

NEWS AND COMMENT

By Harry E. Whipkey
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Donald H. Kent, distinguished scholar and administrator, well-known to all members of the Pennsylvania Historical Association and to all readers of *Pennsylvania History*, retired on February 5 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, thus ending a 37-year career in state government. Born in Erie, May 2, 1910, and a graduate—with Phi Beta Kappa honors—of Allegheny College, Meadville, 1931, Kent entered state service in 1937 as a historian with the Frontier Forts and Trails Survey, a WPA project sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. He joined the commission's Harrisburg staff in 1940 and for the next five years held the position of assistant state historian. Following the formation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1945, his scholarship, professionalism, and leadership qualities caused him to be named associate state historian, 1945-1956; chief, Research and Publications Division, 1956-1961; and, finally, director, Bureau of Archives and History, 1961-1975. In the latter capacity, he was responsible for and did much to advance the status of the state archives, the state records center, the division of history, a special documentary publications section, an ethnic studies section, the junior historian movement, the county records program, and the municipal records program. Donald Kent was much involved in the planning of the William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building, Harrisburg. This impressive museum and archives complex, which also houses the executive and administrative offices of the commission, was occupied and dedicated in 1965.

An authority on all phases of Pennsylvania history, but especially concerned with the colonial period, with Pennsylvania in the French and Indian War, and with Pennsylvania's Indian relations, this "one-person encyclopedia of Pennsylvania history" has authored, co-authored, or edited numerous books, pamphlets, articles, and leaflets on the historical heritage of the Commonwealth. He negotiated arrangements for the microfilming of the Contrecoeur Papers in the Archives du Séminaire de Quebec and for the publication of selections in *Papiers Contrecoeur et autres Documents Concernant le Conflit Anglo-Français sur l'Ohio de 1745 à 1756* (Quebec, Les Presses Universitaires Laval, 1952). His edited translation of "Contrecoeur's Copy of George Washington's Journal," in *Pennsylvania History*, January, 1952, and his account of *The French Invasion of Western Pennsyl-*

vania, 1753, published by the commission in 1954, were the first scholarly works to reveal the significant information on Washington's first expedition and on the French attempt to occupy the country of *la Belle Rivière* which were to be found in these newly-discovered sources.

Kent was called as an expert witness for the government before the Indian Claims Commission, May, 1958, in cases—involving the northwestern one-third of Pennsylvania and the western part of New York—entitled *Seneca Nation v. United States*, Docket No. 342-A; *Tonawanda Band of Senecas v. United States*, Docket No. 368-A; and *Six Nations v. United States*, Docket No. 344. He was called again in January, 1965, in cases involving the claims of the Seneca Indians to the Niagara River strip. While the extensive study prepared as a basis for his testimony has been published as a part of the government's records, he is currently planning to expand the material and to develop a book based on his involvement in the Indian claims cases.

Donald Kent has contributed comprehensive articles on "Pennsylvania" to *Collier's Encyclopedia* and *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. With Merle H. Deardorff, he prepared "John Adlum on the Allegheny: Memoirs for the Year 1794" for *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Volume 84, pages 265-324, 435-480. He joined forces with the late S. K. Stevens to author or edit such important additions to the archival and historical literature of the Commonwealth as *Journal of Chaussegros de Léry*, *Wilderness Chronicles of Northwestern Pennsylvania*, *The Expedition of the Baron de Longueuil*, *County Government and Archives in Pennsylvania*, and *Conserving Pennsylvania's Historical Heritage*. With Stevens and Mrs. Autumn Leonard, he edited the first two volumes of a projected seven-volume set of *The Papers of Henry Bouquet*. Edited by Kent, Louis M. Waddell, and Mrs. Leonard, the third volume of the Bouquet papers is now ready for publication.

Kent's involvement with and guidance of local, regional, state, and national archival and historical organizations and activities have been a credit to himself, to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and to the state of Pennsylvania. He has served the Pennsylvania Historical Association as assistant editor (1949-1950), associate editor (1950-1956), and news editor (1961-1967) of *Pennsylvania History*; as a member of council (1956-1966); as vice president (1966-1972); and as president (1972-). He provided leadership in the development of the association's annual research conference is staged in Harrisburg in early April. Kent has been a guiding force in the affairs of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, 1974; and will be the featured dinner speaker when the 10th annual conference is staged in Harrisburg in early April. Kent has been a guiding force in the affairs of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, serving since 1956 as assistant executive secretary. He has been treasurer (1959-1960) and vice president (1966-1967) of the Pennsylvania Folklore Society. As state awards chairman for the American Association for State and

Local History for many years prior to 1974, he worked hard to insure that individuals and groups received appropriate credit for their work in promoting interest in and understanding of Pennsylvania history. He has long been a respected and influential member of the State and Local Archives Committee of the Society of American Archivists.

Donald H. Kent has retired from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, but he has no intention of retiring from the field of historical research and publication. From his home, 1401 Letchworth Road, Camp Hill, he will continue to provide guidance to other historians and to historical organizations. We are pleased to note that he recently accepted appointment to the advisory committee, U.S. Army Military History Research Collection, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle.

Appointed archivist of Lehigh County on October 1, Mahlon H. Hellerich is responsible for the preservation of the permanently valuable records of the county, the development of a county records center, the administration of the county historical museum, the development of an educational program in local history and a program of research into all phases of the history of Lehigh County. Hellerich, a former associate professor of history and political science at Elizabethtown College and a former dean and professor of history at Albright College, also serves as executive director of the Lehigh County Historical Society and as president of the Pennsylvania German Society.

A public documents commission, officially termed the National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials, is to be created as a result of legislation passed by Congress in December. The 17-member commission, including representatives of the Society of American Archivists, the American Historical Association, and the Organization of American Historians, will study rules for the disposition and preservation of the records and papers of all elected and appointed officials of the federal government and will make appropriate recommendations to the President and the Congress with respect to this subject.

The papers of Robert Whitehill, Cumberland County's first state senator and first congressman and one of the founders of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania, are now held by the Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle. The new accession, as described by Robert G. Crist, president of the historical organization and a biographer of Whitehill, will be exciting news to historians of the period 1776-1813. The Cumberland County society has also accessioned the early minute books and other early records of the Cumberland County Medical Society, which was founded in the late 1860s.

Cooperation between two widely separated archival collections has resulted in the recent enrichment of both and the increased availability of

manuscript materials in criminology to scholars on opposite sides of the continent. The Conwellana-Templana Collection in the Samuel Paley Library, Temple University, Philadelphia, and the Archive of Contemporary History, University of Wyoming, Laramie, have exchanged copies of their separate correspondence between Harry Elmer Barnes and Negley King Teeters. Barnes, whose many works in sociology and history were familiar to generations of college students, died in 1968, after depositing the major portion of his papers with the University of Wyoming library, and arranging for the rest to be transferred after his death. The Barnes Collection there extends to nearly 200 document boxes, almost one-half of that consisting of Harry Elmer Barnes's wide-ranging correspondence. Teeters, whose long teaching career at Temple began in 1927, was approached by Barnes in 1940 to collaborate on a new text in criminology, a college textbook that both agreed was sorely needed. The result was *New Horizons in Criminology*, which eventually went into three editions. This work began an extensive correspondence and a warm personal relationship between the two writers.

Before Teeters's retirement from the Temple faculty in 1963, he had presented copies of his publications to the Conwellana-Templana Collection, which houses the Temple University archives and the publications and personal papers of its faculty and alumni. The largest deposit of his papers was made in the late 1960s, after his move to Oneonta, New York, where he joined the faculty of Hartwick College, teaching there until his death in 1971. Prison reform was a major concern of both Barnes and Teeters, as is well documented in the approximately 200 letters apiece between the two correspondents. Of the greatest interest to criminologists will be the articles, reports, and correspondence concerning several highly publicized defendants in criminal cases of the mid-twentieth century—notably Caryl Chessman in California and Robert Stroud, the "birdman of Alcatraz."

Official records recently accessioned by the Division of Archives and Manuscripts (State Archives), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, include the following: transcripts and reports of committee hearings, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 1965-1974, 43.5 cu. ft.; bills and resolutions, requisitions, Senate Journal papers, etc., Pennsylvania Senate, 1963-1974, 63 cu. ft.; Pennsylvania Bulletin documents, Legislative Reference Bureau, 1973, 2 cu. ft.; budget secretary's correspondence files, Office of the Budget, 1955-1965, 24 cu. ft.; correspondence files of the Office of the Chief Counsel, Department of Revenue, 1963-1969, 19 cu. ft.; minutes and related materials, Sanitary Water Board, 1923-1970, 16 cu. ft.; minutes, Water and Power Resources Board, 1923-1940, 2 cu. ft.; reports and correspondence of foresters and forest rangers, Department of Forestry, 1901-1920, 5 cu. ft.; administrative files pertaining to public school district organization, Department of Public Instruction, 1927-1962, 7 cu. ft.; correspondence files, Milk Marketing Board, 1966, 2 cu. ft.; minutes, reports,

correspondence, etc., of the Governor's Commission for Modern State Government ("Little Hoover Commission"), 1967-1969, 3 cu. ft.; microfilm copies of documents filed with the secretary of the Commonwealth under the provisions of all legislation providing for the incorporation and regulation of corporations, 1974, .05 cu. ft.; reports and studies, Improvement Program, Department of Highways, 1965-1969, .2 cu. ft.; Commonwealth dockets and transfer dockets, Commonwealth Court, 1970-1974, 32 cu. ft.; reports and related materials, Valley Forge Park Commission, 1894-1947, 9 cu. ft.; annual reports of municipal water systems, private water companies, telephone and telegraph companies, natural and manufactured gas companies, and private and municipal electric light, heat and power, and steam heat companies, Bureau of Statistics, Department of Commerce, 1948-1949, 4 cu. ft.; files, Bureau of Archives and History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1938-1974, 9 cu. ft.; correspondence of S. K. Stevens, PHMC, 1963-1966, 1 cu. ft.; and correspondence of Donald H. Kent, PHMC, 1943-1961, 7 cu. ft.

The manuscript section of the division has received the following: correspondence, account books, etc., 1815-1874, .3 cu. ft., of or relating to William Henry, pioneer ironmaster in the Lackawanna Valley, firearms manufacturer (Boulton Gun Works, Nazareth), and officer of the Susquehanna and Delaware Canal and Railroad Company; letters to and from Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker, 1902-1916, .2 cu. ft., consisting mostly of congratulatory letters following his election as governor, 1902, and letters to his daughter, Josephine; correspondence, clippings, photographs, etc., concerning the work of Mrs. Francis Tarnapowicz on war bond drives as originator and chairman of the Nationality Groups Division of the War Finance Committee for Pennsylvania, 1943-1945, 2 cu. ft.; diary, 1893-1895, and photograph collection, 1895-1926, 11 cu. ft., of W. W. Stoey, Harrisburg taxidermist and naturalist, featuring Harrisburg personalities and Harrisburg area scenes; records of the Central Railroad of New Jersey and the Lehigh and New England Railroad, consisting primarily of correspondence files, reports, manuals, guides, and blueprints, ca. 1900-1974, 90 cu. ft., records of the Emporium Lumber Company, including correspondence files, legal papers, maps and blueprints, accounts, etc., ca. 1883-1970, 85 cu. ft.; and important additions to MG-2 (Business Records Collection), MG-6 (Diaries and Journals Collection), MG-7 (Military Manuscripts Collection), MG-9 (Pennsylvania Writers Collection), MG-11 (Map Collection), MG-199 (Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania Collections), MG-215 (Ethnic Studies Collections), and MG-218 (Photograph Collections).

Epic on The Schuylkill: The Valley Forge Encampment, 1777-1778 has been issued by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Written by John B. B. Trussell, Jr., associate historian, the 46-page illustrated

booklet is priced at \$1, plus 6 percent sales tax for Pennsylvania residents, and may be ordered from the commission (William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building, Box 1026, Harrisburg 17120).

A handsome bicentennial edition of *Guide to the Historical Markers of Pennsylvania Erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission* is now available for purchase from the PHMC. With an introduction by A. Henry Haas, curator, Historical Marker Program, the 163-page illustrated volume, designed to easily fit into a handbag or vest pocket, is priced at \$1.25, plus sales tax for Pennsylvania residents.

New additions to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Historical Pennsylvania Leaflet Series include: *The Battle of Brandywine*, *The Battle of Germantown*, and *The Liberty Bell*. Single copies of these 4-page illustrated leaflets are sold for 5¢ each, but in quantities of ten or more the price is 3¢ each. For an up-to-date price list of all the commission's publications, contact: PHMC, William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building, Box 1026, Harrisburg 17120.

The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland 21218, has announced the publication of John A. Hostetler's *Hutterite Society*. Priced at \$14 (clothbound), the 448-page volume presents the history of the Hutterites in three parts: historical development, contemporary social and cultural organization, and the problems and techniques of survival. Special features include photographs of Hutterite life, line prints illustrating their history, maps showing Hutterite migration, charts of colony organization, a list of colonies with addresses, a bibliography, and an extensive index. Also issued by the Johns Hopkins University Press is a revised edition of Hostetler's *Amish Society*, priced at \$10.00 (clothbound) and \$2.95 (paperback). John A. Hostetler, widely known for his writing and research on minority groups in the United States and Canada, is professor of sociology and anthropology, Temple University.

Twelve films dealing with actual historical events of the Revolutionary War period have been prepared by the National Geographic Society. In color and twenty-five minutes in length, each film carries a rental fee of \$25 for three days possession. For a list of titles, contact: Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc., 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036.

Conducted at the Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, March 15, a regional meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies featured a panel discussion on oral history by John Bodnar, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Alice Hoffman,

Pennsylvania State University, and Richard Julianni, Temple University; and a session on "Current Trends in Historical Collection" with these participants: Philip F. Mooney, the Balch Institute, Frederick Miller, Temple University, James Mooney, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Gerald W. Gillette, Presbyterian Historical Society.

On April 25 the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware 19807, will sponsor a conference entitled "Businessmen Confront the Great Depression: Two Case Studies." Papers will be delivered by Roy Lopata, grant-in-aid scholar, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library; on "John Raskob, a Fox in the Bull Market, 1928-1929" and Thomas Winpenny, associate professor of history, Elizabethtown College, on "Henning Webb Prentis and the Challenge of the New Deal." Thomas C. Cochran, senior resident scholar, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, will act as commentator. Stephen Salisbury, professor of history, University of Delaware, will serve as session chairman.

With headquarters at the Sheraton Hotel, ideally located for beginning walking tours of the center city, the 39th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists will be held in Philadelphia, September 30—October 3. The program committee, chaired by Mary Lynn McCree, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, will take full advantage of Philadelphia's extraordinary variety of archival collections and historic sites in arranging a full schedule of professional sessions and special events for participants. Ms. McCree's committee includes: Maygene Daniels, National Archives; Lynn B. Donovan, California Historical Society; Thomas F. Elliott, Indiana Province, Holy Cross Fathers; John Fleckner, State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Robert Gordon, Public Archives of Canada; Larry J. Hackman, John F. Kennedy Library; J. D. Henn, International Harvester; John Kinney, Texas State Archives; Phillip E. Lothyan, Seattle Federal Archives and Records Center; Edward C. Papenfuse, Maryland Hall of Records; Ann Penderson, Georgia State Archives; Edward Weldon, New York State Archives; Richmond D. Williams, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library; and Ian Wilson, Queen's University Archives. C. F. W. Coker, *American Archivist*, and Ann Morgan Campbell, SAA executive director, are ex officio committee members. Local arrangements are being planned under the direction of Philip F. Mooney of the Balch Institute. His committee includes: Miriam Crawford, Temple University; Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Insurance Company of North America; William B. Miller, Presbyterian Historical Society; Murphy D. Smith, American Philosophical Society; Lisa Eizen, Philadelphia City Archives; Harry E. Whipkey, Pennsylvania State Archives; Richmond D. Williams, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library; Francis James Dallett, University of Pennsylvania; and Robert Plowman, Philadelphia Federal Archives and Records Center. Members of the Penn-

sylvania Historical Association, and all others who have a direct or indirect interest in the archival profession, are invited to attend this meeting, which promises to be one of the most interesting in the SAA's history. Additional information will be provided in the July issue of *Pennsylvania History*.