

NEWS AND COMMENT

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HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

THE Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies will hold its forty-sixth annual meeting on Saturday, April 18, 1953. Dr. Howard Peckham, Director of the Indiana State Historical Bureau and Secretary of the Indiana State Historical Society, will be the featured luncheon speaker. The main subject for discussion will be "Historical Preservation and Restoration," and among the authorities on this subject scheduled to speak at the sessions are Frederick Rath, Director of the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings; Dr. Albert B. Corey, State Historian of New York; and Earle W. Newton, Director of Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts.

At a meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on December 2, 1952, G. Edwin Brumbaugh gave an illustrated talk on "The Restoration of Ephrata Cloister." Mr. Brumbaugh is architect for the restoration work of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at Pottsgrove Mansion, Daniel Boone Homestead, and Ephrata Cloister. On February 11, 1953, Dr. Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., Professor of History at Dickinson College, spoke on "Pills and Politics: The Versatile Physicians of Eighteenth Century Philadelphia." On March 24, Robert C. Smith gave an illustrated talk on Philadelphia and the Regency buildings of Brighton and London, in connection with a traveling exhibit of photographs of Regency Brighton assembled by the Regency Society of Brighton and Hove. This was previously shown in Boston by The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

The meeting of the Adams County Historical Society on January 6, 1953, was addressed by Harold A. Williams on "The Story of the Hanover Junction-Gettysburg Railway." On February 3,

Maurice Stoops discussed "The Lincoln Pageant," showing a fine collection of color slides made of the pageant presented by the Western Maryland Railroad last October. The Society also announces plans for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Abbottstown, during the Labor Day weekend. At the meeting on March 3, Mr. Harris Vennema, Editor of *The Pennsylvania Banker*, spoke on the history of the First National Bank of Gettysburg.

The January 13 meeting of the Historical Society of Berks County featured a program entitled "Glimpses of Reading," slides and tape recordings presented by the Berks Camera Club. On Monday, February 23, a George Washington Day Dinner was held at the Wyomissing Club, under the joint auspices of the Berks County Chapter, D.A.R., the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter, S.A.R., and the Historical Society. Frank C. Hilton, Past National Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, was the speaker on this occasion. The meeting on March 13 featured the history of the Reading Fire Department.

The Blair County Historical Society held a dinner meeting on January 15. All the officers were re-elected, including Howard W. Lindaman, president; George A. Wolf, senior vice-president; Miss Virginia Krick, junior vice-president; John Dillen, treasurer; J. J. Hauser, secretary; William Canan, L. Wolfe, and Dr. L. N. Ray, trustees; and Miss Ella Snowberger, W. M. Logue, M. A. Miller, Mrs. J. C. Hegarty, Mrs. M. W. Hazel, and Paul Kurtz, board members. Mr. Lindaman presided and spoke on the careers of Peter Muhlenberg and John Barry. Paul Kurtz showed slides of some of the exhibits in the Baker Mansion, the museum of the Society, and of scenes in Blair County.

The Bradford County Historical Society has received an award from the American Association for State and Local History "for doubling their membership, raising funds to secure the appointment of a full-time director, providing local newspapers with fine articles on local history, and inaugurating publication of *The Settler*." As a result of the membership drive, the Society had passed the thousand mark by the end of February. The third number of *The Settler* was published in February.

At the meeting on February 20, Mr. Fred Jupenlaz, Acting Director of Public Relations at Mansfield State Teachers College, spoke on "The Role of History in Everyday Life," and on March 20 two films were shown, "Williamsburg Restored" and "Freedom of the Press."

The Cambria County Historical Society has acquired another historic plot of land, the graves of three pioneers of the area, located about a mile south of Chest Springs. This was the gift of Kenneth and Ethel Rae Sharbaugh, of Allegheny Township. Henry Gooderham, President of the Society, reports that George C. Hoppel, a Patton lumber dealer, has offered to provide material for fixing up the headstones, and that members of the Chest Springs Council have volunteered to do the work of cleaning up the site. A series of articles on The Kittanning Path, of which the Society owns one of the few surviving traces, began in the Patton *Union Press-Courier*, December 11, 1952.

The American Catholic Historical Society, 715 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, recently inaugurated as its new president the Most Rev. Joseph McShea, Auxiliary Bishop of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, who succeeded Dr. Norman McNeill, of Jefferson Medical College. On this occasion Bishop McShea was given a set of engravings and biographies of the American hierarchy of the last century.

On December 16, the Chester County Historical Society held a Christmas program and party. Christmas of other years was recreated by Miss Violet Findlay, the Misses Shantz, Miss Harriet Bingaman, and Miss Esther Baldwin, in story, music, and anecdote. There was a special exhibit of old Christmas cards. On January 16, John Marshall Phillips, Director of the Yale University Art Gallery, spoke on "Two Hundred Years of Sitting in Chester County," but—to correct any misunderstanding—it may be added that fine chairs of every period from the Society's collection and private sources illustrated his remarks. On March 17, Dr. Henry Pleasants, Jr., spoke on "Our Own George Cope," and a special loan exhibition of Cope paintings was held until March 28.

The Columbia County Historical Society held its annual meeting on January 26, in the Courthouse. George F. Dunkelberger, professor emeritus of Susquehanna University, and former President of the Snyder County Historical Society, spoke on the challenge and possibilities of the local historical society, and an official representative of the County Commissioners explained the history and present plan of renovations of the Columbia County Courthouse.

The Hamilton Library and Historical Association of Cumberland County held its annual business meeting on January 15, and W. W. Strong spoke on "Phoenicians on the Susquehanna." At the meeting on February 19, the Rev. William T. Swaim described the career of "The Reverend Joseph A. Murray, D.D.," and on March 19 Mrs. Verna Dunigan Whistler related "Reminiscences of the Carlisle Indian School," where she was once a music teacher.

A meeting of the Eastern Chapter of the Delaware County Historical Society was held on January 18, in Lansdowne. After a short business meeting, Christine C. Morley gave a talk on "Types of Early Mills in Delaware County, and Their Use of Water Power." At the January meeting of the council of the Society, committee assignments were made, and plans were discussed for issuing a fourth volume of *Proceedings*. Saturday, June 6, has been designated as the second Delaware County Day. The Society is making a search for a suitable table for the court room in the Old Court House, Chester, to stand in the space reserved for lawyers at a trial in colonial days.

The meeting of the Erie County Historical Society on March 10 was addressed by Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, who discussed the French invasion of western Pennsylvania two hundred years ago, and suggested ways in which historical societies in that area might commemorate the anniversary. The Society has begun the publication of an *Erie County Historical Primer*, a four-page leaflet especially intended for school use.

At its meeting on February 10, the Historical Society of Frankford heard an address by Russell F. G. Bush, "Meet Mr. Lin-

coln." On March 10, Thomas Buckley, former Director of Public Works, spoke on "Water Resources, Past, Present, Future."

The Kittochtinny Historical Society of Franklin County held its annual dinner meeting on January 29. Harry E. Foreman spoke on the roles played by Forts Armstrong, McConnell, and Reed in the history of the county. At the business meeting, Chester E. Adams, Emmett E. Wagaman, and Thomas S. Gamble were elected directors. The Reverend J. D. Edmiston Turner, President of the Society, presided.

The Friends Historical Association has elected Dr. Henry J. Cadbury, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, as president, succeeding Dr. William Wistar Comfort, who had held this office for seventeen years. Other officers include Richmond P. Miller and C. Marshall Taylor, vice-presidents; Susanna Smedley, secretary; and William M. Wills, treasurer.

The Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County elected officers at its meeting on December 5. John Woods, former county treasurer, was elected president, and the other officers include: Mrs. Frances Strong Helman, vice-president; Mrs. James S. Gordon, recording secretary; Miss Donna Cramer, corresponding secretary; J. Neal Griffith, treasurer; and Blaine Helman, curator. A program on the Christmas tree industry was presented. M. C. Stewart, of the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association, discussed the commercial angle of the business; William Wetzel, of the soil conservation office, showed slides of various tree nurseries; and Mrs. Fred B. Musser showed moving pictures of the Musser nurseries and told the story of the Christmas tree. The Indiana County Society is cooperating fully in the celebration of the county's sesquicentennial in 1953, and a series of brief historical sketches have already been provided for the local newspaper and radio station. The Society will sell sesquicentennial plates in connection with the celebration; a group of county pictures will be on the front of the plates, and a brief county history on the back. As another contribution to the occasion was the re-publication in mimeograph form of the "Historical Sketch of Indiana

County," given by the Hon. A. W. Taylor in an address on July 4, 1876. This is available from the Society at fifty cents a copy.

The Indiana County group was addressed on March 6 by Donald Dragoo of the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh. Mr. Dragoo headed the archaeological party which uncovered an Indian village near Blairsville, and the pictures and material from this work were of exceptional interest to the members. The meeting on April 8 was "Old Timers Night," an all-student presentation by the various Junior Historian groups.

At the December 18 meeting of the Keystoneians, Gerard R. Gilbert, assistant to the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, spoke on the history of Pennsylvania's super-highway. On January 15, the history of Pennsylvania State College was related by C. S. Wyand, assistant to the President of the College. Annual Ladies' Night was held on February 19, with a program arranged by Mrs. Frank R. Hean, as General Chairman. Mrs. Howard F. Sigler spoke on "Some Distinguished Indian Women of Pennsylvania"; Mrs. Russell Melchior on "Some Distinguished Pennsylvania Women of Belles-Lettres"; and Mrs. Homer L. Kreider on "Some Distinguished Frontier Women of Pennsylvania."

Norman B. Wilkinson, Assistant State Historian, was the speaker at the meeting of the Lackawanna Historical Society on January 30. His topic was early land speculation in northern Pennsylvania.

At the dinner meeting of the Lehigh County Historical Society, held on January 17, Melville J. Boyer, the Society's secretary, spoke on "The Revolutionary War Letters of Deputy Quartermaster General Jacob Weiss." The letterbook containing these letters was recently acquired by the Society from an antique dealer. A detailed account of these materials and of their significance appeared in the Allentown Sunday *Call-Chronicle*, January 18.

The Christmas Party of the Lycoming Historical Society on

December 11 featured recollections of "Some Swedes in Lycoming County and Their Christmas Customs" by Lucille Parsons Metzger, and a dramalogue, "The Swedish Little Christmas or St. Lucia Day," as observed December 13, 1646, on Tinicum Island on the Delaware. This was presented by the Susquehannock Chapter Junior Historians of the Montoursville High School, under the direction of Mrs. Edith Wright. The program on January 8 was a documentary film on "The History and Restoration of Virginia's Colonial Capital—Williamsburg," and a film on "Williamsburg's Gardens." On February 20, members of the Society were guests of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at a meeting which was addressed by Dr. E. T. Bertin, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Education Association. On March 12, James P. Brewster spoke on the "Early Indian History of Lycoming County."

The annual dinner meeting of the Monroe County Historical Society was held on January 15 at the Penn Stroud Hotel, Stroudsburg. The principal speaker was Dr. LeRoy J. Koehler, whose subject was "Merchandizing in Monroe County One Hundred Years Ago." The annual business meeting was held on January 10.

The Historical Society at Montgomery County held its annual meeting on February 23. Following the election of officers and trustees for the year, Robert T. Trump of Valley Green Farm, Ambler, spoke on "The Story of American Door Hardware, 1640-1840." Mr. Trump placed on exhibit a portion of his unique collection of door hardware.

The annual meeting of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, held on March 21, featured the presentation of *Northampton Heritage*, the new history of the county, by its author, E. Gordon Alderfer, to the County Commissioners who sponsored it.

The winter meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society was held on February 23, at Library Hall. After a business meeting, in which committee reports were presented, there was a program featuring colored movies and slides of the opening of Pottsgrove,

and a new set of pictures of the house and its furnishings. Because of printing delays, the long-awaited Pottstown History Book was not ready for distribution at this meeting, as had been planned. A special meeting has been scheduled for April, to signalize the appearance of this book, and to honor the editors and the Book Committee.

The January meeting of the Shippensburg Historical Society featured a review of the diary of David Minnich Fogelsanger for the year 1764, by S. L. Daihl. The diary is in the possession of Mrs. Elizabeth Shearer Rahn, Vero Beach, Florida, the diarist's granddaughter, who permitted Mr. Daihl to copy it. At this meeting President Richard R. Wolfrom announced a proposal by T. Z. Minehart, attorney and banking official of Mount Parnell, that the Society undertake the restoration of one of the old mills in the vicinity. Mr. Minehart offered to make the original contribution to such a project. Mr. Wolfrom appointed a committee to meet with Mr. Minehart to discuss it.

The oldest known original record in Warren County was turned over to Warren County Historical Society for safekeeping by Judge Allison D. Wade on January 16. It is a ledger kept by one John Daniels who operated a general store in the Brokenstraw region, and its entries run from 1795 through 1799. The ledger was among the papers in the Trimm Estate which were turned over to the county. In transferring this valuable volume to Ernest C. Miller, President of the Society, Judge Wade emphasized that it would be in the best place to do the most good, and also pointed out that all items owned by the Historical Society are likewise owned by the county as a whole. Several months ago, the County Commissioners provided quarters for the Society on the second floor of the Courthouse, and late in 1952 the Grand Jury recommended that display cases be built along the wide corridor in the Courthouse for the public display of historical materials.

The annual meeting of the Warren County Historical Society was held on March 12 in the Courthouse. Judge Allison D. Wade spoke on "The Cobhams—The Beginnings and the End." A display of material illustrating the development of early education in

the county was arranged by H. L. Blair, County Superintendent of Schools.

The annual meeting of The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania for the election of officers and trustees and for other business was held on January 27 at the Society's building in Pittsburgh. "W. & J." Night was observed on February 16, when Dr. Boyd Crumrine Patterson, President of Washington and Jefferson College, spoke on "The Completion in 1952 of One Hundred Fifty Years of Service to the Nation." March 18 was Literary Night, when Dr. William F. Keller of the University of Pittsburgh faculty spoke on "The Life and Letters of Henry Marie Brackenridge."

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The famous Landis Valley Museum formally became a property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, on January 7, 1953, when the documents effecting the official transfer were signed by State officials, representatives of the Oberlaender Trust, and George D. and Henry K. Landis. This is the initial step in the development of a great Pennsylvania Farm Museum, for which the immense and valuable collections accumulated by the Landis brothers provide a tremendous start. Representative Norman Wood, a legislative member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and a key figure in the move to acquire and develop the Landis Valley Museum, has asked the General State Authority for grants totalling \$400,000 for essential improvements to safeguard and display the State's new historical treasures. Half of this sum would be for the erection of a fireproof storage building, and half for a regular museum building for the proper display of the collections.

In the present session of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, a few bills of interest to historical societies and historically minded Pennsylvanians have already been introduced at the moment of writing. Special appropriations have been introduced for needed improvements at Fort Le Boeuf Memorial, Pottsgrove, Ephrata Cloister, and Daniel Boone Homestead, and several other histor-

ical places have been proposed for acquisition by the Commonwealth. More important from the standpoint of the historical societies, however, is the bill introduced by Representatives William G. Buchanan of Indiana County and Norman Wood of Lancaster County, which would make an appropriation to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for aid to historical societies in the preservation of papers, documents, and other historical materials in their possession.

A recent *News Letter* of the Historical Society of Michigan tells how this private organization is backed to a considerable extent by the Michigan Historical Commission, as provided by that "Commission's organic law which places the duty upon the Commission of cooperating with the state historical society." It continues that "every member of the Historical Society of Michigan should support the Historical Commission when it goes before the legislature with requests for appropriations," and explains that the "appropriation to the Historical Commission enables it to put a floor under historical activities in Michigan so that the Historical Society can be much more effective in its work."

Word has just come from Quebec that *Le conflit anglo-francais sur l'Ohio, 1745-1756*, the French edition of the Contrecoeur Papers, has finally been published by Les Presses Universitaires Laval, and that several copies were displayed the week of November 23 at a meeting of Canadian publishers in Montreal. This volume of sources presents the papers of Marin and Contrecoeur, commanders of French expeditions to the Ohio. All the chief figures on the French side of this significant chapter of western Pennsylvania history are represented by letters which give details of the occupation of the Ohio valley from the first preparations down to the defeat of Braddock. This volume has been published under the patronage and with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, and Donald H. Kent, Associate Historian, assisted in the selection and editing of materials, so that no item of Pennsylvania interest would be overlooked. The delay in the appearance of the Contrecoeur Papers was caused by the observance of the centenary of Laval University, which kept all the printers in Que-

bec busy this year, but it should serve only to whet the interest in this long-awaited volume of letters and documents on the French and Indian War. One of the most significant, "Contrecoeur's Copy of George Washington's Journal for 1754," was translated and published by special permission in the January, 1952, issue of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, but this was only a foretaste of the interesting materials in this collection. An English translation is now being prepared for eventual publication by the Commission, but for all interested in this period who have any command of *la belle langue*, the original French will have much greater interest and authority.

The Canadian French historical magazine, *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, had an article of exceptional interest for Pennsylvania history in its issue for December, 1952. "L'Affaire Jumonville," by Professor Marcel Trudel of Laval University, analyzes every aspect of Washington's skirmish with Jumonville's party and of the death of the French officer, and clears Washington of the charge of assassination. Professor Trudel makes considerable use of the new materials in the Contrecoeur Papers relating to this affair. The same issue has a review by René Latourelle of Guy Fregault's *Le Grand Marquis, Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil et la Louisiane*, the first and definitive biography of the last Governor of New France.

The Sixth Annual Seminars on American Culture will be held in Cooperstown, New York, July 5-11, 1953, under the auspices of the New York State Historical Association. The Seminars will offer local historians and other persons interested in American culture an opportunity to study with others who share their interests and with noted specialists in their field. Among others, Carl Carmer will preside over the course on "Patterns of American Folk History"; Albert B. Corey, State Historian of New York, will lead a course on "Using Local History," a workshop for local historians; Dean Eric H. Faigle and Professor Robert H. Rayback will present a course on "Reading the Landscape"; and there will be a laboratory course, "The American Frugal Housewife," demonstrating oldtime household methods. Further information about the Seminars and the courses to be offered may be obtained

by writing to Louis C. Jones, Director, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.

This summer the School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs of The American University, Washington, D. C., is offering two specialized courses in Archives Administration and Genealogical Research, beginning June 22, 1953. The ninth annual Institute in the Preservation and Administration of Archives is offered in co-operation with the National Archives and Records Service, the Library of Congress, and the Maryland Hall of Records; and the fifth annual Institute of Genealogical Research is offered in co-operation with the National Archives and under the sponsorship of the American Society of Genealogists. Inquiries about these courses should be sent to the Office of the Director, 1901 F Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

A Lehigh River Restoration Association has been formed for the purpose of restoring the Lehigh as a water supply source, a recreational area, and a stream for the propagation of fish. It hopes to inaugurate a program for the restoration of the Lehigh Canal, not as a transportation waterway but as a parkway similar to what is being developed along the Delaware in upper Bucks County. This historic canal was of prime importance in the industrial development of the region, and the proposal to restore it will therefore be of interest to Pennsylvania's historians.

A Westmoreland County Museum of Art will be built in Greensburg, as provided in the will of Mrs. Cyrus E. Woods, who left almost two million dollars for the establishment of the museum on the site of her home. A half million is set aside for the construction of a two-story brick and stone building, and the rest of her estate goes into a trust fund for the museum, which is to stress the county's historical background. The museum will house Mrs. Woods' collection of early American furniture. When Greensburg held its sesquicentennial several years ago, Mrs. Woods became interested in the historical items on display in store windows, and said, "I am positively amazed at the many items of historical significance which people turned up. It's a shame not to have them collected together where our children can see and

learn about them." It was this which led her to provide for the museum in her will.

"Echoes from the Boatman's Call," an interesting series of articles on canal days by Albert M. Rung, has been appearing in the *Huntingdon and Mount Union Daily News*.

The annual observance of Wheatland Day has been tentatively fixed as May 3, it was announced by the Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland in Lancaster recently. It is also reported that prospects for the issuance of a Wheatland stamp are favorable. If a stamp should be issued, the Wheatland Day observance will be planned to coincide with its day of issue. The board of trustees have ordered another large printing of the *History of Wheatland*, by Dr. Philip S. Klein, due to the demand for the volume.

H. L. Blair, County Superintendent of Schools, spoke on the "Development of Early Education in Warren County," before the Warren Library Historical Group on February 25.

During the month of March, the Pennsylvania State Museum featured a Pennsylvania Doctors' Art Exhibit, under the auspices of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. Several hundred Pennsylvania physicians have the avocation of painting and drawing, but this is the first time in the hundred-year history of the Society that such an exhibit has been held.

Captain Victor Gondos, Jr., has been appointed editor of *Military Affairs*, by the Board of Trustees of the American Military Institute, and also has been elected a Trustee of the Institute. He is also National Historian of the Reserve Officers Association, and a staff member of the National Archives of the United States.

That Indian children of centuries ago had their toy clay pots, corresponding to the play dishes of children today, was shown by numerous examples found in recent Lebanon County archaeological work by State Anthropologist John Witthoft and Samuel S. Farver. According to Witthoft, the fingerprints show these tiny

pots definitely to be the work of children's hands. They are also very small and more crudely made than the larger and more typical pots made by adult Indians.

A revised edition of *The Administrative Code of 1929* has just been published by the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bulletin No. 36, Revised, Harrisburg, 1952). This brings together all the amendments to the *Code* through 1951-1952, and is thus the first issue of this valuable compilation to incorporate all the recent provisions affecting the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission—the expansion of its powers and duties with regard to public records, the creation of the revolving Historical Preservation Fund for historic properties and publications, the clarification of other powers and duties, and the declaration of its status as “the official agency of the Commonwealth for the conservation of Pennsylvania’s historic heritage, and the preservation of public records, historic documents and objects of historic interest.”

“Church House with a History,” an article by George H. Straley dealing with historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Germantown and the old Christopher Sauer printshop, appeared in the February 25th issue of *The Lutheran*, News Magazine of the United Lutheran Church in America.

The October, 1952, issue of *History Today*, the British illustrated monthly history magazine, includes an article by Dr. Henry J. Cadbury on “The Founding of Pennsylvania.” Of all the historical periodicals intended for the general reader as well as for the specialist, this attractive magazine edited by Peter Quennell and Alen Hodge is broadest in scope of subject matter, taking in the entire field of history.

In the November, 1952, issue of the *Monthly Bulletin* of the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, Edward F. Reimer develops the “Northampton County Family Tree,” showing the various counties which grew from Old Northampton. The same issue has an interesting article by Mahlon J. Baumgardner on “The Summit Hotel,” on the old Allegheny Portage Railroad in Cambria County.

Selinsgrove, where the Association met last fall, was the subject of a feature article in the *Sunday Magazine* of the Harrisburg *Patriot-News*, January 18, with pictures of various historic buildings and of modern scenes, and a brief account of the history and development of Selinsgrove. Such articles reflect the widespread interest in matters historical, which has been increasing in recent years.

In December, 1952, Frank W. Melvin was re-elected Governor of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, and, for the sixth successive year, President of the New England Society of Pennsylvania. He recently retired as Secretary of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, after nearly thirty years of service on its board, and has been named Honorary Vice President for life. Mr. Melvin was President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies in 1934-1935, and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1936-1940.

The September, 1952, issue of *Pennsylvania Planning*, organ of the State Planning Board, Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, is devoted to a revised edition of "Know Your Pennsylvania: A Brief Survey of the Resources and Achievements of One American State." This 80-page pamphlet was originally issued in September, 1949, but the continuous demand for information about the State government, resources, scenic and historic attractions, and recreation facilities, has made necessary this new edition of a very useful pamphlet.

Pennsylvania Filmstrips, Box 1302, Allentown, Pennsylvania, has issued a series of seven filmstrips in full color on Pennsylvania geography, history, civics, and government. The film is edited by Thomas Watkins, Supervising Principal, Southern Lehigh Union School District, and produced by Harvey E. Bair. Judging by the prospectus, these should be very helpful materials for teaching Pennsylvania history, and even for historical societies which are seeking to attract the interest of young people.

A group of scholars, meeting in a conference on onomastics in Detroit, have organized the American Name Society for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the study of place names, personal names, and scientific and commercial nomenclature. In

April, 1953, the new Society plans to publish the first issue of *Names*, a quarterly devoted to articles on the subject. The first annual meeting was held in Boston, December 27, 1952, at the same time as the meeting of the Modern Language Association.

Assurances have been given by the Levitt Corporation that historic Bolton Farm will be preserved within its famous Levittown development in Bucks County. The older section of the stone house was built by Phineas Pemberton in 1687, and it was later the home of his son Israel and his grandson James. It passed into the possession of the Morris family when his granddaughter married Anthony Morris, who built the newer section, the front and main part of the house, in 1790. The Morris family gave it to the University of Pennsylvania as an experimental farm in 1930, and the University sold it with the expectation that the historic building would be kept intact. The Levitt interests have not made definite plans for the building, but it may be used as a library or a meeting house. The Bucks County Historical Society and the *Trenton Times*—especially two reporters, William Dwyer and Givens Cruze—were active in the campaign to save this historic place.

An interesting pamphlet, *History of Camptown, Pennsylvania, 1792-1952*, has been published by the Camptown Civic Club. Of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's marker saying that the title of Stephen Foster's famous song "is said to have been taken from" this village in Bradford County, the pamphlet states that there can be no doubt whatever about it: the Camptown races were run on the road from Camptown to Wyalusing, which is "five miles long," just as the song relates—while no ordinary race-track is of that length!

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies will hold its fifth annual conference on April 16 at Edinboro State Teachers College. Although this is primarily for social studies teachers, the members of neighboring historical societies have been cordially invited to attend. To the latter one of the most significant addresses will be "Western Pennsylvania History: A Study of American Life," by Dr. Russell J. Ferguson, Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh.