THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

BY CHARLES GLATFELTER

THE fortieth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association was held on October 22 and 23, 1971 at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The hosts were Lycoming College and the Lycoming County Historical Society.

The opening session began at 12:15 p.m. on Friday in a college dining room, with Ralph Hazeltine of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society presiding. Following the luncheon, greetings were extended by President Harold H. Hutson of Lycoming College and by President Andrew K. Grugan of the Lycoming County Historical Society. Then William N. Richards, Director of the Bureau of Museums, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, gave an illustrated talk on the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum and the Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum Complex. The Commission, he said, has undertaken the development of a series of museums related to the Commonwealth's basic industrial history. It is hoped that these will serve as regional cultural and historical centers. The first one to be built was the Lumber Museum in Potter County, consisting of an exhibit and administrative building, and a lumber camp with bunkhouse; mess hall; stable; carpenter, blacksmith, and flier's shops; and locomotive storage shed. Exhibits relate to the forest as a natural resource and to the many processes and tools involved in lumbering. The camp (not yet open because of budget restrictions) will tell the story of the people of lumbering. The Anthracite Museum will have five units. Those at Scranton, Ashland, and Shamokin will house exhibits on the geological, technical, economic, and cultural patterns of the industry's history. A fourth unit will be a documents repository near Wilkes-Barre. The fifth, and most distinctive, unit is the village of Eckley, a collection of some sixty structures built as a company town in the 1850's and 1860's. The theme for Eckley will be the daily life of the miner and his family.

Donald Housely, Susquehanna University, presided at the
first afternoon session. John F. Bauman, California State College, read a paper on "Race and Reform in Urban America: The New Deal and the Dilemma of Black Housing Projects in Philadelphia." He contended that housing reformers have historically treated the "ill-housed" as an indistinguishable amalgam and ignored the dilemma of applying their lofty principle to the black slum population. This dilemma loomed as a key factor in the failure of the New Deal housing programs in Philadelphia. At first the Public Works Administration altogether overlooked the black housing crisis in Philadelphia, but between 1935 and 1937 authorities in Philadelphia and Washington were constrained to recognize the crime of the city's black slums. Seeing the poverty of black housing as one thing and the site for a project as another, the housing administration's determination that housing sites should occupy the heart of black slums was an outgrowth of white segregationist thinking in the 1920's and the 1930's. Both this site selection as well as the black urban experience itself harshly conflicted with the remedial intent of public housing and constituted in large measure the deadly paradox of black housing projects.

The second paper at this session, entitled "The Ethnic Factor in Erie Politics, 1900-1970," was read by William Garvey, Mercyhurst College. As the century began, he stated, Erie's political fortunes were largely controlled by a native Yankee-German, upper middle class, Protestant, and business oriented group. The opposition centered in the Catholic Irish and German working class. Large influxes of Catholic Polish and Italian workers between 1900 and 1930 changed the political balance of power. Over such issues as popular election of water commissioners, a molders' strike, and a vice crusade, the "native" and "new" elements of the city battled for control of City Hall. By 1923 the new elements had won. Except for brief interludes, they have since retained control. So complete has been their domination that no Protestant has served on city council for twenty years, and five of the present seven councilmen are of Polish or Italian ancestry. Since World War II the ethnic coalition has become associated with the Democratic party, so much so that Republicans who are Catholic, lower class, and from an ethnic minority do no better than those who are Protestant, upper class, and Yankee. Besides fighting the old ele-
ments, usually on reform and vice issues, members of the ethnic coalition also carried on a struggle among themselves for leadership. Germans gave way to Irish, who in turn yielded to Poles and Italians. The advent of an ethnic group to coalition leadership generally coincided with its development of a sizable middle class. All in all, the ethnic factor in Erie politics continues to be a significant one.

George D. Wolf, Capitol Campus, Pennsylvania State University, presided at the second afternoon session. James G. Lydon, Duquesne University, read a paper on "A Comparison of Boston and Philadelphia Economics, 1725-1775." By means of statistics from weekly customs reports published in the Boston Newsletter and the Pennsylvania Gazette for the years 1725-1773, the paper examined the commercial development of the two cities. Graphs were used to illustrate the fluctuations in the regional trade of the two ports. Philadelphia developed her trade with Iberia and Ireland as well as with Britain, the West Indies, and other coastal cities. Immigration and the immigration traffic were a boon to Philadelphia, increasing production and providing direct specie flow. Philadelphia's trade patterns worked in a complementary fashion to a greater degree than did those of Boston. While her trade rose steadily in volume, Boston's declined, reaching a nadir in the late 1750's. By the end of the period, Boston had almost recovered its earlier levels. Wartime conditions (especially during 1743-1748 and 1756-1758), tended to depress the trade of both ports. The paper analyzed the trade by region for each city and attempted to account for shifts that occurred.

Roland M. Baumann, Bowling Green State University, read a paper on "Congressman John Swanwick (1790-1798): Spokesman for Merchant Republicanism." Swanwick represented the merchant wing of the Democratic-Republican party, expounding broadly conceived views of political economy that were vastly different from those of his agrarian counterparts. "Merchant Republicanism," like Manning Dauer's "Agrarian Federalism," suggests another view which Charles Beard neglected in his polarity of agrarianism versus capitalism. The theme of merchant Republicanism was developed with the aim of exposing the larger concepts of urban Republicanism and late eighteenth century liberalism as they relate to the first party system. The paper sug-
gested four important points concerning the Philadelphia Demo-
ocratic-Republican movement between 1790 and 1798. First, these
urban Republicans drew their support not only from persons of
little or no property but also from an influential merchant
constituency that contributed both political leadership and
thought. Second, the merchant Republicans deserted Federalism
over policy matters, demanding a liberated capitalism as well
as a foreign policy immune from foreign domination and directed
at establishing national pride. Third, the merchants were de-
tached from the Federalists well before the controversy over
Jay's treaty. Fourth, Jefferson's ideas, usually taken as the sole
principles of the party, in fact represented only one ingredient
of Republicanism.

Following the afternoon sessions, a reception was held at the
new museum building of the Lycoming County Historical So-
ciety. A number of persons visited the quarters, viewing the
exhibits and receiving refreshments.

The annual dinner meeting of the association was held on
Friday evening in the Wertz Student Center, with President
Robert L. Bloom, Gettysburg College, presiding. Following the
meal, those present observed a moment of silence in memory of
Lawrence Henry Gipson, one of the founders of the associa-
tion and a past president. Robert Alberts, Pittsburgh, spoke on
the subject of "Historical and Biographical Writing: A View
from the Outside." A former advertising executive, he explained
how he had become interested in history, reading widely and
eventually determining upon early American history as his major
interest. Now devoting his full time to the subject, he has written
books on Robert Stobo and William Bingham. Reflecting upon
his own experiences thus far, he acknowledged the debt owed
to those who have preserved and edited sources of the Amer-
ican past; to the librarians for their many helps; to the industrial
technicians for such innovations as xeroxing; and to the high
quality of recent historical scholarship, especially that producing
editions of the writings of eighteenth century luminaries. As
for the latter, much remains to be done. For example, the writ-
ings of such influential figures as Robert Morris have not yet
been published. Indexes of many of the older editions of writ-
ings are most incomplete; the careful scholar simply cannot
trust them. Also, manuscripts are still scattered around in hun-
dreds of places, and there is no index which can provide an easy reference to them. Finally, he expressed his conviction that there is a need for more business history, and this is what is presently engaging his attention. Using for the first time diaries kept by Henry J. Heinz and recollections of persons who worked for him years ago, along with other sources, he is at work on the history of the Heinz company.

The meeting of the Council concluded the day's program.

About twenty persons attended the Phi Alpha Theta breakfast in the Lycoming Hotel on Saturday morning.

The annual business meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association convened in Wendel Hall on the campus of Lycoming College at 9:45 Saturday morning, with almost thirty members in attendance and with President Robert L. Bloom presiding. The recording secretary read the minutes of the preceding annual meeting, which were approved.

Treasurer Richard P. Wright reported that during the past year the financial condition of the association had continued to improve, thanks largely to the increase in dues to $8 per year. For the year just closed (October 1, 1970 to September 30, 1971), income from all sources amounted to $18,525 while expenditures were $16,924. The year-end balance of all funds was $10,726.61. The report was adopted.

Editor William G. Shade reported a delay in the October issue of Pennsylvania History occasioned by preparation of an index to the volume.

In the absence of the business secretary, the recording secretary reported that there were 1,406 members as of September 30. An adequate inventory of back journals and pamphlets is on hand.

Homer T. Rosenberger, for the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate, all of whom were duly elected for terms ending in 1974: for vice-president, Russell T. Weigley; and for the Council, Wallace E. Davies, John B. Frantz, Elizabeth M. Geffen, Loring B. Priest, and George D. Wolf.

For the publications committee, John M. Coleman told the meeting that there is now in existence a list of dissertations which have been accepted over the last seventy-five years and which treat some aspect of Pennsylvania history. It is being suggested that the list be offered to Pennsylvania History.
The closing minutes of the meeting were devoted to the subject of the forthcoming bicentennial observance of the American Revolution. Philip S. Klein spoke about the Historical Council subcommittee of the Philadelphia Bicentennial Committee. The subcommittee, of which he is a member, wants to be a clearing-house for plans being made in many quarters. It is recommending to the parent committee that emphasis during the observance be placed on youth, minorities, and historical preservation. Francis Jennings expressed his concern that there be plans for a dignified scholarly observance of the American Revolution which might result from joint efforts by such bodies as the American Philosophical Society and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. John M. Coleman made a motion which was subsequently adopted inviting the president to appoint a committee to advise the association at the next annual meeting of ways in which the Pennsylvania Historical Association can participate in the proper observance of the bicentennial of the American Revolution.

The annual meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Donald M. Carson, past president of the Lycoming County Historical Society, presided at the first Saturday morning session. Craig A. Newton, Bloomsburg State College, read a paper on "Jamison City: the Quiet Boomtown." As the center of lumbering activity in the upper Susquehanna valley moved eastward from Williamsport toward the anthracite region, dozens of sawmill and tannery towns boomed. Jamison City was one of these towns. Like the others it was chiefly the product of the economic values and necessities of its entrepreneurs. Founded in 1889 at the terminus of a railroad, it boasted a large tannery, a sawmill, and ancillary enterprises. Within twenty-five years the timber receded and the mills closed. After 1912 Jamison City was headed for obscurity. However, before economic forces worked their inexorable way, its residents had prepared the town for a permanence that was from the outset forbidden it. Assuming a dynamic future for their community, they created a stable society, with the village ideals common to the area. Because of this, Jamison City long displayed few of the symptoms of disorganization usually associated with boomtowns.

Thomas T. Taber, Director of the Muncy Historical Society, spoke about the "History of the Central Pennsylvania Lumber
Company.” With rights stretching across northern Pennsylvania in a belt 50 miles wide and 160 miles long, this company was the largest lumber concern ever to operate within the state. Its sixteen sawmills were located in seven different counties. From its inception in 1903 until the final log was cut in 1941, it played a leading role in the number industry. The company was formed as a subsidiary of the United States Leather Company. Earlier, the parent company was interested only in hemlock bark. Its tracts of land had been contracted to different lumbermen who could do as they wished with the lumber as long as they supplied sufficient bark. The rapid rise in hemlock prices at the turn of the century caused the company to re-appraise the situation. The decision to enter into active lumbering resulted in the highly successful Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company.

William G. Shade, Lehigh University, presided at the second morning session. Daniel P. Showan, Lock Haven State College, read a paper on “Congressman Stephen G. Porter and International Drug Control, 1921-1930.” As chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Porter exerted a strong influence on our foreign drug policy during the 1920’s. Though hostile to the League of Nations, he represented the United States at Geneva on three occasions, including the world-wide Drug Conference of 1924-1925. He firmly believed that control of drug abuse required international cooperation to combat the three facets of the problem: field production, manufacture, and traffic. If the opium-bloc nations would execute their obligations under the Hague Opium Convention of 1912, he contended, additional international agreements would be unnecessary. Rejecting a piecemeal approach to the problem, he disapproved of any deviation from our abolitionist stance. Porter’s death in 1930 removed a barrier to greater American participation in the international control movement.

Irwin M. Marcus, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, read a paper on “The Scott Nearing Case: Academic Freedom on Trial.” The period from 1890 to 1920 witnessed many conflicts between men of wealth and their representatives, on the one hand, and the increasingly self-conscious and reform-oriented professoriat; or the other, over the goals and governance of the university. The University of Pennsylvania trustees denied
tenure to Nearing in 1915. His critics attributed his dismissal to impulsiveness and intemperate public statements. Faculty and students, prominent scholars and the press, condemned the decision. Nearing's supporters attributed his dismissal to the displeasure of trustees and influential alumni with Nearing's views on economic and religious issues. The importance of the case led to an investigation by the American Association of University Professors. The investigating committee noted Nearing's competency, the role of alumni pressure, and defective procedures, concluding that his removal violated academic freedom. In spite of this finding and public uproar, the trustees reaffirmed their verdict. However, the university soon adopted more progressive tenure rules.

Philip S. Klein, Pennsylvania State University, presided over the final, luncheon session of the convention in the Hertz Student Center. James A. Kehl, University of Pittsburgh, read a paper on "Matt Quay and the Unmaking of a President." During the presidential campaign of 1888 when the Republicans succeeded in electing Benjamin Harrison, Matthew S. Quay was the campaign manager. Being a practical politician, he expected his reward in the form of political patronage, but Harrison was determined not to bargain with, or surrender to, Quay or any other of the spoilsmen. At the outset of the new administration, the two quarreled over the composition of the cabinet and later over patronage in general. Quay regarded Harrison as a political tenderfoot who placed undue stress on his moral responsibilities to the American people. To the President's disgust, Quay succeeded in sidetracking the Elections bill, which was an administration measure, while pushing the McKinley Tariff through the Senate in 1890. Harrison remained completely unresponsive to Quay's requests, and in retaliation the senator sought to prevent his renomination in 1892. Failing in this, he gave Harrison no support in the campaign and thereby contributed to his defeat.

The final session of the fortieth annual meeting adjourned about 2:30 p.m.