

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

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COMMUNICATIONS regarding memberships, subscriptions, and general business of the Association should be addressed to the Secretary, Dr. Robert K. Murray, Pennsylvania State University, 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 32, 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. Robert K. Murray, Pennsylvania State University, 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 first number of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY appeared in January, 1934. This year of 1954 witnessed the beginning of the twenty-first volume. The completion of twenty volumes of the Association's chief publication should not be permitted to pass by completely unnoticed. I propose, therefore, to say a few words about the significance of this milestone in the hope that on the twenty-fifth anniversary a more worthy effort can be made to emphasize the journal's contribution. If and when that is done, J. Orin Oliphant's article in *The Selinsgrove Times and Snyder County Tribune*, October 16, 1952, should be quite helpful.

At the very start, let me stress the debt the Association owes to the editors and their assistants who have brought the magazine out on time, issue after issue, despite frequent lack of materials and even more frequent financial stringency. The early editors, Arthur C. Bining and James A. Barnes, who nursed the enterprise through the untoward days of depression and war, deserve well of the organization; and so do the later ones, Milton W. Hamilton and Paul A. W. Wallace, who have carried on in the postwar years of increasing printing costs and expansion. The amazing thing is that no one gets paid for the enormous amount of work involved in getting out such a journal, which by its very nature requires meticulous attention to detail.

If one inspects the product of twenty years of publishing, he has a right to a sense of pride: in the first place that such a venture could have been started in the depths of the depression; and in the second place that it could have survived through the "times of troubles" that have beset the postwar generation. The pioneers of 1934 had to have faith, and Editor Bining must have had more than his share.

But we have progressed. Volume I, No. 1, of January, 1934, had sixty-two pages; the last number in Volume XX, that of October, 1953, had over one hundred and fifty. In addition there have been improvements in format, in use of illustrations, and in the cover. Yet in spite of many alterations made for the purpose of offering a more salable product, the magazine is not fundamentally different from what it was in the early days. We have expanded the beginnings instead of attempting any revolutionary departures. For example, in the first number there were several leading articles, one or two short features, News and Comment, and the book reviews. These still exist as vital parts of the publication.

Perhaps the chief new direction in recent years has been the endeavor to create a journal which would appeal not only to professional historians but to school people and the general public as well. The board of editors is to be commended for making the change with efficiency and understanding. By this means we aim to hold our old friends while we are also making new ones.

The first twenty years are the hardest. Maybe.

WILLIAM A. RUSS, JR.