

NEWS AND COMMENT

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Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society reports an appalling lack of interest among historians and local officials in the fate of the remaining covered bridges of the state. Mrs. Vera Wagner, president of the Society, has stated that if these bridges are to be saved "local interest must be aroused sufficiently to cooperate with the state when new bridges are built and these covered bridges are abandoned." She reports that Cumberland County has lost five covered bridges in five years, despite the willingness of the county commissioners to supply funds, because no local group would take the responsibility of supervising the bridges. Mrs. Wagner asks the help of all who are willing to assist in this project.

The Adams County Historical Society held its annual meeting on January 10. Most of the existing officers were re-elected for an additional year, Clarence D. Deardorff continuing as president, Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter as vice president, Frank M. Newcomer as treasurer, Mrs. Emma Sheffer as recording secretary, and Arthur Weaner as corresponding secretary. Professor William C. Darrah discussed "The Young Ladies School of Herman Haupt" at the February 7 meeting.

The Society has been forced to vacate its quarters in the basement of the courthouse and will house its collections temporarily in the Old Dorm at the Gettysburg Theological Seminary.

The Historical Society of Berks County in December heard a lecture by Dr. Paul K. Stolz on "Christmas with Dr. Bodo Otto, Valley Forge, 1777." The Society's annual meeting was held on January 10, while on January 22 a "German afternoon" was observed with German songs and cookies and the opening of a special display of German books printed in Reading. The annual

George Washington Birthday meeting was held on February 22 in conjunction with the D.A.R. and the S.A.R. of Berks County. A buffet was served, and Ralph Kinsey presented an illustrated talk.

At the Woman's Auxiliary meeting on February 14 Mrs. Cora Lee Weller talked on Pennsylvania Dutch antiques, making use of a display of personal antiques provided by the members.

Dr. Arthur P. Dudden of Bryn Mawr College was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Blair County Historical Society in Altoona on January 25. His topic was "The Image of America." The winter issue of *Past & Present* features an article by Donald J. Howard on a "Blair County Episode of the Civil War," an illustrated story of the preparations made for defense at the time of the Gettysburg invasion.

The lecture series of the Bucks County Historical Society continued on December 9 with a talk by John Sweeney of the Winterthur Museum on "Grandeur on the Appoquinimink: The House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware." On January 13 the lecturer was Dr. Robert L. Bloom of Gettysburg College, who discussed the role of women in the Civil War.

The Society is seeking to increase its income by an increase in dues to carry its expanded program in all phases of its work. A "touch it" program based upon artifacts from the Mercer Museum has been arranged by Director Jack C. Potter for the use of visiting school groups. This technique enables the touring groups to have a better appreciation of the things seen in their tour of the museum.

Manuscript holdings of the Society have recently been increased by the acquisition of the deed book of John Penn, showing land sold by him from his personal holdings in Pennsylvania from 1784 to 1790.

A series of weekly meetings was held by groups of the Chester County Historical Society in January. Discussion leaders included Mrs. Howard E. Jones, Mrs. Ellis E. Stern, Miss Dorothy B. Lapp, and Harold W. Arndt. The February 21 meeting heard George Norman Highley discuss some famous men of Chester County, with particular emphasis on Bayard Taylor and Thomas

Buchanan Read. The Women's Committee has chosen Mrs. A. William Ball, Jr., as chairman.

The Clarion County Historical Society held its winter meeting on February 14 with a good attendance. The speaker was Robert P. L. Frick of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, who presented an illustrated talk on "State Historic Sites: Their Acquisition, Restoration, and Maintenance."

The Clearfield County Historical Society reports excellent attendance at both its November annual meeting and its spring meeting. Miss Nora Waln spoke at the annual meeting, and Samuel King presented a talk on the early history of Du Bois at the spring assemblage. Warren Lingle has placed his collection of Indian flints on display in the Society museum.

The speaker at the January 26 meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society was Frank Shuman, who talked on "American Coins," using his own collection to demonstrate his points.

The Historical Society of Dauphin County held its traditional Christmas program on December 19. A devotional service was presented by the Reverend John Tate, and a program of Christmas carols was sung by the girls' chorus of John Harris High School. The speaker at the January 16 meeting was Eugene D. Lavery, who discussed "Communications—Old and New."

At the January meeting Harry E. Sanders was elected president to succeed Merlo M. Hartzell, and Mrs. Albert M. Hamer, Jr., was elected secretary to replace C. Edward Faulkner, who was forced to resign on account of ill health.

At the annual meeting of the Erie County Historical Society on January 31, 1961, the following officers were elected: Clare Swisher, president; Everett Sims, first vice president, J. K. Richardson, treasurer; and Mrs. Bert Epp, secretary. The program at the meeting was presented by E. Max Darone, who gave a talk on "A Musical Footnote to the Civil War's Mr. Lincoln," illustrating it with vocal selections in folk style.

Bad weather forced the Germantown Historical Society to cancel its January lecture meeting. On February 16, Richmond P. Miller spoke to the Society on "The Story of the Quakers in the Civil War." Edward P. Alexander spoke on Colonial Williamsburg at the March 16 meeting, and Henry J. Magaziner explained his plans for the proposed restoration of Historic Germantown at the April 20 meeting.

Speakers at the meetings of the Hamilton Library and Historical Association of Cumberland County in Carlisle during the fall and winter include the following: October 6, Mrs. W. L. Nuschke, "The Dam That Could Not Break"; November 17, Stuart Prentice, "The Reformed Church Seminary in Carlisle: A Study of the Intellectual Turmoil of the Jacksonian Era"; and February 16, William Bucher, "A Historical Sketch of Boiling Springs."

The Haverford Township Historical Society has had a revival of activity in recent months in an attempt to save the Lawrence Cabin, originally built before 1700. The Society and other interested groups raised sufficient funds to provide for the dismantling of the cabin and its rebuilding on a township park property. At the January 27 meeting the Society elected the following officers: William T. Buchanan, president; George F. Adam, III, first vice president; David Robb, second vice president; and William J. Laramy, secretary and curator.

The Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County elected its new officers at its December meeting. They include: Howard Lockhart, president; Mrs. Frances Strong Helman, vice president; Mrs. Clementine Bowman, recording secretary; Mrs. Mirian Dimit, corresponding secretary; Emory Boyle, treasurer; Blaine Helman, curator; and James Kehew, executive director. The Society closed the year with 661 members, a gain of nearly five hundred since 1957. The February 3 meeting heard an illustrated talk on Alaska by W. Stephens Mayer. Douglas Duer presented a talk on the Civil War as it related to Indiana County at the March 3 meeting held jointly with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Colonists, the Daughters of 1812, and the Armstrong Trail Society.

Recent programs of the Harrisburg Keystoneians have included: December 15, Eric de Jonge, Pennsylvania State Museum, "Christmas Customs of Yore"; January 26, Henry H. Eddy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, "Harrisburg's First Century as Pennsylvania's Seat of Government"; and February 16, W. Carl Sprout, "Abraham Lincoln Visits Harrisburg."

Through the efforts of the King of Prussia Historical Society the King of Prussia Inn has been certified by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the federal Department of the Interior as possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest. Records deposited with the survey include photographs and measured drawings as well as other data relating to the structure. The Society has begun work on the exterior of the building to prevent further deterioration.

The January 25 meeting of the Society included an open discussion on "Local History and You." In February the first of the Collegium Musicum Candlelight Concerts was presented.

The Lackawanna Historical Society has continued its highly popular series of programs based upon reminiscences of persons familiar with special aspects of local history. The meeting on January 23 was addressed by Kenneth H. Coleville, Sr., on the history of Carbondale; and the February 27 meeting heard a talk by Domenic Cicotti, famous local restaurateur, on "Old Restaurants in Scranton."

John M. Gibson was elected president of the Lancaster County Historical Society on January 3, succeeding Samuel C. Slaymaker, II. Other officers chosen include: Theodore L. Brubaker, first vice president; M. Luther Heisey, second vice president; George F. K. Erisman, third vice president; John Ward Willson Loose, secretary; John W. Aungst, Jr., treasurer; Mrs. J. Frank Brackbill, membership secretary; and Ira Kreider, librarian. Mr. Gibson is also president of the Rock Ford Foundation, in charge of the restored home of General Edward Hand.

An exhibit of the drawings of Henry T. MacNeill opened at the Society building on January 23. A reception for the artist was held on February 12.

The January dinner meeting of the Lehigh County Historical Society was held at Zion's United Church of Christ. Carl D. Snyder presented an illustrated talk on "Historical Buildings and Locations in and about Lynn Township." The April meeting commemorated the departure of the Allen Infantry, one of the five First Defender companies of the Commonwealth in the Civil War.

Dr. Edward H. Snow addressed the Lower Merion Historical Society on January 23 on "Pennsylvania in the Civil War, with Local Emphasis."

The Lycoming Historical Society suffered a disastrous fire on December 22 in the burning of its museum and headquarters. The building is almost a total loss, and damage to the fine arts collection was very heavy. Firemen and police were able to save some of the valuable collections. Future plans are indefinite.

The Mifflin County Historical Society is planning the erection of a bronze tablet bearing the names of the ninety-two members of the Logan Guards, one of the First Defender units which reached Washington on April 18, 1861, in response to Lincoln's call for volunteers. A comprehensive history of the unit is being written, and a replica of the unit flag is being reproduced as a part of the commemoration ceremonies for the First Defenders companies in Harrisburg on April 16.

The Society observed its third annual Alamo memorial service on March 26 honoring John Purdy Reynolds, David Cummings, and William McDowell, local citizens who died at the Alamo in 1836. Mifflin County was the home of more of these Texas martyrs than any other county in the country.

Robert B. Haigh was elected president of the Monroe County Historical Society to succeed Dr. John C. Appel at the Society's business meeting on January 14. The annual dinner meeting of the Society on January 18 heard an address by Dr. LeRoy J. Koehler, president of East Stroudsburg State College, on the subject, "Was the Civil War Necessary?" The Society has recently published a four-page leaflet by Dr. Appel on John Summerfield Staples, "Representative Recruit for Abraham Lincoln," the brief story of

a Monroe County man, who was chosen in 1864 to enlist in the Union army as a representative for President Lincoln. At the meeting an award was presented to Dr. Koehler by Dr. Alfred D. Sumberg for his work with the Junior Historian movement while head of the department of social studies at the College.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County held its annual meeting on February 22, 1961, eightieth anniversary of its founding. Officers were elected, and John F. Reed presented a program on "Montgomery County's Bivouac of the Dead," dealing with Civil War officers buried at the Norristown cemetery. The Society has recently acquired the Charles R. Barker genealogical collection as the gift of Mr. Barker, a member of the Society since 1904.

The Reverend Herman C. Snyder spoke at the January 20 meeting of the Muncy Historical Society and Museum of History on "Covered Bridges of Lycoming and Adjacent Counties." At the February 17 meeting Thomas T. Taber, III, discussed the history of the Sprout-Waldron Company, oldest industry in Muncy, and at the March 17 meeting James P. Bressler described the recent excavations of Indian artifacts on Canfield's Island near Montoursville. The January issue of *Now and Then* carries material on the Muncy Female Seminary Papers as presented by President Bertin in his annual address in December. The Society celebrates the twenty-fifth year of its founding by the late Dr. T. Kenneth Wood this year. Appropriate ceremonies are being planned.

The New Hope Historical Society reports that a number of exhibitions of paintings and Sunday afternoon concerts were held in the Parry Barn during the fall. This restored eighteenth-century structure is headquarters for the Society.

The speaker at the annual meeting of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society on January 25 was Ivan Roots, lecturer at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, currently at Lafayette College, who discussed "Local Organization of Welsh and English Historical Societies." On March 22 Walter Peters discussed "Valentin Haidt, Local Eighteenth-Century Baroque Artist."

Programs for the Northumberland County Historical Society recently have included the following: February 8, Robert Mills, "The Covered Bridges in Northumberland and Neighboring Counties"; March 8, Leroy Keefer, "Compass Trails in History"; and April 12, Clarence R. Weaver, "Pictorial Study of the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad."

The Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians will hold its nineteenth annual convention at Harrisburg on May 5 and 6. Additional information on the meeting may be obtained by writing to Mrs. Autumn Leonard, Secretary, Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians, State Museum Building, Harrisburg.

Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger addressed the January 27 meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Junto in Washington, D. C., on "Charles Follen McKim, Architect Extraordinary." The speaker at the February 24 meeting was Milton Rubincam, who discussed "John L. Baldersten, Philadelphia Journalist and Playwright."

Dr. Maurice M. Mook of Pennsylvania State University has been elected treasurer of the Pennsylvania Folklore Society to succeed Donald H. Kent of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Dr. George M. Swetnam of Pittsburgh has been chosen editor of the Society's quarterly publication.

The February meeting of the Historical Society of Perry County featured a program on Civil War days in the county.

The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks held its annual meeting on January 5 and heard a paper by George Brooke Roberts on the Powel House prior to its restoration by the Society. Mrs. Henry Cadwalader, Mrs. E. Florens Rivinus, Benjamin Chew, Jr., Charles E. Peterson, and David B. Robb were re-elected directors.

The Potter County Historical Society reports considerable interest in local history on the part of high school students. The yearbook in the Class of 1961 in Coudersport is taking as its theme the early history of the schools of the town.

The speaker at the winter meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society on January 30 was Mrs. William A. O'Donnell, Jr., who discussed Coventryville and exhibited her paintings of this historic village.

The Presbyterian Historical Society is compiling a union card file of all Presbyterian-related material in historical societies, universities, churches, and other institutions. Anyone having knowledge of the location of such material is requested to write the Society at 520 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.

The recently created Historical Society of St. Marys and Ben-ziger Township announces that it is preparing the room in the Municipal Building at St. Marys which has been allocated for its use. The Society hopes soon to have a representative display on exhibit. Regular meetings are held quarterly.

Dr. George Kaluger of Shippensburg State College has been elected president of the Shippensburg Historical Society. The Society is now preparing for publication a booklet composed of papers dealing with Shippensburg residents and their part in the Civil War.

The Snyder County Historical Society held a meeting on January 18 at which William M. Schnure read a paper by Roy Smeltz on "The Radio Communications of World War I." Officers of the Society were re-elected, and the 1960 issue of the Society *Bulletin* (IV, No. 2) was distributed to the members.

The Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County reports a most successful year. Membership has reached 460, representing thirty-one states and Canada; four issues of the *Laurel Messenger* have been published; a fund for special projects has been established; and cooperation has been given a local radio station in the preparation of weekly broadcasts on local history. The February, 1961, issue of the *Laurel Messenger* includes an article on Somerset County men in the Pony Express, a complete list of representatives and senators from the county, and a number of articles of genealogical interest.

The Springs Historical Society of the Casselman Valley at Springs in Somerset County has begun the publication of a quarterly, the *Casselman Chronicle*, devoted to material relating to the life of the people in that area.

At the Valley Forge Historical Society's celebration of the 183rd anniversary of the arrival of Washington's army at Valley Forge on December 10, the speaker was Dr. John L. Cotter of the National Park Service, who discussed "Archaeology and the American Heritage." The Society Auxiliary has recently begun a series of Saturday morning study sessions on an informal basis which have been given the sobriquet "At Ease." The Auxiliary has likewise sponsored a series of four lectures this spring by Mrs. Victor Gourevitch of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The Venango County Historical Society has just begun the publication of the *Venango Intelligencer*, a mimeographed leaflet containing news of the Society together with at least one article based on original research. The January, 1961, issue contains excerpts from the diary of George Burges relating to his experiences on a 1795 surveying party which laid out Franklin. On January 3 at Franklin the speaker was Dr. Dewey Yale, who talked on "Light on the Archaeological Past." The February 7 meeting at Oil City was addressed by Charles Briggs on "William Bingham and the Bingham Estate," and the March 7 meeting at Franklin heard Laurence J. Smith speak on "Old Times at the Opera House."

The Society of the War of 1812 in Pennsylvania held its annual meeting and luncheon in Philadelphia on February 11. Members heard an illustrated talk by Martin P. Snyder on "Philadelphia in 1812." The Society plans to hold a reception for newly naturalized citizens in Philadelphia on April 26.

Mrs. George J. Melvin on January 25 presented an illustrated lecture before the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania on "The Famous Manchester House and Other Cultural Aspects of Washington County." At the meeting on February 22 Mrs. Kath-

arine McCook Knox talked on "The Past Is Present," a discussion of early Pittsburghers as seen in their portraits.

The Western Pennsylvania Research and Historical Society lost its founder and president on December 14, 1960, when John Carter Robinson died after a brief illness. No successor has yet been elected. The Society held a Symposium on February 12 at the Warren Methodist Church and heard talks by A. Samuel Milai of the Pittsburgh *Courier* and Regis D. Bobonis of the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*. The Society is doing research for a publication relating to the Civil War period and is gathering objects for exhibits on the same theme.

The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society held its 103rd annual meeting and dinner on February 11 with Nathaniel Burt of Princeton, New Jersey, as speaker. Mr. Burt talked on "The Bonapartes in America." The fifth annual lecture series of the Society included the following speakers and topics: January 19, Ralph L. Hazeltine, "From Rags to Riches: Wyoming Valley Paper Mills, 1810-1840"; Leroy E. Bugbee, "Slackwater on the Susquehanna: The North Branch Canal, 1830-1900"; March 23, Norman B. Wilkinson, "The Pennsylvania Gold Rush"; and April 20, Robert L. Bloom, "Women in the Civil War."

The Society has begun plans to erect a permanent exhibit on the history of anthracite mining. This will be placed in a separate room of the Society building and will center about an exact scale model of the Dorrance Colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company.

The Historical Society of York County held its annual Fasnacht Party on February 14 and its annual meeting on April 6. A photographic exhibit on York County mills and dams by Grant Voaden opened on February 11, and an exhibition of the portraits of Henry Cooper of Baltimore for the Maryland Jockey Club's Hall of Fame was opened on March 12. Society television programs during February and March included talks on clockmakers and silversmiths, quilts and coverlets, lighting, hooking rugs, a gentleman's travel case, cabinetmaking, wheels over York County, and patterns in iron in the county.

The Society has recently been designated as the headquarters of the Organ Historical Society, in part because of its famous 1804 Tannenberg organ.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Professor Caroline Robbins of Bryn Mawr College was awarded the American Historical Association's Herbert Baxter Adams Prize for her recent book, *The Eighteenth Century Commonwealthman*. Professor Robbins is on leave for the spring semester at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Professor Felix Gilbert, who was acting director of Amerika Haus at the University of Köln last year, and Professor Arthur P. Dudden, who was in Denmark on a Fulbright Fellowship, have both returned to their teaching. David Herlihy has been promoted to associate professor in the department. The Mallory Whiting Webster Lecture for 1960 was given by Professor Thomas C. Cochran of the University of Pennsylvania.

At Bucknell University an unfortunate fire damaged the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library during the Christmas holidays. This building was pictured on the cover of the January issue of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY. Dr. William James Morley of Columbia University gave a public lecture on the "Student Demonstrations in Japan" under the sponsorship of the history department on December 6, 1960.

Dr. John A. Lukacs of the history department at Chestnut Hill College is author of the recently published book, *The Cold War*.

At East Stroudsburg State College Emerson H. Loucks of Trenton State College has been added to the faculty of the department of social studies. Professor Kurt Wimer of the department has returned after a semester's leave to do research on Woodrow Wilson. Dr. John C. Appel, chairman of the department, has recently completed a three-year term as president of the Monroe County Historical Society and published in the November, 1960, issue of *Social Studies* an article on "The Treatment of Childhood Years in American Biography."

Kutztown State College held a Conference on World Cultures on March 10, 1961. The conference included a panel discussion of the world cultures course required in the Pennsylvania schools, over which Dr. Arthur D. Graeff presided, and a dinner at which Eric F. Goldman of Princeton University spoke on "American Reactions to Emerging Nationalisms."

Pennsylvania State University has announced the appointment of William R. Johnson of the University of Washington as an instructor in the department of history.

Robert D. Duncan, chairman of the department of social studies at Slippery Rock State College, has returned after a sabbatical leave during the first semester. Dr. Samuel Hand, who substituted for Dr. Duncan, accepted a temporary position with the University of Vermont. The College recently had a "Miniature Security Council" program presented by the South Korean representative at the United Nations, Camile Chautemps of France, Colin Jackson of the BBC, and John C. Metcalf, a Washington news editor. The program was given on February 22.

OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania on February 21 staged a ceremonial re-enactment of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Harrisburg on February 22, 1861. It was from Harrisburg that Lincoln made his secret trip to Washington to avoid an alleged plot to assassinate him as he passed through Baltimore.

Program director for the Civil War Conference at Gettysburg College, November 19-21, 1961, will be Professor James W. Silver, writer on Confederate history and member of the faculty at the University of Mississippi. The theme of the conference this year will be some aspect of Confederate history.

The Newcomen Society of London, England, at its meeting on January 4, 1961, heard the second part of a paper on "Joshua Gilpin, an American Manufacturer in England and Wales." This paper, written by Harold B. Hancock and Norman B. Wilkinson, concerns Gilpin's career from 1811 to 1814.

A significant collection of several hundred manuscripts of early Moravian music was recently found in the organ chamber of the Moravian Church at Nazareth, Pennsylvania, and has been turned over to the Moravian Archives at Bethlehem. Donald M. McCorkle, director of the Moravian Music Foundation, termed the find "one of the major discoveries in the early American music field."

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has recently published *Pennsylvania and the Civil War: A Handbook*. This 24-page pamphlet includes a brief summary of the role of Pennsylvania in the war, a section of the raising of Pennsylvania troops, a discussion of the Confederate invasions of the state, suggestions on further reading and research, suggestions on centennial observances, and a brief chronology. Copies may be obtained by writing the Commission.