

NEWS AND COMMENT

By DONALD H. KENT

Associate State Historian

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

THE Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association will be held at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18, 1952. Details as to travel facilities and hotel accommodations are to be found in the advance announcement which was sent to all the membership. At the luncheon on Friday President Russ will deliver the customary Presidential Address. Papers on "Joseph Priestley, an Exile at Northumberland" by Ira V. Brown, "The German Lutheran and Reformed Clergymen in the Susquehanna Valley in the Eighteenth Century" by Charles H. Glatfelter, and "Scotch-Irish Presbyterian Pioneering along the Susquehanna" by Guy S. Klett, will be presented at the afternoon session, which will be followed by a tea for the ladies at the home of President and Mrs. G. Morris Smith. At the Annual Dinner, Paul A. W. Wallace will speak on "Our Predecessors in the Valley." Saturday morning there will be a business meeting and election of officers, and another session with papers on "The 'Philadelphia Fever' in Northern Pennsylvania" by Norman B. Wilkinson, "The Philadelphia and Erie Railroad: A Chapter in Pennsylvania Economic History" by Homer T. Rosenberger, and "Blooming Grove, the Dunker Settlement of Central Pennsylvania" by Russell W. Gilbert. At the Saturday luncheon George F. Dunkelberger will give a preview of the historical tour, which he will conduct as the last feature of the 1952 meeting.

All the friends of Miss Frances Dorrance will be delighted to know that on October 9, at a luncheon in Harrisburg, Governor John S. Fine will bestow on her an award as a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania. As a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and as officer of the Association, the Federation, and the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Miss Dorrance has been one of the outstanding leaders in the promotion of Pennsylvania history and archaeology.

The Adams County Historical Society held the second of its spring field tours on Tuesday evening, June 3. W. W. Eisenhart and President George W. Baker described the historical significance of Abbottstown; Rev. Father Mignot recounted the history of Paradise Church and Rectory; and Charles S. Diller told the story of Seminary Farm.

The first issue of *The Settler: A Quarterly Magazine of History and Biography* was published in April by the Bradford County Historical Society, under the editorship of L. E. Wilt. It opens with an interesting account of the history of the Society, which began in 1870 as a foster child of the Bradford County Medical Society. Other articles include one on reading and libraries in the county by Dawes Markwell, Librarian of the Bradford County Library; and articles on the Pennsylvania Rifle, Stephen Foster, the Barclay Railroad, and the county's chronology, by the editor. An opening letter to the members from the President, James L. Fisher, points out the importance of this magazine to the Society.

At a spring meeting of the Cambria County Historical Society Henry M. Gooderham, of Patton, was elected president for a second term. Other officers are: Mrs. Ferdinand K. Shields, Ebensburg, first vice-president; J. Philip Walters, Johnstown, second vice-president; James Sheep, of the faculty of the Johnstown Center of the University of Pittsburgh, secretary; and Ernest Apel, Ebensburg, treasurer. The directors are Alvin T. Buck, Gallitzin; Mahlon Baumgardner, Ebensburg; and Robert F. Pruner, Johnstown. The newly elected curator is Miss Edna Lehman, the former secretary of the organization. Fred D. Berkebile, President of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, was the guest speaker, his topic being the early Indians of the area. A gavel made of wood taken from the Last Raft was presented to the Society by R. Dudley Tonkin, of Cherry Tree.

The Chester County Historical Society held a historical pilgrimage and picnic on July 19, stopping at Bradford Meeting in Marshallton, Camp Linden where Jonathan Gause once operated Greenwood Dell School, and Primitive Hall where the "Great House" of 1738 was visited. A picnic supper was served at the

New London Presbyterian Church grounds, where the speaker was Mr. Earl J. Lightcap, Jr.

The annual meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society was held on June 12 in the Historical Room of the Meadville Public Library. According to the report of the Secretary, Miss Sara L. Miller, there were during the year 324 accessions in the book collection and museum, bringing the total to 6,889. Fifteen new members were added, and the attendance from June, 1951, to May, 1952, was 2,451. The Society held ten regular meetings, one meeting with the Junior Historians, and two meetings with the Pennsylvania history class of Meadville High School.

At the meeting of the Historical Society of Dauphin County on June 16, three members presented a program called "Collector's First Night." Mr. George B. Bains, Jr., discussed "Collecting Antiques, A Hobby," Mrs. William G. Hilton spoke on "Early American Decoration—or How a Hobby Can Grow," and Miss Ruth M. Koons spoke on the theme, "From Old Button Boxes." The Society held a pilgrimage on June 28, visiting Cornwall Furnace in Lebanon County, and Ephrata Cloister in Lancaster County, two State historic properties under the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Governor John S. Fine of Pennsylvania was the speaker at the afternoon session of the 39th annual reunion of the Donegal Society, on June 18, at the Donegal Presbyterian Church, Donegal Springs, Lancaster County. The Governor laid stress upon the historic Witness Tree, where the little band of Lancaster County patriots pledged loyalty to the cause of American independence, as a symbol of "unswerving loyalty to our country." At the morning session, Dr. Henry Barraclough, Manager of the Department of Administration, The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., gave an address on "What Presbyterians should Know about their Church." At the business meeting Mr. W. W. Heidelbaugh, of Lancaster, was elected President, succeeding Henning W. Prentis, Jr. All the other officers were re-elected, and the following were added to the executive committee: Mrs. G. Howland Chase, Washington, D. C.; Montgomery Sears Bradley, Hilltop Farm, N. Y.; Robert Hartman, Lancaster; the Rev. Harlan C. Durfee, pastor,

Donegal Presbyterian Church; and John Leaman, elder, Donegal Presbyterian Church.

At the meeting of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County on June 6 in Memorial Hall, C. D. Culler of Johnstown told about "Beula, the Lost City of Cambria County." Clarence Stephenson of Clymer reported on the meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology in Pittsburgh, May 23 and 24; and Joe Gaul of the Clymer Historical Society reported on the meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians in Harrisburg on May 8. Results of the fourth annual essay contest of the Indiana County Society were announced at the end of May, the subject this year being "The Most Interesting Story in My Family." Three prizes of \$5, \$3, and \$2, and several awards of one dollar were given in both senior and junior high school groups. A special award, known as the Jean Strong Award, made by Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Helman in memory of the latter's mother, was presented to Piet Vuyk, a student in Marion Center High School, who arrived in this country last January. He wrote in his native Dutch the most interesting story in his family, and then submitted it with an English translation.

The Indiana County group held its annual historical tour on July 16, covering fifty-four miles of the southwestern section of the county. Among the places visited were the old Moorhead block-house; the burial place of David Peelor, killed by the Indians, near Willow Lodge; Shelocta, oldest community in the county; Elder's Ridge, where Dr. Alexander Donaldson opened the Academy in 1847; and the home of the Marshall family in Clarksburg, built in 1790. The Society entered floats in both the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades, winning second prize for originality in the latter.

The Lancaster County Historical Society has started to refinish and restore the numerous bronze tablets with which it has marked historical sites and buildings throughout the county.

The Monroe County Historical Society held its annual summer meeting on Saturday, July 19, at the Hamilton Square Church near Stroudsburg. The main theme of the meeting was inter-cultural

understanding, and Mrs. Earl F. Robacker spoke on "Our Pennsylvania Dutch Heritage."

The July, 1952, issue of *Now and Then*, Quarterly Magazine of History, Biography and Genealogy, published by the Muncy Historical Society and Museum of History, includes a paper by Norman B. Wilkinson, Assistant State Historian, on "John Adlum and Lycoming Speculation," which was read before the February meeting of the Society. Other features include a cover article on "A Georgian Marriage Fan;" the story of "Major" Charles Seeley, Sullivan County's largest man; and Edward J. Eldred's docket, as justice of the peace 1808-1845, prepared by H. Delbert Bird.

The Northumberland County Historical Society held its 21st annual pilgrimage on July 30, visiting Cornwall Furnace and Ephrata Cloister.

The Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, which is currently observing its centennial, is the oldest Presbyterian Historical Society in the English-speaking world. Although its organization was authorized in Charleston, South Carolina, when the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met there in May, 1852, the Society's headquarters have been in Philadelphia for most of the century. Primarily Presbyterian is its collection of church records which includes more than one hundred and twenty volumes from the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. An earlier manuscript of historical interest to Pennsylvanians is the Journal of the Rev. Charles Beatty of his trip to the Indians of the Ohio country in 1766, now being edited by Research Historian Guy S. Klett. Benjamin Franklin is represented in the library by more than twenty-five imprints, including the 1745 edition of the Confession of Faith of the Kirk of Scotland. Members of the staff during the centennial period, in addition to Mr. Klett, include Director Charles A. Anderson, Research Assistant W. Reginald Wheeler, and Cataloguer Lucile S. Mumper.

At a spring meeting of the Shippensburg Historical Society, a paper, "Rebels in the Valley," by Dr. Charles M. Ewing, Director of Historical Collections at Washington and Jefferson College, was read with the author's permission by Henry E. Luhrs. As a spe-

cial feature, a quiz on items of local historical interest prepared and presented by L. C. Krebs, President of the Society aroused much interest. Mr. Richard R. Wolfrom, chairman of the committee on war records, turned in copies of 215 questionnaires returned by veterans of World War II, as well as membership rolls of the local posts of the American Legion, V.F.W., and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The regular meeting nights of the Society were fixed as the second Thursday of January, April, July, and October.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh Summer Sessions, held its eleventh annual historical tour on Saturday, July 19. This year the tour visited Carlisle because of the close connection between Carlisle and Western Pennsylvania in colonial days. It was the gateway through which many of the traders, emigrants, and expeditions passed on their way to the West, and many of the names associated with Carlisle are also prominent in the early history of Pittsburgh. At the noon luncheon, Dr. Herbert Wing, Jr., Chairman of the Department of History, Dickinson College, presided and James H. Hargis, Burgess of Carlisle, gave an address of welcome. To this responses were made by Charles A. McClintock, President of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and by Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian. The noon session concluded with remarks by George I. Chadwick, Secretary of the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce. The group then made a tour of the borough, and brief talks were delivered at the Public Square by Mrs. Lenore E. Flower, at the Carlisle Barracks by Lieutenant Carl K. Russell, at the Graveyard by Merkel Landis, at Dickinson College by Charles Coleman Sellers, and at the Hamilton Historical Library by D. W. Thompson. At this last stop the ladies of the Hamilton Library and Historical Society of Cumberland County served tea.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society celebrated Founder's Day on June 21, featuring an address by Dr. John W. Oliver, Head of the History Department of the University of Pittsburgh, and member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, on "Our Greatest Challenge and Our Greatest Opportunity." The Society has published an attractive illustrated folder about the society and its Historical House and Museum.

The annual tri-county meeting of the McKean, Potter, and Cameron County Historical Societies was held on August 21 at Port Allegany. Leo J. Wilt, Director of the Bradford County Historical Society, was the speaker of the evening, describing the founding and history of Azilum in 1793. C. W. Lillibridge, President of the McKean County Historical Society, presided, and introduced C. E. Plasterer, President of the Cameron County society, and Arch Akeley, President of the Potter County society. Assemblyman Wrayburn Hall of Potter County spoke of the roadside rests which are being established by the State Highway Department, and J. E. Henretta of Kane described the famous Seneca Spring near Kane. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, and Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, discussed the distinctive character of this region of Pennsylvania, as compared with other sections.



"You've got a *what*—a splinter?"

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