THE THIRTY-SECOND CONVENTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BY ARTHUR HOOGENBOOM, Secretary

THE thirty-second annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, especially commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, appropriately met at that site on October 11 and 12. Gettysburg College and the Adams County Historical Society were the host institutions. Registration commenced in the morning and continued throughout the first day. The regular meetings began with a luncheon session in the College Dining Hall with Charles H. Glatfelter, Dean of Gettysburg College, presiding. The invocation by John W. Vannorsdall, Chaplain of Gettysburg College, was followed by greetings from Gettysburg College President C. Arnold Hanson. James A. Barnes, of Temple University, President of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, responded to these greetings. The luncheon address was given by Louis M. Simon, Executive Secretary of the Gettysburg Centennial Commission. Simon summarized the history of this commission which was authorized by the General Assembly in 1956 for the specific purpose of commemorating the centenaries of the two major Civil War events which occurred in Pennsylvania: the battle of Gettysburg and Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. Simon’s address gave those present an insight into the organizational tasks which confront a group of men who are charged with effecting a form of theatrical production in which the “backers” are the taxpayers rather than “angels.”

John A. Carpenter, of the History Department of Washington and Jefferson College, presided over the afternoon session held in the Student Union Building. The first paper, “Civilian Preparations for Invasion, 1863,” was presented by Edwin B. Coddington, of the History Department of Lafayette College. When enemy invasion of the North became imminent in the summer of 1863, Coddington said, Pennsylvania had no militia and had to depend mainly upon New York for troops until its own men enlisted for
the emergency. Efforts to organize a state emergency military force were not successful until after the Confederates had crossed the Mason-Dixon line and had lost the battle of Gettysburg. Meanwhile thousands of civilians fled before the invaders. This reaction to the invasion demonstrated, according to Coddington, that last minute preparations to stop a formidable foe were futile, and that Northerners had become dangerously weary of war. In the next paper, “The Civil War's Crucial Day: July 1st, 1863,” Warren W. Hassler, Jr., of the History Department of the Pennsylvania State University, emphasized that, by holding back almost twice their number of advancing Confederate soldiers for over eight hours, the Federal I and XI Corps prevented the better-concentrated Southern army from occupying the strategic and vital Cemetery heights south of the town of Gettysburg until the other scattered Union corps could arrive and concentrate on those elevations and thereby render the position impregnable to the ensuing Confederate assaults on the second and third days of battle. It was also noted that many of the grayclad brigades and regiments were so shattered by the fearful fighting on the first day at Gettysburg that their resulting crippled condition seriously weakened their effectiveness when Lee called upon them for renewed combat on July 2 and 3. J. Cutler Andrews, of the History Department of Chatham College, gave the last paper in this session, “The Press Reports the Battle of Gettysburg.” About forty-five newspapermen reported the battle of Gettysburg for the Northern, Southern, and English press, Andrews said. Of the Northern battle reports of Gettysburg the accounts of Whitelaw Reid, Charles Carleton Coffin, and Samuel Wilkeson were outstanding for their literary quality. Peter W. Alexander of the Savannah Republican wrote the most widely reprinted battle account that appeared in the Confederate press. Most of the inaccuracies in the reporting of the battle were blamed on the telegraphic reporters. The drama of the three-day battle was worthy of great reporting, and as a whole the army reporters on the scene met the challenge superbly and memorably. At the close of this session a reception and tea were held in the Student Union Building.

James A. Barnes presided over the annual dinner, which took place in the College Dining Hall. The invocation was given by
Harold A. Dunkelberger, of the Department of Biblical Literature and Religion, Gettysburg College. Wood Gray, of the History Department of George Washington University, gave an interesting, informal address on "The Hidden Civil War in Pennsylvania." Although several maps illustrated his paper and evidenced his extensive research on the subject, Gray modestly suggested tentatively that peace sentiment in Pennsylvania made it as crucial a state for the Union war effort as any in the Midwest. Professor Gray's main plea was for a profile of Pennsylvania based upon unpublished census records. Such a collection of data would give significance to election returns and would enable historians to draw more certain conclusions. The dinner was followed by the meeting of the Council in the Student Union Building.

The second day of the meetings began with a Phi Alpha Theta breakfast in the College Dining Hall. The annual business meeting followed in the Student Union Building with James A. Barnes presiding. The Secretary's minutes of the last annual meeting and his report to the Association were read and approved. Richard Wright's treasurer's report was also read and approved. It was noted that the Association is still solvent despite the decline in membership. Editor Russell F. Weigley stressed the need for more members since without them he cannot increase the number of illustrations in the journal. It was noted that Associate Editor Alfred D. Sumberg is in charge of advertisement and promotion. Philip S. Klein reported that the subject index to the first thirty volumes of Pennsylvania History is now complete. The Association is in need of funds to publish it. It was pointed out that such an index would greatly enhance the value and prestige of the journal. Information on index listings is now available from Professor Klein. From the Publications Committee, Homer Rosenberger reported the imminent publication of either "Pennsylvania Boundaries" by William A. Russ, Jr., or "Pennsylvania Transportation" by George Swetnam. If the treasury will permit, they may be printed simultaneously. Alfred D. Sumberg reported that problems relating to income tax exemption have delayed the fund-raising activities of the Pennsylvania Historical Foundation.

The following slate of officers was nominated and elected to serve from 1963 to 1966: President, J. Cutler Andrews; Vice-Presidents, Edwin B. Coddington and James A. Kehl; Treasurer,
Ross Pier Wright; Assistant Treasurer, Richard Wright; Secretary, Ari Hoogenboom; Members of the Council, Homer Rosenberger, Nicholas B. Wainwright, Stanton Belfour, Ira V. Brown, and Abram Foster. From the Resolutions Committee James A. Kehl and Donald H. Kent reported resolutions thanking President C. Arnold Hanson and Gettysburg College and the Adams County Historical Society for the hospitality graciously manifested and expressed at its Thirty-Second Annual Meeting; thanking Robert L. Bloom, J. Cutler Andrews, Philip S. Klein, Roy F. Nichols, and William A. Russ, Jr., for their care and attention in arranging and preparing a most interesting program for this meeting; thanking Charles H. Glatfelter, Bruce W. Bugbee, William C. Darrah, J. Melchoir Sheads, and Frederick Tilberg for the preparations which have made the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting an exceptionally happy and well-fed one. These resolutions were adopted, as was one extending the Association's grateful appreciation to the outgoing President, James A. Barnes, for his three years of energetic leadership in which he contributed greatly to the Association's prestige among the state historical associations of the nation. Resolutions were also passed urging support for the Governor's program of promoting the Commonwealth and for a state constitutional convention. After President Barnes announced that the Pennsylvania Historical Association had received an award from the Association for State and Local History for leadership in that field, the Association resolved that the President convey its gratitude for the award to the Association for State and Local History.

Frederic S. Klein, of the History Department of Franklin and Marshall College, presided over the morning session of the second day. In the first paper of this session, "Simon Cameron as Secretary of War: A Reappraisal," Brooks M. Kelley, History Department, Yale University, contended that historians have largely misread Cameron's role in the War Department. They have neglected the institutional arrangements of the department which worked against efficient operations. They have repeated the criticisms of Cameron's enemies and ignored the testimony of his supporters, and have failed to compare War Department behavior in other wars with that in the Civil War. In the end, most observers have tended to ignore, or miss the significance of, the fact
that an enormous army was raised, armed, and equipped, despite all the problems and mistakes, during the eight-and-a-half months of the war that Cameron was in control of the War Department. For these achievements, Kelley suggested that Cameron ought to be given a better place in history. "A. K. McClure and Soldier Enlistments" was the next topic presented by William H. Russell, Dean of Geneva College. Russell told how Alexander K. McClure, a key figure in Pennsylvania's Republican party during the Civil War, was influential in raising troops both at state and local levels. When war commenced McClure prepared the act to reorganize the state militia, assisted Governor Andrew G. Curtin in military planning, and served as an intermediary between Curtin and Secretary of War Simon Cameron. In the fall of 1862 McClure served as superintendent of the state draft and carried it through despite military and political interruptions and some open resistance. At every military crisis, McClure either raised troops near his home or aided Governor Curtin. In his own community of Chambersburg, he led recruiting rallies and helped to raise funds for bounties. At the beginning of the war, and again when invasion threatened in September, 1862, he took charge of local defense measures. McClure was often impatient with federal efforts to raise troops, and in the latter part of the war he staunchly defended national conscription. Eugene A. Barrett, of the Philadelphia Board of Public Education, presented the last paper in this section, "The Civil War Career of John F. Hartranft." Barrett maintained that the Civil War career of Hartranft has been sadly neglected and proceeded to make up the deficit by following him through several Civil War campaigns.

Robert L. Bloom, of the History Department of Gettysburg College, presided over the final luncheon session in the College Dining Hall. Norman S. Wolf gave the invocation. The address, "Protection, Politics, and Pennsylvania," was given by James A. Barnes. It concerned the growing demand of Americans after the Civil War for a full share in the wealth of the nation—social, economic, cultural, and political. In describing this aggressive spirit to which the war years gave such great impetus, Barnes used the struggle of the tariff reformers against war-created protection as an illustration. The defense of the war-born tariff rates
centered in Pennsylvania, Barnes said, and was led by Samuel J. Randall of Philadelphia.

As is customary, the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association ended with a historical tour. The ideal location and the expert guidance of Harry W. Pfanz, supervisory historian of the Gettysburg National Military Park, made this year’s tour a memorable event. The sixty persons taking the battlefield tour met at the Refectory and Pfanz took them first to the Eternal Light Peace Memorial on Oak Hill. At this point he reviewed the Gettysburg Campaign prior to the battle and described the first day’s action. From this location the area of the first day’s action could be seen. The caravan then moved south nearly five miles to Little Round Top, which overlooks the scene of much of the second day’s fighting at Gettysburg. From this hill the second day’s fighting was reviewed. The group then proceeded directly north approximately one mile and a half on Cemetery Ridge to the High Water Mark. Here Pfanz discussed briefly the fighting on Culp’s Hill and Pickett’s Charge which culminated in that area. The tour then proceeded to the National Cemetery, where Pfanz reviewed the story of hospitalization at Gettysburg and the burial of the dead. He also discussed the dedication of the cemetery and the story of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. The tour ended at approximately 5 p.m., and with it the Thirty-Second Convention of the Pennsylvania Historical Association.