

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

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COMMUNICATIONS regarding memberships, subscriptions, and general business of the Association should be addressed to the Secretary, Dr. Philip S. Klein, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the magazine should be sent to the Editor, Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace, Annville, Pa.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW, and reviews contributed, should be sent to the Book Review Editor, Dr. J. Cutler Andrews, Pennsylvania College for Women, Pittsburgh, Pa.

# THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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THE Pennsylvania Historical Association is designed to serve as a coordinating body to aid, supplement, and make more effective the efforts of the local historical societies and their federation and to stimulate the interest of teachers and other individuals who are concerned with the history of the Commonwealth. Its general aims are to promote scholarly activity in the history of Pennsylvania and the teaching of state history in the schools and colleges of the state. It is planned to accomplish these objectives through annual meetings held successively in different parts of the state and through the publication of articles, books, and source material pertaining to Pennsylvania history.

The Pennsylvania Historical Association publishes PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, its Quarterly Journal, to make available articles embodying current historical research on Pennsylvania, news of historical activities, and reviews of books which will be of interest to historically-minded Pennsylvanians. The News and Comment section of the magazine serves the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, the county and local historical societies, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, as a clearing-house for news of their activities. The annual subscription rate is \$4.00.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to join this organization. Application for membership may be made to the Secretary, Dr. Philip S. Klein, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. Membership dues are as follows: active (annual), \$4.00; sustaining (annual), \$10.00; life, \$50.00; patron, \$1,000.00 All members receive the magazine free.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

THE fact that the subscriptions to PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY which were purchased for the constituent societies of the Federation have run out has led me to the decision to use this page for the purpose of urging all societies to keep on taking the magazine. In order to convince them of the value of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, the subscriptions—lasting something over a year—were paid out of the Federation treasury. Now it would seem that the local bodies ought to carry on for themselves.

Inasmuch as the Federation has no journal, the aim of the officers of both the Association and of the Federation has been to make PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY serve the Federation in lieu of an organ of its own. For many years the Federation and the Association have worked together as friends and partners. The feeling has been quite general that, over and above the historical articles and book reviews, PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY could be an important asset to the constituent societies of the Federation. It offers them news about the activities of all member groups, provides a place for exchange of ideas, and prints information of interest to everyone concerned with state and local history. The News and Comment portion of the magazine can be useful only if the proper officer in each organization is faithful in sending information about the doings of his society to the editor of that section.

The News and Comment—to say nothing of other features—ought to be of inestimable benefit to local societies. Only a few of the advantages can be mentioned here. (1) Publishing news about the activities undertaken and the topics discussed by one society will give ideas for programs to other groups. I know that this has worked for our Snyder County Historical Society. In a number of cases, we have read that some society or other had used a certain kind of program, and so we tried it too. This is a service of unassessable importance to the small organizations which have difficulty in thinking up good programs. (2) Those societies whose libraries have surplus sets of books, articles, bulletins, and the like, can use this section for announcing that fact and offering to sell or exchange. I am reasonably sure that the Snyder County Society has some duplicate sets of books and bulletins it would be willing to sell or to exchange. But how can a local organization, which has no funds for advertising, get this information to other societies? It seems obvious to me that the News and Comment section of the magazine could perform a real service in this way. (3) From News and Comment it is possible for local societies to learn about speakers who may be secured for their own programs. In many instances the only method by which the program committee of a county body can come to know about the availability of a speaker is to read that some other group has heard him.

Because the advantages are almost endless, all local societies could earn many dividends by continuing their subscriptions to PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY. I appeal to them to do so, not only as a means of aiding the Association by giving to it additional financial support, but also as a means of presenting local organizations with news and ideas which will help them better to serve their communities.

WILLIAM A. RUSS, JR.