THE THIRTY-FIRST CONVENTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BY ARI HOOGENBOOM, Secretary

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association took place on October 19 and 20 in Allentown, with Muhlenberg College and the Lehigh County Historical Society as the host institutions. Following registration in the lobby of the Americus Hotel on Friday morning, October 19, a luncheon session was held in Zion's United Church of Christ with Melville J. Boyer, executive secretary of the Lehigh County Historical Society, presiding. After an invocation by Ernest F. Andrews, pastor of Zion's United Church of Christ, greetings were given by Orling Jensen, president of Muhlenberg College, and by John T. Gross, mayor of Allentown. James A. Barnes, president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, responded to these greetings. The luncheon address, "The Silences in the Documents," was presented by Julian Parks Boyd, professor of history at Princeton University and editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson. Using the story of the Liberty Bell as his illustrative episode, Mr. Boyd emphasized that historians should employ both imagination and common sense in their use of sources which are frequently silent or inexplicit.

Simultaneous sessions took place in the afternoon. "Pennsylvania History before and during the American Revolution" was the topic discussed at the Liberty Bell Shrine and presided over by Lawrence H. Gipson, Pulitzer prize-winning author of The British Empire Before the American Revolution. The first paper, "William Allen as seen by a Contemporary," was given by William T. Parsons, assistant professor of history at Ursinus College. The interesting picture of Allen presented was drawn by his rival in colonial Philadelphia, Isaac Norris II. These two gentlemen, who had disagreed over the Bloody Election of 1742, the administration of James Logan's will, paper money, proprietary lands, and defense, joined forces in 1764 to fight the royalization of Pennsyl-
vania and to defeat Benjamin Franklin in the annual election of
the assembly. The second topic, “General Wayne Marches South,
1781,” was presented by George W. Kyte, associate professor of
history at Lehigh University. After its mutiny in January, 1781,
the reconstituted Pennsylvania Continental Line (numbering half
its original strength) marched to Virginia to reinforce Lafayette’s
army. After a hard trip, Anthony Wayne and his men participated
in several skirmishes, one battle, and in the siege of Yorktown.
Following this action they were ordered to South Carolina and
did not return to Pennsylvania until 1783. The last paper in this
session, “Joseph Galloway and the British Occupation of Phila-
delphia,” was given by John M. Coleman, associate professor of
history at Lafayette College. As General William Howe’s Super-
intendent General of Police during the winter of 1777 to 1778,
Galloway undertook a wide range of military and civilian tasks,
tried to enlarge his jurisdiction, and after the British evacuated
Philadelphia bitterly controverted his former chief. Mr. Coleman’s
paper detailed the functions of the Superintendent General, empha-
sized that Galloway frequently formulated policy, and analyzed the
relationship between the Commander in Chief and those who
actually governed the occupied territory.

The session held in Memorial Hall at Zion’s United Church of
Christ discussed “Social Reformers Prior to the American Civil
War,” and was chaired by Walter S. Sanderlin, professor of his-
tory at Washington and Jefferson College. The first speaker,
Lloyd C. Taylor, assistant professor of history at the Agricultural
and Mechanical College of Texas, told of “Harriet Lane: Mirror
of an Age.” As Buchanan’s hostess and afterward, her philan-
thropic interests (emulating the English aristocratic tradition of
public service) stimulated the group who later revived American
humanitarianism from 1880 to 1914. Through their work, America
gained pre-eminence in education, medicine, and public welfare.
Harriet Lane reflected this movement by activating government
sponsorship of the arts, establishing fellowships at Johns Hopkins
University, and founding the Harriet Lane Home, the pediatrics
unit of the Johns Hopkins Medical School and the first research
center for pediatrics. Elizabeth M. Geffen, assistant professor of
history at Lebanon Valley College, presented the next paper in
this group, “Philadelphia Protestantism Reacts to Social Reform
Movements Before the Civil War.” Miss Geffen told of Protestant reaction to reform movements including peace, temperance, women’s rights, abolitionism, and prison reform. Because of the geographical location of their city as the meeting place of divergent forces from North and South, European East and American West, Philadelphia churches suffered special strains and attempted to silence reform forces which threatened and, in the case of abolitionism, destroyed their unity. Furthermore, these churches did not wish to alienate wealthy parishioners. Consequently, Protestantism exerted a conservative influence upon politics, economics, social organizations, and the educational system. Philadelphia Protestants, however, enjoyed the excitement of reform as long as it would not harm their churches and was led by Protestants. Ira V. Brown, professor of history at Pennsylvania State University, in a paper entitled “Garrisonian Abolitionism in Pennsylvania,” discussed the origins and functioning of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society during the years 1833 to 1837. After the national organization split in 1840, the Pennsylvania group affiliated with the Garrisonian wing of abolitionism, stressing support of woman’s rights, opposition to political action, and the principle of “No Union with Slaveholders.” Mr. Brown sketched briefly the contributions of various leaders in Pennsylvania abolitionism, including James and Lucretia Mott, James Miller McKim, and Charles C. Burleigh. These sessions were followed by tea at Trout Hall and a cocktail party at the Americus Hotel.

James A. Barnes presided at the annual dinner in the Ballroom of the Americus Hotel. The invocation was given by Morris S. Greth, professor of sociology at Muhlenberg College, and the welcome by William J. Wilcox, president of the Lehigh County Historical Society. The address, given by Jacob O. Cooke, professor of history at Lafayette College and associate editor of the Papers of Alexander Hamilton, was entitled “The Whiskey Insurrection: A Federalist Interpretation.” After stating that American historians have misinterpreted the Whiskey Insurrection of 1794 for more than a century and a half, Mr. Cooke challenged the view that the insurrection was caused by economic grievances of the Westerners, by the frontier spirit, or by the oppressiveness of the whiskey tax itself. He also disputed the view that Alexander Hamilton was responsible for ordering troops to crush the insur-
rection. Mr. Cooke argued that the insurrection was caused by the peculiar nature of political rivalries in the four western counties of Pennsylvania and that the order for troops was made by Washington, not Hamilton. In conclusion, he accused liberal historians of a "curious dualism"—condemning in the present what they condone in the past. Mr. Cooke stated that the problem confronting Washington in the 1790's—disobedience to constitutional authority—was the same problem confronting President Eisenhower in Arkansas and President Kennedy in Mississippi. The annual dinner was followed by a meeting of the council in the Faculty House at Muhlenberg College.

Saturday morning's activities began with a Phi Alpha Theta Breakfast at the Americus Hotel. The Annual Business Meeting followed in the Ballroom with James A. Barnes presiding. The secretary read the minutes of the last annual meeting and his report to the Association. Both were approved. Ross Pier Wright's treasurer's report was presented and approved. It was noted that the Association was solvent for the third consecutive year. Editor Russell F. Weigley reported that Pennsylvania History will be listed in Historical Abstracts, an international publication; that work on the cumulative index of Pennsylvania History is nearly completed; and that with the current volume a topical approach has been added to the index bound in the October issue. Associate Editor Alfred D. Sumberg reported on his activities to develop advertising. Homer Rosenberger reported from the Publications Committee the imminent publication of the revised edition of The Pennsylvania Germans with a colored cover. He also reported that William A. Russ, Jr., has completed a manuscript on "Pennsylvania Boundaries" and that George Swetnam will have his manuscript on "Pennsylvania Transportation" ready by Christmas. Plans were announced for early publication of "Transportation" to be followed by "Boundaries." Melville J. Boyer from the Membership Committee requested the cooperation of all in the struggle for new members. Mr. Barnes announced that our next annual meeting will be held on October 18 and 19, 1963, at Gettysburg with Charles H. Glatfelter in charge of the Local Arrangements Committee and Robert Bloom chairman of the Program Committee. Mr. Barnes also announced that the Association had received an invitation from Daniel R. MacGilvray, director of the
Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, to meet at Wilkes-Barre on October 23 and 24, 1964. Mr. Barnes discussed the progress of the Pennsylvania Historical Foundation, designed to promote the study and writing of Pennsylvania history. A board of directors and an advisory council have been established and a fund raising drive with a goal of $500,000 has begun.

The following slate of officers was nominated and elected to serve from 1962 to 1965: Vice-President, Melville J. Boyer; members of the Council, George D. Harmon, Donald H. Kent, J. Orin Oliphant, and Alfred D. Sumberg. From the Resolutions Committee William A. Russ, Jr., reported resolutions thanking the Americus Hotel; the Program Committee and its able chairman, George D. Harmon; the speakers; the Lehigh County Historical Society; Muhlenberg College; and the Local Arrangements Committee, most especially its industrious chairman, Melville J. Boyer. These resolutions were adopted as were the final ones extending the greetings of the Association to Miss Frances Dorance and noting with sorrow the passing of two stalwart, long-time friends, both of them charter members of the Association—Asa E. Martin and Miss Caroline Smedley. The Association also asked Mr. Barnes to express its appreciation to Mrs. Alice W. Frazier, secretary to Ross P. Wright, for her work on behalf of the Association. Alfred D. Sumberg announced a Junior Historian Program at Pennsbury Manor on October 24, 1962.

As on the previous day, concurrent sessions were presented. The "Business History" session met in the Ballroom and was presided over by Leroy J. Koehler, president of East Stroudsburg State College. Samuel A. King, assistant professor of history at the DuBois Campus of the Pennsylvania State University, spoke on "The Importance of Log Driving in Pennsylvania Lumbering." Rafting was the only method used in Pennsylvania to transport lumber and timber to market when John Leighton, "an experienced lumberman" from Maine, came to Williamsport in 1835. Fifteen years later, having raised sufficient funds, Leighton's dream of a Williamsport log boom became a reality. After this boom's success in transporting logs more economically than by rafts, many other booms were chartered and built in Pennsylvania, especially on the waters of the Susquehanna River. During the peak
years, 1862 to 1898, the Williamsport boom caught and held nearly 39 million logs that measured 6,407,000,000 board feet. Log driving made possible the phenomenal growth of Williamsport into a city by 1866 and centralized the lumber industry into 28 large sawmills with an annual capacity of over 300 million board feet. With the disappearance of white pine timber in the 1890's and the construction of tanneries and logging railroads through the hemlock forests of the north-central counties, the supremacy of Williamsport slowly ebbed until the boom was totally dismantled in 1909. All the other booms had disappeared by this time, but rafting continued on a small scale until the last group of fifteen rafts went down the West Branch from Clearfield County in 1915.

Robert E. Carlson, professor of history at West Chester State College, read a paper on “The Pennsylvania Improvement Society and Its Promotion of Internal Improvements, 1824-1826.” Confronted with the challenge of New York's Erie Canal, a small number of public-spirited Philadelphians organized this society. Three specific projects were undertaken: pamphlets on roads, canals, and railroads were written; William Strickland was sent to Europe on an internal improvements fact-finding mission; and the Harrisburg Canal Convention of August 1825 was organized. This meeting influenced the legislature's decision to build the Pennsylvania Canal. The last topic in this session, “‘Nothing Venture, Nothing Winn’: Resistance to Customs Enforcement in Colonial Philadelphia,” was presented by Arthur L. Jensen, associate professor of history at Westminster College. As Mr. Jensen remarked, the question of illicit trade in the colonies is important because it involves the broader problem of the economic backgrounds of the Revolution. If smuggling was the rule rather than the exception, perhaps British economic restrictions were an important cause of the Revolution. Unfortunately, this question cannot be answered statistically for Philadelphia or any other colonial port. Correspondence of Philadelphia merchants confirms the existence of smugglers and relates their techniques. Philadelphia customs officers testified that both illicit trade and hostility toward themselves increased during the late colonial period. Nevertheless, it seems likely that the bulk of Philadelphia’s trade flowed within legal channels throughout the colonial period and that Philadelphia smugglers regarded themselves not as patriots
protesting unjust British trade restrictions but as businessmen taking risks to obtain greater profits.

The session held in the Green Room discussed “Teaching History in Public and Private Secondary Schools” under the chairmanship of J. E. Swain, professor of history at Muhlenberg College. Clark D. Moore, history teacher at George School in Newtown, spoke of the disillusionment with history which followed World War II when it was popularly felt that the physical sciences had won the war, but the social sciences had failed to win the peace. Mr. Moore asked whether in a world seeming to belong to the engineer and physical scientist the historian could present a program possessing realism, vitality, and above all, hope. Stating that universal principles and outlooks can be presented in a history course to reinforce it and to make it a useful and living thing, Mr. Moore stressed the importance of teaching students to recognize that the brotherhood of man is not only a religious notion, but a biological and economic fact—that the welfare of each individual is today tied with the welfare of the entire human species.

William J. Rupp, Jr., of the history department of the Swain Country Day School, mentioned the great diversity of the social studies curriculum in the independent school. He felt that the fundamental needs at the junior high school level in this field should include a sound preparation in the basic concepts and facts of American history, geography, and government, as well as world history and geography, and an additional emphasis should be placed on the study of current affairs. After stating that history and geography can be taught in a progressive manner just as mathematics can, Mr. Rupp stressed that teachers at higher levels must be able to assume that they can build advanced and more detailed concepts on the firm foundations which have been constructed in junior high school. Harry Mavrinac, social studies teacher at Schenley High School in Pittsburgh, suggested that history teachers need to rejuvenate, improve, and make their subject interesting. To overcome duplication of content between courses, he suggested close cooperation between the public school teacher and college professor. He mentioned that steps have been made in this direction by the Coordinated Education Center of the University of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh public schools with special reference to meeting the needs of able students through
a flexible progression program. He also suggested that students be taught what historians do. Students should be encouraged to do research and to write, first on descriptive lessons and then on analytical problems. Mr. Mavrinac also stated that history can be made more interesting by including excerpts from original sources. William D. Randall, of Parkland High School in Allentown, listed some practical problems facing classroom teachers of history and social studies in the public schools of the Commonwealth and some factors that make solutions to these problems difficult. Among the problems stated by Mr. Randall was the low interest of high school students in history, caused partly by the fact that no immediate economic advantage can be realized from taking the course and also by the public emphasis on science and mathematics. Teenagers frequently fail to comprehend the real values of citizenship, of understanding world problems, and of appreciating our heritage. It is difficult to solve these problems because high schools have very little latitude in arranging curriculum, many teachers are primarily interested in other fields and generate little enthusiasm for history and social studies, libraries—laboratories for history—are not equipped to extend courses much beyond the textbook, and lastly, there is not enough homogeneous instruction allowing students to progress according to their capabilities.

Victor L. Johnson, chairman of the history department of Muhlenberg College, presided over the luncheon session held at the Commons, Muhlenberg College. The invocation was given by David H. Bremer, chaplain of Muhlenberg College, and the address, “A House and a Town,” was presented by John K. Heyl, restoration architect of the Lehigh County Historical Society. Mr. Heyl told how Chief Justice William Allen of Philadelphia deeded to his third son, James Allen, the tract of ground on which modern Allentown now stands. In the manner of his contemporaries, James Allen built on this land a fine summer home, which he called Trout Hall. This square stone mansion remained a residence for his family and descendants for almost a century, after which it served as a part of Muhlenberg College. Restored by the City of Allentown, in 1916 it became the headquarters of the Lehigh County Historical Society. Mr. Heyl has been in charge of the further restoration which has taken place this year. Now, reflecting its eighteenth-century character, Trout Hall is
partially furnished in its period and shows how it might have appeared when occupied by the Allen family.

Edwin M. Barton presided over the afternoon meeting of the Historical Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania. As is customary, the thirty-first annual meeting ended with a historical tour. The 1756 Troxell-Steckel House, which has been restored and furnished by the Lehigh County Historical Society, was visited. The Allentown Chamber of Commerce arranged for the chartered bus used on this tour.