

NEWS AND COMMENT

BY S. K. STEVENS

State Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

ASSOCIATION NEWS

A MEETING of the council was held from four to six on the afternoon of May 10, in the executive offices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg, following the sessions of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. The meeting was presided over by President Fortenbaugh. Council members attending included Messrs. James, Russ, Oliphant, Webb, Williams, Heckman, Selsam, Rosenberger, Stevens, Hamilton, Miss Frances Dorrance, and Secretary Klein.

Dr. Rosenberger reported on the completion of the manuscript for the forthcoming pamphlet in the new series devoted to providing material of general interest on certain outstanding phases of Pennsylvania history. Dr. Russell Gilbert of Susquehanna University is the author of the first in the series, dealing with the Pennsylvania Germans. The council approved final allocation of funds necessary for printing it. A manuscript for a second bulletin on the story of the Quakers in Pennsylvania's history, written by Dr. William Comfort, noted authority on William Penn and the Quaker element, was presented for consideration. Publication of this second pamphlet will depend upon reactions to our first venture into this new field. The pamphlet on the Pennsylvania German will go to press shortly and should be available within a short time. It will sell for fifty cents a copy, and members are urged to assist in disposing of the original edition of one thousand copies. It may be purchased directly from the office of the secretary, although Dr. Fortenbaugh has agreed to take charge of general distribution through the printer at Gettysburg.

There was considerable discussion as to the place of meeting for the regular annual meeting this fall. An invitation from Mr. Kirke Bryan of The Historical Society of Montgomery County to hold the gathering at Norristown was seconded by Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger, a native of the county. After some discussion of the

possibility of holding a meeting in northwestern Pennsylvania, the invitation to meet at Norristown was accepted by the council. Suggestions for the program are in order and might be forwarded to either President Fortenbaugh, or to Dr. Rosenberger, chairman of the program committee.

Dr. Stevens reported briefly upon the \$50,000 special research item in the budget of the Historical and Museum Commission and emphasized that at the proper time a committee representing the association would be appointed to cooperate in plans for developing this important program. The committee appointments will be made by President Fortenbaugh.

The secretary was directed to write Governor James H. Duff, urging again that a professional historian connected with one of the college or university departments of history be appointed to one of the vacancies on the Historical and Museum Commission.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The most important event in the historical society world in the past few months was the state-wide meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies which convened at the Penn-Harris Hotel on May 10, with President Floyd Hoenstine of Hollidaysburg presiding. The morning session was devoted to a general discussion of ways and means of improving the organization of the Federation. Many suggestions were advanced and it was agreed that the objectives of the organization as set forth in the original constitution over forty years ago need to be rephrased and restated in the light of present day conditions in the historical affairs of the state. A committee on constitutional revision has been appointed with Messrs. Louis Heizmann, J. Martin Stroup, and Roy F. Nichols as members. This committee will consider the possibility of a reorganization of the Federation structure prior to the annual meeting for 1948.

The luncheon session was followed by a talk by Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Director of Education for Colonial Williamsburg, on "Making Use of Local History." The talk introduced a documentary historical film, in sound and technicolor, on "Eighteenth Century Life in Colonial Williamsburg." Incidentally, this film, produced and distributed by the Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester, New York, is obtainable for historical society and educational meetings for the cost of its transportation.

The meeting was attended by some one hundred and fifty persons representing a wide range of the historical societies in the state. Virtually every active county society was represented by one or more delegates. The Pennsylvania Historical Junto of Washington, D. C., sent an automobile load of members, headed by the president, Colonel Kephart, a Bucks County native. New societies welcomed into the Federation included the Westmoreland County Historical Society, the Centre County Historical Society, the Mercer County Historical Society, the Shippensburg Historical Society, and the Historical Society of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

The all-day meeting ended with a business session and election of officers. Activities of historical societies had been submitted for review by a committee on awards concerned with the annual Award of Merit made to historical societies for outstanding and new accomplishments during the year. The Historical Society of York County, the Monroe County Historical Society, the Lancaster County Historical Society, and the Mifflin County Historical Society were given awards by the committee headed by Miss Nell Stevens, assistant state librarian. The York countians were commended for their work in reorganizing their collections and making them more useful, and for promoting public interest in York County history, as well as for becoming an outstanding depository. Monroe County was praised for its school program and for arousing greater public interest in history. The Lancaster society was deserving of an award for its increased activity in creating public interest and making Lancaster County history better known to the people of the county. The Mifflin County Society was given an award for renewing its county-wide examination contest in local history, based upon a series of articles on Mifflin County history appearing in the *Lewistown Sentinel*.

Resolutions were presented by Miss Frances Dorrance, chairman of the committee on resolutions, urging Governor Duff to consider the possibility of reviving the projected public records, museum, and history building originally considered as a William Penn memorial structure. Condolences and regret at news of the death of Judge Frank Trexler, former Federation President and long-time head of the Lehigh County Historical Society, were expressed. Opposition to a bill before the Assembly which would permit the state to acquire the Historical Society of Western Penn-

sylvania was expressed on the ground that it constituted a dangerous precedent. By official resolution, and in recognition of his many services over a long period of time, Harrold E. Gillingham was made a President Emeritus of the Federation.

The committee on nominations made up of Bruce A. Hunt, chairman, Arch P. Akeley, and Leo Wilt presented its report through Mr. Wilt in the absence of the chairman. Mr. Floyd Hoenstine was elected President. First Vice-President is Mrs. Elizabeth Hensyl, Berwick; Second Vice-President, Charles F. Jenkins, Philadelphia; Third Vice-President, Louis J. Heizmann, Reading; Fourth Vice-President, Robert Bates, Meadville. Dr. S. K. Stevens was reelected executive secretary, as were Merle H. Deardorff as treasurer, and Miss Dolores J. Malloy, assistant treasurer. Mr. Earle Forrest of Washington, Pennsylvania, was named as a new member to the executive committee.

The feeling of those present was that it was not only one of the best attended but generally one of the most successful Federation meetings. Mr. Hoenstine brings to the Federation presidency an active leader who has had several years of successful leadership in historical society work in Blair County. He has the interest, the grasp of local and state history, and the understanding of practical needs of the historical societies to provide an outstanding administration. There is a general feeling that the scope of the Federation's work should be broadened and that it should be brought into closer touch with the membership of the societies rather than confining contacts to officers of the societies alone. Regional meetings, wider circulation of news about society happenings, clarification and restatement of basic Federation objectives, followed up by practical steps to make them effective are some of the ideas which Mr. Hoenstine hopes to put into action within the next year.

An important opportunity will soon be presented to the historical societies to help in placing more emphasis upon local history in the elementary school curriculum of the state. The Department of Public Instruction has embarked upon a general reorganization of this phase of the public school work of the state. It is directed by Dr. Laversia Powers, director of the elementary division of the department. Dr. Powers already has conferred with Dr. Stevens regarding the problem. If present plans materialize, it is hoped that in at least a majority of the counties where there is an active

historical society a joint committee can be set up representative of the society and the elementary school teachers of the county. This committee will plan ways and means of utilizing local history in the schools, either in terms of visual education or booklets and informational materials.

A business meeting reorganizing the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology was held at the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg on May 10. The society has been largely dormant for the war years though continuing the publication of its quarterly, the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. Incidentally, this magazine under the editorship of Dr. Claude Schaeffer, anthropologist of the Historical and Museum Commission, has become one of the leading publications of its kind in the country and a credit to the society. Mr. Richard Wright of Erie was elected president of the archaeologists and Leo Wilt of Towanda is the new secretary. Dr. Schaeffer was continued as editor of the magazine but to be assisted by an editorial board in order that he may devote more time to field archaeological investigation in the state. The society is campaigning for membership and will welcome contacts and suggestions.

We have further information concerning the coöperation between the Wayne County Historical Society and the Honesdale Woman's Club mentioned in our previous issue. The Honesdale club is an active organization interested in civic betterment, and it approached the Historical Society on possible ways in which it might help that organization in some worthy endeavor such as increasing membership, redecorating the society building, or improving the Stourbridge Lion building. The society decided to accept the proffered aid in gaining new members. The club then appointed a committee of six and assigned each a definite district for canvassing. The result was a total of 172 new memberships and 28 life memberships. Personal solicitation proved the way to get the members rather than a mail canvass. The club is continuing its interest by sponsoring a county-wide historical essay contest. The present total membership of the Wayne County organization is now 343, an excellent record for one of the smallest counties in terms of population. This program should suggest possibilities to others.

The Indiana County Historical and Genealogical Society will be provided with new headquarters and a place to house its collections as a result of acquisition of the Judge John B. Elkins estate by Indiana State Teachers College. The March meeting of the society was held jointly with the D.A.R. "Old Carpenter Tools" was the subject presented to the April meeting by Mr. Earl Shaffer. The society has planned an historical tour to Bushy Run Park for July. The opening meeting for the fall, on September 4, has been called "Civil War Night," and will be devoted to Indiana County history in relation to the war.

The Erie County Historical Society has published its *Gold Star Honor Roll, World War II, Erie County*, a record of the men and women from Erie County who died in the service of their country during the last war. It has been made available through the work of the society's military records committee, headed by Mrs. Herbert R. Spencer.

Leo Wilt, president of the Bradford County Historical Society, has succeeded in securing from the Bradford County Selective Service Board duplicates of certain records which contain the basic data concerning service of Bradford County men in World War II. We have a feeling that while perhaps not as much was done as the perfectionist would desire, the historical societies of the state have preserved more World War II material of value than was the case in World War I.

The sixty-sixth annual meeting of The Bucks County Historical Society was held at Doylestown in the auditorium of the Elkins Building on the afternoon of May 3. Three special papers were read. Horace Mather Lippincott's paper was titled the "Bolton Farm;" "The Hexenkopf School of Bedminister Township" was read by Col. Calvin Kephart, president of the Pennsylvania Junto in Washington. "Nineteenth Century Farm Maps of Bucks County" was the subject of the paper by Edward Barnsley, president of the Bucks society. The report of the president was full of interesting facts about the progress of the Doylestown organization. A new and modern catalogue case has been purchased by the society to permit better organization and care of the growing manuscript collections and library. A professionally-trained cata-

loguer will properly index every printed publication in the society's library. Repair of the first nine volumes of the *Doylestown Democrat* has been completed. These papers date back to 1817 and are one of the most valued possessions of the society. The work was done by the Emery Record Preserving Company. In addition to binding its own files, the society acquired photostat copies of missing issues. Copies of the *Proceedings* of the Bucks society, volumes one to eight, are still obtainable; also available are *The Bible in Iron*, *Ancient Carpenter Tools*, and *Place Names in Bucks County*.

The April 26 meeting of The Historical Society of Montgomery County featured a paper by Mrs. A. Irvin Supplee, on "Gulf Mills and Rebel Hill," concerned particularly with the old buildings and historical locations of the area. Eugene A. Cox spoke on the subject of heraldry in Montgomery County. Twenty-eight new members were added to the society rolls at the last annual meeting. The society is making a special drive to secure old paintings, prints, and photographs for its collections.

The March 28 meeting of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was held at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. A tour of the Nationality Rooms, with an introductory address, was the feature of the meeting held on a Friday evening.

A well attended meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held at its headquarters building, the LeMoyne House, in Washington, Pennsylvania. Mr. Earle Forrest presided. Dr. Stevens, state historian, spoke on the subject, "Why Preserve Local History?" The Washington society has made many improvements in restoring the LeMoyne House in the past two years. The property is one of the finest specimens of early architecture in western Pennsylvania, once owned by Dr. LeMoyne, noted abolitionist leader and the owner and builder of the first crematory in the United States. The society recently received a bequest of several thousand dollars for further development of its museum and building projects.

"The Growth of the Philadelphia Archdiocese" was the subject

of an address delivered by the Rev. William L. Lallous, S.T.D., on May 9, before the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute and the American Catholic Historical Society at the Institute in Philadelphia.

"Firemarks and the Volunteer Firemen and Their Engines" was the address presented by Linden T. Harris before the April 15 meeting of The Chester County Historical Society. At the May 20 meeting the program was devoted to "Going to School to Dr. Green." On March 18, the program topic was presented by Ernest A. Cramer, president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, on "Time and Time Pieces."

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks was held at The House of the Colonial Dames, 1630 Latimer Street, Philadelphia, on March 26. Following brief reports, G. Edwin Brumbaugh spoke on "The Buildings of the Ephrata Kloster, Relic of Mediaevalism." The presentation was illustrated with lantern slides showing the work of restoration now under way at Ephrata.

"Papers of the McSherry Family" was the subject of the talk by Thomas C. McSherry of Littlestown before the Adams County Historical Society at its April 1 meeting. The McSherry family was active in state and national affairs during the early nineteenth century. "Highways of Eastern Pennsylvania" was the paper for the March 4 meeting, given by George W. Baker of Abbottstown. On May 6, the Adams countians visited the home of Miss Edna Albert for a talk on "Papers of the Albert Family."

The Saturday excursions conducted by the City History Society of Philadelphia were resumed on May 3, with a visit to Kensington Methodist Church at Richmond and Marlborough Streets. This church was founded in 1801 and is the third-oldest in the city. On May 17, historic New Castle on the Delaware was visited. On May 31, the Woman's Medical College and Hospital, founded in 1850, was visited. The June 14 tour was to the Walt Whitman House at 428 Mickle Street, Camden, New Jersey.

New officers of the Snyder County Historical Society for 1947 include Dr. George E. Fisher, as president; Mrs. Oliver A. Glace, first vice-president; Dewey S. Herrold, second vice-president; William M. Schnure, third vice-president; Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., fourth vice-president, and Dr. Russell W. Gilbert, fifth vice-president. The secretary-treasurer is Edgar L. Swartzlander. *The Snyder County Historical Society Bulletin*, Volume II, Number 8, has just been issued. It contains three most interesting papers. Ira L. Yoder's paper on "The Snyder County Agricultural Extension Association" is a valuable survey of the development of the extension service in that county since 1919. If similar surveys could be prepared for other counties they would constitute a worthwhile historical record. "The Kentucky Rifle and Its Snyder County Makers" is the title of a second paper. It is unfortunate that the term "Kentucky Rifle" is applied to a rifle made in Snyder County. How long will it be before at least Pennsylvanians will use the term "Pennsylvania Rifle" when referring to this weapon? "The History of the Old Distilleries in Snyder County" is a reminder of the days when there were more distilleries than grist mills in the typical Pennsylvania frontier community. The Snyder countians are deserving of hearty congratulations on continuing this publication series.

"Colonial Architecture in Southeastern Pennsylvania" was the subject of the address by the well-known architect, G. Edwin Brumbaugh, before the annual meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society on May 26. Mr. Brumbaugh is an outstanding authority in his field and a brilliant speaker. Without unduly advertising his services, we do wish to remind those in search of program speakers that Mr. Brumbaugh has a most interesting story to tell before any historical gathering.

The spring meeting of the Friends Historical Association was held on May 17, at Plymouth Meeting House, Plymouth Meeting. "Plymouth Meeting in History and Legend" was the address by George C. Corson, while Dr. Thomas E. Drake spoke on "Anti-slavery Friends near Plymouth Meeting." Those attending the meeting were welcomed by Mr. Carroll L. Corson.

The May 13 meeting of The Historical Society of Frankford was addressed by Edna R. Worrell on "Some Account of Frederick Turner (1810-1848), Early Printer and Publisher of Philadelphia."

The April issue of *The Pennsylvanian*, bulletin of the Pennsylvania Historical Junto, has an interesting article on Ole Bull's colony in Potter County. Katherine Perry Dorfield discussed "Ole Bull: Life and Times," at the March 20 meeting of The Lycoming Historical Society. The Lycoming Society recently celebrated its fortieth anniversary. During 1946, the society building on West Fourth Street in Williamsport attracted over 3,000 visitors, a fine record for an institution operating without a paid staff.

William A. Hunter, member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission research staff, addressed the recently organized Mercer County Historical society at its April meeting, on the subject of Shenango Town, Indian settlement in the county in the period 1750-85. The society is meeting in the court house, and the president, Dr. Morgan Barnes, has planned a very active expansion of the program in the next year.

"The Society of Friends in Lancaster County" was the topic discussed before the Lancaster County Historical Society at its March 7 meeting. On May 2, Thomas D. Cope of the University of Pennsylvania spoke on "The Mason and Dixon Line in Relation to Lancaster County."

At the first meeting of the newly organized Westmoreland County Historical Society, held in the court house at Greensburg, the society was presented with a collection of Stephen Foster material accumulated by David L. Yount. According to Mr. Yount, Foster lived in Greensburg for about nine months at the old Fisher House, a local inn. His wife and child lived in Greensburg for some time. James Gregg presided at the meeting.

W. Ralph Appenzaller has been elected president of the Kittochtinny Historical Society, the equivalent of a Franklin County society, replacing the late J. H. Stoner of Waynesboro, who served

the society for many years. Arthur W. Gillan of Chambersburg is secretary.

Dr. C. Valentine Kirby, for many years head of art education in the Department of Public Instruction, was a recent speaker before the Dauphin County Historical Society on the history of the Harrisburg Art Association. At the April meeting, Miss Avis M. Cauley read a paper, prepared originally by the late William B. McCaleb, on the history of the Pennsylvania railroad. At the May 19 meeting, Gus Steinmetz discussed "Newspapers of Dauphin County."

The "History of the Port of Philadelphia," illustrated with lantern slides, was presented by M. Joseph McCosker before the City History Society of Philadelphia at its April 16 meeting. Mr. McCosker is the director of the Atwater Kent Museum and has made a special study of the history of the famous port.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

Pennsylvania is faced with what may be its last opportunity to record and recover its surviving folk song and music and its folk tales. These traditions and traditional arts are a very important link with the past, in fact the only oral links which exist today. They are original sources and yet frequently neglected by the average professional or amateur historian. Few states have a richer store of this material than Pennsylvania. And few have done less to preserve it. The authors who are currently engaged in endeavoring to compile material for the forthcoming anthology to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press have been driven to the point of desperation in trying to unearth material. Pennsylvania, we are not happy to report, lags far behind its sister states in this field. Today, the largest folklore society in the nation is that in our neighbor state of New York. Why should not Pennsylvania have at least some expression of interest in the field? The subject is one of vital importance because the older generation of canal boatmen, lumbermen, and others who provide the last direct link with a more formative era in our history are passing every day.

Folk art is not like that made with the hands, and does not live

long after its cultivators are gone. Wherever the few collectors who have worked in the field have been in this state they realize all too keenly that they have been dealing with the last preservers of a truly important inheritance. Folk singers and players and tellers of folk tales are passing and never can be replaced.

The writer makes a joint plea with Samuel P. Bayard, 201 Sparks Building, The Pennsylvania State College, State College, and J. A. Evanson, Board of Public Education, Forbes Street and Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh 13, for information from any person who may know of the existence of folk singers or others who have any remnants of folk music or folklore. The name, age, and location of the person who can sing or play or relate folk tales of the early days should be provided. If the person is a musician, it will be helpful to know whether or not he can read music and what instrument he can play. Either this office, or Mr. Bayard, or Mr. Evanson may be contacted.

The Committee on Research in Folklore, of the American Folklore Society, annually publishes in *The Journal of American Folklore* a list of folklore projects which are in progress. The writing of books, monographs, special studies, library research, and field collecting are included. Folklorists are requested to send information on their current activities to Herbert Halpert, 60 West Winter Street, Delaware, Ohio, before September 10.

John Wilkes Booth, Oilman is the title of a new book by Ernest C. Miller, Box One, Warren, available through the Exposition Press, One Spruce Street, New York City 7. Mr. Miller is the author of several books and articles on unusual aspects of the history of the oil regions.

Pennsylvania Dutch Recipe Frakturs, containing eight sheets of Pennsylvania German recipes printed within the framework of fraktur designs, has been published by Adele Hostetter Hershey and Ruth Hershey Irion, Schlechter's Printers, Allentown. The volume of Pennsylvania German material is growing at a rapid pace as the nation appears in the midst of a veritable Pennsylvania German art and culture craze. The recent great interest in this peculiar phase of the folk art and culture of one important segment of the state's population has revealed much that is of great

interest and importance. It serves, however, to emphasize the importance of turning the spotlight on other phases of the folklife of the commonwealth.

The old restored blacksmith shop at Caledonia State Park, once owned by Thaddeus Stevens, has been leased by John Lippy, Jr., of Gettysburg. It will be operated by Mr. Lippy as another in his growing chain of historical monuments managed for tourist appeal.

The Indiana Countian, Indiana County newspaper, has been running some very interesting articles on historic old farms and farm houses in that region. In Wisconsin, the state historical society embarked some time ago on a program to single out century-old farms and give them some distinctive recognition. This is a thought worth consideration by those interested in the agricultural history of this state.

Writing of agriculture reminds us that Dr. S. W. Fletcher, retired dean of the School of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State College, is now actively engaged in preparing a history of agriculture in Pennsylvania. This is a work of the utmost importance and anyone having suggestions as to sources would, no doubt, find Dr. Fletcher welcoming them. A few articles on phases of the subject by Dr. Fletcher have appeared in the *Pennsylvania Farmer*.

John B. Reynolds, well-known Meadville banker and historian author of *In French Creek Valley*, published in 1938, died at his Meadville home on May 4. Mr. Reynolds had in his possession one of the most valuable collections of northwestern Pennsylvania historical materials to be found in the region, which had been accumulated since his grandfather's day. Three times a mayor of Meadville, Mr. Reynolds also helped to make history. His home, sometimes known as the Baldwin House, was built by Supreme Court Justice Baldwin, and was one of the historic buildings of the region.

Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach recently presented to the Free Library of Philadelphia his collection of over eight hundred early American children's books. It is the outstanding collection of its kind

and includes such rarities as Cotton Mather's *Spiritual Milk for Boston Babes*. It contains many rare Pennsylvania imprints.

Edward Millman began recently in Pittsburgh his paintings which will tell the "Story of Steel," for the Gimbel Pennsylvania Art Collection. The Gimbel Collection aims to create for Pennsylvania and the nation a picture of contemporary life in the state and is scheduled for completion this autumn. It will be exhibited in the state for two years, and then throughout the nation, following which it will become the property of the state, under direction of an art advisory board appointed by the governor.

On March 10, the New Century Club in Philadelphia celebrated its seventieth anniversary. This particular woman's club was the first in the United States to receive a charter, and thereby rates another Philadelphia and Pennsylvania first. Formation of the club followed the impetus given Philadelphia women's interests and accomplishments in the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Its first meeting was held on February 8, 1877. Some of Philadelphia's most distinguished women have served as presidents of the New Century Club during its seventy years.

Frederick Woltman of the *New York World-Telegram*, who won this year's Pulitzer prize for distinguished reporting on Communist activities, is a graduate and former professor of the University of Pittsburgh. Thus for the second year, Pennsylvania has had some connection with a Pulitzer prize. Last year the *Scranton Times* won the Pulitzer award for the most distinguished public service by an American newspaper. This was the first time a Pennsylvania newspaper had ever won a Pulitzer award, so far as we can determine.

Interested western Pennsylvanians have organized a group known as the Westmoreland Rifles. Recently a shoot was held at which many of these old rifles were fired in competition, as in days of old on the frontier. Old Westmoreland in the later days of the frontier was an important center for making Pennsylvania rifles, mistakenly known as Kentucky rifles after the War of 1812, and the organization of this group is quite appropriate. The name also associates this section with the famed Westmoreland Rifles of

Revolutionary days, when sharpshooters from the region made many a Britisher bite the dust.

The Bureau of Business Research of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. This is the pioneer business research organization in the nation and another Pennsylvania first.

Yet another first for the state is the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents Association in Harrisburg. It is an organization representing the newspaper correspondents stationed on Capitol Hill and was founded by twenty-five newspapermen at the Capitol in January, 1895. It is the oldest legislative correspondents association of this type in the United States.

Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, founded by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary from May 10 to 14. Notable doctors and surgeons from all over the nation attended the observance and Governor James H. Duff was a principal speaker.

The village of Philipsburg in Centre County will celebrate its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary beginning July 20. Various days from Sunday to Friday are given over to special events. July 23 is Founder's Day and featured is an historical parade. Exhibits of historical material, including rooms furnished with period furniture, will give a further historical flavor to the commemoration.

The centennial of the incorporation of the city of Reading was celebrated March 19. Governor James H. Duff and Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, of Baltimore, were the principal speakers. Reading's bicentennial, commemorating the laying out of the town in 1748, will be celebrated next year. A committee is now at work on plans for this celebration.

Another Pennsylvania literary figure of distinction died on February 25, in the person of Mrs. Grace Livingston Hill. One of the nation's best known and most prolific authors, Mrs. Hill died at Swarthmore, her home since 1902. Mrs. Hill had almost completed her eightieth novel when death claimed her. Her most

popular book, *The Enchanted Barn*, was published in 1937. She was the author of at least three other "best sellers" during her lifetime. Her last book was published on January 8, just a month before her death, and was entitled *Where Two Ways Met*. Publishers' reports indicate the sale of nearly four million copies of Mrs. Hill's books in the United States. Mrs. Hill was born at Wellsville, New York, in 1865, just across the New York State boundary, but her residence in Swarthmore since 1902 definitely ranks her as a Pennsylvania author.

Governor Thomas J. Herbert of Ohio proclaimed April 6 to 12 as Ohio History Week in that state. The purpose of the week, according to the official proclamation, was "that a better knowledge of the state's history may be enjoyed by all."

The Abraham Lincoln Association, First National Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois, solicits information concerning the present private ownership and location of any document composed by Abraham Lincoln, whether or not it has been published hitherto. Documents in public institutions are readily accessible, but many of those held by individuals have not been located to date. The preparation of a complete edition of Lincoln's writings from original sources will be greatly facilitated by information leading to procurement of photostatic copies of documents held by private individuals. Acknowledgment of assistance will be fully made upon publication.

Our attention has been called recently to the Great Lakes Historical Society, organized in 1944 under sponsorship of the Cleveland Public Library. It is another of the regional type of historical organizations which are coming to the front in the local history field. They seek to unite the common historical interests of an area, disregarding state or county political lines. Alva Bradley has been the president of the society since its founding. Membership is drawn from twenty-two states, with the mid-western states leading. Apparently it has attracted little Pennsylvania support, though the society has been active in the movement to preserve the *U.S.S. Michigan* or *Wolverine* at Erie. It has accumulated much Great Lakes historical material now stored at Western Reserve Historical Society. It has a publication called *Inland Seas*.

The Philadelphia Art Alliance was host to an exhibit, continuing through June 1, provided by the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen. This organization is state-wide and devoted to reviving the old arts and crafts in Pennsylvania. It is aided by the State Department of Commerce and workshops are maintained in the State Museum Building. Roy Helton of the State Planning Board research staff is head of the Guild. Chapters have been organized and are active in Harrisburg, Lancaster, Reading, Allentown, and Pittsburgh. The movement is one of importance and deserves the support of those interested in the history of the state, because it seeks to revive authentic crafts typical of an earlier way of life in Pennsylvania, once noted for its craft industries.

The Director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture announces the awarding of a grant to Miss Babette May Levy of Hunter College for completing a work on "Puritanism in the South and in the West Indies," and to Mr. Frederick B. Tolles of Swarthmore College for finishing his manuscript on "The Philadelphia Quaker Merchant."

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has in its budget for the 1947-49 biennium several thousand dollars for historical research activities. This includes collecting historical material through use of microfilm and subsidy of historical research and writing through several types of aid to historical research projects under way or projected. A coöperative committee representing the Association will aid in screening projects. At the present time the State Historian is interested especially in learning of all individuals engaged in specific research projects in Pennsylvania history or contemplating such activity. The name of the person and the nature of the project are needed and further details will be forthcoming if the Commission feels the particular enterprise is within the scope of its interests and ability to aid. While a survey has been made to secure such information through the colleges and universities there are some who might not be reached through this channel and this announcement is directed especially to them.

The Commission is anxious also to secure information concern-

ing collections of Pennsylvania historical material in the hands of individuals and institutions which might be microfilmed for preservation, and also for addition to a collection of Pennsylvania historical material in Harrisburg. The Commission, if it deems the material of sufficient worth, will bear the expense of microfilming and will perform the work at the pleasure of the individual or institution where the material is located.

CONTRIBUTORS

FRANK FREIDEL is assistant professor of history at The Pennsylvania State College.

S. W. FLETCHER is dean emeritus of the School of Agriculture of the Pennsylvania State College. He is engaged in writing the history of agriculture in Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM A. HUNTER is research assistant of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.