

## NEWS AND COMMENT

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The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association will be held at Easton on October 14 and 15, with Lafayette College and the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society as hosts. An interesting program of papers and addresses has already been arranged by the program committee.

Because the January, 1956, issue of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY will be entirely devoted to the remarkable "Livingston Indian Records," there will be no "News and Comment" until the April issue. The present issue is rather scanty in its news of historical societies, partly, of course, because of the usual summer decline in their activities. It should be emphasized, however, that we have no sources for "News and Comment" other than what the historical societies and interested persons may send in to us. Until a few months ago, we were able to draw from historical clippings supplied by the State Newspaper Clipping Bureau to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, but that service has been discontinued. There is no way in which we can get news about what your society is doing unless you write and tell us or send clippings.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies has just published its 1955 *Year Book*, the fiftieth anniversary edition. The eighty pages are packed with information about the libraries, museums, publications, special activities, general services, officers, and membership of more than a hundred historical organizations of the Keystone State. Here is the over-all picture of organized historical interests in Pennsylvania. Where "News and Comment" can only sample and give current news as it comes to hand, the *Year Book* gives brief reports from all the societies.

A fine scale model of the ship *Kalmar Nyckel*, which brought the first Swedish settlers to the banks of the Delaware, was presented to the American Swedish Historical Foundation by the Thordén lines at the celebration of the maiden arrival in Philadelphia of the new tanker *Josefina Thordén*. A model of the tanker was also presented at a luncheon held at the Museum. A Dalecarlian peasant table from about 1650, the time of the colony of New Sweden, has also been presented to the Foundation by the Swedish government and Prime Minister Tage Erlander, through the good offices of the Nordiska Museet in Stockholm and of its head, Dr. Gösta Berg. The table is temporarily but appropriately serving as a stand for the *Kalmar Nyckel*.

The Chester County Historical Society held a Field Day on Saturday, July 30, visiting the Warner Bros. Quarry and Sugarman's Quarry, traveling through Valley Forge Park, and finally stopping at the John J. Audubon Home, where a picnic supper was held.

The Delaware County Historical Society held its spring dinner meeting on May 11, when Dr. Arthur D. Graeff spoke on "The Influence of Early Pennsylvania German Settlers." The Eastern Chapter of the Society met on May 8 in Lansdowne, with C. Wilfred Conard, Esq., speaking on "Play and Sport in Lansdowne before 1900." On June 5, Eastern Chapter members toured Brandywine Battlefield Park, visiting the recently rebuilt Washington House and the old Gilpin house. The quarterly *Bulletin* of the Society now features a column for junior readers.

The Donora Historical Society held a historical pilgrimage to Fort Mifflin on June 14. This organization, of which R. E. Koehler is president, has issued an attractive little yearbook to report its activities.

The Erie County Historical Society held a pilgrimage to the oil country on June 18. The first stop was at Drake Well Memorial Park and the Drake Museum near Titusville. Mr. Walter Jack then led the group on a tour of the points of interest in Venango County. The trip concluded with dinner at the Colonel Drake Hotel in Titusville.

On September 10, the Fort Le Boeuf Historical Association held a historical tour, first visiting the McClurg House, headquarters of the Chautauqua County Historical Society, in Westfield, New York. The group continued to the home of Clayburne B. Sampson, east of Chautauqua Lake, and then crossed the Lake on the Bemus Point ferry and went on to Sherman, New York, where they visited the Yorkers' Museum, developed by historically-minded students of the Sherman schools.

The first joint meeting of the Historical Societies of Indiana, Westmoreland, and Cambria Counties was held in Memorial Hall in Indiana on June 3. Robert F. Pruner, a director of the Cambria County Historical Society, gave an address on "The Kittanning Path." Arthur Schiller, president of the Westmoreland County society, and Henry A. Gooderham, president of the Cambria County organization, led a discussion concerning a suitable observance of the two hundredth anniversary of Col. Armstrong's expedition to destroy the Indian town of Kittanning in 1756.

Considerable interest is being aroused with regard to this proposed celebration, according to Mrs. Frances Strong Helman, executive director of the Indiana County society. Miss Ferne McHenry, of the Daughters of American Colonists chapter in Indiana, is compiling a list of the present-day communities that are on or near the old Kittanning Path, route of the Armstrong expedition. It is hoped that a series of celebrations can be encouraged, all the way from Shirleysburg to Kittanning.

The annual pilgrimage of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County was held on July 20, when the members visited Bushy Run Battlefield, near Jeannette, in Westmoreland County. The James Le Tort Chapter, Daughters of American Colonists, joined in the pilgrimage. The society's annual dinner meeting was held on September 2, at Washington Presbyterian Church. Clarence D. Stephenson discussed the highlights of the Armstrong expedition, and told of the plans for the celebration next summer.

The latest number of the *Papers Read Before the Lancaster County Historical Society*, Volume LIX, No. 2, is "Susquehanna Islands in Lancaster County," by M. Luther Heisey.

The Lower Merion Historical Society has erected a historical marker on the front lawn of the birthplace of General Henry H. Arnold, head of the Army Air Corps from 1938 to 1946. The home is located in Gladwyne, Lower Merion Township.

The Mifflin County Historical Society is making plans for the observance of the two hundredth anniversary of Fort Granville, built in the winter of 1755-1756, and besieged and burned by the French and Indians, July 30, 1756. John W. Wilson is general chairman for the celebration. The Society is also publishing a booklet by George Wirt on the life and work of Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, "Father of Pennsylvania Forestry," for distribution in schools and among local organizations to draw attention to the career of this noted Mifflin Countian.

The April, 1955, issue of *The Bulletin* of the Historical Society of Montgomery County contains articles on "The Turnpikes of Pennsylvania," by Frederick C. Sweinhart, and "The Old Dutch Church in Lower Merion," by Charles R. Barker, as well as a note on the last painting of Thomas Hovenden, and a compilation of "Deaths in the Skippack Region."

The July, 1955, issue of *Now and Then*, quarterly magazine of the Muncy Historical Society, has an article by James P. Bressler on "Indian Occupations of the Brock Farm Area," as well as many interesting notes and letters to the editor, Dr. T. Kenneth Wood.

The Pennsylvania Historical Junto, Washington, D. C., has announced its fall program. On September 16, Dr. George Johnson, Professor of Agricultural Extension, Pennsylvania State University, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Changing Scene in Rural Pennsylvania, 1855-1955." On October 21, Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, head of the history department, Gettysburg College, spoke on "Religion in Colonial Pennsylvania." On November 18, the speaker will be Dr. Richard H. Shryock, Director, Institute of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, and the subject, "The Medical Tradition in Philadelphia."

The members of the Pottstown Historical Society held a historical pilgrimage on Saturday, October 1. The first stop was at Pennsbury Manor, where the superintendent, Floyd Platt, spoke on William Penn and Pennsbury, and took the group on a tour of the manor house and gardens. Then the tour continued to Washington Crossing Park and Bowman's Hill, where G. Edwin Brumbaugh spoke about the restored Thompson-Neely House.

Pennsylvania's newest historical society is The King of Prussia Historical Society, organized to save, preserve, and restore the historic King of Prussia Inn. It has established a fund-raising committee and a restoration committee.

An exhibit of maps and pictures of the Pennsylvania campaign of 1777-1778, collected by Dr. Douglas Macfarlan, is on display at the Washington Memorial Museum of the Valley Forge Historical Society, at Valley Forge. Various maps show American and British movements, the Battle of the Brandywine, the "Paoli Massacre," the Battle of Germantown, Valley Forge, and the City of Philadelphia under British occupation. Sketches of historic houses related to the campaign, and scenes of Valley Forge itself, help to visualize this critical period of American and Pennsylvania history.

The Warren County Historical Society on July 24 held a historical tour of Franklin, with Mr. Joseph Riesenman, Jr., as their guide and lecturer.

The fourteenth annual historical tour conducted by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh Summer Sessions was a boat trip on the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh to Kittanning, on Saturday, July 23. The expedition left the Allegheny River Wharf at 8:30 a.m., cruising upriver through five locks to Lock No. 7 at Kittanning. Captain Frederic K. Way was aboard to explain historic and scenic points of interest. In the evening there was a dinner at the Kittanning Country Club, with an address on "Historic Armstrong County," by Harry C. Golden, Esq., of the Armstrong County Historical Society. The group returned by bus to Pittsburgh.

## OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

In the past few months, death has removed several outstanding figures in the field of Pennsylvania history. Franklin F. Holbrook, librarian of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and editor of the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, died on August 20, the same day as Dr. Russell J. Ferguson, the head of the history department of the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Holbrook was born in Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Minnesota, and was on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society and of the Minnesota War Records Department before he came to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, first as assistant director, later as director, and finally as librarian and editor. He was also active in the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, and its acting director in 1935-1936. The editors of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY sincerely regret this loss to Western Pennsylvania's historical magazine and historical activities.

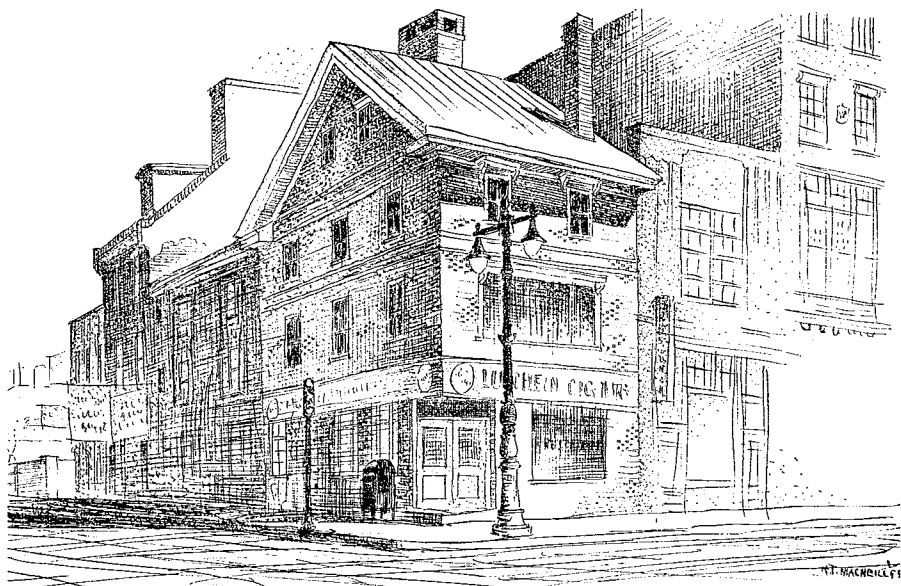
A similar loss was suffered in Philadelphia on July 8, with the death of Howard W. Elkinton, Executive Director of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, and editor of *The American-German Review*. His many-sided career ranged into relief and rehabilitation work with the American Friends Service Committee and related organizations after both World Wars, activity in the Society of Friends, and a position with the Philadelphia Quartz Company. As executive director of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation since 1946, he took a keen interest in the development of Independence National Park in the area around the Old Custom House, headquarters of the Foundation. This year he was active in planning and carrying out the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Foundation, with luncheon and dinner meetings, special editorials on the meaning of freedom, and the publication of a history of the Foundation. His was a life of service, not only to Pennsylvania, but to the nation and the world.

Harrisburg lost an enthusiastic and indefatigable proponent of state and local history in John C. Dight, who passed away on August 31. Long active in politics and business, and at one time Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs, Mr. Dight was the founder and president of the Keystoneans, Harrisburg's unusual dining

club which meets once a month to hear talks on Pennsylvania history.

The death of Frank M. Root, of Pittsburgh, on June 24, marks the loss of a well-known and respected pioneer in the field of records management and business archives. Until a few years ago, Mr. Root was head of the permanent records division of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and also served the Hoover Commission in Washington. He had many close friends among the officers and members of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, and his grandson, Wallace F. Workmaster, is a member of the Council.

The Stephen Moylan House at Fourth and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, was the appropriate subject of the hundredth historical landmark calendar issued by the Stephen Moylan Press, Whitford. Begun eight years ago to advertise the press, these calendar reproductions of pen and ink sketches by the architect and artist Henry T. MacNeill have depicted historic buildings in southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Mrs. Mac-



*Livert - Todd - Moylan House*

*Philadelphia*

Neill (Aimee Junker MacNeill) does the research and writing for the historical accounts on the reverse of each calendar card, while son Stephen is the printer. Many of the engravings for these cards have, by courtesy of the Stephen Moylan Press, graced the covers of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, and we are therefore pleased to call special attention to the hundredth card.

The Stephen Moylan House, in the Federal section of the Independence National Park development, was built by Jonathan Dilworth about 1775, and later came into the possession of John Todd, Jr., the first husband of Dolly Madison. After Todd's death, his widow married James Madison, who leased the house to Stephen Moylan as a home and an office from 1796 until 1807. In 1817 the property was deeded to John Payne Todd, Dolly's son by her first marriage.

Stephen Moylan, born in Cork, Ireland, in 1737, came to Philadelphia in 1768, and was a prosperous merchant. During the American Revolution, he served under Washington in important posts from Cambridge to Yorktown, and was brevetted Brigadier General in November, 1783. In 1792 he became Register and Recorder of Chester County, and in 1793 Major General of militia in Chester and Delaware counties. The same year he was made Commissioner of Loans in Philadelphia. He was first president of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, and before 1800 a director of the pioneer "Dancing Assembly" of Philadelphia. He died in 1811, and was buried in Saint Mary's churchyard.

Because it was the home of their first president, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick are taking a special interest in the restoration and development of the Stephen Moylan House. They used the sketch and Mrs. MacNeill's historical material for a special brochure-letter which was sent to all the members of the society, urging that the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick seek the custodianship of this historic house.

The Conrad Weiser Family Association held ceremonies at the home and grave of Conrad Weiser, at Conrad Weiser Memorial Park, Womelsdorf, on August 7. Mr. Paul A. Weiser presided, and Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace, editor of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, and biographer of Weiser and the Muhlenbergs, extended greet-



ings on behalf of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The graves of Conrad Weiser and his wife were decorated by John Conrad Weiser and Conrad Weiser, who are eighth generation descendants of the great pioneer.

The North Carolina Department of Archives and History has just been made responsible for developing a program of historic site preservation in that state. A total of \$48,586 was made available in the 1955-1957 biennium for some specific places—battle-grounds, historic houses, a covered bridge, and an Indian mound. From their announcement it would appear that the North Carolina historical agency is just entering a field where its Pennsylvania equivalent has long been active.

The next major publication of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will be *The Industrial Worker in Pennsylvania, 1800-1840*, by Dr. William A. Sullivan, of Michigan State University. Again, as with its publications on early political history, commerce, and agriculture, the Commission is making historical information available in a field where it had hitherto been scarce. This book will be issued sometime in the fall.

The Borough of Ambridge celebrated its Golden Jubilee from June 26 through July 4, with emphasis on Old Economy, the home of the famous Harmony Society, which was the nucleus from which present Ambridge grew. This State historical property, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, was featured in two pages of pictures in the Ambridge *Daily Citizen* on June 21, with the caption, "Old Economy, Ambridge's historical shrine, showed the way with accent on industry."

The Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, of Franklin and Marshall College, held the fifth annual Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Festival at Kutztown from June 30 to July 4, with food, craft shops, exhibits of heirlooms, antiques and folk art, and entertaining program. A special feature was a colonial cherry fair of 1776, with courthouse and everything typical of a colonial fair. In conjunction with the festival, the Four Annual Seminars on the

folk culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch country were held on July 1 to 4. Leading scholars in various phases of Pennsylvania Dutch life conducted the seminars.

The Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center has just announced a major publication, *The Pennsylvania Barn*, the first book on the barn ever published in America. It will have more than two hundred illustrations, and the price will be \$2.00 a copy.

Plans are already being made for the celebration of the sesqui-centennial of Shinglehouse, Potter County, in July of 1956. A *History of Shinglehouse* is now in preparation by F. W. Bliss and Mrs. Grace Herrick, for publication at that time.

C. T. Troy, of Wyomissing, has published an interesting and attractive map of Bradford County, entitled "Indian Trails and Frontier Tales," which is sold by mail for one dollar.

The celebration at Independence Hall on July Fourth included the Official Dedication of Independence Mall. The speaker for the occasion was Honorable Alben W. Barkley, United States Senator from Kentucky.

In August the historical pageant, "Buckskin and Velvet," was presented by French Azilum, Inc., in a temporary amphitheater on the site of the French refugee village in Bradford County. The Charter Membership Drive, which was concluded in April, netted the Corporation almost \$7,000 with which to begin the work of restoration. Signs have been placed at various points of interest on the village site, as well as directional signs on the roads leading to French Azilum. The first log house on the site has been completed, and is used for the display of the model of Azilum village, for the sale of postal cards, books, maps, and souvenirs, and as an information center.

Coming centenaries of past events cast their shadows before, as is shown by the formation of a Civil War Book Club under the auspices of Ralph G. Newman, proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago. In recent years, from twenty-five to fifty new books on the Civil War have been coming from the

presses annually, and more can be expected as 1961-1965 draws nearer. This new book club offers interested readers the opportunity to profit by the selections made by five leading historians, Bruce Catton, Stanley F. Horn, Allan Nevins, Benjamin P. Thomas, and Bell I. Wiley; and also to obtain autographed first editions.

The new "Canoe Place Park" was dedicated at Cherry Tree on August 20, together with a monument erected by R. Dudley Tonkin to the memory of rafting days in Pennsylvania. The Park was recently created by Cherry Tree Borough at the corner of the famous Indian Purchase of 1768, and at the head of canoe navigation for the West Branch system. The master of ceremonies was Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace, editor of *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*, and the principal speaker was Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian. Twenty old-time raftsmen, all 85 years of age or over, were introduced by Mr. Tonkin.