

NEWS AND COMMENT

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HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The May issue of the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, quarterly bulletin of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, contains the usual liberal selection of articles on the archaeology of the State and neighboring areas, well illustrated and with an attractive format. Like the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the archaeological society has been actively campaigning to increase its membership, and in this connection the *Archaeologist* now features an "Honor Roll" listing each member who has enrolled another member for the organization.

The Adams County Historical Society held its regular meeting on April 6, with William C. Darrah speaking on "Stereographs, a Neglected Source of Local History." This early phase of photography was illustrated with views of subjects in Adams and nearby counties. On May 4 the Society had an historical tour to the site of McAllister's mill, the Sixth Corps field hospital on the John Trostle farm, and Pine Bank Cemetery.

The Historical Society of Berks County held its annual meeting on January 12, with Hon. Daniel K. Hoch as principal speaker, his subject being "Builders of Berks." At a Washington's Birthday meeting held jointly with the D.A.R. and the S.A.R., Dr. Lewis Theiss spoke on "Sullivan's Expedition." A meeting on March 12 featured a talk on "Historical Staffordshire China" by Sam Laidacker of Bristol. The Society held a Sunday afternoon lecture on April 11, when Marguerita Phillips of Germantown spoke on "Vanishing Skills," demonstrating the art of spinning on an antique wheel, and illustrating her talk with color slides. The Annual Report of the Librarian of the Berks County society shows many interesting printed and manuscript acquisitions.

The Settler, quarterly magazine of the Bradford County Historical Society, has now reached its seventh issue, Volume II, Number 3, and the Society now has more than thirteen hundred members.

The Bucks County Historical Society held its seventy-third annual meeting on the first of May, in the auditorium of the Elkins Building, at Doylestown. After a morning business meeting, when directors were elected and reports were presented, there was a lunch and social hour, followed by an afternoon session where two papers were presented: "The Morrisville Grist Mill and Enterprise, 1773-1945," by J. Roscoe Howell, and "History of the Court Houses in Bucks County," by Isaac J. Vanartsdalen, Esq. On Saturday, June 19, the Rushlight Club held a meeting at the Society's Museum, followed by a joint evening meeting with the Bucks County Historical Society. The speaker was C. Malcolm Watkins, Associate Curator, Smithsonian Institution. During the past year the Society has presented for its members outstanding students in the fields of metal craft, folk art, house hardware, cultural backgrounds, and textiles and quilts.

At a meeting on March 29, Henry M. Gooderham of Patton was elected to a third term as president of the Cambria County Historical Society, and the other officers were re-elected. Robert F. Pruner, chairman of the Society's sesquicentennial committee, gave a progress report on the plans for the celebration, announcing that the essay contest is under way in the county schools, and that a sesquicentennial booklet is being compiled. The program included a panel discussion on "Local History," with Dr. F. K. Shields, supervising principal of Cresson Joint School District, as moderator. The members of the panel were Mahlon Brumgardner of Ebensburg; Webster Mahan, social studies teacher in Black Lick Township School District; and Bernard Criste, history teacher in Cresson Joint School District.

In April and May, the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Diocese of the Catholic Church observed the two hundredth anniversary of their faith's beginnings in that region with the coming of the French in April, 1754. On

April 29, a Solemn Pontifical Mass was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, with Archbishop John F. O'Hara presiding, and with archbishops and bishops present from dioceses tracing their origins to the chapel of Fort Duquesne. On April 30, the Society held an academic convocation in Synod Hall, with John O'Connor, Jr., in the chair. Reverend John La Farge, S.J., spoke on "The Causes of Social Peace," and Monsignor Thomas F. Quigley, diocesan superintendent of schools, presented the awards in the Society's history essay contest. On May 2, an outdoor civic observance was held under the auspices of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. During the period, *The Pittsburgh Catholic* published several informative and scholarly articles on the early religious history of the region, among them "Father Denys Baron—Biography of the First 'Resident' Priest," by Reverend Archange Godbout, translated by Suzanne McIlvanie, and edited by John O'Connor, Jr.; "Pittsburgh's First Mass," by Mr. O'Connor; "The First Mass at Brownsville," by Mr. O'Connor; and "I was with Father Denys Baron," Anna Marie Steubenrauch's prize essay in the Society's contest.

The Centre County Historical Society celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its charter on March 31, meeting at the Penn Belle Hotel in Bellefonte.

At the meeting of the Chester County Historical Society on April 20, "The Story of American Glass" was presented by Mrs. Thomas E. Downham, of Cheyney. The lecture was illustrated with slides, and there was a special exhibit from the Society's collection. On May 18, the Society held open house at the David Townsend House and the Museum Building from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., and then held its annual meeting. After the election of board members, and a report on activities, a historical sketch was presented by West Chester Junior Historians. The guest speaker was Christian Sanderson, whose topic, "Old Fiddler Tunes and Dances," was illustrated by a group from Demonstration and Edgemont Schools.

Attention should be called to the historical property, the David Townsend House, which the Chester County Historical Society now owns and maintains. This dignified town home was devised

to the Society by Marion Hoopes Stevenson in 1951 in memory of her grandfather, David Townsend (1787-1858), botanist, banker, and humanitarian. Furnished in appropriate late eighteenth and early nineteenth century style, it is an attractive example of a fine home of its period. It may be visited on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m., and the admission fee is twenty-five cents.

The Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America began their season's activities with the second annual "Colonial Dames at Home" tours, visiting houses of historic or architectural interest belonging to members, in Philadelphia and the suburban area. They also attended a meeting of the Bucks County Historical Society at the Friends Meeting House in Fallsington. On invitation of the Delaware Society of Colonial Dames, a tour was made of historic Wilmington on April 28, with a luncheon at the home of Miss Aileen M. du Pont. Bill of Rights Day was celebrated with a program for students and teachers of Philadelphia high schools with Mr. Anderson Page as the principal speaker. A similar group gathered on February 16 to celebrate both Washington and Lincoln. Reception were held at the Society's headquarters for over six hundred newly naturalized citizens. Some four thousand children have heard the illustrated talk on Historic Pennsylvania, in both the Philadelphia and Lancaster areas; and a set of lantern slides on historic places in Philadelphia was sent to schools in France. Lectures to members have included an illustrated talk by Joseph Kindig III, of York, on Philadelphia furniture; a description of her recent trip to Russia by Mrs. Robinson McIlvaine; "The Importance of Visual Education," by Paul Young; an illustrated talk on Formosa by Leslie R. Sessinghaus; another on "Historic Shrines of America" by John Kent Tilton, Director of the Scalamandre Museum; and an address on "William Penn in our Day," by Norman B. Wilkinson, Assistant Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The Colonial Society of Pennsylvania attended a special service of thanksgiving for Pennsylvania's establishment, held at Christ Church, Philadelphia, on March 14. Major Frank W. Melvin de-

livered an address on "The Power that hath Made and Preserved us."

At the meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society on March 17, Judge Herbert A. Mook spoke on "The French and Indian History of Northwest Pennsylvania." On May 26, Dr. Samuel Lindley, of the faculty of Allegheny College, spoke on "The Friends in Pennsylvania." For the year just closing, the Society reports 347 accessions in the book and museum collections, 2,221 visitors, 64 research workers, and seven regular meetings, in addition to two meetings with Boy Scout and school groups. It has purchased three microfilms of early Crawford County censuses.

The Eastern Chapter of the Delaware County Historical Society met on February 28 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Cheyney Smith at Collen Brook Farm, once the home of Dr. George Smith, the historian and humanitarian. L. Cheyney Smith, great-grandson of Dr. Smith and grandson of A. Lewis Smith, first president of the Society, reviewed the life of his great-grandfather. The Delaware County Historical Society held its spring meeting with a dinner in the Strath Haven Inn at Swarthmore, on May 12. Hon. John V. Diggins gave a talk on some interesting events of the county's history, and the Glee Club of Williamson School provided a musical program.

The Historical Society of Dauphin County recently published Volume 2 of the *Dauphin County Review*, with many interesting papers: "History of Harrisburg Fire Companies," by Mayor Claude Robins of Harrisburg; "The Juvenile Courts," by Superior Court Judge Robert E. Woodside; "How Union Deposit was Named," by Anna E. Eisenhour; "Historical Sketch of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hummelstown," by Frederick H. Bolton, Esq.; and "A Magical Name—Hershey: Genius at Work," by Dr. Harry C. Chubb. At the June meeting of the Society, Mrs. Edward B. Meigs gave an illustrated talk on "The Susquehanna River."

The Erie County Historical Society held its annual meeting in the new Engineering Building of Gannon College on the first of April. Philip Benjamin, Librarian of Allegheny College, gave an

address on "Ida Tarbell, An Idealistic Realist." Miss Tarbell's papers are among the manuscript collections in the Allegheny College Library.

The Friends Historical Association participated in the commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln University by holding its spring meeting in the chapel of the University on May 15. President Horace Mann Bond of the University gave an address on "Friends and Lincoln University." There was also a conducted tour of the grounds and buildings.

The Germantown Historical Society held its annual meeting on October 22, 1953, when Judge Harold D. Saylor was elected president to succeed Leighton P. Stradley, who retired because of ill health. Mr. Stradley was elected honorary president for life. The Society has sponsored a series of monthly lectures, arranged by Henri Marceau, a member of the Board of Managers, on the following subjects: "Collecting Antiques," by Eman S. Franks; "Antiques in the Auction Room," by Edmund B. Brickley; "Collecting Wedgwood," by Harry Buten; "Old Philadelphia Prints," by Carl Zigrosser; and "Antique and Contemporary Silver," by Virginia Wireman Cate. In June the Society held a garden party at its Museum. Since the existing space is inadequate for display purposes, the Society is about to start a campaign to buy a neighboring property, another historic house, which will serve as a library. The membership has shown an encouraging increase, and the Society's quarterly, *The Germantown Crier*, has been well received.

At the April meeting of the Indiana County Historical and Genealogical Society, student historians from Keith, Indiana, and Clymer high schools presented a program on the hundredth anniversary of free schools in the State. Sally Kovalchick, of Keith, served as chairman, and introduced the speakers, who included William Norman, county superintendent of schools, and D. D. Patterson, retired county superintendent of schools. Student speakers dealt with the history of the county schools, the jointure system, and other features of modern schools. Dr. John Sahli, teacher at Keith School, was the coordinator of the program. The May

meeting of the Society was devoted to "Reminiscences," with reports from the Society's files by John Steving and Joseph Dickie. At the June meeting, Mrs. Frances Strong Helman spoke on the topic, "Trailing Ancestors in Pennsylvania." A historical tour is planned for July.

On March 18, the Keystoneians of Harrisburg heard Leo A. Luttringer, of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, describe the voyage of the Last Raft down the Susquehanna. The pictures which Mr. Luttringer salvaged from the wreck of March 20, 1938, were used to illustrate his talk. The speaker at the meeting on April 15 was George L. Heiges, president of the Lancaster County Historical Society, whose subject was "Baron Henry William Stiegel of Manheim." On May 20, the speaker was Donald M. Cresswell, Chief of Crop Reporting and Information, State Department of Agriculture, who discussed the origins of Pennsylvania State University. This was in preparation for the group's annual tour, arranged for June 19, a visit to the University campus.

In June the Lancaster County Historical Society will erect a plaque on the former home of Eliza Foster Buchanan, sister of Stephen Foster and wife of the Rev. Edward Young Buchanan, who was President Buchanan's brother. In April, "News and Comment" made an erroneous reference to Mrs. Buchanan as "the wife of Rev. Thomas Buchanan," which is hereby corrected. Thanks are due to Mrs. Thornton Oakley, Historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America, for calling attention to this error. Mr. M. Luther Heisey, Editor of the Lancaster County Historical Society, confirmed the point made by Mrs. Oakley. He also commented that, though this rectory in Paradise is now the Revere Tavern, this is actually a reversion to form, for the house was originally the Inn known as the "Sign of the Spread Eagle."

The Lehigh County Historical Society celebrated the golden anniversary of its foundation in 1904 by a dinner meeting held on April 21, 1954. President William J. Wilcox was toastmaster, and the principal speaker was the Rev. Dr. H. M. J. Klein, Pro-

fessor of History Emeritus, Franklin and Marshall College, and a charter member of the Society. Doctor Klein's address was entitled, "The Value and Importance of Local History." The attractive souvenir program features an article by Major Wilcox on the history of the Society, "In Retrospect," from which it is interesting to note that the speakers at its first program meeting were Dr. John W. Jordan, Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Luther R. Kelker, Custodian of Public Records (State Archivist).

A few days before this dinner meeting, the Society celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Harry Clay Trexler, whose "civic and industrial activities . . . probably contributed more to the growth and progress of the City of Allentown than any other individual." These words are quoted from the bronze memorial tablet, dedicated on this occasion, in conjunction with the formal opening of Springwood Cabin in Trexler Park. This cabin, built by Lynford Lardner sometime between 1774 and 1794, has been restored by the Allentown Park Department and furnished by the Lehigh County Historical Society in remembrance of pioneer settlers. Major Wilcox presided over the ceremonies, with the invocation delivered by Monsignor Leo G. Fink, author of *Memoirs of General Harry Clay Trexler*, and with an address of dedication made by Major General Charles C. Curtis, Rtd. The memorial tablet was unveiled by Miss Joan Benner, granddaughter of General Trexler's personal secretary; Mayor Brighton C. Diefenderfer of Allentown formally accepted it; and Melville J. Boyer, secretary of the Historical Society, formally opened the Lynford Lardner Cabin.

At the annual meeting of the Lower Merion Historical Society, on May 3, Dr. Frederick Tilberg, Historian of Gettysburg National Military Park, gave an illustrated talk on "Early Post-War Views of the Battlefield of Gettysburg." Teachers of Lower Merion Township were given a special invitation to attend this meeting. Dr. Douglas Macfarlan, a prominent medical specialist, was elected president of the Society, succeeding John M. Nugent, who headed the organization for its first five years of existence. Dr. Macfarlan is the author of a number of historical works, and has been active in the Montgomery County Historical Society.

The annual business meeting of the Lycoming Historical Society was held on March 11. There were reports from various officers, and Mr. Marvin Schwartz gave an illustrated lecture, "A General Survey of the Winterthur Museum." Mr. Schwartz is one of ten graduate students at the University of Delaware now working in the history, art, and literature of colonial America, and using the famous collection of the Winterthur Museum in his study. The Lycoming Historical Society has its museum open on Sunday afternoons from two to five.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County held what is expected to be its last regular meeting in its old quarters at Historical Hall, on April 24. Its new building on DeKalb Street should be completed in time for the first regular meeting in the fall. The April speaker was Paul Jones, Philadelphia columnist, whose topic was "The Value of Local Historical Societies."

At the meeting of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society on April 29, the speaker was Donald H. Kent, Associate Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who discussed "The French Invasion of Western Pennsylvania." The Society made a pilgrimage to historical sites in Bucks County on May 15.

The 47th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies was held in Harrisburg on May 29, 1954. The morning session opened with welcoming remarks by the new President of the Federation, Judge Charles G. Webb, and a report by the Executive Secretary, Dr. S. K. Stevens. The program opened with a presentation of the activities and program of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania by Dr. Richard Norris Williams, 2nd, its Director, who made clear the way in which the present character of Pennsylvania's oldest historical organization as—primarily—a manuscripts depository and library has been dictated by the historical development of the Society. The next speaker was Stanton Belfour, Director of the Pittsburgh Foundation and Trustee of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, who told of the various historical programs and projects of the Buhl Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh Press,

and the activities of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. At the noon luncheon session, Donald H. Kent discussed "The French Invasion of Western Pennsylvania" chiefly from the standpoint of its importance in Pennsylvania history. In the afternoon, Doctor Stevens presided over a discussion of historical society activities, particularly with respect to the problems involved in answering genealogical inquiries. In the business session which followed, the report of the committee on nominations that all the officers be re-elected was unanimously accepted.

The Pennsylvania Society of New York held its 56th annual meeting-luncheon on April 14, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Harry E. Humphreys, Jr., Chairman of the Board and President of the United States Rubber Company, was unanimously re-elected President of the Society. The other officers included: Charles E. Dunlap, Charles J. Graham, Edward F. McGinley, and Paul Speer, vice-presidents; Roy H. Passmore, vice-president and treasurer; Edward J. Bach, executive secretary; the Reverend Bernard C. Newman, chaplain; and Hon. James H. Duff, Dr. Frank Diehl Fackenthal, and Hon. Edward Martin, council members. The Society's annual dinner, which each year makes Pennsylvania history as well as celebrating it, will be held on December 11, 1954.

The annual meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society was held on May 31, at Pottsgrove. After the business meeting for election of officers and directors, and for reports of officers and committees, there was a subscription buffet supper and reception to celebrate the second anniversary of the official opening of Pottsgrove. At this time the Society honored some of the people responsible for the restoration and furnishing of this historic house, among them Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Lloyd H. Wood, Senator and Mrs. Harry J. Probert, Senator Leroy H. Chapman, Senator Frank Ruth, Representative and Mrs. Norman Wood, State Historian S. K. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Franco Scalamandre. Mr. John Kent Tilton, and others.

The Presbyterian Historical Society has published a 7-page listing, by Charles A. Anderson, of "Special Collections in the

Presbyterian Historical Society." Their manuscript collections now number more than 100,000 items, while published books, minutes, hymnals and reports, portraits, relics, communion sets, pictures, and maps comprise other valuable collections.

At the meeting of the Radnor Historical Society on March 17, Commodore Stephen Decatur, early Philadelphia naval hero, was the subject of an address by William F. Machold. A superb collection of Decatur portraits and other heirlooms was displayed at the meeting. The *Bulletin* of the Society was issued in May, containing articles on "Social and Cultural Life in Early Radnor," by Francis James Dallett, Jr., and "Carriers' Cycle," by Rev. Thomas F. Roland, O.S.A. At the annual meeting, held on May 17, Dr. Edward M. Riley, Historian of Independence National Historical Park, spoke on "The Independence Square Mall and Redevelopment Program." Awards were presented to four high school students for pictures illustrating some phases of Radnor history before 1900, and to the Radnor Boy Scout Troop I for their work in photographing the sites of old mills, dams, races, and millers' houses on Darby and Little Darby creeks, and for their map locating the sites. Richard W. Foster, Herbert S. Casey, Herman P. Lengel, and Mrs. Charles W. David (the Curator) were elected Directors. Mr. Foster was elected President, the Rev. Thomas F. Roland, O.S.A., Vice President, Francis J. Dallett, Jr., Secretary, and O. Louis Ehmann, Jr., Treasurer.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania announces the publication of the INDEX to *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Volumes 1-75 (1877-1951). This key to the treasures of history, contained in the oldest magazine of history in this country with a record of continuous publication, has been twelve years in the making, and is a monumental work of some twelve hundred double-column pages, in which subjects as well as personal and place names are indexed analytically. Every historical society and library so fortunate as to have the magazine will find this *Index* an indispensable guide to its contents. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is to be congratulated on this major achievement. At a meeting of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania on March 4, Roger Butterfield spoke on "Philadelphia's

Provocative but Forgotten Novelist, George Lippard." The Society held its 129th annual meeting on May 5, when Thomas M. Reed, Esq., spoke on "Famous Murder Trials."

The 1954 Pennsylvania House and Garden Club Tour, sponsored by the Washington Memorial Museum Auxiliary of the Valley Forge Historical Society and by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, was held from April 30 to May 3. About a dozen homes were visited each day; on April 30, Montgomery County, "Along the Main Line"; on May 1, Bucks County, "The Banks of the Delaware"; on May 2, "Down the Historic Brandywine" in Chester County; and on May 3, "Valley Forge." The April issue of *The Picket Post*, quarterly of the Valley Forge Historical Society, included a detailed account of the houses used by General Washington's staff, which were visited on the last day of this Tour.

The Shippensburg Historical Society has been publishing an interesting series of articles on Shippensburg one hundred years ago, based upon the re-discovery and identification of articles written in 1898-1899 by James Peebles Matthews of Baltimore about the Shippensburg community of his youth. The articles were found in a scrapbook of old newspaper clippings presented to the Society in the 1940's by Mrs. John K. Aughinbaugh, of Yeadon. Some of the articles are now being re-published in the Shippensburg *News-Chronicle*, and will later be issued by the Shippensburg Historical Society in booklet form. In the very first article, there is an observant remark about Governor Ritner and his "Scotch-Irish constituency" in Washington County, "who regarded his somewhat peculiar pronunciation of English words beginning with soft 'G' as a very small defect in an honest, capable man."

The annual spring meeting of the Wayne County Historical Society was held on May 15 in the Grace Episcopal Church parish house. E. D. LeRoy, author of *The Delaware and Hudson Canal, A History*, gave an illustrated talk on the Canal and the Steurbridge Lion. Plans are being made in Honesdale for the celebra-

tion of the 125th anniversary of the Stourbridge Lion, first locomotive to turn a wheel in America, during the week of August 3.

At the meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania on March 22, Stanton Belfour, Director and Secretary of The Pittsburgh Foundation, discussed "The Philanthropic Tradition in Pittsburgh," presenting a critical analysis of *giving* in Pittsburgh during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. On April 6, Dr. William Blake Hindman, of Uniontown, told the story of Fort Necessity, and of the plans for the two hundredth anniversary celebration at Uniontown on July 3 and 4. On May 18, University of Pittsburgh Night, two papers were read by candidates for the Doctor's degree in the Graduate School: "Some Customary Practices of Rural Life in Western Pennsylvania—1870-1913," by Philip Rowland Jack, and "The Ligonier Valley Railroad and its Times," by James M. Myers.

At the meeting of the Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society on April 30, Lawrence C. Thurman, Curator of Old Economy, spoke on "The Story and Significance of Old Economy."

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The death of Dr. Armen Kalfayan, Chairman of the Language Department at Allegheny College, comes as a loss to Pennsylvania history, as well as to his own special field of French language and literature. In his last years, even as his last illness was upon him, he was one of the translators of the Contrecoeur Papers, helping to make this treasury of sources on early western Pennsylvania accessible in English. This Pennsylvanian by adoption had as keen an interest in our history as any native, and stood always ready to help with advice and encouragement in all the translation projects of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission—from the time when he served as a member of the advisory board of the old WPA Frontier Forts and Trails Survey.

The Historical Collections of Washington and Jefferson College recently acquired the papers of John Guffey, Sheriff of Westmoreland County during the time of the "Molly Maguire" troubles in

the coal fields of southwestern Pennsylvania. C. M. Ewing, Director of the Collections, writes that the papers include lengthy reports written and signed by Allen Pinkerton, Chief of the Pinkerton Agency, and reports of detectives working under Pinkerton. There are also statements of witnesses, signed confessions, and notes by Mr. Guffey.

The Trexler Masonic Library, of which Melville J. Boyer is President, has published a fine illustrated brochure picturing its more interesting volumes, in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of its founder, Harry Clay Trexler.

The County Officer, official publication of the National Association of County Officials, had in its December, 1953, issue an article on the aid given to historical activities by the counties of Pennsylvania, "Pennsylvania County Commissioners Make History," by Norman B. Wilkinson, Assistant State Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The laudable examples of some counties like Montgomery and Northampton should help to induce yet others to recognize local history as an essential county function.

Wheatland Day was observed on May 9 at the Lancaster home of James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States. This annual event marks the formal opening of the grounds and building for the spring and summer season. Two descendants of Buchanan's family were guests on this occasion: Miss Alice Buchanan Ewing, of Ardmore, a great-niece; and Buchanan Ewing, Jr., of Allentown, a great-great-nephew. In addition to the Junior League of Lancaster, all the other organizations interested in the preservation of Wheatland and contributing toward its restoration were represented among the hosts and hostesses: the Buchanan Foundation for the Preservation of Wheatland; Donegal Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; the Sons of the American Revolution; the Colonial Dames; and the Daughters of the War of 1812.

It is with regret that we note the death on May 20 of Dr. Hiram H. Shenk, for many years a prominent figure in Pennsylvania's

historical activities. A native of Dauphin County, Dr. Shenk was on the faculty of Lebanon Valley College from 1899 to 1950, when he retired as Professor Emeritus of History and Political Science. He held many other distinguished posts in the historical field during his long and varied career, as custodian of public records in the Archives Division of the State Library, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, and secretary of the Pennsylvania German Society.

Old Fort Ligonier, the "Key to the West in 1758," was opened to the public on May 29 by the Fort Ligonier Memorial Foundation, which has been restoring the Fort, after a special campaign had raised nearly \$50,000. The program began at 10:30 a.m. with a volley of musketry, and included the raising of the United States Flag, followed by the hoisting of the "King's Colours," the British flag of 1758, and throwing open the doors of the officers' quarters. The Fort will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week. Work still in progress at the site includes landscaping, building a suitable entrance building, and completion of a parking area.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians held their twelfth annual Statewide conference on May 14, in the Forum of the Education Building at Harrisburg. The conference program was devoted to the theme, "One Hundred Years of Pennsylvania County School Superintendency, 1854-1954," with various aspects of this theme presented by members of the regional conferences of the Federation.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association will be held in Indiana, Pennsylvania, on October 22 and 23, under the auspices of the State Teachers College. Dr. Russell J. Ferguson, of the University of Pittsburgh, who is chairman of the program committee, reports that an interesting and informative program is being prepared, and the location of this year's meeting should make possible an increased attendance by members in the western part of the State.