

## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

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**H**ARRISBURG was the scene of much historical activity from November 8 to 11 with meetings of the Society of American Archivists, the American Association for State and Local History, and The Pennsylvania Historical Association. Historians and archivists came from all over the United States and one session was addressed by Halvdan Koht, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and Professor of History at the University of Oslo. The entire program was an excellent example of cooperation for the promotion of a common cause—a greater interest in preserving the records of our past and arousing a greater interest in their use. Our own activities began on Friday evening, November 10, with a joint dinner with the American Association for State and Local History and the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. Dr. Arthur C. Bining, President of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, was in charge of the meeting, which was addressed by Edward P. Alexander, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, on "Getting the Most Out of Local History." Dr. Alexander emphasized the importance of local history and said that the American soldiers are really fighting for "An America which is their own home town. This is especially true when its personality has been made known to them through the study and appreciation of its past." He said that much attention had been paid to national and world history and our ignorance of those subjects, but a greater ignorance is our ignorance of local history. Only within the last few years, he remarked, can it be said that the horizon of history has broadened to include social problems, economic, cultural and intellectual questions involving the study of local history where customs, ideas, economic motives and religion have their roots. With the study of the history of the individual school, church or other local institutions, their origins and growth, we only know enough to begin to teach democ-

racy in terms of the individual school child, appealing to the child through a personal knowledge of his family and their experiences.

With Homer Rosenberger presiding, the Saturday morning session was opened with an illustrated lecture on "Early Days in the Pennsylvania Oil Fields" by Paul H. Giddens of Allegheny College and curator of the Drake Museum. Dr. Giddens, the leading authority on the history of the oil industry in Pennsylvania, is responsible for the discovery and preservation of the large collection of photographs taken during the boom days in the oil fields. Along with the pertinent comments and explanations of the speaker, the slides gave all of those present a more vivid insight into life and conditions during the spectacular rise and fall of the petroleum industry in western Pennsylvania.

The second number on the program was an illustrated lecture by G. Edwin Brumbaugh on "Pennsylvania German Arts and Crafts." The speaker has been on our annual program before and his talks are always eagerly anticipated. With excellent slides he showed the audience many examples of German architecture found in Pennsylvania, and many of their crafts, particularly their iron work and glassware. Considerable discussion centered on the "Hexenfuss" designs on the German barns. Mr. Brumbaugh felt these were decorations and had no mystical, supernatural or religious meaning. He said the Germans brought with them to America many of their medieval institutions and superstitions which lost their original meaning in the new world. The "Hexenfuss," he felt, belonged in this category.

The afternoon session convened at 2:00 with Walter H. Mohr of the George School presiding. The first paper was given by William A. Russ, Jr., Susquehanna University, on "It's Time to Plan for the Comprehensive History of Pennsylvania." The speaker stressed the need for a volume history of Pennsylvania, and suggested that our Association take up, as one of its projects, the planning of such a work. "The historians of several other states," he said, "have succeeded in writing general histories, but that field of endeavor has been neglected in Pennsylvania." Dr. Russ offered certain tentative suggestions regarding organization, style and method of treatment.

The next paper was given by Earl W. Dickey, Altoona Senior High School, on "Practical Considerations in Teaching Pennsyl-

vania History." The speaker told what had been done in Altoona and emphasized field trips to historic spots, co-operation with other departments in the school, such as using material gathered on the trip for an English theme and using the shop instructor to demonstrate or explain the early handicrafts. He stressed the value of visits to the Blair County Historical Society, and various municipal offices, and urged the local societies to establish closer contacts with the public schools in connection with courses in Pennsylvania history. Ira Kreider, Abington High School, talked on "Integrating Local History with the History of the State." He emphasized the importance of having teachers thoroughly familiar with their own communities and suggested conferences and study groups for them. Presupposing a knowledge of the general history of the state, the teachers were then in a position to show the connection between the community and the wider movements in the state.

The dinner session was held at 6:30 in the Assembly Room of the Penn-Harris Hotel with the president, Arthur C. Bining, in charge. Since this October was the tercentenary of the birth of William Penn, Dr. Bining paid a splendid tribute to Penn, praising his ideals and their practical application in the founding of Pennsylvania, leaving us a rich and noble heritage.

The address of the evening was given by Harry Emerson Wildes on "Pennsylvania's Forgotten Hero." It was a glowing tribute to General Anthony Wayne, a man who is scarcely mentioned in general histories, while other figures of less significance are given much more attention. Discussing his heroic part in the American Revolution, and particularly his work in winning the Ohio Valley, the speaker declared that the latter was one of his greatest achievements, for which he is entitled to our undying gratitude. While Dr. Wildes considered Wayne a hero, he also stated that Wayne had many unpleasant characteristics and weaknesses—but these weaknesses were part of the man, and the man did much for Pennsylvania and the Nation.

The annual business meeting was held at 4:30 with thirty-five members present. The reports of the secretary and treasurer showed that with the increased cost of printing the magazine the Association was just about running even. Some members were in arrears in their dues, and if these were paid the treasury

would be in a better position. The report of the General Membership Committee given by Dr. Homer Rosenberger was very encouraging for over sixty new members had been secured since the committee began its work early this year. He emphasized the fact that all of the new members were deeply interested in the history of Pennsylvania and would be loyal supporters of the Association. Mr. Edwin Cruttenden reported for the School Membership Committee, stating that teachers of history and social studies in the schools of the state would be contacted through teacher-training institutions and various teacher meetings. Plans were made for contacting all school principals and through them the magazine and the work of the Association would be brought to the attention of the schools. Tribute was paid to Mr. Melville J. Boyer, member of the committee, for financing a drive in Lehigh County. Two new members were added to the committee—Ross J. Swope of Harrisburg and Ira Kreider of Abington.

President Bining reported that the Council had received the resignations of Dr. James A. Barnes, Editor, and Elinor Barnes, Associate Editor, of *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*. Due to the press of other work they had found it impossible to continue their duties. With great reluctance the Council accepted their resignations and both the president and Dr. Lawrence A. Gipson, former president, paid a fine tribute to their loyal, faithful and conscientious work in maintaining the high standards of our magazine. The Council elected as editor Dr. Milton W. Hamilton, Professor of History at Albright College, active in the work of the Berks County Historical Society and editor of its *REVIEW*.

Dr. Russ reported as Chairman of the Permanent Committee on Publications and stated that the *Writings on Pennsylvania History: a Bibliography of Secondary Materials*, would soon be ready for distribution. All members who can make use of this work may send their request to the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Harrisburg, Pa., under whose auspices it is being printed. Upon a motion of Robert Fortenbaugh, it was unanimously agreed that a committee of not less than seven be appointed to study plans for a comprehensive history of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Lawrence H. Gipson reported as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and made the following nominations: Miss Frances Dorrance, Third Vice-president; members of the Coun-

cil for a three-year term: James A. Barnes, J. Orin Oliphant, William A. Russ, Jr., and Mulford Stough. There were no nominations from the floor, so the Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot.

President Bining talked about the action of the Council suggesting the appointment of a committee to study the question of history requirements necessary for permanent certification. This committee, he said, after studying the matter, was to address a communication to the State Department of Public Instruction asking for a clarification of its rulings on the subject. It was moved, seconded, and carried that a committee of three be appointed. It was moved and carried unanimously that the following resolutions of thanks be spread on the minutes:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of The Pennsylvania Historical Association be extended to Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, Chairman, and other members of the Program Committee; to Dr. S. K. Stevens, Chairman, and other members of the Committee on Local Arrangements; to all persons who assisted in the program, and to the management of the Penn-Harris Hotel for their respective contributions to the success of the meeting.