

## NEWS AND COMMENT

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### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The August, 1954, issue of *The Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, Bulletin of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, includes an important historical source, "John Hays' Diary and Journal of 1760," edited by William A. Hunter, Senior Archivist, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This is available as a reprint from the Commission office at fifteen cents a copy.

The Adams County Historical Society held its first fall meeting on October 5, when J. Duncan Campbell spoke on "Military Insignia of the Civil War and Earlier Wars." On November 2 the speaker was Mr. Frank Moore, who presented to the Society the G.A.R. Memorial Book of James Dixon Post No. 83, of Fairfield, and related the story of the Adams Dragoons in the Civil War.

During the summer, the Museum of the American Swedish Historical Foundation in Philadelphia displayed a great collection of over five hundred maps, collected by Thorsten Hanson of Chicago, and sponsored by the Swedish American Line.

The Historical Society of Berks County held its 49th annual pilgrimage on October 9; a representative group from the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society joined in the tour, which included Wertz bridge, the Tulpehocken Creek region, the Governor Hiester Mansion, Bern Church, Belleman's Church, Charming Forge, Robesonia Furnace, and Conrad Weiser Park. At the dinner in the American Legion Home at Bernville, Charles C. Wolfe, President of the Berks County Historical Society, gave an address of welcome, and Hon. Daniel Hoch discussed the historical highlights of the pilgrimage.

The Bradford County Historical Society opened its 1954-1955 program on September 16, with a talk on "The Iroquois, Warriors and Lawmakers," by Dr. Erl A. Bates of Cornell University. On October 21, Judge Charles G. Webb, member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke on "The Williamson Road," and on November 18, Dr. Milton W. Hamilton, Assistant State Historian of New York, spoke on Joseph Brant.

The Bucks County Historical Society held its autumn meeting on September 25 at the Bowman's Hill Pavilion at Washington Crossing State Park. Mrs. Ann Hawkes Hutton gave a paper on "The House of Decision," the Thompson-Neely House which has been restored, and which was visited by the members. At the meeting on October 28, Paul H. Downing spoke on "Old Time Vehicles."

The historic Benner cemetery near Rock, Centre County, has been restored through the efforts of local organizations, including the Centre County Historical Society. A social studies class at State College High School began the work of clearing the plot of weeds and brush, and Rockview penitentiary officials and the Historical Society aided in completing the task. The restored cemetery was dedicated at public ceremonies sponsored by the Centre County Historical Society, on November 7.

At the meeting of the Chester County Historical Society on September 21, J. Herbert Walker of the State Department of Commerce spoke on "Pennsylvania's Thirteen Declarations of Independence." On Sunday, October 3, the Society visited Lincoln University, where Dr. Horace Mann Bond, President, spoke on "The First Hundred Years of Lincoln University." On October 19, W. W. MacElree, Esq., was the speaker, his topic being "Some Old Familiar Faces," and special tribute was given to Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, "Father of Pennsylvania Forestry," by his son, Dr. Harry A. Rothrock. The meeting on November 16 was addressed by Miss Ruthanna Hindes, Librarian for the Historical Society of Delaware, on "Delaware Silversmiths." The annual Christmas party was held on December 14.

Dr. Paul B. Cares, Professor of History, Allegheny College, addressed the Crawford County Historical Society on October 13, his subject being "Roger Alden, an Almost Forgotten Pioneer." On November 10, Dr. H. C. Winslow discussed the early medical history of Crawford County. On December 1, Miss Helen Easterwood spoke on the history of the Juvenile Court.

At the meeting of the Hamilton Library and Historical Association of Cumberland County on November 18, Frederick S. Weiser spoke on "Family Memories of Pine Grove Furnace." The Hamilton Prize Essays were read at the meeting on December 16, Miss Susan Sellers presenting "From Wilderness to Peace Church," and Frank Southard, Jr., presenting "The Hessian Guard House."

The Historical Society of Dauphin County held its annual fall pilgrimage on September 25, visiting Derry Presbyterian Church, Bindnagle's Church, the Union Canal Tunnel near Lebanon, the Tulpehocken Reformed Church, Christ Lutheran Church near Stouchsburg, Conrad Weiser Park, the Berks County Historical Society, Daniel Boone Homestead, Hopewell Village, and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Morgantown. The itinerary was worked out with great exactness, as to time and distance and places to be seen en route. Speakers at the various stops included Israel Early, Postmaster at Palmyra; Dr. Frederic K. Miller, President of Lebanon Valley College; and Walter Hugins, Superintendent at Hopewell Village.

The autumn dinner and annual meeting of the Delaware County Historical Society was held on November 10 at the Clubhouse Hotel in Chester. The annual report was read by the secretary, Mr. Newlin P. Palmer, and all the officers were re-elected. A. Glenn Mower, Assistant Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke on "Marking Historic Sites Throughout the State," giving an account of the Commission's marking program and of the many factors involved in selecting and marking sites. Judge Henry G. Sweney spoke on "The Significance of Thomas Leiper's Railway in Delaware County History." The Eastern Chapter of the Society met on September 26 in Yeadon, with Guy

C. Bell presenting "Notes on Some Old Burial Grounds in Delaware County."

The Erie County Historical Society held its fall pilgrimage on October 16, visiting Albion, Springboro, Conneautville, Linesville, the Pymatuning Dam, Andover, Ohio, and Greenville, where the group visited Thiel College for a dinner, addressed by Professor Ernest Heissenbuttel.

The Fort Le Boeuf Historical Association met in Albion on October 22. Dr. Donald Thompson, Supervising Principal of the Albion area high school, presided and related the story of education in Albion. The program also included: "The Early History of Albion," by Mrs. Agatha McGranahan; "The Story of the Bessemer Railroad in Albion," by C. E. Renick; and "Traditions of Canal Days," by Dr. C. M. Barns. There was also a conducted tour through the new school building.

At its meeting on September 28, The History Round Table viewed a film entitled "The Nazis Strike," dealing with the rise of Hitler through the Blitzkrieg against Poland. On October 26, James B. Quigley presented a critical study of Spengler and Toynbee, "The Prophecies of Doom," and on November 9, John L. Offner gave an illustrated lecture, "Ruins of the Republic and Empire of Rome." On November 22, Wallace F. Workmaster presented an illustrated lecture on the two hundred year expansion of Pittsburgh, "Through the Smoke."

"Reminiscing" was the theme of the meeting of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, held on October 1. The program of unusual stories began with an account of the founding of Blairsville, by Mrs. Howard Tomb. Then Mrs. Archibald and Clarence Stephenson discussed the killing of "a man named Simpson" by the Indians in 1777. During Pennsylvania Week the Society announced plans for a series of stories on Indiana County history, to be prepared to interest fourth grade children. Members of the Society, with the aid of the Indiana Joint High School chapter of Junior Historians, will prepare the stories. A

pictorial map of Indiana County showing places of historical significance has also been prepared.

On September 16, the Keystoneians of Harrisburg were addressed by Mr. John J. Serff of State College High School on "James Addams Beaver, Governor of the Commonwealth, 1887-1891." Dr. J. Orin Oliphant of Bucknell University was the speaker on October 21, on "Steamboats on the Susquehanna in 1826." On November 18, Donald H. Kent, Associate State Historian, spoke on "The French Occupation of Western Pennsylvania."

Recent issues of the *Papers* of the Lancaster County Historical Society include "Daniel Keller, Lancaster County Boat Builder," by M. Luther Heisey; and "A Survey of 19th Century Iron Industry in Lancaster County" and "The Mathiot Family of Lancaster County," by Jack Ward Willson Loose.

At the annual fall meeting of the Lebanon County Historical Society, the speaker was Mrs. Edna Eby Heller, food editor of the *Pennsylvania Dutchman* and author of several Pennsylvania Dutch cookbooks. Her topic was "Pennsylvania Dutch Cooking Lore." She discussed the various seasons, holidays, and special occasions, and their effect on Pennsylvania Dutch cooking—the threshing season, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, and funerals. She said that the oldtime Pennsylvania Dutch made dishes which were simple, in order to be thrifty and insure against food waste.

The Lehigh County Historical Society held its annual pilgrimage on October 16, first visiting the Troxell-Steckel House, and then going to Egypt Church, where historical talks were given by Rev. Thomas Brendle and "Pumpnickle Bill" Troxell. The members continued on to Sand Spring, Romig Mill, and Union Church at Neffs, and had dinner at the Schnecksville Grange Hall.

On October 24, the Lower Merion Historical Society held an informal tea and reception for the new president and officers at its home, Ashbridge House. A beautiful collection of water colors and maps illustrating Washington's movements in and around

Philadelphia was exhibited by the President, Dr. Douglas Macfarlan.

The formal opening and dedication of the new building of The Historical Society of Montgomery County was held on October 23. This fine new building is located at 1654 DeKalb Street, in Norristown.

From November 21 to December 4, the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society presented an important exhibition of wash-drawings, etchings, lithographs, and serigraphs by its late distinguished member, Frederick Knecht Detwiler, whose works are part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of New York and many other famous museums and art galleries. There was a reception and tea on the opening day of the exhibition.

Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger is the new President of the Pennsylvania Historical Junto, Washington, D. C. The other officers are Dr. Harry F. Weber, first vice-president; Dr. Millicent Barton Rex, second vice-president; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Jordan, secretary; Francis Coleman Rosenberger, treasurer; and Milton Rubincam, editor. Recently the Junto elected to honorary membership Dr. St. George L. Sioussat, former Chief, Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress; and Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

At the meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Junto on October 15, Dr. Dorothy Gondos told about the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* as a source of information on the history of Pennsylvania, Dr. Millicent Barton Rex discussed the purpose and content of *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*, and Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger commented on the *Monthly Bulletin* of the State Department of Internal Affairs. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, addressed the Junto's meeting on September 17.

The fall meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society was held at Pottsgrove on September 27. The speaker was Reverend Carl

T. Smith of Philadelphia, whose subject was "Early Residents and Land Transfers in Pottstown."

The newly-reorganized Sullivan County Historical Society has already established a museum in two large vaults in a county building behind the courthouse in Laporte, and hundreds of interesting relics and pictures have already been accumulated. The museum is open on Saturday afternoons.

The meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania on October 21 was addressed by Dr. Rachel McMaster Miller Hunt on the subject, "William Penn and Pennsbury Manor." On November 22, Park H. Martin spoke on "Pittsburgh, a City of New Pioneers," and on December 15, Donald H. Kent discussed "The French Advance Into the Ohio Country."

The Historical Society of York County announces that, at a quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Society on October 13, John D. Kilbourne was appointed Director in the place of the late John Lowry Ruth. At the same meeting Mrs. Alice E. Starner was appointed Associate Director, and Frank V. McConkey, Jr., was named Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Landon Charles Reisinger, who resigned in September.

The old Indiana Oak, which graces the cover of this issue of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, will soon be only a memory. Only a week after the meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association in Indiana, the tree's limbs were sawed off, and the trunk will be removed by spring. The old tree stood at the edge of the land owned by George Clymer, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Clymer's tract was adjoined by land owned by Conrad Rice, who came to Indiana in 1795. His blacksmith shop, often visited by Indians, stood within sight of the tree. Bullets of the home-molded variety have been found embedded in its wood. So passes Indiana's last living connection with the days of its beginnings.

## OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

French Azilum, Inc., was formally organized on October 18 at a dinner meeting in the David Wilmot Hotel, Towanda, attended by a large group of enthusiastic people. Directors elected were: Donald McClelland, superintendent of schools, Waverly, New York; Dr. Elsie Murray, Director of the Tioga Point Museum, Athens; Charles Lucy, Athens; Leo Wilt, Director of the Bradford County Historical Society; Staley N. Clarke, managing editor of the Towanda *Daily Review*; Mrs. Romeyn Culver, Towanda; Harold French, Troy; Donald Thomas, editor of the Canton *Independent-Sentinel*; Charles Homet, a descendant of the French settlers in Azilum; William Keeler, publisher of the Wyalusing *Rocket*; Raymond Ward, Sayre; George K. Jones, county surveyor; Mrs. Mark Hagerman, who lives on the site of Azilum; Richard H. Norton, New Albany; Thomas Reinhart, Herrickville; State Senator Albert E. Madigan, Burlington Township; Carl Driscoll, Sullivan County superintendent of schools; Floyd Vandervort, Laceyville; Gilbert S. McClintock, Wilkes-Barre; Thomas E. Byrne, managing editor of the Elmira *Sunday Telegram*; and Thomas Chaffee, Nichols, New York. Mr. Staley N. Clarke, who was general chairman of the preliminary promotion, presided over the meeting, and Mr. Leo Wilt gave a historical talk on the significance of Azilum. The purposes of the new corporation are set forth as to: "Restore the French refugee village of Azilum, which was in existence 1793-1803 . . . ; to maintain and operate the grounds and buildings for the inspection, education and enlightenment of the general public; to conduct pageants portraying the story of the village; to publish books and pamphlets on and about French Azilum; and to conduct such other activities as are necessary to accomplish the restoration, operation and maintenance of French Azilum; and further that the proposed corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incident or otherwise, to its members." At a later meeting of the board of directors, Mr. Leo Wilt was elected president, and Bernard C. Wolfe, president of the First National Bank of Towanda, was elected treasurer.

Norman B. Wilkinson, formerly Assistant State Historian on the staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is now on the research staff of the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley

Foundation of Wilmington, Delaware, which is undertaking the restoration of a number of mills along Brandywine Creek where the Du Pont Company was founded in 1802. Mr. Wilkinson made several substantial contributions to Pennsylvania's historical program, of which the most noteworthy was the compiling of *Writings on Pennsylvania History*. He completed a second enlarged version of this valuable guide before leaving the Commission service, and this is scheduled for publication in 1955.

Through the Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum, five two-year fellowships are awarded annually for work toward a Master of Arts degree in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. The study includes art, history, literature, and Museum laboratory courses, and the Fellows write theses on aspects of American culture. The Fellows currently engaged in research, and the subjects upon which they are working, are as follows:

Milo M. Naeve: John Lewis Krimmel, genre painter working in Philadelphia, 1810-1821;

G. Carroll Lindsay: John Potts (1710-1768), early Pennsylvania ironmaster and builder of Pottsgrove, Pottstown, Pennsylvania;

Raymond N. Clark, Jr.: Jonathan Gostelow (1744-1795), Philadelphia cabinet-maker;

Charles Hummel: Influence of English design books on Philadelphia furniture styles, 1760-1780.

Any information on these subjects would be greatly appreciated. Please address letters to the Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.

In September, the Erie Public Museum presented a special exhibit of relics of Perry's ships Niagara and Lawrence, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813.

A conference of historians on the writing of American Jewish history was convened by the American Jewish Historical Society of Peekskill, New York, on September 13 and 14, on the occasion of the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Jews in the United States. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, Pennsyl-

vania Historical and Museum Commission, opened the first seminar session with an address, "Local History Is Living History." Another Pennsylvania historian at the conference was Professor Thomas C. Cochran, of the University of Pennsylvania, who spoke on "Business History in the Social Sciences." The subjects covered at the conference included local and regional history, economic history, immigration, and biography.

At the meeting of the Historical Society of Michigan on August 27, Louis G. Vander Velde, vice-president of the Michigan Historical Commission, discussed *Michigan in Four Centuries*, a new history of the state written by Dr. F. Clever Bald, and published by Harper and Brothers for the Commission through the John W. Munson Michigan History Fund. Recently, the Michigan Historical Commission also published an attractive little book for children, *Your Capitol and Mine, A Story of Michigan's Government for Young Readers*, by Ellen C. Hathaway, illustrated by Marion Boyd Major.

The eighth annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was held in Chicago on October 29-30. The National Trust recently acquired the house in Washington, D. C., where President Woodrow Wilson lived, and where he died on February 3, 1924. The house and many of its furnishings were presented to the Trust by Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson, widow of the late President. She will continue to reside in the house, and it will not be open to the public during her life time.

Dr. Edward M. Riley, historian at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, has been appointed director of research for Colonial Williamsburg, succeeding Dr. A. Pierce Middleton.

The Fairmount Park Commission has undertaken the restoration of the Singley mansion opposite League Island golf course in South Philadelphia. This two-story brick house was built about 1750.

An article on "What America Owes to Fort Augusta," by Dr.

Lewis E. Theiss, appeared in the September-October issue of the *Pennsylvania S. A. R. News*.

The fine collection of Lower Susquehanna Indian relics at Indian Steps Museum, York County, have been sorted, classified, and rearranged for display by Dr. Herbert H. Beck, of Lancaster, and John Witthoft, State Anthropologist, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This task was undertaken at the request of the York County Conservation Society, which administers this Museum, and had the coöperation of the Pennsylvania Water and Power Company, which owns the fifty-acre tract where it is located. Indian Steps Museum is open to the public, free of charge, and is located on Route 124.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission recently erected five city-type historical markers in Hanover, at sites selected by the Historical Society of York County. The markers commemorate the site of Richard McAllister's tavern; the Central Hotel, which was General Kilpatrick's headquarters during the Battle of Hanover; the Old Market House site; the Battle of Hanover; and the place where Abraham Lincoln stopped on his way to deliver his address at Gettysburg.

Intercourse, Lancaster County, celebrated its two hundredth anniversary on August 19. Several rooms of the schoolhouse were turned into museums displaying Amish "stuff," historical relics, and the handiwork of local inhabitants.

*The Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* for August, 1954, included the interesting study of "Benjamin Franklin's Ohio Valley Lands" by Dr. Alfred P. James, University of Pittsburgh. It represents the final form of a paper which Dr. James presented at the State College meeting of the Association, a few years ago.

The Institut Généalogique Drouin, of 4184 St. Denis Street, Montreal, Canada, has published an attractive and informative brochure on its history, collections, and work. By photographing or microfilming, this organization has collected approximately 61

million baptismal, marriage, and death certificates, representing the complete or partial registers of more than three thousand parishes throughout Quebec, Ontario, Acadia, Maine, Vermont, New York, and Michigan. Therefore, the Institut claims to have record of every French Canadian birth, marriage, and death since 1621.

In September, an old-time Conestoga wagon, drawn by six big brown horses, traveled from Lancaster County to Wheeling, West Virginia, in reënactment of the days when Conestoga wagons were a prime means of transportation and of opening the lands to the west. At Penn Square in Lancaster, on September 10, ceremonies were held to mark the start of the trip westward. Dr. H. M. J. Klein, of Franklin and Marshall College, gave the principal address, paying tribute to the wagon's place in history; and Mr. Milton H. Ranck, chairman of the Lancaster County Committee for Commemorating the Conestoga Wagon, Mayor Kendig C. Bare, and the Rev. Wallace E. Fisher, of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, also took part in the program. In Harrisburg on September 13, there were ceremonies in the Capitol Plaza, sponsored by the Dauphin County Historical Society, with an address by Carl W. Drepperd, consulting director of the Pennsylvania Farm Museum at Landis Valley. The program in Pittsburgh on September 20 was arranged by Mayor David Lawrence, with Stanton Belfour, director of the Pittsburgh Foundation, as chairman of the committee. Dr. John W. Oliver, professor emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh, and member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, was the principal speaker. United States Senator Edward Martin spoke at the important Conestoga wagon stop-over point, Washington, Pennsylvania, on September 22.

The second annual meeting of the Ohio Valley Historic Indian Conference was held at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, on November 19-20. Among the speakers were John Witthoft, State Anthropologist, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who discussed "The Seventeenth Century Location of the Shawnee"; and William Mayer-Oakes, of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, who described "Some Early Contact Sites in

the Ohio Valley." The purpose of this conference is to encourage the study of the historic Indians of the Ohio Valley, to exchange and disseminate information in this field, and to obtain the co-operation of the various types of research concerned with these Indians. Correspondence should be addressed to the Ohio Valley Historic Indian Conference, c/o Richard C. Knopf, The Ohio State Museum, Columbus 10, Ohio.

At the Darlington Memorial Library, University of Pittsburgh, on November 22, Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, presented two awards from the American Association for State and Local History for "outstanding service to history." The first was presented to Charles Fletcher Lewis, director of The Buhl Foundation, "for contributing most significantly over an extended period to the understanding and development of local history." The second was presented to Mrs. Lois Mulkearn, librarian of the Darlington Memorial Library, for the *George Mercer Papers, Relating to the Ohio Company of Virginia*, which she compiled and edited. This, the most recent book in the Western Pennsylvania series written and published through grants from The Buhl Foundation, was cited "as the serious history which has made the most important contribution of 1954 to scholarly knowledge of the region."