

# THE TWENTY-EIGHTH CONVENTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BY WALLACE F. WORKMASTER, *Secretary*

THE twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association opened in Bethlehem on October 16, 1959, with Lehigh University, Moravian College, the Lehigh County Historical Society, Historic Bethlehem, Inc., Cedar Crest College, the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, Lafayette College, Muhlenberg College, and the Moravian Historical Society acting as hosts. The excellent planning of the Committee on Local Arrangements, chaired by George D. Harmon of Lehigh University, and the Program Committee, chaired by Edwin B. Coddington of Lafayette College, yielded memorable dividends to the many members of the Association who attended the hospitable and productive convention.

The meeting opened with a luncheon session in the Hutchinson Room of Packer Hall on the campus of Lehigh University. Dr. Harmon presided, and Wray H. Congdon, dean of Lehigh's Graduate School, conveyed the greetings of the University's president, Martin D. Whitaker. The Association's president, Ralph W. Cordier, responded with his usual warmth and humor. The luncheon address, "A Nondescript Colony on the Delaware," was delivered by Lawrence H. Gipson, a charter member of the Association and long a guiding influence in the organization's development. Dr. Gipson reviewed the growth of settlement and government in the area which became the state of Delaware.

The convention then adjourned to Packer Hall's Osborne Room where two papers on Pennsylvania and the national political conventions of 1880 were heard and discussed. Albert V. House of Harpur College, State University of New York, presented his detailed study of "Pennsylvania and the Democratic National Convention of 1880," and Frank B. Evans of the Division of Public Records, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, delivered his analysis of "Pennsylvania and the Republican National

Convention of 1880." Both papers necessarily were concerned with the factions and personalities active in the state organizations of the respective parties as well as the manipulation of the state's delegations at the respective conventions. The papers were followed by an incisive commentary by Joseph G. Rayback of The Pennsylvania State University on the conception, structure, and research that they demonstrated. The officers and members of the Council hurried away to hold the regular meeting of the Council; however, they were forced to adjourn their meeting and to reconvene after the annual dinner.

The annual dinner of the Association was preceded by a pleasing reception in the Candlelight Room of the Hotel Bethlehem. The group then returned to Packer Hall where the banquet was held in the Asa Packer Dining Room. President Cordier presided over an occasion made particularly poignant by the death of General of the Armies George G. Marshall, whose biographer, Forrest C. Pogue, was the speaker of the evening. Dr. Pogue, who is the director of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation, altered his announced subject, "The Formative Years of a Great Pennsylvanian, General George C. Marshall," on less than two hours' notice to a sincere, personal analysis of the character of the former Army Chief of Staff, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense who had decisively shaped America's course during and after World War II. Surely none of the members who heard Dr. Pogue's heartfelt address will forget the personal characteristics of Marshall, as our fellow historians evaluate his controversial impact upon the nation's role of world leadership.

The annual Phi Alpha Theta Breakfast was held the next morning at the Hotel Bethlehem under the guiding direction of Donald C. Hoffman, the national secretary, and Edwin B. Codrington, the national president of the fraternity. The annual business meeting of the Association followed at nine o'clock in one of the hotel's meeting rooms. President Cordier called the meeting to order and the minutes were read and approved. The Secretary's Report was also read and it was approved after the president announced the action taken by the Council to implement the recommendations presented therein. Dr. Cordier noted that the Association's treasurer, Ross Pier Wright, had endorsed the financial statement contained in the Secretary's Report. John M. Coleman,

editor of *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*, submitted the Editor's Report and called attention to the institution of a Junior Historian essay contest and the fine assistance of his editorial staff. The Publications Committee Report was submitted by Homer T. Rosenberger, chairman of the committee, and he cited the publications now available for sale through the Office of the Secretary.

President Cordier announced the selection of Lewisburg as the site of the 1960 Annual Convention, and he appointed J. Orin Oliphant of Bucknell University as chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements and William A. Russ, Jr., of Susquehanna University as chairman of the Program Committee. He announced also the Council's acceptance of the invitation, tendered through Walter S. Sanderlin, to hold the 1961 Convention at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. The Committee on Resolutions reported through its secretary, Richmond D. Williams of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, and resolutions were adopted thanking the host institutions, the Hotel Bethlehem, the respective committees, and all the individuals who contributed to the success of the convention. A resolution was also introduced by the committee and passed in support of the construction of the proposed William Penn Museum and Archives Building in Harrisburg. Philip S. Klein of The Pennsylvania State University, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, recommended the re-election of George D. Harmon, J. Orin Oliphant, Richmond D. Williams, and Donald H. Kent to the Council, the election of Nicholas B. Wainwright to fill the unexpired term of the resigning Richard Norris Williams, II, on the Council, and the re-election of Melville J. Boyer as a vice president; the nominations were approved unanimously. A resolution of appreciation to President Cordier for his efforts on behalf of the Association was passed, and the organization voted to extend its greetings to two of its most cherished members, Miss Caroline Smedley and Miss Frances Dorrance. The secretary was instructed to convey the appreciation of the Association to Mr. Williams for his long and valuable service on the Council.

Two concurrent sessions were held at ten o'clock Saturday morning. One was at the Moravian Church Archives where J. Richard Jones presided over the presentation of two papers, "The John Heckewelder Papers" by Paul A. W. Wallace of the Pennsylvania

Historical and Museum Commission and "The Resources of the Moravian Church Archives in Bethlehem" by the Right Reverend Kenneth G. Hamilton, archivist of the Northern Province, Moravian Church in America. The other session in the Osbourne Room of Packer Hall continued the political theme of the preceding day with application to the 1920's and 1930's. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Oliphant, Joseph A. Falco of Towson (Maryland) State Teachers College presented a study on "Gifford Pinchot, the Progressive Governor," and Edwin B. Bonner of Temple University delivered a paper entitled "The New Deal Comes to Pennsylvania: the Gubernatorial Election of 1934." James A. Kehl of the University of Pittsburgh concluded this session with a thought-provoking commentary and summation.

The Saturday luncheon session was held in the dining room of the Moravian College's South Campus with Raymond S. Hauptert, president of the college, presiding. A delightful meal was followed by an illustrated orientation lecture on historical restoration plans in Bethlehem by Stuart B. Bolger of Historic Bethlehem, Inc., and the Annie S. Kemerer Museum. A supervised tour of the area encompassed by the Historic Bethlehem project and an examination of the restoration work now in progress concluded the 1959 convention.

The Bethlehem meeting served not only to call the attention of the membership to the close of the first twenty-five year period of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY's publication, but it also furnished notable inspiration for the continuing efforts of the Association to promote a high standard of excellence in the study of state and local history within the Commonwealth.