WITH the sudden surrender of the Japanese and the consequent lifting of the ban on conventions, meetings and travel, the officers of the Association had to act quickly to prepare a program and make the necessary arrangements for the annual meeting which a short time before seemed impossible. The difficulties of making arrangements in so short a time were great, but thanks to the splendid co-operative efforts of the Association and the Federation it was decided to hold a joint meeting. Dr. S. K. Stevens was appointed to act for both organizations in preparing the program and making the arrangements. Thanks to his splendid work an excellent joint meeting was held in Harrisburg on October 27, 1945. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance from both organizations, and the successful meeting was but another tribute to the fine co-operation which exists among the historical organizations in Pennsylvania.

The morning session was held in the ballroom of the Penn-Harris Hotel with Harrold E. Gillingham, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, in charge of the meeting. In his address Mr. Gillingham stressed the fact that Pennsylvania has the largest number of historical societies of any of the states. This was very important, he felt, for “in the troubled years ahead we face as never before a need for deep patriotism and faith in our institutions. A knowledge of our backgrounds in terms of the history of our communities and our state can give this to us.” Mention was made of the death during the past few months of three outstanding leaders in historical work—Frederic A. Godcharles, A. Boyd Hamilton, and Miss M. Atherton Leach. All three were officers of and active in both the Federation and the Association, so appropriate resolutions of sorrow and respect were adopted as the official action of both organizations.

Mr. Gillingham then told of the work of the Federation dur-
ing the past year, particularly in connection with historical matters under consideration at Harrisburg. The Federation gave its hearty support to the proposal of Governor Martin to erect as a William Penn Memorial a building to house the State Museum and the public records and to serve as a center of historical activities. A resolution was later adopted thanking Governor Martin for his leadership in this matter. The Federation also sponsored the introduction and passage of Act 41 which greatly enlarges the power of the county commissioners of the respective counties to appropriate funds for compiling and publishing material pertaining to the history and government of Pennsylvania. This new law, Mr. Gillingham said, "is designed especially to aid the societies in securing funds to publish local history of such a type as will be useful to the schools in meeting the new requirement on teaching Pennsylvania history. Printed matter, lantern slides, museum tours are some of the ways in which we can help. This new provision for county aid will help finance such activities."

The next item on the program was an "Experience Meeting," led by Floyd G. Hoenstine, director of the Blair County Historical Society. The theme for discussion was how historical societies could increase their membership and be of greater service to the schools and the public. Mrs. Ethelyn D. Keese of the Lackawanna Historical Society was the first speaker. She told how the society increased its income from dues from eighty dollars to about five hundred within a few years. This was accomplished by the efforts of the officers and the members to stimulate interest in the work of the society, and also by the willingness of the society to help those who are seeking information, such as children writing essays for contests. The society contacted the school superintendents and extended an invitation through them to student groups, accompanied by an adult, to visit the society museum. This program has been very successful. The society has also secured a large collection of papers and records of business concerns.

Dr. R. W. Albright, acting curator of the Historical Society of Berks County, told how large numbers of school children visit the society museum. The society regulation requiring that children under fourteen be accompanied on the visit by an adult actually interested many of the adults in charge of these children in the
society. An excellent history teacher when placed on the retirement list last year offered her services to the society and she plans student visits to the building. Regular appointments are made for student tours and a speaker is provided to discuss some specific subject. The society also publishes a magazine edited by Dr. Milton W. Hamilton, who is also editor of Pennsylvania History. One of the new educational activities of the Berks organization is the visual aid packets, also edited by Dr. Hamilton. These are available at fifteen cents. The society awards a scholarship in the form of a membership to the high school student having the highest average in history.

Mr. Louis Heizmann, president of the Historical Society of Berks County, told how they secured professionals to conduct a membership campaign. He felt this had proved very satisfactory, for it put the organization on a "regular business basis and got it out of the charity category." The society's lecture program kept the membership both entertained and interested, and Mr. Heizmann stressed the point that if a society is to grow it must be kept before the public, particularly through the newspapers, but also through its outside activities. The Berks society has gained much publicity and likewise many members through its illustrated lectures. The one entitled "Old Reading," he said, has been delivered "over two hundred times to groups that have invited us to come to them. We always thank the groups for their graciousness in inviting us to deliver the lecture, assure them we were most happy to be of service, and call their attention to other talks the society has available. This has brought the society much good will and kept us before the public eye."

Miss Marian Philips presented the activities of the Chester County History Society, stating that it "is a policy of the society to have very interesting programs for our members. We have no membership drives," she said, "and have not needed to have any. The society has found that its program and its work with the schools are the best means of getting members and keeping them." Last year 837 adults, representing twenty states, and 587 students on twenty planned tours visited the museum. Miss Philips, a school teacher, said that the students are taken through the museum by society members on well-planned tours, and that the society makes available its materials to students participating in the writing of essays for school commencements and other
occasions. "As a teacher," she concluded, "may I say I am most grateful for the work being done by the Chester County Historical Society."

The representative of the Delaware County Historical Society told how its committee on education, headed by Mr. Smith, sponsored essay contests in the schools and also prepared lists of books in the society library and sent them to all the junior and senior high schools in the county together with an invitation to visit the society and use its facilities for any historical work.

Dr. George F. Dunkelberger, representing the Snyder County Historical Society, said that even though the society was a small one and not rich, it is nevertheless a going concern, primarily because "we have an end or purpose in mind." Snyder County has no written history, he said, and the main objective of the society is to prepare one. "About six or seven years ago an outline of the work to be covered was prepared by the director and a committee and from that date on the director arranged the programs annually and topics were selected from this original outline. The topics to be investigated are assigned to members of the society and papers are prepared. These are read before the society and become its property. From these papers the history of the county will be written."

The activities of the Historical Society of York County were presented by its secretary, Henry J. Young, who only recently returned from several years service with the Armed Forces. He stated that in the past five years there had been more than 21,000 visitors to the society building, including 165 classes, clubs and community organizations. "More than three-fourths of all our visitors," he said, "have been children of school age." These visits of school children have been carefully planned, Mr. Young said, and "when they have fallen off we have sent circular letters to the schools inviting them to arrange visits. With their interests largely in mind we have begun and maintained, on a strictly local basis, a herbarium, a mineralogical collection, a bird collection and other units which reflect the importance of geography in the study of local history." He also stressed the interest of the schools in a special exhibit of old Taufscheins for art classes. As a result of this the society later held a public exhibit of contemporary Taufscheins done by an art class in the junior high school.
In the general discussion which followed many interesting matters were mentioned. A delegate of the Schwenkfelder Historical Society told of a gift of one hundred thousand dollars for a new home. The new building will have many facilities available for schools. Miss Caroline W. Smedley of the Frankford Society reported a new Committee on Publicity had been formed and that a column dealing with the society and its museum appears monthly in the local papers. This has brought many visitors to the society museum. A delegate of the Dauphin County Historical Society stated that photographs in the Society collection were printed in one of the local papers, and that this publicity brought forty-four visitors to the museum. Mr. Leo Wilt, president of the Bradford County Society, reported that teachers giving courses in Pennsylvania history were being aided by the society through a mimeographed list giving all books and references for local material found in the various county libraries. This list was distributed to all teachers of history in the county. The society was also taking an active interest in the County Institutes and at these arranges conferences on the teaching of local history. Indiana County Historical and Genealogical Society reported that it was engaged in gathering material on the history of the county, particularly from old residents.

Mr. Hoenstine as director of the discussion complimented the societies for their educational work, particularly their cooperation with the schools, but asked if they had not overlooked one item of major importance—a history of the county for school use. Delegates from both the Lebanon and Greene County societies stated they had such a project under way, and it was emphasized that these histories should be prepared for the use of pupils in the ninth grade. This very valuable session was concluded by the remarks of Mr. Hoenstein regarding the centennial celebration of Blair County in 1946. The local historical society is taking the lead in plans for the observance of the occasion. As part of the celebration a history of the county has been published.

It seems evident that many valuable lessons can be learned from this meeting in promoting closer relations between the historical societies and the public schools; teachers of Pennsylvania history can make their courses more vital and worthwhile by studying these suggestions and putting them into practice.
The next item on the program was an address by Dr. Edwin W. Cruttenden, Chief of Secondary Education, Department of Public Instruction, on "Problems of Teaching Pennsylvania and Local History." The speaker was for many years a teacher of history in the schools of the Commonwealth, has been active in the work of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, and for several years worked with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission in the production of a radio broadcast series known as "Pennsylvania—Keystone of Democracy." Dr. Cruttenden told of the development of history teaching in the schools, especially the more recent developments. He stated that "some schools have taught a Pennsylvania history course for the past twenty-five years, though it has not been widespread." In 1943 the Legislature introduced and passed a bill providing for four semesters of history in the schools, including Pennsylvania history. The act encouraged the doing of certain things, "but how these things are to be done is something which cannot be legislated." At present, the speaker said, more than 100,000 boys and girls are studying Pennsylvania history and government. When the law was first passed there were practically no textbooks or printed material written for the ninth grade level. "For the first several years there was only a minimum amount of reading materials which could be used in connection with this course. Today, we have a half-dozen very excellent texts. Another handicap," he said, "was the lack of qualified teachers. A great many of them were not too well informed on the history of Pennsylvania. However, it is now a State requirement that for any teacher to be certified he must have a course in Pennsylvania history." (There is still some dispute about the history requirements for certification. See the account of the Business Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association later in this article.) Dr. Cruttenden said "we need to vitalize instruction in social studies," and that he was greatly pleased with the work being done by the local historical societies. "If the schools need a museum where the pupils may be brought, then one should be established. If the schools need a county history written at the level and understanding of the children, then one should be prepared and it should contain many illustrations. Visual aid materials, maps, charts, etc., could be sent out on loan to the schools by the societies. Teachers en-
gaged in teaching Pennsylvania history should be members of
the historical society and partake in its work.”

The luncheon session was in charge of Dr. Arthur C. Bining,
president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. Dr. Bining
stressed the spirit of co-operation in connection with this meet-
ing and hoped it would continue. He then spoke about the prob-
lems facing the world today, emphasizing particularly those con-
Oected with atomic energy. He said “we are facing a crisis which
calls for the highest type of leadership. The historian is in a
good position for assuming this leadership for he knows the un-
derlying patterns of society. As historians we must mold public
opinion in the interest of co-operation and peace. Good will,
ot hatred, must be stressed.”

The address at the luncheon was given by Dr. John H. Powell,
assistant librarian in charge of Research, the Free Library of
Philadelphia. Dr. Powell spoke on “Robert Proud, First Historian
of Pennsylvania.” Many fascinating details of Proud’s early life
were brought out by the speaker. Proud came to Philadelphia in
1759 at the age of thirty-one, seeking a Utopia. He was a pacifist
longing for peace, but he arrived here during one war and lived
through two more wars. In a rich commercial city he lived a
frugal life on a school-teacher’s meagre salary. Nine months
after his arrival he began taking pupils and taught for many
years, although he confessed that “teaching was a despised pro-
fession in the new world.” Although a very versatile man, he was
a misfit and therefore could not write the history of his adopted
land. Disillusioned with life in Philadelphia after fifty years and
in need of money, Proud began writing his history on the basis
of material he had gathered long before. He collected only Quaker
material, and only certain Quaker material.

The afternoon session began with a paper by Marvin W.
Schlegel, assistant historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission, on “Franklin B. Gowen, Entrepreneur Extraord-
inary.” Mr. Schlegel stated that American businessmen of the
late nineteenth century have long been appraised as “robber
barons,” who ruthlessly ruined their enemies, crushed labor and
robbed the public in order to build up millions for themselves.
The speaker felt this portrait is badly distorted, since it gives only
one side of the case, exaggerating their sins and omitting their
virtues. Gowen, he said, received the public condemnation when,
as president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, he was responsible for forming in 1873 the first American cartel, an agreement to fix prices in the anthracite industry. Mr. Schlegel felt that Gowen's purpose was not to extract extortionate profits, but to save the industry from inevitable ruin, for fierce competition in the years following the Civil War had forced prices down to levels far below the cost of production, and the operators were facing bankruptcy. "The basic principle of Gowen's economic philosophy was increasing consumption by lowered prices. When he realized that the price received by the operator had fallen too low, he attempted to keep down the price to the consumer by lowering the costs of distribution. In Philadelphia he opened large retail coal yards in the hope of reducing overhead and selling on a smaller profit margin. The post-war depression, beginning in 1873, made these schemes for mass distribution ineffective. The slowly declining demand for anthracite caused underselling in the industry, and the combine broke up in the summer of 1876. Gowen promptly turned to mass production to lower costs and slashed prices to the bone. This device also failed, however, and the Reading was forced into bankruptcy in 1880."

The next paper was given by Samuel P. Bayard, Department of English Composition, the Pennsylvania State College. Mr. Bayard, an authority on Pennsylvania folk song and music, spoke on "Some Unexplored Pennsylvania History." He pointed out that Pennsylvania, like other eastern American regions, once had a rich store of folk song and music. Singing, fifing, and fiddling went on all the time in many of our rural districts. But some time ago, perhaps forty years in some districts, a break occurred in the transmission of these songs and melodies. Now younger people no longer learn them from their elders, while the older people who alone keep them in mind are vanishing faster all the time. "During the past fifteen years," the speaker said, "The whole tradition has been completely wiped out in various communities. But though it may inevitably disappear from oral culture, its merits—musical, literary, historical and sociological—make imperative an effort to recover as much of it as possible before its last preservers disappear."

At the meeting of the Council of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, Dr. Leonidas Dodson resigned as Book-Review
Editor of *Pennsylvania History*. His resignation was accepted with regret and a vote of thanks was passed unanimously for his excellent work. Dr. J. Orin Oliphant of Bucknell University was selected as his successor. At the annual business meeting of the Association, Miss Frances Dorrance reported as Chairman of the Archives Committee. She paid tribute to the splendid work of Dr. Bining in connection with the project for an archives building, and said that the erection of such a building had been approved by Governor Martin. Upon the motion of Miss Dorrance it was moved and carried that at the proper time the president of our association appoint a committee to call to the attention of the new governor of Pennsylvania, i.e., after January, 1947, the need of appointing on the Historical and Museum Commission a person, or persons, familiar with the problems of administering the archival and museum work. Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., reported for the committee to study the history requirements for teacher certification in the schools. The other members of the committee were Dr. Paul H. Giddens and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh. Dr. Russ told of the interview the Committee had with Dr. Henry Klonower, director of Teacher Education and Certification of the Department of Public Instruction on June 28, 1945, who stated that three hours was the maximum time the State Council of Education would grant for the history course necessary for certification. The Committee regarded three hours as wholly insufficient. Dr. Bining then outlined the problems concerned in certification and suggested that we make our own recommendations to the Department of Public Instruction. Much discussion ensued with pretty general agreement on the impossibility of giving a sound course in the history of the United States and Pennsylvania in only three semester hours. It was felt that under the present interpretation by the Department of Public Instruction any course, regardless of the number of hours or content, if Pennsylvania is in the title or is made a part of the subject matter of the course, would fulfill the requirement. While many members felt that Pennsylvania history should be a separate and distinct course, in addition to the course on United States history, it was agreed that the original intent of the regulation could not be met with less than six credit hours. It was unanimously agreed that the Committee on Certification be enlarged,
and that it work out the necessary details and then submit our recommendations to the Department of Public Instruction.

In the absence of Dr. Roy F. Nichols, chairman of the Committee to Study Plans for a Comprehensive History of Pennsylvania, the report was given by Mr. Phelps Soule, Director of the University of Pennsylvania Press. The Committee recommended a ten-volume work organized chronologically by periods, under a competent editor who would devote full time to the project. The budget was estimated at $50,000. The report evoked much discussion led by Drs. James A. Barnes, Elmer E. S. Johnson, and John H. Powell. There was a general feeling that the richest state in the Union should and could have a worthy multi-volume history. It was moved and carried that the report be adopted and that a Ways and Means committee be appointed by the President to study plans for carrying out the suggestions embodied in the report.

The question of the next annual meeting was raised and many members expressed the hope that we would return to the customary two-day meetings in various sections of the state. It was decided to refer the question to the spring meeting of the Council. In the absence of Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger, chairman of the Membership Committee, who was unable to be present because of illness, his report was read by the President. The Committee secured eighty-two new members since the last meeting, including 69 individual and 13 institutional members, located in 28 different counties of Pennsylvania, as well as in the following states: California, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. Through the splendid work of the Membership Committee and the efforts of the officers and many members, the total membership of the Association is now over six hundred, the largest it has ever been.

Dr. Lawrence H. Gipson, as chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following nominations: President, Robert Fortenbaugh; First vice-president, S. K. Stevens; Second vice-president, Miss Frances Dorrance (to fill the unexpired term of Miss M. Atherton Leach); Third vice-president, Richard H. Shryock; Treasurer, Ross Pier Wright; Secretary, J. Paul Sel-sam. For the Council: Asa E. Martin, J. Bennett Nolan, Paul H. Giddens, Richard Norris Williams 2d, and Homer T. Rosenberger. John H. Powell was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Fred-
eric A. Godcharles. For Board of Editors: One year term, Russell J. Ferguson, Wayland F. Dunaway; two year term, William A. Russ, Jr., J. Cutler Andrews; three year term, Paul H. Giddens, Phelps Soule. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted and that the Secretary be instructed to cast the ballot for all the above mentioned candidates.

A resolution on the death of Miss M. Atherton Leach was read and it was ordered to print it in *Pennsylvania History* and spread it on the minutes. Appropriate action had already been taken on the death of two of our most loyal and active members, A. Boyd Hamilton and Frederic A. Godcharles, and fitting tribute paid in our magazine, *Pennsylvania History*. A resolution of thanks was extended to the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies for working with us in making the meeting the success it was; to the Penn-Harris Hotel for its excellent arrangements and especially to Dr. S. K. Stevens for his work in arranging the splendid program on such short notice. The Secretary is confident he voices the opinion of the entire membership in paying tribute to the earnest and able leadership of our retiring President, Arthur C. Bining. As our first editor he laid the foundation for the nationwide reputation of *Pennsylvania History*; as our president he guided us successfully through the trying period of the war. We are happy his experience will be available to us through his automatic membership on the Council. The new president, Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh of Gettysburg College, is well known to all of us. He is a charter member of the Association, has served many years on the Council, is president of the Adams County Historical Society and is a writer and teacher of Pennsylvania history.