

## NEWS AND COMMENT

BY HARRY E. WHIPKEY

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

A regular monthly meeting of the Adams County Historical Society on March 3 featured a panel discussion on early county banking. The panel members were Dr. Charles Glatfelter, Bruce McClay, and George W. Olinger. A display of paper money and gold coins was viewed. David Hufford, State Folklorist on the staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, explained "Traditional Culture in Pennsylvania" at the April 7 meeting. Hufford's talk emphasized early culture in the Adams-York county area. On May 8, Dr. L. C. Keefauver, retired superintendent of Gettysburg schools, presented a paper on "Early Adams County Schools."

The American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia ended its 1969-70 lecture series on June 14 with a lecture by Dr. Dennis Clark on "The Acculturation of Irish Immigrants in Philadelphia, 1830-1870."

The Historical Society of Berks County realized \$2,765.50 from a book auction held in April. The money will be used to purchase library microfilm equipment.

Exhibiting his collection of slides, Dr. Ernest H. Coleman spoke on "Contemporaries and the Pennsylvania Canal" at the annual meeting of the Blair County Historical Society on January 29. A 1941 pamphlet by Harry A. Jacobs entitled *The Juniata Canal and Old Portage Railroad* has been reprinted. Copies may be obtained at \$1.25 each. The society's address is Box 265, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.

An open house was recently held for the public to view the first floor renovations of Bradford County Historical Society's museum. Mrs. A. Carlton Wilson has been appointed editor of *The Settler*.

Elected at the Board of Directors' meeting in January, the officers of the Bucks County Historical Society are: Anthony Burton, president; Maurice M. Ely, first vice-president; Fred F. Martin, Jr., second vice-president; Mrs. F. Palin Spruance, secretary; and William A. Rawak, treasurer. Presented in April, Series IV of the lecture series "Adventures Into The Past" featured the following lecturers: Donald A. Winer, "Pottery"; Henry J. Kauffman, "Tin, Brass and Copper"; and J. E. Pfeiffer, "Jersey Glass." The spring meeting, held in the Meeting House of historic Fallsington on May 2, was highlighted by an address by Terry A. McNealy on "The Early Years of Fallsington." "A Spring Excursion" bus tour to Stenton Plantation House, Valley Green Inn, and Hope Lodge was offered by the Women's Committee on May 26.

The Volunteers of the Chester County Historical Society attended a March meeting to hear Mrs. William Shur, Associate Professor of History and Education at West Chester State College, speak on "The Emergence of the Common School in Chester County." On March 14, the society hosted a regional workshop of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. The theme of the meeting was "Historical Preservation and the Historical Society." An illustrated discourse on "Historic Preservation and Restoration" was presented by G. Edwin Brumbaugh at the annual meeting on May 19.

The February meeting of the Clinton County Historical Society featured a program on the life of the late William Raymond, noted vocalist, actor, and perhaps the only Negro soldier to serve in an all white unit during World War I.

The Cumberland County Historical Society combined an exhibition of old glass bottles and glass paperweights, mostly loaned by local collectors, with an open-house reception for members and friends on May 12.

The speaker for the March meeting of the Historical Society of Dauphin County was Dr. Gerald Brinton, Director of Curriculum and Planning, West Shore School District. His talk on John White Geary, twice Governor of Pennsylvania, was entitled

"Soldier, Statesman and Neighbor." In April, Dr. Morey X. Powell lectured on "Cut Glass in America."

The spring dinner meeting of the Delaware County Historical Society, held on April 27 at the Springfield Country Club, heard Mrs. Paul T. Willis, Consultant Librarian of the John J. Tyler Arboretum, discuss the records of the Minshall Painter Genealogical Library. A trip to the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum is planned for September 12. Celebrating its 75th anniversary, the society will hold its annual meeting on September 27 at the Middletown Presbyterian Church, Old Middletown Road, Elwyn.

The Elk County Historical Society held its sixth annual dinner meeting in April with Raymond Nelson presenting an illustrated lecture on "The History of Coal Mining in Elk County."

At the annual meeting of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania on March 24, the following officers were elected: Charles B. Barclay, president; Wallace Evans Davies, vice-president; Mrs. F. Spencer Roach, vice-president; Mrs. Georges Carousso, vice-president; Robert E. Putney, Jr., secretary; Christopher R. C. Custer, treasurer; and Daniel W. B. Flint, Esq., counsel. Elected to the Board of Directors, to serve until 1973, were Mrs. Andrew Y. Drysdale, Mrs. William H. Gill, Jr., Aubrey H. Baldwin, III, and Nicholas B. Wainwright. Dr. Jean Stephenson presented a discourse on "Scotch-Irish In and Out of Pennsylvania" at the final lecture meeting of the season on May 26.

Robert McLean, III, spoke on "Philadelphia Bicentennial 1976" at the March meeting of the Germantown Historical Society. April events included the Annual Card Party for the Morris House and an address by Charles A. Brower on "The Role of Alcoholic Beverages in Colonial Times." A tour of historic houses in Germantown was held on May 9.

Speaking at the March meeting of the Goschenhoppen Historians, Anna Jane Waddington discussed the 200 year history of the Eden Mennonite Church. Carroll Hopf, curator of collections at

the Pennsylvania Farm Museum in Landis Valley, lectured on "Pennsylvania Painted Country Furniture" at an April meeting. With Alan Keyser as moderator, a discussion between Mrs. Robert Dewey and Robert Bucher on house restoration was featured on May 21.

The Greene County Historical Society has moved from its old quarters in Waynesburg to its new property, the former Greene Hills Farm Home, located east of Waynesburg on Route 21.

A visit to the Myers Arboretum and the Hanover Shoe Farms was a special feature of the Hanover Area Historical Society's fourth annual House and Garden Tour.

The Harmonic Associates, in cooperation with Old Economy, presented a program on "Man at Home in His Environment" for Earth Day at Old Economy on April 22. A lecture entitled "The Communal Society as a Part of Nature" was given by Daniel B. Reibel, curator of Old Economy. With Mrs. David F. Black serving as general chairman and Mrs. C. W. Reed acting as crafts chairman, the second annual *Kunstfest*, the spring craft festival, was held on June 13-14. The *Erntefest*, the fall craft festival, is scheduled for September 26-27.

At the annual meeting of the Haverford Township Historical Society on April 23, Harry Ernst, teacher of advanced biology at Haverford Township Senior High School, gave an illustrated report on his project of ecological research in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Ernst also focused attention on the cultural and economic history of the region. Haverford Heritage Day was held on May 16 at Powder Mill Park.

Regular monthly meetings of the Lackawanna Historical Society in February, March, and April were highlighted by the following talks: "The Scranton Times Centennial," William Cullen; "History and Progress of Fire Protection in Our Area," Frank C. Brown; and "History and Restoration of the French Azilum Area," Elizabeth Homet.

On March 30, the Lancaster County Historical Society hosted a meeting of all those interested in the restoration of the Hans Herr house. Robert Bucher, from the Goschenhoppen Historical

Society, gave a short presentation on "German Architecture and Restoration." At an April meeting, William H. Shank gave an illustrated talk on "Indian Trails to Super Highways." "American Tucker China, 1780-90" was the subject of an illustrated lecture by Mrs. Arthur Judson on May 5.

"A Covered Bridge Story" was the topic presented to the Landis Valley Associates of the Pennsylvania Farm Museum at a regular meeting in March. The speaker, accompanying his talk with color slides, was Richard S. Warren. A May meeting featured a talk by Lester B. Breininger, Jr., on "Religious Broadsides of the Pennsylvania Germans." In June, Phyllis T. Ballinger gave an illustrated lecture on "China Used in America During the 18th and 19th Centuries."

The Lebanon County Historical Society met on March 23 to hear Samuel Dyke, president of the Lancaster County Historical Society, talk on "The Evolution of the Pennsylvania Rifle and Lebanon County's Three Great Gunsmiths."

At the annual dinner meeting of the Lehigh County Historical Society, Melville J. Boyer discussed the "Solwell Files."

Holding their May 17 meeting at the Ashbridge House in Rosemont, members of the Lower Merion Historical Society heard Dr. Collins Healy speak on "The Story Behind the Welsh Place Names in Pennsylvania."

J. W. Strawbridge, III, naturalist and museum exhibits designer, presented a program on the natural history of the Williamsport area at the annual meeting of the Lycoming County Historical Society on April 16.

"Pennsylvania German Architecture of Montgomery County" was the topic of discussion by Alan G. Keyser at the spring meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County on April 25. Architect G. Edwin Brumbaugh, a special guest on the program, made extemporaneous remarks as they seemed appropriate and useful.

The Muncy Historical Society is publishing a series of brochures on the logging-railroad period of the area's history. The first one, dealing with the North Branch Railroad, was printed in 1969. Now ready is *Lumbering Ghost Towns—Grays Run, Masten, Laquin, and Ricketts*. The pamphlets are authored by Thomas T. Taber, archivist-librarian of the society.

A lecture on "Lehigh County Heritage" was given by Grant White, director of the Lehigh County Cultural Center, at the spring meeting of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society on April 8. A guided bus tour of upper Northampton County on May 16 featured stops at Wolf Academy, Allen Township Presbyterian Church, Kriedersville Covered Bridge and Chapman Slate Quarry.

Professor Charles Holsinger and three of his students from Franklin and Marshall College presented a program on the "Indians of the Octoraro" at the first semi-annual dinner meeting of the Octorara Area Historical Society. Walter R. Miller read the second of his papers on "The Valley of the Octoraro" at a May meeting.

On March 20, James C. Humes, a member of the White House staff, spoke to the Pennsylvania Historical Junto on "The Greatest Unknown American: Thomas Cooper." A talk by Donald A. Winer, fine arts curator with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, highlighted the April 17 meeting. Winer's subject was "Some Lesser-Known Pennsylvania Artists." Reverend Frederick S. Weiser, archivist of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, addressed the annual dinner meeting on May 15 on the subject "Daniel Schumacher, Country Pastor."

An address entitled "Carlisle—The First Half Century of a Frontier Town" was given by Milton E. Flower at the March 6 meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. On April 16, Wendell D. Garrett presented an illustrated talk on "John Adams and Thomas Jefferson: The Best of Two Worlds." Garrett, the managing editor of *Antiques*, was a member of the Editorial Staff of the Adams Papers from 1958 to 1966.

Mrs. Alberta Pollard recently spoke to the Historical Society of Perry County on the subject "The Circus, The Schools and Entertainment of a Hundred Years Ago in Perry County."

The second annual Colonial House Tour of Plymouth Meeting was sponsored by the Plymouth Meeting Historical Society on May 17.

The Polish Historical Commission of the Central Council of Polish Organizations of Pittsburgh is presently trying to locate Polish-Americans who reside in the Pittsburgh area and who participated in the Battle for Warsaw on August 18, 1920. Please send any information to Joseph A. Borkowski, 4291 Stanton Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201.

At a stated meeting of the Potter County Historical Society on April 24, Robert R. Lyman discussed "Strange Events in the Black Forest." The society now has a complete microfilm record of the *Potter County Journal* for the period 1848-1966.

The restored St. Gabriel's Chapel in Douglassville was the site of the annual meeting of the Pottstown Historical Society in May. Sponsored in the interest of the Pottsgrove Furnishings Fund, the eighth annual June Fair was held on June 6.

Dr. Kenneth W. Thompson, vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation, will present the Founders' Day address at the Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, on the subject "Presbyterians and International Affairs: From Wilson to Rusk." Commentator for the address on October 8 will be Dr. Arthur S. Link, eminent Woodrow Wilson scholar. The public is invited. The society, in cooperation with the Historical Society of Delaware, has published *George Bourne and The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable* by John W. Christie and Dwight L. Dumond. The book is the ninth volume in the Presbyterian Historical Society Publication Series.

The Quakertown Historical Society, in cooperation with the Upper Bucks Art League and the Town and Country Garden Club, sponsored its third annual Arts Festival on June 5-6.

The following officers were elected by the Shippensburg Historical Society at the annual meeting in January: W. J. Kylan, president; Russell Kent, first vice-president; Charles Kent, second vice-president; Jean Eschenmann, secretary; Walter Howland, treasurer; and Samuel Daihl, custodian. Michael Wargo, history professor at Shippensburg State College, gave a resume on recent research into the history surrounding the Loyalists and their families during the American Revolution. The guest speaker at the annual dinner meeting on April 2 was Wilmer Hensel, retired teacher from Newburg. Hensel discussed some of the aspects of Shippensburg's early history.

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society reports that an attempt has been made to interest the Cumberland County Commissioners in restoring the covered bridges at Bowmansdale and Silver Springs. "See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week" was observed from May 9 to May 17. A commemorative stamp representing an historic covered bridge has been available to collectors since 1961.

Speakers at recent Valley Forge Historical Society meetings have been: Mrs. Arthur Wells Jones, "Old Wallpapers"; Mrs. A. William Ball, Jr., "Brasses—The Jewelry of Fine Furniture"; and Rollin D. Morse, "Early Lighting Devices."

At the annual meeting of the Warren County Historical Society on March 18, the following officers were elected: Chase Putnam, president; Dr. William Cashman, vice-president; Mrs. Keith Chase, secretary; W. Beyer Africa, treasurer; Mrs. Richard Corcoran, archivist; W. Floyd Clinger, editor; and Miss Catherine Henderson, librarian. The speaker of the evening, Bruce Smith, gave an illustrated talk on the lumber industry in the vicinity of Sheffield.

The Washington County Historical Society is continuing restoration work at the LeMoyné House. Lawrence Bailey has been elected president.

Meeting on April 8, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania heard William M. Rimmel, columnist for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, explain "The Allegheny Story."



On April 7, Mary Martha Peterson, senior history major at Seton Hill College, spoke to the Westmoreland County Historical Society on the subject of her senior thesis, "Hannastown." Wallace Hanson, geologist with the Peoples Natural Gas Company, was the guest speaker at the May 5 meeting. Hanson lectured on the history of natural gas in Westmoreland County.

At a January meeting, the Women's Historical Society of Pennsylvania heard Arthur Ziegler discuss the highlights of his work at the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

The spring tours for school children at the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society and the Swetland Homestead were held from April 15 to early June.

Films produced by Colonial Williamsburg were presented at the April 14 and May 12 meetings of the Historical Society of York County. A summer-long exhibit entitled "Recreation—York Style" was opened to the public on May 10. On May 25-26, members toured Williamsburg, Virginia. A "Continuation Fund" drive is expected to provide the funds to further develop museum facilities and to retire the debts incurred through the restoration of the Golden Plough Tavern, the General Gates House and the Log House, the society's three major historic attractions.

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In action taken by the Myerstown Borough Council on March 10, the Isaac Meyer Homestead, built by the founder of the community in 1738, was leased to the Lebanon County Historic Preservation Trust. The two and a half story stone building, known as the Old Fort and located on borough property on the east side of South College Street and north of the Tulpehocken Creek, will be developed as an historic site, as a museum, and as a general meeting place and headquarters for the Preservation Trust. Mrs. Rodney Steltz is chairman of the committee charged with devising plans for the restoration.

The John C. Plumer house in West Newton has been acquired and is being saved and exhibited by the West Newton Historical

Society and the borough of West Newton. The Plumer house was built in 1814.

A valuable contribution to historic preservation has been made by Senior Girl Scout Troop 164 in Aston Township, Delaware County. The scouts and their leader, Mrs. William Bonhage, have restored the oldest (1777) schoolhouse in the township. In recognition of their efforts, they have received \$500 from *Reader's Digest*, \$200 from the Coca-Cola Company, and \$100 from Historic Delaware County, Inc.

Pennsylvania's Secretary of Highways, Robert G. Bartlett, has been named chairman of a recently established liaison committee for the American Association of State Highway Officials. The committee will have the responsibility of reviewing problems and establishing guidelines on a national level for control of highway impact on historical sites and buildings.

"Lindenwald," the home of Martin Van Buren at Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York, has been the object of preservation efforts at both state and federal levels for nearly half a century. Recently, shortly after Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., informed President Nixon on the condition of the estate, the Department of the Interior's Master Plan for the Lindenwald Historic Site was advanced by two years, from January 1972 to January 1970.

Sponsored jointly by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a national conference on the practical aspects of historic preservation in urban areas will be held in Pittsburgh on September 10-11. The two-day meeting will study the variety of preservation and restoration projects that the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation has initiated in various areas of the city. For information or reservations for this conference, write Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 900 Benedum-Trees Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.

## OF MEN AND MANY THINGS

In cooperation with the City of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the Philadelphia 1976 Bicentennial Corporation, the first commemorative event of the American bicentennial decade was presented by the Crispus Attucks Post 151 of the American Legion on March 8. The event, held at the New Thankful Baptist Church in Philadelphia, honored the sacrifice of Crispus Attucks, the first Black American to give his life in the cause of American independence, who died during the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770. The speaker of the day, Mrs. Edythe H. Ingraham, explained "The Contemporary and Historic Significance of Crispus Attucks."

After two years of public and private meetings, the Historic Foundation of Montgomery County presented a booklet entitled "Forge for Freedom" to the county commissioners on May 18. The work outlines preliminary plans and recommendations for the county's participation in the 1976 bicentennial celebration. The Foundation's Bicentennial Committee, under the chairmanship of Leon S. Rhodes, has been instrumental in establishing MET-COB, consisting of representatives of the counties surrounding Philadelphia, to coordinate planning for 1976 on a suburban regional basis. The committee is also looking beyond 1976 to the county's own bicentennial in 1984.

A symposium entitled "Understanding America: Legacy of Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction" was held in honor of Frederic Shriver Klein, Audenreid Professor of History and Archeology, Franklin and Marshall College, on April 25. Retiring after forty-two years of service to the college, Klein is an associate editor of both *American History Illustrated* and *Civil War Times Illustrated*. He has authored *Lancaster County, 1841-1941*; *Old Lancaster, Since 1781*; and *Just South of Gettysburg*.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsbury Society, Inc., the Annual Spring Seminar at Pennsbury Manor was held on April 11-12. Adhering to the theme "The Philadelphia Decorative Arts, 1730-1840," the two-day meeting included sessions on "A Century

of Philadelphia Painting, 1730-1830"; "Philadelphia Pre-Revolution Furniture"; "Philadelphia Post-Revolution Furniture"; "The Pewterers of Philadelphia and Their Wares, 1730-1830"; "Philadelphia Silver, 1730-1830"; and "Benjamin Rush: Travels Through Life."

Published on April 3 by Doubleday & Company and available at all bookstores, *Portrait of Pennsylvania* is the most recent work by Dr. S. K. Stevens, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Illustrated with many fine photographs, the volume is priced at \$5.95.

The Pennsylvania State University, with the endorsement of the National Historical Publications Commission, is involved in a project to uncover and record correspondence and other writings of former President Martin Van Buren. The publication of a letterpress edition of the Van Buren materials is planned. Any information would be gratefully received. Please contact Walter L. Ferree, Department of History, Ogontz Campus, Pennsylvania State University, 1600 Woodland Road, Abington, Pennsylvania 19001.

The History Department and the School of Journalism at Pennsylvania State University have co-sponsored a national conference on "Muckraking: Past, Present, and Future." The conference, attended by representatives from NBC, *Life* Magazine and other news media, brought to the attention of media representatives the existence of a continuing interest in muckraking and its possibilities as a form of investigatory journalism.

Associate Professor John M. Coleman of Lafayette College has been granted a leave of absence for the academic year 1970-71 to continue his research on the life of Thomas McKean.

On May 8, Dr. Robert Duncan, Chairman of the Department of History, Slippery Rock State College, addressed the Stone House Associates on the topic "Western Pennsylvania in 1758."

In recognition of his many contributions in the field of Pennsylvania history, Donald H. Kent, Director of the Bureau of Archives and History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, has received an honorary doctorate from Albright College.

"The Role of the Social Sciences in the Study of Economic History" was the theme of the Eleutherian Mills Conference on Economic History on May 8.

Approximately 750 teachers and students attended the third annual History Conference at Bloomsburg State College on April 27-28. The theme of the two-day meeting was "The Cold War."

Produced by the Chester County Tourist Promotion Bureau, the 16mm. film "Chester County Welcomes Thee" has won a George Washington Gold Medal Honor Award from the Freedoms Foundation.

Dr. Henry H. Glassie, III, in accepting a position on the staff of the Folklore Institute at Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana), has resigned the editorship of the *Keystone Folklore Quarterly*. David Hufford, State Folklorist on the staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, has been appointed as Dr. Glassie's successor.

With Dr. Don Yoder, of the Department of Folklore at the University of Pennsylvania, serving as Dean of Seminars, the fourth annual Historic Schaefferstown Folklife Conference is scheduled to be conducted in connection with the fourth annual Schaefferstown Dutch Festival on July 25-26. The theme of this year's conference is "Pennsylvania Dutch Architecture."

Van Trump, Ziegler & Shane, Inc., publishers and purveyors of books and periodicals, announces the release of a catalogue that "can be the bookshop" for all organizations and individuals interested in publications in the historic preservation, architecture, urban affairs, and historical fields. Free to anyone requesting it, the catalogue lists each publication available, its author, a brief description, and the price. Listings are also free for any book or booklet, in the stated areas of interest, published by any organization, publisher, group, or university press. The firm, planning to issue the catalogue semi-annually, is anxious to receive the listings of publishers and historical groups. Contact Charles W. Shane, 900 Benedum-Trees Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.

The 63rd annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies was held at the Holiday West Motor Hotel, Harrisburg, on May 9. The featured speakers at the morning session, "Projects and Problems," were: William J. Wewer, "Thoughts on State Aid to the Historical Societies"; Andrew Babinchak, "The Junior Historians in Action"; and Mrs. LeRoy Sanders, "Historical Societies and Genealogical Inquiries." Following a tour of the Zimmerman Antique Automobile Museum, the annual luncheon was highlighted by the showing of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's new 16 mm. film, "Windows On Our Past." With Dr. S. K. Stevens presiding, the speakers at the afternoon session, "Philadelphia Plans for the Bicentennial," were Robert McLean, Henry E. Putsch, and Mrs. Edythe H. Ingraham.

Produced for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission by Calvin Productions, Philadelphia, "Windows On Our Past" is a color and sound motion picture showing all phases of the Commission's operations and services. A few prints of the film are available on a temporary loan basis. For information, write "Windows On Our Past," Public Information Office, Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108.