NEWS AND COMMENT

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

By THE time this issue reaches the membership, plans will have been started in motion for the program and the local arrangements for the 1949 meeting at Carlisle. Drs. Milton Flower and Whitfield Bell at Dickinson are the co-chairmen of the program committee. Those who have any suggestions as to program possibilities should contact either of these men.

The membership drive was started in March and is now in full swing. A large mailing list of key individuals in the state known to be interested in Pennsylvania history is being covered. School librarians and a selected list of teachers and sponsors of history clubs will be reached with the folder prepared to present the case for association membership. Seven thousand folders have been printed and even a very slight percentage return would nearly double our membership. We shall hope for the best and shall continue our effort in various ways and through every possible channel.

Elsewhere your attention is directed to the bill introduced in the current session of the assembly providing for appointment of a representative committee by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to study and report upon the long desired comprehensive history of Pennsylvania. In a sense this is an Association bill. If the assembly is still in session when you receive the April issue it is suggested that you give it your full support by writing to Representative Raymond Sollenberger, House of Representatives, Harrisburg, who introduced the act.

Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger's wish to be released from his duties as chairman of the special publications committee has been accepted with regret and with appreciation for his fine service in starting the series of special bulletins. Dr. Whitfield Bell has accepted chairmanship of this important committee for the future.   S. K. S.
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies is preparing to issue a revised edition of the *Year Book*. Dr. S. K. Stevens, the executive secretary, has asked the member societies to submit information concerning their activities over the period of the last two years, and has sent out blanks for the compilation of the necessary information. It is suggested that the material on society libraries and museums be restated, in order to summarize fully its outstanding qualities, for the information of historians throughout the country. The increased interest in local history throughout the United States makes such details doubly important.

Doctor Stevens also announces that the Forty-second Annual Meeting of the Federation will be held on Saturday, June 4, 1949. Headquarters, as usual, will be at the Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg. Registration will begin at 9:30 A. M., and the sessions will open at 10:00 A. M. The meeting will be concluded in the late afternoon in time for those attending to return to their homes. Every member society is urged to send one or more delegates, as many very important developments are under way in Pennsylvania history about which the historical societies should be fully informed.

At the January 4 meeting of the Adams County Historical Society, J. Melchior Sheads, of the Gettysburg High School faculty and for several years secretary of the society, was elected president to succeed W. W. Eisenhart of Abbottstown. Miss Margaret McMillan succeeded him as secretary, and Mrs. Elsie Singmaster Lewars continued as vice-president of the society. At this meeting Miss McMillan presented a paper on the history of early Methodism in the area and particularly on historic Rock Chapel. At the society's meeting on February 1, Dr. Frederick Tilberg presented a lantern-slide lecture on Gettysburg before and after the great battle, with slides reproduced from photographs made by Matthew Brady and by Tyson and Tipton of Gettysburg. Dr. Charles F. Huber presented reminiscences of personalities and events in Gettysburg, at the meeting on March 1, and Mrs. Huber contributed a paper on church settlements near Emmitsburg.

The American Catholic Historical Society recently held a reception at its Philadelphia headquarters for Rev. Hugh J. Nolan, Ph.D., professor of church history at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul,
Minnesota, and author of a recent life of Bishop Kendrick. Bishop Kendrick was former administrator of the Diocese of Philadelphia, and founder of St. Charles Seminary and the first Catholic hospital in Philadelphia. The biography has been published by the society. An exhibit of materials from the society's historical collections on the life and times of Bishop Kendrick was opened in conjunction with the reception.

The museum of the American Swedish Historical Foundation has been offering assistance to school groups studying early Pennsylvania or Delaware history. Its staff has arranged exhibits for display in schools, and the schools of Philadelphia have been invited to bring classes to the museum. The Foundation's annual Lucia Fest was held on December 18, with Stockholm's Lucia in the leading role. After the Lucia Day celebration in Stockholm, she was flown to Philadelphia. Among the many interesting articles in the 1948 *Yearbook of the Foundation* is one on "The First Pioneers: The Rambo Family," by Ormond Rambo, Jr., relating to the history of a family of settlers in New Sweden.

The Historical Society of Berks County for its 1948-1949 program has an interesting series of public lectures or open meetings, covering a wide range of topics from dentistry to illuminated manuscripts. The meetings are held on the second Friday of each month. The November meeting was a tribute to the late Dr. Charles R. Scholl, Reading dentist, who was a leader in the organization and development of the society. His son, Dr. Carle H. Scholl, and Dr. J. Russell Bohn related the history of dentistry in Berks County, and tribute was paid to Doctor Scholl's memory by George M. Jones and Daniel K. Hoch. On December 10, I. P. Mensch gave an illustrated lecture on illuminated manuscripts, and on January 14, William H. H. Clauser presented motion pictures entitled "Flashbacks to Yesteryear." In February there was a dinner-meeting held jointly with the local chapters of the D. A. R., at which Dr. Louis E. Warren, editor of the "Lincoln Lore" series, delivered the address. On March 11, Charles S. Adams, Berks County agricultural agent, spoke on the history of agriculture in the county.

Governor James H. Duff, addressing the Dauphin County Historical Society on December 20, presented impressions of George
Washington gleaned from Dr. Douglas S. Freeman's recent biography, and called attention to the effect of events in early western Pennsylvania upon the history of the United States. Governor Duff was named an honorary member of the society.

At the November meeting of the Dauphin County Historical Society, Charles Boas, a Lafayette College senior, read a paper on the history of Pennsylvania canals, with particular mention of the canals in and near Dauphin County. Officers were elected at the meeting of January 17, and Homer L. Kreider, a prominent Harrisburg attorney, was chosen to succeed Carl B. Stoner as president. Other officers include: Lester M. Itterly, first vice-president; Judge J. Paul Rupp, second vice-president; Mrs. Chester E. Shirk, secretary, and Fred J. Bolton, treasurer. At this meeting George Aylsworth, superintendent of the Harrisburg Children's Home, related the background of the founding of the home and the development in social work from 1876. Announcement was made at the February meeting of the gift to the society of a $10,000 United States Treasury Bond by Miss Mary Cameron, daughter of the late United States Senator J. Donald Cameron, and granddaughter of Simon Cameron, who once owned the John Harris Mansion, now the society's home. At the same time, her brother James Cameron gave the society the sword of Col. James Cameron, Simon Cameron's brother who was killed in the battle of Bull Run. At this meeting, Evan J. Miller spoke on "Old Harrisburg Prints," and displayed about seventy-five examples.

On December 14, 1948, Mr. Theodore R. McKeldin, former Mayor of Baltimore, addressed the Chester County Historical Society. Dr. Charles W. Heathcote was speaker at the February 15 meeting, on the subject, "Washington, Valley Forge and Sullivan's Bridge."

George E. Pettengill, Assistant Librarian of The Franklin Institute, spoke at the February 16 meeting of the City History Society of Philadelphia at the Atwater Kent Museum. His topic was "Walter Rogers Johnson, Educator and Scientist." This Pennsylvania scientist was the first secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, and a pioneer in research on steam boiler explosions and on American coals.
The January meeting of the Clinton County Historical Society was held in the Ross Library at Lock Haven, and enjoyed a series of colored lantern slides entitled, “A Journey Through Pennsylvania,” loaned by the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania. Hubert F. Parker acted as narrator, and Robert Kleckner showed the pictures, which included scenes of Valley Forge, Fort Necessity, the Pittsburgh blockhouse, and other historical places. Then the meeting discussed the means of preserving Clinton County’s most famous historical site, the 400-year-old elm tree under which the Pine Creek Declaration of Independence was adopted.

The annual meeting of the Delaware County Historical Society on November 16, which was mentioned in the previous issue, was in celebration of the fifty-third anniversary of the society. An election of officers was held, re-electing the following: J. De Haven Ledward, president; Newlin P. Palmer, secretary; Henry W. Jones, treasurer; and Mrs. Elsie M. Jones, curator. Besides the paper by Dr. Nathan Plafker on “The Religious History of Delaware County,” Richard Taylor gave a brief talk on the Chester High School Literary Club and Christian Sanderson described the battle of the Brandywine.

The Historical Society of Frankford held a Christmas party on December 14, at which Miss Mabel Corson presented a story, “Christmas Now and Then.”

At its meeting on December 2, the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County elected officers for the year 1949: Mrs. Frances S. Helman, president; William S. Wetzel, vice-president; Mrs. Howard W. Tomb, recording secretary; Mrs. Earl Shaffer, corresponding secretary; and Clarence D. Stephenson, treasurer. The society met on January 3, 1949, in the Pennsylvania Room of the Indiana State Teachers College Library, where Frank J. Richard of Radio Station WDAD spoke on “Radio and Your Historical Society.” Members of the society also contributed hunting stories of the earlier days. On March 1, the society held a joint meeting with the Indiana Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, at which a Stephen Foster program was presented. For this a sketch was prepared by Frank Hood; Miss Penny Stephens was narrator,
and Mrs. Blair Sutton, Mrs. H. C. McCreary, and Rand Tomb sang Foster songs.

The Keystonians, in Harrisburg, met and dined on January 20, and heard Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace of Lebanon Valley College relate the findings of his research on "The Muhlenbergs and the Revolutionary Underground." Their meeting on February 17 was the annual Ladies’ Night dinner party for which Mrs. Autumn L. Leonard, special research assistant of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, provided the address, her subject being "Pennsylvania’s Caesar—Henry Bouquet." Bouquet, she said, faced problems of wilderness warfare similar to those met by Caesar in ancient Gaul, used similar methods in solving them at the Battle of Bushy Run, and even used Caesar’s phrases in his letters reporting the battle.

Dr. Herbert H. Beck retired in January from the presidency of the Lancaster County Historical Society, after a quarter-century of service in that post. The members of the society tendered him a complimentary dinner on January 3, which was attended not only by members but by other civic leaders. During Dr. Beck’s terms as president, the society has obtained a home, has published about two hundred pamphlets, and has erected twenty-one of the thirty historical monuments in Lancaster County, for which he wrote most of the inscriptions. Attorney Paul A. Mueller summarized his life and services to the community, and several other tributes were paid to him from the floor. Now president-emeritus, Dr. Beck addressed the February meeting on Martin Meylin and the development of the Pennsylvania rifle in Lancaster County.

The Lycoming Historical Society had a Christmas program at its home on December 16, 1948, with a special display reflecting the Christmases of long ago. The Lycoming Singers, of Lycoming College, presented a program of yuletide music, under the direction of Walter G. McIver. At the meeting on January 20, 1949, which was held in Clarke Memorial Chapel of Lycoming College, Dr. John W. Long, president of the college, presented a paper on "Contributions to the West Branch Valley from Lycoming College Campus." On February 17, the society met in the Woman’s Club of Williamsport, where Paul G. Gilmore reviewed the contributions of Lycoming County to the progress and prosperity of American
democracy. This was part of the nationwide observance of the theme, "Democracy Works Here."

The Mercer County Historical Society elected officers at its meeting in Greenville on December 11, 1948. Orvis R. Anderson, of Sharpsville, was named as president to succeed Dr. Morgan Barnes, of Grove City; and Miss Zella Breckenridge, of Mercer, was elected treasurer to succeed D. W. Zahniser, of Mercer. Miss Helen Reed, Sharon, secretary, and John L. Morrison, Greenville, vice-president, were re-elected. F. R. Layng, of Greenville, addressed the meeting on the history of the Erie Extension Canal.

On January 24, the Mifflin County Historical Society heard A. Reed Hayes, Jr., in an illustrated talk on "Squire William Brown and Brown's Mill." The Junior Historian clubs from the county schools presented the program on March 28.

The officers of the McKean County Historical Society recently met with the McKean County Commissioners to request additional and more satisfactory space to house and display the society's historical collections, which include the fine Emery collection of guns and swords, and hundreds of historical items related to the county and state. The society now has a first floor room and corridor space for display purposes in the courthouse, as well as a basement storeroom. It asked that the basement room be renovated and fitted with modern display cases and storage cabinets, in order to make more of its collections available for the public and at the same time to ensure their preservation.

The annual meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County was held in the society's building in Norristown on Washington's Birthday, which was also the sixty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the society. Henry Mercur, of Germantown, spoke on "Vanished Rails," discussing many of the railroads which were once in Montgomery County, Philadelphia, and the neighboring area, but which have now passed out of existence. Miss Helen Atkinson, of the faculty of Rittenhouse Junior High School, presented two radio plays, one (a recording) entitled "Hancock, the Superb," on the Civil War general; and the other on "The Whiskey Rebellion," enacted by a group of Norristown senior high school students. The Montgomery County society is again sponsoring an
essay contest for senior high school students, with subjects dealing with prominent men or women, historic events, buildings, or businesses of the county. The two prize winners are to read their essays at a meeting of the society on April 30. On May 7, a special meeting will be held for high school teachers, principals, and superintendents of schools, and four student delegates from each school, when the winners of the first seven places in the contest will read their papers. With the announcement of the essay contest, the society sent teachers an excellent analysis of the services it could render in the field of local history.

The Montour County Historical Society, with headquarters in the historic home of General Montgomery in Danville, is one of the most active of the younger societies of the state, having a membership of 120 after nine years of existence. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, addressed its meeting on October 20, on the relations between the work of the Historical and Museum Commission and that of historical societies. Henry H. Eddy, State Archivist, also attended this meeting.

The Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society held its annual meeting on January 28, and elected officers for the year 1949, including: Professor Edwin B. Coddington, president; James H. W. Hay, first vice-president; Mrs. Stanley Hahn, second vice-president; Henry De Witt Saylor, recording secretary; John C. Pohl, Jr., financial secretary; Richard I. Shelling, corresponding secretary; Sherwood M. Gibbs, treasurer; Asher J. Odenwelder, curator; and William W. Carling, librarian. Professor Coddington, head of the history department of Lafayette College, addressed the meeting on “The Role of the 153rd Regiment from Northampton County during the Civil War.” Various officers reported on the progress of the society during the previous year.

Dr. Lewis E. Theiss related the history and development of the free press in America at the February meeting of the Northumberland County Historical Society, held in Fort Augusta Museum. He illustrated his talk with examples of early newspapers from his personal collection, and showed on an old press from the museum’s collection, how early newspapers were printed.

At the January 31 meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society, Mr. Irwin Mensch of Barto, Berks County, presented an illustrated
lecture on the art of illuminating manuscripts. Mr. Mensch is one of the few living exponents of this art, once common among the Pennsylvania Germans.

An introductory chapter to a work entitled, "Genesis of Schuylkill County and its Land Titles," was presented by David Baird at the meeting of the Schuylkill County Historical Society on November 17. Mr. Baird is chief coal inspector of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and has spent several years searching records on this subject. The Schuylkill County Society now has a microfilm reader, and is having the Pottsville Journal microfilmed for use and preservation.

The recent issue of the Snyder County Historical Society Bulletin contains several interesting papers which were originally presented before meetings of the society. Among them are a "History of Grubb's Church," by George K. Scholl; a quiz on Snyder County history and geography, prepared by George F. Dunkelberger; and a brief history of McClure, by Mrs. Clara L. Cunefare. McClure will be remembered for its famous "Bean Soup" celebration.

The historic LeMoyne House, headquarters of the Washington County Historical Society, in Washington, Pennsylvania, has been re-decorated and re-furnished, reports its secretary, Mr. Earle R. Forrest. The library room has been re-arranged; walls and woodwork have been painted. The dining room has been re-furnished in colonial style with authentic furniture secured from several sources.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania had an interesting program at its meeting on December 15. Captain Frederick Way, Jr., spoke on "Pittsburgh's Rivers—Past and Present," and William V. Caldwell, Pittsburgh artist, spoke on "The Rediscovery of Gilbert Stuart's Technique." The annual meeting, on January 25, re-elected the previous officers, and added Howard N. Eavenson, Alexander D. Hill, Charles R. Miller, Jr., to the trustees of the society. Henry King Siebeneck addressed the meeting on "John Tyler, our First Accidental President," and Charles M. Stotz gave an illustrated talk on Fort Ligonier and military architecture of the period. The Washington's Birthday meeting, held in the afternoon, featured a defense of Parson Weems and his cherry
tree story, by Richard B. Tucker, Jr., and an address by Dr. Russell J. Ferguson on “Western Pennsylvania’s Reaction to Washington’s Farewell Address.”

At the November meeting of the Westmoreland County Historical Society, in the courthouse at Greensburg, Attorney John Pollins gave a review of the life of Dr. Frank Cowan, Greensburg lawyer, physician, scientist, and author, who was the son of the United States Senator Edgar Cowan.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society has applied for a charter of incorporation in Fayette County, to perpetuate the objects of the society as founded by Miss Helen C. Frick in 1928.

Edgar A. Altland, who resides near Hanover, has donated most of his collection of volumes on history, law, biography and religion to the York County Historical Society, as well as a fine collection of steel engravings of the presidents of the United States. Over the years he has already given 1,400 volumes to the society. Formerly a stone mason and bricklayer, Mr. Altland started a library and print shop as a hobby about 1903, and since then has printed by hand press many private editions of memorial or biographic nature.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The growth of interest in Pennsylvania and local history was reflected in many bills of historical import which were introduced in the 1949 session of the General Assembly. A number of these would appropriate funds for historical properties administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, some would sanction the acquisition of other historic sites and buildings by the state, and one would provide for the maintenance of the state’s historic properties by the collection of admission fees. A bill introduced by Representative Bomberger would appropriate $6,000 for archaeological work and historical research to locate the site of “Baron” Stiegel’s glass works. Two bills of particular interest to historical societies and historians were introduced by Representative Sollenberger. One would authorize the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, in co-operation with the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies and other historical organizations, to prepare and publish materials on state and local history for the use of the schools and the public, to gather source materials for that purpose,
to loan microfilms to historical societies, and to encourage and assist writing and research on Pennsylvania history. The other bill would establish an advisory committee under the Commission to make plans for a multi-volume history of Pennsylvania, and to advise in the collection of materials for that purpose. On this committee the Federation, the Association and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania would have representation. Other proposed legislation would authorize the protection of county and municipal records by microfilming, would authorize the Public Records Division of the Commission to participate in such microfilming, and would permit the loan of State Museum materials to museums and historical societies. Two other bills would provide for the publication of a revised edition of Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania, and the continuation of the Fourth Series of the Pennsylvania Archives, containing the papers of the governors. Even if not enacted into laws, these bills serve to indicate the interest of the state's legislators in Pennsylvania history, and to show the strikingly progressive plans for utilizing Pennsylvania's historical heritage which have had a hearing in the legislative halls.

The American Philosophical Society has been voted an Award of Merit by the American Association for State and Local History "for its consistently high level of achievement in collecting and preserving Americana with especial emphasis on the collection of Franklin materials and the promotion of studies on Franklin's influence in the modern world; for its contributions and support of the projected development of the Independence Hall area; and for its generous support to agencies and organizations concerned with the study, preservation of sources, and publication in the field of local history."

The Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, of the Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, announces the weekly publication of The Pennsylvania Dutchman. The editorial staff includes Dr. A. L. Shoemaker, for folklore, arts and crafts; Dr. Donald H. Yoder, for history, religion and genealogy; and Dr. J. William Frey, for dialect, literature and music.

The Public Records Division of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has prepared a finding list for the Colonial
Records and the nine published series of the Pennsylvania Archives, under the direction of Henry H. Eddy, State Archivist. This finding list covers the larger blocks of material in this huge collection of published sources on Pennsylvania history, and includes data on the legislative, editorial and printing history of the various series, with critiques. Plans are under way for the publication of this useful guide.

The Keystone Automobile Club recently called attention to the danger to the old covered bridges in the state, through flagrant violation of posted load limits by drivers of big trucks and other heavy vehicles. There are 336 covered bridges still in use in Pennsylvania, and highway department engineers have stated that regulations fixing load limits probably are violated every day on every one of these bridges. A constant watch to enforce load limits is impossible; it is the public's responsibility to keep the old bridges safe and thus preserve these historical landmarks.

The owners of the Perot-Morris house, in Germantown, have given this historic building to the Federal government for preservation as part of the Independence Hall National Historical Park project. The house was used by Sir William Howe as British headquarters after the Battle of Germantown in 1777, and by President George Washington as a temporary residence during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793.

The American University's School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., will offer as a part of its 1949 summer session an Institute in the Preservation and Interpretation of Historic Sites and Buildings, which will be in session for three weeks beginning June 6. It will be offered in co-operation with the National Park Service and Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. The Institute is designed to introduce students to important phases of preservation and restoration work, such as criteria for the selection of historic sites and buildings, policies and procedures, and the administration of historical monuments. This service to specialists in the field of historic buildings is similar to the program of training in archival work which the American University has offered for several years.

The fifth summer training course in the Preservation and Administration of Archives for custodians of public, institutional, and
business records will be offered by the American University, with the co-operation of the National Archives, the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress and the Maryland Hall of Records, from July 25 through August 20.

History makes news. A newspaper interview by Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, on the collection of research materials by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, was carried widely in the press of the state. The fact that newsmen believe that such information will interest their readers is indicative of the growing public consciousness of matters historical and particularly of the importance of Pennsylvania's historical heritage.

A survey of the source materials for Pennsylvania history in the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, the Colorado State Archives, and the Oregon Historical Society was made during January by Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, and the writer. A detailed listing of the Pennsylvania items at the Huntington Library has been prepared, covering the Loudoun Papers, the Abercromby Papers, the Robert Morris Papers, and the miscellaneous collections. In Colorado, the papers of General William Palmer, a Philadelphian who went west and had much to do with western railroading, were examined, and arrangements were made to have them microfilmed. They shed an interesting light on the influence of Pennsylvania, and particularly of Philadelphia capital, in the history of the west. In the Oregon Historical Society a collection of the letters of Governor John W. Geary of Pennsylvania was found; photostats of these will be made for the collections of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Visits were also made to the Utah Historical Society, the Genealogical Society and the Mormon Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City, and to the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, Washington.

Montoursville is already beginning to plan for the celebration of its one-hundredth anniversary on February 19, 1950. The borough council has appointed the burgess, Carl W. Wentzler, as general chairman to plan for this observance.

A wing will be added to the museum at Drake Well Memorial Park, near Titusville, to house the growing collection of sources and relics relating to the history of the petroleum industry. The
plans call for a 37-by-51-foot brick annex to the present brick museum building. The park and museum are among the historic properties of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The Fort Hand Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has placed a bronze monumental marker on the site of Fort Hand, near Apollo. The fort was attacked by British and Indians on April 26, 1779, but the small garrison successfully repelled the attackers.

The National Society of Autograph Collectors held its second annual meeting on April 11-12, in the Library of Princeton University. The opening session was devoted to a panel discussion of co-operation between collectors and historians. Of this panel, R. W. G. Vail, director of the New York Historical Society, was moderator. Captain Frank L. Pleadwell spoke for the general collector; Boyd B. Stutler, editor of the American Legion Magazine, spoke for the specialist collector; Forest H. Sweet, for the trade; Earle W. Newton, director of the Vermont Historical Society, for the historical societies; Leon de Valinger, Jr., Delaware State Archivist, for the archives; S. K. Stevens, as president of the American Association for State and Local History, represented the viewpoint of the national societies; and Lyman H. Butterfield, assistant editor of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, represented the collection and editing of definitive papers. David C. Mearns, director of the Reference Division of the Library of Congress, addressed the annual banquet that evening; and the next day was devoted to discussion groups on various phases of collecting and historical work.

The January 1949 issue of the Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum has an article by Eleanor W. Murray on “The Medical Department of the Revolution,” which contains much of interest to Pennsylvanians. The hardships of Pennsylvania troops at Fort Ticonderoga under General Wayne are detailed, and Dr. Benjamin Rush’s observations, December 3, 1777, are quoted to show the doctor’s deductions from experience with the armies.

Carl Bode, Professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, is writing a book to be entitled The Amer-
ican Lyceum: Town Meeting of the Mind, a study of the cultural, historical and literary aspects of the lecture system in this country from 1830 to 1860, and would like to have information as to the location and records of lyceums existing before 1860.

The seventy-fifth anniversary issue of Greater Pittsburgh, magazine of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, appeared in February to commemorate the founding of the organization in 1874. With many excellent reproductions of old views, paintings and engravings, it has interesting and valuable articles on Pittsburgh history by Miss Rose Demorest, of the Pennsylvania Room, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Henry Oliver Evans, president of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; Mrs. Lois Mulkearn, librarian of the Darlington Memorial Library, University of Pittsburgh; Charles H. Joseph, of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph; and others, making this an exceptionally worthwhile issue of a magazine which has always devoted much space to local history.

Cahokia, Illinois, will celebrate its 250th anniversary during a two-week period beginning May 14, with civic and religious ceremonies, a pageant, music festival, military parade and tours to nearby points of historical interest. Copies of a pamphlet summarizing the history of Cahokia as the first seat of European culture in the Mississippi valley may be obtained by writing the Cahokia 250th Anniversary Association, 557 North Eighteenth Street, East St. Louis, Illinois.

A note as to the materials for writing "News and Comment" may be in order. Your reporter does no inquiring. Instead, he relies on the notices and announcements of historical meetings and activities which are received in the Commission office; on the newspaper clippings on historical activities which are supplied by the State Clipping Bureau and by the current history work of the Commission; and on the various periodicals received. If it is desired to make sure that some important activity or event in the field of Pennsylvania history is duly mentioned, information about it should be sent directly to the writer.