THE Historical Society of Berks County was gracious host to the membership of the Pennsylvania Historical Association on the occasion of its fifteenth annual meeting held at Reading, Pennsylvania, on October 25-26. The attendance of members from all portions of the commonwealth testified to the continuing growth of interest in the work of the Association and provided a truly representative background for the historical and business sessions of the meeting.

The first session was held on Friday afternoon, October 25, at the Historical Society of Berks County, Dr. Arthur C. Bining presiding. The program was opened by greetings from Mr. Louis J. Heizmann, President of the Historical Society of Berks County, where all of the general sessions were conducted. Mr. James W. Phillips, Assistant Librarian of Dickinson College, presented the first paper: “Sources of the Original Dickinson College Library.” Mr. Phillips played the fascinating rôle of the historian-detective, drawing from a trifling clue an interesting story of cultural development in early Pennsylvania. The clue was a notation discovered on the inside wrapper of the February 1787 issue of the Colombian Magazine, that the holdings of the Dickinson Library were 2,706 volumes, “the donations of gentlemen in England, Scotland and Philadelphia.” Mr. Phillips set himself the task of discovering who these gentlemen might be, and in the course of his search unearthed not only the identity of the donors but a great deal of very valuable collateral information about private libraries of the period. Even more important, he was able to connect the libraries with their original owners and to throw light on the intellectual interests of such men as John Dickinson, Granville Sharpe, Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, Richard Price, Dr. John Erskine, Benjamin Rush, Richard Peters, Thomas Bradford, the Isaac Norrices, and others. It was an exceedingly worthwhile con-
tribution to the cultural history of the commonwealth, not only because of the facts discovered, but also because of the novel method of approach.

The next paper was a scholarly inquiry into the general question: Why did the Quakers of colonial Pennsylvania prove to be such excellent business men? Frederick B. Tolles of Swarthmore College, in his paper, "One Foot in the Counting House—Economic Ideas of the Colonial Quaker Merchants," offered a new and stimulating interpretation of the basic proposition. He maintained that Quaker aptitude for business was not adequately clarified by the usual explanation—that since Quakers were excluded from the professions their energies were channeled perforce into trade. The basic explanation lay in the religious ethic of Quakerism itself. Like Puritanism, Quakerism looked upon the world of daily toil and daily bread as God's world in which His children were called to do His will. But as the world is transitory, one should use it with "weaned affections." In other words, economic activity in a warrantable calling was a religious duty, but one should be moderate, almost ascetic, in the enjoyment of its fruits. Since God regularly "added His blessing" to the economic activities of those of His children who faithfully followed His light and leading, the hardworking, simple-loving Quaker almost invariably accumulated wealth. The economic virtues of diligence, frugality, prudence, honesty, and order were held in high repute among Friends. These very virtues, clearly stated in the autobiography of Friend Thomas Denham (the Philadelphia Quaker merchant under whom Franklin got his first business training), stand as a classic statement of the spirit of capitalism. They were adopted by Franklin himself, who is so often taken to be the embodiment of the modern capitalist spirit.

At the conclusion of the historical session the Association was entertained at tea by the Historical Society of Berks County, and the membership had time to visit the Society building and to examine its museum collections.

The annual dinner of the Association was held Friday evening in the ballroom of the Hotel Abraham Lincoln, President Robert Fortenbaugh presiding. After a delightful banquet attended by over one hundred and twenty-five persons, President Fortenbaugh delivered his presidential address on the subject: "Lincoln as Gettysburg Saw Him." It was an inspiring interpretation of the
meaning of the Gettysburg Address to Lincoln himself. Dr. Fortenbaugh pictured Lincoln in his preparation for the address, his simple and friendly informality as he rode out to the dedication ceremony, his personal adaptation to the political ideals his words expressed. But most important was the audience to which Lincoln addressed himself. He spoke not merely to those who stood before him at Gettysburg, nor to the families whose dead lay buried there, nor even to the people of the United States. Lincoln was proclaiming his faith in free government to the peoples of the world. The Gettysburg Address was a document international in its implications, and so it was intended to be by Abraham Lincoln—a beacon of faith to people of all times and climes.

The main address of the evening was presented by Dr. Carl Bridenbaugh, Director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, on the subject: "Pennsylvania and the Eighteenth Century." Dr. Bridenbaugh called attention to the apparent decline of interest in American colonial history in the colleges and universities of the commonwealth—a tendency which he felt was contrary to common sense and to the public interest. He spoke of the eighteenth century as the formative period of American life, and of Pennsylvania—particularly Philadelphia (second largest city in the British Empire)—as the cultural centre of the British colonies in America. The richness of Pennsylvania's history in colonial days and its necessarily powerful influence upon the other seaboard colonies still offers a most fertile field for historical endeavor. Dr. Bridenbaugh's challenge to Pennsylvanians was that more, rather than less, emphasis on the colonial era ought to be the aim of our historians.

On Saturday morning, October 26, members of the Association attended the business meeting and a general session of historical papers at the Historical Society of Berks County. Oliver S. Heckman, of the Department of Public Instruction, presided at the historical session. The first paper was read by Mr. John W. Ray of Erie, Pennsylvania, on the subject: "Preliminary Report on Pennsylvania History in the Schools." Mr. Ray took up the question of the relationship of community history, county history, and the history of the commonwealth at large. At the conclusion of Mr. Ray's report, the problems of the most effective method of presentation and of the integration of various phases of the history of the commonwealth were discussed. This matter will come
before the Association again in the future. The next paper was presented by Mr. Robert L. Bloom of Long Branch, New Jersey, on the subject: "Kansas and Popular Sovereignty in Pennsylvania Newspapers." Mr. Bloom traced carefully the gradual swing of editorial opinion in representative Pennsylvania newspapers from a moderate position on the slavery question in 1856 to the extremist position in 1860. Under the successive impacts of events: the Cincinnati Platform, the presidential election of 1856, the Dred Scott case, "bleeding Kansas," the Lecompton Constitution, and John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry, the various newspapers edged their way forward from tentative to positive convictions. This story is followed through John Forney's *Pennsylvanian*, Morton McMichael's *North American*, David N. White's *Pittsburgh Gazette*, James P. Parr's Pittsburgh *Daily Post*, and many other less widely circulated journals.

The final paper was a co-operative study by George S. and William W. Carling of Wilson High School, Easton, who presented the results of their inquiries in a paper: "Local History in the Schools of Northampton County History—A Survey." The purpose of the study was to obtain information to determine how to utilize most effectively the subject matter field of Northampton County and community history. Questionnaires were sent to representative groups, the returns of which indicated that there was a lack of subject matter in readily useful form. Two-thirds of the replies expressed a need for a class-room textbook for county history. More than three-fourths of the replies suggested that more emphasis ought to be paid in the schools to county and local history. The positive results of the survey were to show definitely that administrators should try to find room in the crowded curricula of today for school study of county and local history, that books or other subject-matter contributions should be prepared, and that presently available material for the study of county and local history should be so arranged as to be more practically useful to students and teachers.

After the morning session, the membership adjourned to meet again at the Reading Country Club where a delicious "Pennsylvania Dutch" luncheon was served. *Befinden uns hier recht Gemütlich!* Dr. J. Orin Oliphant of Bucknell University introduced the after-dinner speaker, Dr. Richmond E. Myers of Muhlenberg College, who is presently preparing for the Historic Rivers of
America Series a volume on the Susquehanna. Dr. Myers spoke informally on "Susquehanna River Lore." He dramatically personalized the life of the river itself, conveying a sense of its mood, its spirit and its dynamic influence. Ranging from New York to the Chesapeake Bay, Mr. Myers showed in a series of incidents and observations how tightly intertwined are the lives of the river and the human inhabitants who live on its banks or ply its swift currents—place names, legal considerations, enterprises of business and trade, works of literature and of art, battle scenes, land speculation, lore of the canalmen, raftsmen, lumbermen—all find their place in the biography of this beautiful, historic river.

From the country club a cavalcade of several dozen automobiles left for a pilgrimage to Hopewell Village National Park and to the Daniel Boone Home. At Hopewell Village, Mr. Melvin J. Weig, Historian of the National Park Service, spoke on the significance of the village, of the furnace and its history, and of the work of restoration which has been done by the National Park Service. At the Daniel Boone Home, Mr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh of Gwynedd, well-known architect and authority on Pennsylvania colonial architecture, addressed the visitors, speaking particularly of the problems involved in the restoration of the Daniel Boone Home and of the actual work of restoration by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The meeting of the Council of the Association was held at the Hotel Abraham Lincoln on Friday, preceding the historical sessions. On Saturday morning at the Historical Society of Berks County the annual business meeting of the Association was held, President Fortenbaugh presiding. Dr. Milton W. Hamilton, reporting as editor of the magazine, Pennsylvania History, informed the membership that printing costs had more than doubled since the days when publication was first started. In order to meet this situation, he recommended an increase in the membership dues from $2.00 to $3.00 annually, to become effective on January 1, 1947. On the basis of Dr. Hamilton's report, the Association passed a motion by Dr. Gipson that individual dues be raised to $3.00 annually, and institutional dues to $3.50 annually.

President Fortenbaugh, after discussing briefly the plans of the Association for the publication of a pamphlet series on Pennsylvania history, called upon Professor Russell W. Gilbert to report upon his progress as author of the first of these publications.
Professor Gilbert, who is writing on the Pennsylvania Germans, made various suggestions for the guidance of the Association in planning for additional pamphlets. He stressed that the subject matter should be non-academic in style while trustworthy in content, and that the pamphlets ought to be generously illustrated.

President Fortenbaugh announced that he planned to appoint a committee of the Association to cooperate with the Historical Activities Committee of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in the work of integrating research and publication in Pennsylvania local history.

After the report of the Nominating Committee, the following were elected to office in the Association: Second Vice-President, to serve for three years from the date of election, Miss Frances Dorrance; members of Council, to serve for three years from date of election: Earl W. Dickey, Altoona; Oliver S. Heckman, Harrisburg; Alfred P. James, Pittsburgh; and John H. Powell, Philadelphia; Board of Editors, to serve for three years from date of election, Dr. Frederick B. Tolles of Swarthmore, and Dr. J. Cutler Andrews of Pittsburgh.

President Fortenbaugh informed the Association that it was the wish of the State Council on Education that no change be effected in present requirements for the teaching of the history of the United States and of Pennsylvania in the schools.