

## NEWS AND COMMENT

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Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The speaker at the December 3 meeting of the Adams County Historical Society was Jacob M. Sheads, who talked on "A Historic House on the Seminary Campus." On January 14 members of the Society heard two papers prepared by Gettysburg High School students—one by Sara Snyder on the Henry Spangler farm and one by Nancy Eiker on the Sherfy family and farm. The February 4 meeting heard George F. Eberhart speak on "Hotel Operation and Guests in the Early 1900's." J. M. Sheads of Gettysburg was elected president of the Society in January. The genealogical committee of the Society has been making a card file of gravestones, and hopes eventually to have a list covering all cemeteries in the county.

The American Swedish Historical Foundation has resumed publication of its *Yearbook*, replacing the quarterly *Chronicle* of recent years. The American Swedish Historical Museum opened its new library on September 28, 1957. The library was donated by Walter G. Nord, president of the Foundation, in memory of his brother, Herman J. Nord.

The Armstrong Trail Society held its first meeting at Ebensburg on December 5, 1957, where it adopted a constitution and by-laws. Dedicated to locating and restoring as far as possible the line of march of the Armstrong expedition of 1756, the Society will have an executive board, which will include a vice president from Huntingdon, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, and Armstrong counties. These vice presidents will head the county units of the Society. The president is Floyd G. Hoenstine of Hollidaysburg.

The Historical Society of Berks County held a "Jubilee Meeting" on December 15, 1957, to celebrate payment of its building debt. The mortgage was burned, and Dr. Lee M. Erdman spoke

on the history of the Society building. The annual meeting on January 14 was addressed by Dr. John W. Livingood on "Traditions of Charles Evans Cemetery." On February 20 the annual combined dinner of the Society with the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution was held at the Society. The speaker was Dr. Charles E. Kistler of Albright College, who spoke on "Catharine of Russia, Friend of the American Revolution."

The Blair County Historical Society held a dinner at Altoona on January 30 and heard a talk by William Robert Fuoss of Tyrone. The Society has added seventy-one new members in recent months.

The Bradford County Historical Society, with a present membership of more than a thousand, is making a drive to add a thousand new members to its rolls. The February issue of its magazine, the *Settler*, featured Indian material.

Roy R. Fuller spoke to the Chester County Historical Society on February 18 on "The Covered Bridges of Chester County." The talk was illustrated by three-dimensional slides. The March meeting heard a talk on "Staffordshire," and the April meeting, one on "Swayne and His Sculpture."

The Columbia County Historical Society has prepared a detailed index of the records of the Writers' Project for Columbia County which are deposited with the Society and with the libraries at Berwick and Bloomsburg. The Society has been preparing exhibits from its collections and has begun to circulate the exhibits on loan to a number of towns in the county.

"The Reynolds House in Meadville" was discussed by Mrs. H. R. Walrath at the January 16 meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society.

At its meeting on January 20 the Dauphin County Historical Society heard W. Carl Sprout speak on "Harrisburg, School of Journalism." At the March 17 meeting Mr. Joseph Kindig of York gave an illustrated lecture on antique furniture.

The Eastern Chapter of the Delaware County Historical Society met in Upper Darby on January 26. Guy C. Bell spoke on "Land Title Records" and Mrs. E. V. Paschall on "Genealogical Records" as a part of a discussion on sources for historical research.

The Erie County Historical Society has issued a new number of its *Erie County Historical Primer*. The *Primer* is issued each spring, with each number covering Erie County history during a different chronological period. The Society has begun the preparation of a series of slides on historic sites.

The Germantown Historical Society at the end of 1957 had 769 members, the largest total in its history. At its meeting on January 16 Dr. S. K. Stevens, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke on "The Nation's Heritage in Its Local Setting." Earle W. Newton, director of the Commission's Bureau of Museums, Historic Sites, and Properties, addressed the Society on February 20 on "Re-Creating the American Heritage." The March 20 meeting heard Earl J. Heydinger talk on "The Schuylkill, Life Line to Valley Forge."

The History Round Table at Pennsylvania State University on December 3 heard Dr. John E. Pixton speak on "Berlin: City in Conflict." The meeting on December 17 featured a film of early German triumphs in World War II, and that of February 11 centered about colored movies on "The Renaissance" and "Leonardo da Vinci."

The winter meeting of the Huntingdon County Historical Society heard Mr. George Daubenspeck speak on the "History of the J. C. Blair Company." This pioneer paper company in the region is of interest as the originator of the paper tablet for school use. The Society has been busy decorating its new rooms, adding museum displays, and acquiring historical materials, including a considerable amount on the Amish presented by Mrs. Joseph W. Yoder.

New officers for the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County include: H. C. Cunningham, president; James G.

Kehew, vice president; Mrs. Gladys B. Penrod, recording secretary; Miss Thelma Bianco, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ralph R. Roth, treasurer; Rogers Ranking, executive director; and Blaine Helman, curator. Mrs. Frances Strong Helman is in charge of genealogical records. The Society held its February meeting in the Indiana County courthouse. The speakers were County Commissioner Dee Miller and Sheriff Paul Jeffries.

Reverend Wallace E. Fisher spoke on December 6, 1957, to the Lancaster County Historical Society on "The Protestant Church at Mid-Twentieth Century." Charles H. Holzinger of Franklin and Marshall College on January 3 discussed the "Susquehannock Indians." On February 7 John Kent Tilton, director of the Scalumandre Museum of Textiles, gave an illustrated talk on the textiles used in refurbishing national colonial shrines. The Society is co-operating with the Junior League in Lancaster in its project to restore "Rockford," home of Revolutionary General Edward Hand.

The speaker at the January 22 meeting of the Lehigh County Historical Society was Ruth M. Kistler, who spoke on "William Allen, Pennsylvania Loyalist." The Society is making plans for the celebration of Allentown's bicentennial in 1962. A planning committee has already been appointed by the mayor.

The Lycoming County Historical Society held its "Hobby Night" on January 9. Topics covered included the cleaning of old paintings, the restoring of antique furniture, the weaving of cloth and baskets, and collections of beaded purses, paintings of covered bridges, arrow heads, Pennsylvania German birth certificates, and antique rifles. The meeting on February 13 heard Professor Walter Boyer of Pennsylvania State University speak on "Pennsylvania Dutch Culture." On March 6 a talk on the history of the Susquehanna Valley was presented. The speaker on April 3 was Dr. Lewis Theiss of Bucknell University, who discussed "Fort Augusta."

The December 4 meeting of the McKean County Historical Society was made notable by the presentation of busts of two of the county's famous residents—General Thomas L. Kane of the Civil

War "Bucktails" and Senator Lewis Emery, Jr., founder of the Bradford oil field. The busts will be placed in the historical museum at the courthouse in Smethport. Speakers for the evening included E. G. Potter of Smethport and Elisha Kent Kane, grandson of General Kane.

The Mifflin County Historical Society held its annual meeting and dinner on January 16. The speaker was Professor Walter E. Boyer of Pennsylvania State University, who addressed the members on "Our State Also Sings in Pennsylvania German."

Dr. John C. Appel was elected president of the Monroe County Historical Society for a three-year term. The Society held its annual dinner meeting on January 30 and heard Dr. Kurt Wimer of East Stroudsburg State Teachers College speak on "Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations."

The annual meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County was held on February 22. The address was delivered by Dr. John Joseph Stoudt, who spoke on "The Poetry of the American Revolution: A Preliminary Study."

Dr. Eugene P. Bertin, president of the Muncy Historical Society and Museum, spoke on "Local History is Our Line" at the January 17 meeting of the Society. Other recent speakers and their topics were: February 21, Dr. Lester G. Shannon, "Lutheranism in Lycoming County"; March 21, John Budd Lamade, "Stiegel Glass"; and April 28, Karl B. Reichard, "The Great Milton Fire of 1880."

The Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society held an open house for its newly renovated quarters as a part of its annual meeting on January 31. A paper on "Changing Patterns in Easton," prepared by Dr. Walter C. G. Veit, past president of the Society, was read by Dr. Albert Gendebein because of Dr. Veit's illness.

Recent speakers for the Northumberland County Historical Society included the following: February 14, John H. Carter, "Alexander McKee, Our Most Notorious Tory"; March 14, John

B. Deans, "John Durkee, Leader of the Connecticut Settlers Along the West Branch"; and April 11, William M. Schnure, "Early Postal Routes of Our Valley."

Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger was elected president of the Pennsylvania German Society to succeed the late William S. Troxell. The Society has authorized the publication of volumes on Pennsylvania German folk songs, broadsides, sympathy medicines, and folk tales.

The Pennsylvania Historical Junto in Washington, D. C., has had an excellent program on Pennsylvania culture during the winter and early spring. The list of speakers since November includes: November 15, Dean William L. Turner of George Washington University, "The Charity School, the Academy, and the College of Colonial Philadelphia"; January 17, Alice Lee Parker of the Library of Congress, "Joseph Pennell, Philadelphia Artist"; February 21, Pierson Underwood, "Three Centuries of Pennsylvania Music"; March 15, Dr. F. P. Stocker of the Moravian Church, "The Moravians in Pennsylvania, 1741-1958"; and April 18, Professor Charles Coleman Sellers of Dickinson College, "Charles Willson Peale and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts." The closing program on May 16 will be a talk on "The Harmony Society" by Lawrence Thurman, curator of Old Economy at Ambridge.

The meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on January 31 was addressed by John L. Cotter, regional archaeologist for the National Park Service in Philadelphia, who gave an illustrated lecture on "Unearthing the Real Jamestown: Archaeological Facts *versus* Traditional Fiction."

The Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America is preparing an edition of Hannah Penn's letters. This will be published in the spring.

The sixty-first annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America was held at the Union League in Philadelphia on January 14. The speaker was Frederick Swing Crispin, who talked on "Just What and Why Are We."

The Perry County Historical Society at its meeting on November 25 saw the film, "Old-Time Christmas Customs in Pennsylvania," prepared by the staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The annual meeting of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks was held on January 23 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The principal address was given by John Codman, chairman of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission, who spoke on "Lessons Learned in Preserving Historic Districts."

The Pottstown Historical Society at its January meeting viewed three motion pictures of historic Virginia houses. On April 16 the Society sponsored a benefit motion picture at the Strand Theater to raise money for Pottsgrove mansion.

The Presbyterian Historical Society has recently acquired 218 microfilm reels of correspondence covering the activities of missionaries under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions since 1838. The correspondence covers fourteen countries and has information on medical education and service, industrial education, agricultural education, and the counseling of foreign governments. These may be studied by any qualified person at the library of the Society in Philadelphia.

The speaker at the January 23 meeting of the Shippensburg Historical Society was Samuel Daihl, who spoke on the Civil War as it affected Shippensburg. The Society has been very active in the project for the Historical Room in the new public library.

The Snyder County Historical Society at its November meeting heard John H. Carter of the Northumberland County Historical Society speak on "History Passed This Way." The January meeting heard an address on the Pennsylvania German language by E. L. Swartzlander.

The *Quarterly* of the Tredyffrin Easttown History Club for October, 1957, carries articles on St. Monica's Church, the Royer-Greaves School for the Blind, and the American Non-Gran Bronze Company.

The Valley Forge Historical Society is working for the establishment of a national Valley Forge Day to conclude a Valley Forge Week. The museum sponsored by the Society has adopted a policy of making loans of materials for exhibit purposes to other museums and organizations. The materials lent consist of items not directly associated with the Valley Forge area. Loans have already been made to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, the University of Pennsylvania Museum, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The fourth lecture of the season at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania was delivered on January 20 by Dr. Perry Epler Gresham, president of Bethany College, who spoke on "A Pioneer Scotch-Irishman in Western Pennsylvania," a discussion of the life and career of Alexander Campbell and his father Thomas Campbell. Frank C. Harper of Pittsburgh gave the fifth lecture on February 17, speaking on "The Distinctive Significance of Pittsburgh in American History."

The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society celebrated its one hundredth anniversary on February 11, 1958, with a banquet at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. Miss Frances Dorrance gave a brief summary of the activities of the Society during that period, and the main address was delivered by Dr. S. K. Stevens, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who spoke on "Historical Societies and the American Heritage." After the banquet, an open house was held to dedicate the newly redecorated "Centennial Room" of the Society, which will be used for meetings, additional exhibits, and a library on Indians, the Civil War, and general history. At the open house, the Wilkes-Barre Junior League presented to the Society four small portable dioramas on Wyoming Valley history.

The Society has been active in other respects. It has received from the County Prothonotary's office Continuance Dockets Nos. 1 and 2, dating from September, 1787; it began its second annual lecture series in February; and it is co-operating with the Muncy Historical Society and Museum, the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, the Bradford County Historical Society, the Columbia County Historical Society, the Lackawanna



County Historical Society, and other organizations in forming a regional historical association for northeastern Pennsylvania.

## COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Pennsylvanians participating in the meeting of the American Historical Association in New York, December 28-30, 1957, included Frederick B. Tolles of Swarthmore College, Felix Gilbert of Bryn Mawr College, and Roy F. Nichols and Everett S. Lee of the University of Pennsylvania.

John A. Lukacs, associate professor at Chestnut Hill College, has received a grant from the RELM-Earhart Foundation to enable him to complete a book on historiography. The College historical lectures for the academic year included the following: October 7, Erik Leddihn, "Catholic-Lutheran Relations in Germany"; and February 3, Major General Bela Kiraly, "Soviet Central Europe and the Middle East." Two juniors in history have gone to the University of Vienna for the second semester under the auspices of the Institute of European Studies.

The history faculty at Duquesne University has appointed Frank C. Smith to its staff in the field of Latin-American history. Professor Robert W. Reichert was on leave for the first semester doing historical research in Europe. The department has been televising its American history course on a closed circuit this year, using an intercommunication system to permit class participation. It reports favorable results. The Phi Alpha Theta chapter at the University has a full schedule of programs for the year, and the chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, national social studies society, has been reactivated. The department sponsors the publication of the *Duquesne Review*, a quarterly devoted to the social studies.

Professor Alfred D. Sumberg of the social studies department at East Stroudsburg State Teachers College is advising the local chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, honorary educational fraternity, in its project of writing the history of the College.

At Lafayette College, Albert W. Gendebein was on sabbatical

leave during the first semester studying American relations with the Kingdom of Sardinia. Edwin B. Coddington is now on leave doing research on the Civil War.

Alexander Baltzly, formerly professor of history at New York University, is visiting lecturer in the Development of Western Civilization for the second semester at Lehigh University.

Ralph S. Shay has been appointed acting chairman of the department of history at Lebanon Valley College to succeed Mrs. Maud P. Laughlin. He is also acting director of the division of social studies.

At Lincoln University, Professor Thomas M. Jones, chairman of the department of history, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the University. Dwight W. Morrow, Jr., who received his doctorate from Harvard in the spring, has been promoted to assistant professor in the department.

Moravian College held a sesquicentennial symposium on March 7-8, 1958, centering about the themes of colonial higher education, early Moravian music, and colonial portraiture. A program of Moravian music was presented on both Friday and Saturday evenings, and Richard Schantz, head of the College music department, spoke at one session on "European Influences on Colonial Moravian Composers." Two sessions were devoted to "The Impact of Denominational Influences on Colonial Higher Education," with the following speakers participating: Daniel R. Gilbert of Amherst College, Mabel Haller of Philadelphia, Howard H. Brinton of Pendle Hill Graduate School of Religion and Social Studies, Clifford K. Shipton of the American Antiquarian Society and Harvard University, and A. Pierce Middleton, former director of research at Colonial Williamsburg.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Richard S. Dunn of the University of Michigan has been appointed assistant professor in American colonial history, and Jeannette P. Nichols has been appointed interim associate professor in American economic his-

tory. Wallace E. Davies, who has been promoted to associate professor, is on leave to lecture at the University of Manchester. William Charvat, professor of English at Ohio State University, has been appointed Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach Fellow in Bibliography for 1957-1958. He will deliver a series of three lectures in April on "Literary Publishing in America, 1790-1850."

Professor George B. Fowler of the history department at the University of Pittsburgh is on sabbatical leave for the second semester to serve as visiting professor at the Max-Planck Institut, University of Gottingen.

Reverend L. Berkeley Kines, S.J., associate professor of history at Saint Joseph's College, has been elected president of the Jesuit Historical Society for 1958.

Millersville State Teachers College has appointed George Young to the faculty as professor of history and social studies for the second semester. Professor Virginia Beck is on sabbatical leave and will make a world tour. The College will be host on May 3 to the annual spring meeting of the Southern Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies.

Slippery Rock State Teachers College served as host to the spring meeting of the Midwestern Council for the Social Studies on March 28, 1958. Speakers included Howard H. Cummings of the United States Office of Education and Miss Marian B. Jordan, executive secretary of the Pittsburgh branch of N.A.A.C.P. Dr. Harold Wieand, former chairman of the department of social studies, is on sabbatical leave for the second semester. Miss Blanche Miller has been appointed associate professor of history and economics. The department sponsored a lecture by Fahmi Alem on February 3 on "The Arab Viewpoint."

Professor James A. Barnes of the history department at Temple University was on sabbatical leave for the first semester. He completed the editing of the first volume of the diary of Dr. Samuel Telman Boyer, naval surgeon during the Civil War, and is currently working on a study of America in the twentieth century.

Dr. John Stigall of the department spent the summer in Europe preparing the first critical edition of *De vita et moribus philosophorum*, a fourteenth-century treatise by Walter Burley.

John A. Carpenter has been appointed assistant professor of history at Washington and Jefferson College. Walter S. Sanderlin has been promoted to professor. Williams M. Mitchell, chairman of the department, is the author of *The Rise of the Revolutionary Party in the English House of Commons, 1603-1629*, published in November, 1957, by the Columbia University Press.

Professor James Duran of Westminster College has received a grant from the American Philosophical Society for the purchase of microfilmed Russian source materials to be used in research for his biography of Lev Alexandrovich Tikhomirov.

Dr. Hoh-Cheung Mui of the history department of Wilkes College and Mrs. Mui of the sociology department returned for the second semester after six months of research in England.

### OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

Dr. William Appleton Aiken, professor of history at Lehigh University, died on September 26, 1957, at the age of fifty.

A. Glenn Mower, chief of the Division of Historic Sites and Properties of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, died on February 10.

Bishop Samuel H. Gapp, archivist of the Moravian Church in America, retired from this position on January 1, 1958. He was succeeded by Bishop Kenneth G. Hamilton.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has approved the publication of a book by Charles M. Snyder of Oswego State Teachers College to be called "The Jacksonian Heritage: Pennsylvania Politics, 1833-1847."

The Colonial Restoration Association of York and York County was revived on February 3, 1958. Dormant for more than a year,

the Association is promoting the restoration of the Cookes House, traditionally occupied by Thomas Paine, and of the Gates House on West Market Street.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has recently asquired several collections of interesting material. The Division of Research and Publications has received from Cecil C. Fulton, Jr., of Dover, Delaware, the J. Alexander Fulton Collection. This includes a complete file of the Kittanning *Mentor*, a Peace Democratic paper, from December, 1862, to July, 1864, only one number of which is listed by Winifred Gregory in the *Union List of Newspapers*; one book of newspaper clippings; and approximately six hundred letters, a great number of which are highly valuable for Democratic politics in Pennsylvania during the 1850's. The Division of Public Records has added a series of records covering the toll bridges at Harrisburg from 1812, and has also acquired a volume of fifty-nine hand-drawn maps of the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal based on a survey of 1868.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has recently acquired the Levi E. Yoder Collection and an important portion of the Wilbur H. Oda Collection. With the Henry S. Borneman Collection of Pennsylvania German material, which was acquired a little over two years ago, the Free Library probably has the largest holdings in this field of any public institution. The Yoder Collection includes 275 fraktur, 60 printed certificates, 8 early manuscript Mennonite hymnals with fraktur bookplates, and 25 early imprints with fraktur bookplates. From the Oda Collection, the Library selected a group of six hundred imprints and a half dozen small manuscript volumes. These additions added thirteen additional centers of German printing to the forty-one already represented in the Library collections, and they also included eleven imprints older than those previously acquired. Four examples of fraktur from the collections will be selected by the State Department for exhibit at the Brussels World Fair.

The fifth annual summer Institute on Historical and Archival Management will be offered by Radcliffe College, with the co-

operation of the history department at Harvard University, from June 23 through August 1, 1958. The course will be directed by Lester J. Cappon, director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture. Two full-tuition scholarships of \$200 each are available. Address inquiries to the Institute, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

Supplement II of the *Dictionary of American Biography* will be published by Charles Scribner's Sons in May. Edited by Robert L. Schuyler and Edward T. James, this volume includes 585 biographical articles covering subjects who died from 1936-1940 inclusive. The American Council of Learned Societies is sponsoring the publication of a one-volume *Concise Dictionary of American Biography*, which will summarize the larger work with its two supplements.

D. J. P. Richards, headmaster of Cadoxton Boys' Secondary School, Cadoxton, Barry, Glamorgan, Wales, has requested that the members of the Pennsylvania Historical Association aid in creating an exhibit on "Wales and America" to be held at the school in June. Mr. Richards writes, "We are anxious to discover the location and activities of Welsh people, and those of Welsh descent, now resident in the U. S. A., Canada or South America. . . . It would aid us a great deal, if you could find means to forward to us anything relating to Welsh people who have settled in your area. We have in mind such things as posters, programmes, dinner cards, pictures, etc., relating to the activities of Welsh Societies. With regard to the individual Welsh people, we would be very pleased to have as much information as possible regarding their occupations and activities." Anyone having such material is requested to forward it directly to Mr. Richards.