

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

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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, University Park, 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.

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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. Russell J. Ferguson, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.*

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

ONE of the first jobs of a new president in any organization is to examine the work of his predecessors. The president of a historical association would find this a professional instinct even if it were not an official duty. As I survey the many achievements of our Association during the past two decades, I am particularly amazed and impressed by one of them: our publications.

The individual member may perhaps think that the main job of the Association is to place in his hands at regular intervals the quarterly journal, *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*. Only in a limited sense is this true. The full meaning of this function becomes clear only when viewed over the years.

Consider the following record of the Association since the first issue of *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY* was released in 1934.

Item: It has published in its journal approximately 500 articles on the history of Pennsylvania, each by an expert in his field.

Item: These articles represent about 7,000 printed pages, or the equivalent of twenty books of 350 pages each.

Item: If this work had been done on a contract basis at a rate barely covering the minimum expense to each author of his contribution, it would have cost the Association at least \$100,000, exclusive of printing charges. But in fact our authors and staff have donated their professional services to this amount, and the members of our Association and libraries all over the United States and abroad have received the results of their work on Pennsylvania history for the cost of printing—about \$60,000 since 1934.

I want to emphasize that this remarkable achievement of the Association has been paid for largely by membership dues. There has been almost no other source of income, a situation highly unusual in a state historical society.

As members of the Association and subscribers to *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*, we get more than our money's worth in terms of publications alone. We also know the simple truth that we are making a lasting contribution to the growth of this great Commonwealth and Nation by aiding and encouraging research in Pennsylvania history. This should be a source of personal gratification to every member.

I state these facts and views in order that each of us may understand more fully the importance and the extent of the enterprise of which he is a part. When I conclude by reminding you that this vast and permanent addition to our knowledge of Pennsylvania has thus far been accomplished by not much more than one thousand of the nine million inhabitants of our Commonwealth, you should know why I am proud of the work of my predecessors, and why I now urge you to enlist the interest and support of others.

PHILIP S. KLEIN