, and other institutions or organizations capable of making effective use of them. Many requests for this type of material are received at the commission office.

Mr. Frederick Stabley has resigned from his position with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission to enter the employment of the Associated Press in Baltimore. The vacancy has been filled
with the appointment of Mr. Joseph T. Kingston of York, who has had several years of newspaper training, including the preparation of a successful historical column. Mr. Kingston will take charge of the commission publicity program as well as the preparation of special feature newspaper articles in the "Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy" series. A portion of his time will be devoted to routine work connected with the commission's publications such as proof reading and indexing.

Mr. Robert L. Brunhouse's doctoral dissertation, *The Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania 1776-1790*, is the most recent publication of the Historical Commission. The volume provides an exact and thorough study of Pennsylvania political history during this period and should constitute a valuable addition to the growing number of publications concerning the early political history of the state.

Among other commission publications which will be available in the near future is the first volume in the Pennsylvania newspaper bibliography, in which will be listed the newspapers published in the Philadelphia region. The next volume on schedule is to deal with western Pennsylvania, but its publication will probably be delayed as a result of the curtailment of the WPA program. The *Guide to County Archives and Government* of the state, prepared by the Historical Records Survey, is in press.

The commonwealth's war-history program is developing in a satisfactory manner. Apparently Pennsylvania was the first state to organize a plan for preserving war-history materials, and the *War History Manual*, prepared by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, has already had wide distribution in neighboring states interested in instituting similar programs. Wisconsin and Ohio in particular have been influenced by the Pennsylvania procedure. The number of county depositories actively engaged in preserving war-history material is increasing, and during the summer months Mr. Marvin Schlegel, assistant state historian directly in charge of the war-history division of the commission, visited several of the counties and assisted in perfecting the local organization of the work. Additional quarters have been supplied in the state museum building. With the cooperation of a WPA unit of the Pennsylvania Historical Survey the division is making real progress in clipping and organizing material from virtually every daily and weekly newspaper in the state.
The worth of the war-history unit was demonstrated recently with the closing of the offices of the state rationing board in Harrisburg as a result of assumption of federal jurisdiction over this phase of the war program. Available records of the board, together with a large number of newspaper clippings relating to its operation throughout the state, were preserved and added to the commission war-history file. Mr. Elmer Transeau, former head of the state rationing agency, has agreed to prepare a historical sketch detailing the story of the rationing program in Pennsylvania under state auspices. Through an arrangement with the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association a special survey on the role of the press in the war effort and the effects of the war on the newspapers of the state was completed in September. Similar surveys are being planned in cooperation with state organizations representing various professions and enterprises. The bureau of business research at the Pennsylvania State College is to assist in the preparation of special contemporary studies of the effects of the war on various phases of Pennsylvania economy, and the department of agricultural economics has under consideration similar studies in the agricultural field.

The attention of Pennsylvania historians should be called to the recent effort of Mr. James Moffitt of the Oklahoma Historical Society to revive the Conference of Historical Societies. Several persons have written to the commission office requesting information as to this activity. The conference, which operated in conjunction with the American Historical Association, was absorbed by the recently organized American Association for State and Local History, of which Mr. C. C. Crittenden, secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, is president and Mr. Roy F. Nichols and Mr. S. K. Stevens are council members representing Pennsylvania. The association has already established itself with a series of bulletins relative to local historical work and the continuous publication of a bimonthly news letter. The attempt of Mr. Moffitt to revive the conference constitutes a duplication of effort and is of questionable value to the interests of local history in the United States.