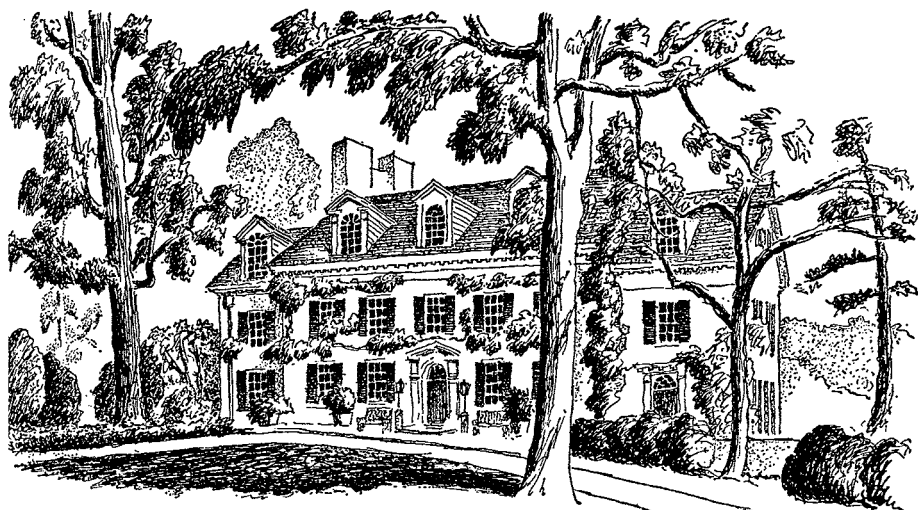


PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

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The cover sketch of Eleutherian Mills shows the site of one of the centers for the study of economic and business history discussed at last year's research conference. The drawing by Henry T. MacNeill appears courtesy of Stephen Moylan Press.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Do We Have a "Concern"?

The preservation of significant manuscript material and the protection of historic sites and structures are essential to the accurate writing and the appropriate appreciation of history.

Because of the "concern" of numerous persons a large quantity of the papers of William Penn, James Buchanan, and many others of prominence have been preserved by The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Because of the "concern" of numerous other people, for a century and a half, the Independence Square neighborhood in Philadelphia has been preserved and restored, and the Fort Pitt area in Pittsburgh has been reconstructed.

During the past year the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and other well-known depositories received important manuscript material. These papers, chemically treated to protect them from damage by vermin, have been classified, catalogued, and placed in air-conditioned and fire-resistant storage for use by any qualified researcher. While this type of preservation has, of course, been carried on by public and private organizations for decades, many unpublished papers of great historical value are not receiving such protection.

The onrush of the bulldozer—almost the dominant sight on the current American scene—daily imperils or destroys historic landmarks in nearly every city and town in the United States. Certainly, not all landmarks can be saved, but those that are to survive should be selected on some reasonable basis by persons with a serious interest in history.

County historical societies and such organizations as the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County, and the Franklin County Heritage, Inc., are dedicated to historic preservation in all of its forms. The Pennsylvania Historical Association encourages various groups, and individuals, to sharpen their "concern" for historic preservation. Individuals can take the time to write a scholarly article about the content and meaning of a collection of virtually unknown, significant papers, and make the article available to Dr. William G. Shade, Editor of this Association's journal. When significant papers in private hands are in danger of deterioration, vandalism, flood, or fire, discuss the matter with the librarian of your town, city, or nearest college in order to see what might be done to protect those papers.

Individuals and groups can alert local government officials when learning that an important historic structure is in danger of removal in the interests of "progress." When in the course of promoting a Federally financed project, local officials are immune to the consequences of destroying a historic site or structure local groups can go into action to preserve our heritage and transmit it to future generations. Word that a historic structure may be demolished or that a historic site may soon be obliterated should be sent to the editor of each of your newspapers. Letters from groups and from individuals to editors do call attention to and clarify the situation. Also, you can alert Dr. S. K. Stevens, William Penn Memorial, Harrisburg 17108. He is Chairman of the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a group that is establishing the National Register of Historic Places and that passes on disputed construction sites that have an adverse effect on historic places. When writing to Dr. Stevens include the name and location of the structure or site that is threatened, the reason why it should be preserved, and any additional relevant facts. He will then take direct action in behalf of preservation.

Perhaps *you* will be the one whose "concern" will save a historic place or a treasure of significant papers.

Homer J. Rosenberger