NEWS AND COMMENT

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

The membership campaign has been rather successful to date. Approximately a thousand persons known to be interested in Pennsylvania history were solicited for membership during April and May. Well over one hundred new members were obtained. Since then a follow-up letter has been sent. Well established practice indicates that such a second appeal is usually accompanied by further returns. Since the summer months are not conducive to attention to such matters, the membership drive will be slackened the next few months. Prior to the October meeting, it is planned to solicit the membership of all historical societies in the central Pennsylvania region, in so far as membership lists can be obtained. Membership lists of the S. A. R. and D. A. R. will be sought with a view to a canvass of the patriotic societies for Association memberships. Experience shows a strong interest in history upon the part of many persons not having any affiliation with historical or patriotic societies. How to reach these people is a major problem. Our present members could help by suggesting membership to any such persons they may know.

Association finances have improved as a result of the returns from the membership campaign, but much of the money has been expended necessarily in financing this drive. Added financial strength for the Association will result when the second year’s dues are paid by the new members. However, we have paid for the membership literature and further increases in membership are definitely on the profit side of the ledger. That is one reason we intend to press the campaign with full vigor next September.

Plans for the annual meeting at Carlisle are well in hand, with Drs. Milton Flower and Whitfield Bell as co-chairmen of the program committee. The sessions will be held on October 21-22. A luncheon session will open the program on Friday, October 21, at
noon. Carlisle is centrally located, and it is felt a very good attendance can be assured for such a session. At 2:30 P.M. Friday, a unified discussion of Pennsylvania transportation, labor and industry will be featured. A meeting of the Council will be held at four o'clock. An open house will be held from four to six by the Hamilton Library and Historical Association featuring Cumberland County arts, crafts, and printing. The annual dinner meeting will be followed by a presentation of American folk music by Frank Warner, noted ballad collector and singer. The dinner speaker is tentatively scheduled as Revelle Brown, President of the Reading Company, who will deliver an address on Moncure Robinson, perhaps America’s foremost railway engineering genius of the pre-Civil War era. This is in line with the Friday theme of transportation and industry.

On Saturday morning the annual business meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. At 10:30 A.M., the morning session will open and will be devoted to a round-table discussion of Pennsylvania’s contribution to the arts. Dr. Harold Dickson of the Department of Architecture at the Pennsylvania State College will preside. Art, literature, folklore and folk music will be stressed. Dr. Lyman Butterfield of Princeton University, assistant director of the Jefferson Papers project, will be the luncheon speaker on Saturday and will discuss his experiences in research and writing on Benjamin Rush.

The customary tour of historical points of interest will occupy the remainder of Saturday afternoon. The Carlisle region is rich in history and the tour should be of unusual interest. All sessions will be held on the campus of Dickinson College. The central location should attract a larger attendance than usual. Especial attention will be given to publicity for the meeting throughout the area in both the press and before historical societies. Charles A. B. Heinze of Carlisle is chairman of the committee on local arrangements.
—S. K. S.

THE FEDERATION MEETING

The forty-second annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies was held on Saturday, June 4, at the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg. Attendance was satisfactory, but some familiar faces were missing due to the pressure of other activities
at this time of the year. Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hensyl, the president of the Federation, related that, although negotiations for the hotel were begun on the very day of the 1948 meeting, this was the earliest possible date that could be obtained.

The morning session featured a panel discussion on “Building Historical Society Membership and Financing Society Activities,” over which Louis J. Heizmann, President of the Historical Society of Berks County, presided very capably. Participants in the panel included Henry J. Young, Director of the Historical Society of York County, Melville J. Boyer, Secretary of the Lehigh County Historical Society, and Allen S. Davison, Treasurer of the Edgewood Historical Society. The profitable and practical discussion of the “bread-and-butter” aspects of a historical society’s existence developed a number of significant points. In building up the membership, personal contacts, even “personal evangelism,” are most important, yet care must be exercised not to use high pressure methods to gain members who will have no permanent interest and drop out after a year or two. Something definite must be offered to members—programs, publications, outings, the prospect of supporting a valuable public service, and the sentimental appeal of old-time associations. The maintenance of an active membership is, of course, the primary way of keeping a society’s finances in sound condition, but additional income for financing its activities may be found in the sale of publications, in genealogical reports—as is done in York County, and through county and municipal support. The services rendered by historical societies to communities make them a legitimate object for public support, as has been duly recognized by various laws. Dr. S. K. Stevens, the executive secretary of the Federation, has sent—and will again send—to all the member organizations full details on the legislation permitting county and municipal appropriations to historical societies.

At the luncheon session Dr. Stevens spoke on “Conserving Pennsylvania’s Historical Heritage,” particularly with regard to the microfilming program which he has been directing as State Historian for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Through this program a vast quantity of scattered and irreplaceable papers and documents have been microfilmed and brought together in the Commission’s historical collections. Historical resources, once destroyed, can never be replaced. During the past two
years, the emphasis has been on the collection of Pennsylvania materials from depositories outside the state, so that they would be available in Harrisburg. During the next two years more emphasis will be placed on the microfilming and preservation of significant records of state and local history which are in private hands, and may be either in danger of destruction or—at all events—unknown to the general body of historical scholarship. Dr. Stevens bespoke the support and co-operation of the historical societies and their members in locating such precious records of Pennsylvania's great past.

Dr. Fletcher Hodges, Curator of the Foster Hall Collection, University of Pittsburgh, addressed the afternoon session of the Federation on "The Research Work of the Foster Hall Collection." His interesting talk was illustrated with numerous lantern slides.

At the business session, the officers were all re-elected for the ensuing year. Among the resolutions adopted was one commending "the broad and comprehensive program carried on by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the microfilming . . . of the scattered historical resources of Pennsylvania, . . ." and urging all the historical societies to co-operate in this program. Another resolution again called attention to the urgent need for an Archives and History Building to provide better facilities for the conservation of Pennsylvania's records and historical collections, and created a committee to present the case for such a building to the proper authorities. A third resolution dealt with the creation of a committee to plan the writing and publication of a comprehensive, many-volume history of Pennsylvania, similar to the existing histories of New York, Ohio and Illinois; the Historical and Museum Commission was asked to take the lead in forming such a committee on a state-wide basis.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

At the meeting of the Adams County Historical Society on April 5, Mrs. Edith Beard Cannon, of the York County Historical Society, and Mrs. Victor Duttera, of the local society, spoke on methods of genealogical study, and presented sample papers on genealogy. At the same meeting plans were announced for the historical aspects of the Adams County sesquicentennial celebration, by Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, chairman of the county history com-
mittee of the sesquicentennial committee. A brief general history is to be prepared in pamphlet or folder form, a series of articles on county history will appear in the Gettysburg Times throughout 1950, a general history of Adams County for use in the schools will be written, and a historical map will be compiled. On May 3, the McClean papers, a recent donation to the society, were discussed by Miss Margaret McMillan, Mrs. Victor Duttera, and Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh; and on June 7, the society held a historical tour, with Mr. George Neely of Fairfield as narrator for the story of the beginnings of Fairfield and of Thaddeus Stevens’ iron mines at Iron Springs.

The annual May Fete of the American Swedish Historical Museum was held on Saturday, May 14, and featured an interesting exhibition of weavings by Sara Mattsson Anliot. On April 28, the eastern division of the Junior Historians of Pennsylvania held their annual regional conference at the Museum, their program emphasizing the contributions of minority groups to Pennsylvania.

Louis J. Heizmann, President of the Historical Society of Berks County, has announced the appointment of George O. Bird as curator of the society, succeeding Dr. Arthur D. Graeff. Mr. Bird is a graduate of Pennsylvania State College, and has had graduate work in museum training at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts.

At the public meeting of the Berks County society on May 13, A. Glenn Mower, Assistant Historian of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke on "The Commonwealth's Program for Placing Historical Markers." Mr. Mower outlined the Commission's plans for markers in cities such as Reading.

During the summer, the Baker Mansion, home of the Blair County Historical Society, in Altoona, will be open to visitors Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 and Saturday afternoons from one to five. The Mansion's columns are being repaired and painted, and fire protection is being installed, for which purposes the city of Altoona contributed $600 to the society. During the ten days of the Altoona Centennial in August, the society will hold "open house" every day.
In February, Mrs. Fletcher Hodges addressed the Bradford County Historical Society, in Towanda, on “Stephen Foster's School Days in Bradford County.” After her talk, Leo J. Wilt, president of the society, described the appearance of Towanda in Foster’s day, illustrating his remarks with lantern slides.

The Bucks County Historical Society has made a number of improvements to the museum and grounds during the past year, it was reported by the president, Edward R. Barnsley, at the sixty-eighth annual meeting. The society has co-operated in the placing of thirty-five state historical markers in the county. Plans are being made for the re-issue of some of the late Dr. Henry Mercer’s papers, including “Ancient Carpenter’s Tools,” “The Dating of Old Houses,” and “The Origin of Log Houses in the United States.” New catalog cases have been installed in the library, and more library equipment is needed. The society has gained twenty-three new members.

At the March 15 meeting of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Stewart Huston spoke on the subject, “The Romance of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike.” C. A. Thomas gave an illustrated lecture on “Natural History and Naturalists of Chester County,” at the meeting of April 19. This was a preview of a book which Mr. Thomas is now writing. On May 17, Mrs. A. William Ball, Jr., presented an illustrated lecture on “America’s Williamsburg.” According to its annual report, the Chester County society received during the year ending April 30 a total of 615 books and pamphlets, 3,500 manuscripts, 304 manuscript books, 41 maps and atlases, 769 museum objects, and many miscellaneous items. The society now has 946 members.

The City History Society of Philadelphia, meeting on April 27, was addressed by Dr. Henry Butler Allen, secretary and executive vice president of the Franklin Institute. Dr. Allen spoke on the service of the Institute to the city, state and nation for the past 125 years. The society made a series of Saturday excursions on April 30, May 14, May 28, and June 25, to points of historical interest in the vicinity of Philadelphia.
At its meeting on March 14, the Clinton County Historical Society re-elected George F. Hess of Beech Creek as president of the society. Mr. Hess begins his seventeenth year in that office. Miss Mary H. Rohe was elected secretary, to replace Mrs. Frederick S. Pletcher, who retired after nine years' service. The meeting featured a discussion summarizing the results of the search for the Pine Creek Declaration of Independence.

Dean Thomas Huntington Chappell of St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, Harrisburg, reviewed the history of his denomination in Pennsylvania, at a recent meeting of the Historical Society of Dauphin County.

The Delaware County Historical Society, in Chester, held a dinner on April 27. The program included addresses by Edward V. Streeper on Media's anniversary, and by Paul J. Schieck on Leiper's old railroad.

The spring meeting of the Friends Historical Association was held on May 21, at Pennsbury Manor, the re-created country home of William Penn. The members toured the grounds and buildings, and saw the recently installed furnishings. A box supper at Fallsington Meetinghouse followed the meeting.

The meeting of the Historical Society of Frankford, on March 8, heard the story of old Bridesburg, as presented by Russell F. G. Bush. On April 12, a technicolor film, "Magazine Magic," was presented through the courtesy of the Curtis Publishing Company, and at the May 10 meeting John C. Mendenhall spoke on the topic, "The Oxford Pike: the Beginning of an Old Road."

A detailed record of the second conference of historians held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on February 4 and 5, 1949, is given in the April issue of the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. The subject of the conference was "Current Trends and Future Opportunities" in the field of American history. Thirty-five leading historians, representing the various phases of American history, took part in the sessions, of which three were closed and one was a public meeting. At the afternoon meeting on the first day, Richard H. Shryock presided and directed
general discussion on a paper by Thomas C. Cochran, "A Decade of American Histories." Charles F. Jenkins, President of the Historical Society, was in the chair at the open meeting that evening, when Frederick Lewis Allen delivered an address on "Social Changes of Our Time." At the two meetings of the second day, when Conyers Read and Julian P. Boyd presided, papers by Richard H. Shryock, on "Promising Fields," and by Louis B. Wright, on "The Relationship of the Historian and the Research Library," were discussed.

Recent meetings of the Keystonians, of Harrisburg, have featured talks by Attorneys Homer S. Kreider and William S. Middleton on the life of William Penn, and by Henry H. Eddy, State Records Officer, on the value of public records.

The spring program of the Lancaster County Historical Society included "The Story of Dillerville," by James J. Pyle, on March 4; an essay on Lancaster County agricultural fairs and an underground station in Drumore township by I. C. Arnold, Esq., on April 1; and an account of Dan Minnich, early American clown, by Miss Clara F. Minnich, on May 6.

At the January 21 meeting of the Lehigh County Historical Society, Norman B. Wilkinson, Assistant State Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke on the topic, "Grass Roots History." Mr. Wilkinson explained the importance of local history in giving perspective to the larger fields, and outlined possible projects for local historical activity. He also related the work done by the Commission to encourage study in this field. At the same meeting, Oswell J. Seip, a member who has violin-making as a hobby, presented a violin made of Lehigh County wood. On May 28, Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace addressed the society on "The Muhlenbergs and the Revolution."

Preliminary plans have been made for the establishment of a Lower Merion Township Historical Society, by a meeting of interested people in Ardmore. Dr. Edward Snow, principal of the Ardmore Junior High School, was made chairman of the committee set up for this purpose.
The Lycoming Historical Society elected officers at its meeting of March 17. Ferd W. Coleman was re-elected president. Other officers are Paul C. Gilmore, first vice president, Lewis W. Bluemle, second vice president, Hubert H. Russell, third vice president, Harold W. Brown, treasurer, and C. S. Coryell, secretary. Dr. Lewis A. Theiss delivered an address, "Tell-tale Murmurs of the Forest," regarding the journal of Captain John Hays, 1760.

The centennial of the first railroad transportation in Mifflin County will be the theme of the fall and winter program of the Mifflin County Historical Society. The society is preparing to publish a pamphlet history of the Mifflin County schools, written by Elmer E. Sipe, County Superintendent of Schools. The annual county historical examination, based on the historical articles published in the Lewistown Sentinel during the year, was taken by more than 250 high school students on May 3. Cash prizes and certificates of merit were presented to the winners from each school. Kishacoquillas Chapter of the D.A.R. was co-sponsor of the contest.

The Mercer County Historical Society met Saturday afternoon, April 16, in the Little Theatre at Grove City College. William A. Hunter, Senior Archivist of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, presented his paper on "Mercer County Roads and the State Archives." This material was developed from maps of early Mercer County roads in the State Archives, from which, Mr. Hunter said, the necessary data could be supplied for a history of local communications in the early nineteenth century.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County met on April 30, at the society's building in Norristown. The two winners of the society's annual high school prize essay contest read their winning essays. The principal speaker was E. S. Gerhard, of Germantown, whose topic was "Seeing Ourselves as Others Saw Us, a Hundred Years Ago." This talk was based on a study of the journals and memoirs of European travelers who visited southeastern Pennsylvania a century ago.

Miss Rebecca Gross addressed the Muncy Historical Society meeting of March 11, presenting recollections of Black Hole valley.
Miss Gross is editor of the Lock Haven Express, and a member of the Clinton County Historical Society.

The spring meeting of the Northampton County Historical Society was held on June 4, at Christ Lutheran Church, Easton. Charles C. Stoddard, of the Staten Island Historical Society, spoke on the work of the Staten Island Historical Foundation. After the meeting, the members inspected the recently improved Historical Building, which has just been papered, painted and re-arranged.

The Pennsylvania Historical Junto, of Washington, D. C., had an interesting series of programs during the first half of the year. On January 14, Dr. Harry F. Weber, Director of Korean Colleges and Universities, presented parallels and contrasts between the preservation of local history in Pennsylvania and Korea. On February 11, Dr. Paul W. Pritchard, Historian, Army Chemical Corps, spoke on the life of William B. Wilson, first U. S. Secretary of Labor, A Pennsylvanian; and on March 11, Col. Calvin I. Kephart, Trail Examiner, Interstate Commerce Commission, spoke on the life of the Pennsylvania scientist, Dr. Joseph Leidy. The opportunities for research in German state archives on materials relating to Pennsylvania history were outlined at the meeting of April 8, by Dr. Ernest M. Posner, Director, School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, the American University. At the dinner meeting on May 13, Dr. Philip M. Hamer, Director of Records Control, the National Archives, gave an address on Pennsylvania and the South in the Revolution, and on June 10, Milton Rubincam, president of the Junto, presented a paper on "Pennsylvania's Influence on Canada."

The annual meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society was held on May 23, in the Science Library of the Hill School. The program feature was a special exhibit of the Gimbel Art Exhibit, "Pennsylvania as Artists See It," with commentary by Miss Alice Merriam. Election of officers and directors was held.

The Snyder County Historical Society celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with a dinner meeting for members and friends, on May 12.
The annual meeting of the Susquehanna County Historical Society and Free Library Association was held on February 19. The Revolutionary War uniform of an early settler, Captain Hinds, was formally presented to the society by Dana A. Watrous.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, meeting on March 27, was addressed by Reverend James L. Kelso, of the faculty of Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary, on the history of the Presbyterian seminaries in the Pittsburgh area; and by Robert D. Christie, whose talk dealt with the expansion of Pittsburgh, 1866-1874. At the meeting on April 26, the program included an illustrated talk on early Pittsburgh by Miss Catherine R. Miller and a paper on the California gold rush of 1849 by Reverend Thomas J. Bigham. Recently an auxiliary to the society was formed at a meeting of women's club representatives.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings, founded in 1947 as a permanent non-profit organization to promote and amplify work for historic preservation, has formulated plans for a National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, along the lines of the similar organization in Great Britain. The council also proposes to further the completion of a National Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings, and to inaugurate a program of Registered National Landmarks. Among the sponsoring organizations are the American Association for State and Local History, the American Historical Association, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

In March, 1949, the Joint State Government Commission issued a "Catalog of Historical Buildings, Sites and Remains in Pennsylvania," prepared in accordance with a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of 1947. The Commission created a subcommittee and appointed a committee of advisers headed by Judge Edwin O. Lewis, of Philadelphia, both of which worked in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to survey and prepare a list of the historical buildings and sites which are of distinctive significance and value to the history or archaeology of the Commonwealth. Copies of the catalog have been sent to all the
historical societies in the state. The Joint State Government Commission as the continuing agency for the development of facts and recommendations for the use of the General Assembly is expected to continue this survey during the next two years.

The site of the office of Thomas Jefferson as the first U. S. Secretary of State, 1790-1793, has been marked by a suitable memorial at the main Market Street entrance of Strawbridge and Clothier in Philadelphia. The dedicatory ceremonies were attended by Governor and Mrs. James H. Duff, and Mayor Bernard Samuel spoke on "Historic Philadelphia." The memorial, designed by William E. Sparks, is of gold-leafed black marble, with a pedestal of cream-colored Hauteville marble. A medallion of Jefferson, in white Vermont marble, executed by Walker Hancock, and bas-relief ornaments by Louis Milione, complete the monument.

On May 25, Governor James H. Duff signed the contract between Philadelphia and the Commonwealth opening the way for the construction and development of the "North Mall," the multi-million-dollar State Park approach to the Independence Hall group of historic buildings. The agreement gives the state authority to acquire lands for the development of a "great square, or plaza," to the north of Independence Square, from Chestnut Street to Race Street, and from Fifth Street to Sixth Street. This is the state's share in the program to beautify and improve the Independence Hall area and to provide a proper setting for the nation's most historic buildings.

A leading Scranton bank has recently celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary by the publication of a History of the West Side Bank of Scranton, Pa., 1874-1949, by Thomas F. Murphy. Mr. Murphy, a director of the bank, and associate editor of The Scranton Times, is also President of the Lackawanna County Historical Society and a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This pamphlet history covers not only the story of the bank and of its operations, but also the history of the community which it serves. The evolution of the Mechanics and Miners Co-operative Loan Association into a modern bank is an interesting example of institutional development.
Members of the Association must have noted with pleasure that Dr. Roy F. Nichols, of the University of Pennsylvania, was awarded this year's Pulitzer Prize in History for his work, *The Disruption of American Democracy*.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has scheduled a number of significant publications for the ensuing year. Harry M. Tinkcom's *Republicans and Federalists in Pennsylvania, 1790-1801*, to appear in the early fall, continues the studies in political history which began with Dr. Brunhouse's *Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790*. A Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania, by Henry H. Eddy, State Records Officer, will provide a finding list for the Colonial Records and the various series of the Pennsylvania Archives, together with a history of their publication and a critical analysis. The *History of Pennsylvania Agriculture to 1840*, by Dr. Stevenson W. Fletcher, Dean Emeritus of the School of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State College, will fill a long-felt need for an account of agrarian life in the state. *Pittsburgh's Commercial Development to 1850*, by Catherine Lee Reiser, is another economic study scheduled for publication, while the *Building of Perry's Fleet at Lake Erie*, by Max Rosenberg, is an expansion of a paper read at the last meeting of the Association.

A major research and publication venture of the Commission is also nearing completion. *The Papers of Henry Bouquet*, edited by S. K. Stevens, Donald H. Kent, and Autumn L. Leonard, will begin to appear in printed form early next spring, when the volume of "The Forbes Campaign" will be published. The manuscript of this volume is already available on microfilm for loan or purchase at cost.

The New York State Historical Association will offer the second of its annual Seminars on American Culture, July 5-15, at its museums, Fenimore House and The Farmers' Museum, in Cooperstown, New York. Such topics as the creative uses of history, early American crafts, history in the library, American folklore and folkart, the restoration and use of historic buildings, problems of history museum interpretation, the cultural history of New York, and the writing of local history, will be discussed under distinguished leaders in the several fields.
In the summer of 1946 the Library of Pennsylvania State College received some 20,000 pieces of personal correspondence relating to the life of James Addams Beaver, Governor of Pennsylvania from 1887 to 1891. This collection, consisting almost entirely of letters sent to Mr. Beaver, has been repaired, organized and indexed, and the papers are now available for use by scholars. The Library has prepared a narrative description of the contents of each of the eleven sections into which the collection has been divided, as well as an alphabetical index of the names of all correspondents, which is keyed to the collection. The Beaver papers help to fill a gap in the source materials of American history—the political history of Pennsylvania from 1870-1900. The manuscripts throw light on political practices and party finance from the precinct level upwards, they add details to the record of the Cameron-Quay-Penrose organization, they contain interesting material on labor, they amplify the stories of the Independent Republican and Prohibition parties, and they offer representative case material on American business enterprise of the late nineteenth century. Those interested in more detailed information regarding the contents of the Beaver papers may write to the Librarian of the Pennsylvania State College.

Under a co-operative agreement between the Archives of the Seminary of Quebec and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the papers of Contrecoeur and Marin are to be transcribed and edited for publication. The original letters and papers of the French commanders in western Pennsylvania, 1753-1755, are in the Seminary Archives, but have been microfilmed for safekeeping and in order to conduct research work on the material simultaneously in Harrisburg and Quebec. In the papers of the two commanders are reports from the officers commanding the various forts, from French agents among the Indians, and from the quartermaster or supply department. There are many letters of instruction and advice from Marquis Duquesne, Governor-General of New France, and from Bigot, the Intendant or fiscal head. There are letters dealing with Washington's mission to Fort Le Boeuf, with the Fort Necessity campaign, with Braddock's defeat, with the treatment of Pennsylvania traders, and with raids on the Pennsylvania frontier. The journal of Coulon de Villiers for his campaign against Washington in 1754, and a contemporary French translation of Washington's "lost" journal of 1754 are of special impor-
tance. Use of the material is restricted to the staffs of the two co-operating institutions until the papers have been published. The French edition is to be published in Quebec within two years.

The 140-year-old Conestoga Wagon owned by Franklin and Marshall College was designated at Washington as the official symbol of the new Savings Bond drive, by U. S. Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder. Such use of a typically Pennsylvania symbol may indicate a growing awareness of the significance of Pennsylvania culture in the life of the nation.

The May, 1949, bulletin of the American Association for State and Local History is a sprightly and delightful essay, "Writing Local History Articles," by Dr. Marvin W. Schlegel, formerly assistant state historian of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and now assistant professor of history at State Teachers College, Farmville, Virginia.

Charles M. Ewing, Curator of Archives at Washington and Jefferson College since 1947, has built up what may well be regarded as a model college archives. His first step was to gather together valuable documents from various offices on the campus, together with unusually valuable rare books from the library. Fire-proof filing cases were obtained for the proper care of the documents and books. Among the many interesting and significant items gathered by his survey were all five of the original charters for the various institutions combined in the present college, and the minutes of the Board of Trustees from 1787 to the present day. Other documents are the deed for the first campus, 1792, pages from Reverend John McMillan’s collection book with contributors’ signatures and amount given, and material on a council of war at Catfish Camp (Washington) in 1777. The Crumrine Papers, donated by Dr. Boyd Crumrine Patterson in 1948, make up another extensive collection which is being catalogued and filed. An exhibit entitled “Your College in Document,” has been prepared to show the complete evolution of W. and J. College.

The famous Ephrata Cloister press, thought to have been the third in America and to have been installed in 1742 or 1743, was recently returned to the Cloister on loan from the Historical Society
of Pennsylvania. For several years the press was on display in the graphic arts section of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, but was returned to the Historical Society, so that it could be placed in the most appropriate setting—the place where it was built and operated. It is displayed in the Saal.

The Beaver Falls Historical Commission has placed a bronze plaque to mark the site of a historic “little red schoolhouse” in that city, and is opening a relic room on the second floor of the Carnegie Library. Here a large number of items recalling the early history of the community, donated by various residents, have been displayed. The commission is made up of the mayor, the superintendent of schools, the president of Geneva College, the head of the library, and eight other members elected at large.

Many Pennsylvania communities are making plans for centennial or sesquicentennial celebrations in the near future. Among them are Altoona, West Chester, Sandy Lake, Sharpsville, and Phoenixville. All these celebrations will feature, in greater or lesser degree, the historical development of the communities. The participation of the Blair County Historical Society in the Altoona centennial has already been mentioned.

The 158th anniversary of the birth of James Buchanan, the only Pennsylvanian to become President of the United States, was commemorated in Lancaster on April 23. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, was the principal speaker at a simple graveyard ceremony in Woodward Hill cemetery. Sponsors of the celebration included the Lancaster American Legion and Union Fire Company No. 1, in which Buchanan once served. Another recent event connected with Buchanan’s memory was the formal opening of Wheatland, the Buchanan homestead, on May 8.

The Secretary of the Association needs additional copies of Nos. 1 and 2, Volume XII (January and April 1945) of Pennsylvania History to complete sets now ordered. Anyone who can supply these will confer a favor on the Association and upon some library which wishes complete files. The regular price of 50 cents will be paid. Please communicate with Dr. Philip S. Klein, State College, Pa.