

NEWS AND COMMENT

By HARRY E. WHIPKEY

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Work has commenced on a project to demonstrate the feasibility of compiling a U. S. Historical County Boundary Data File. New Jersey and Pennsylvania are the sample states in this effort to create a machine-readable file of all boundary changes of counties, congressional districts, and other administrative units during the period 1790-1970. Used with a computer directed plotter, the data file will make it possible to produce on demand maps for selected areas in a wide range of scales. Historical research is being performed at the Newberry Library, Chicago, under John H. Long, project supervisor, while the data file is being designed at the University of Wisconsin Cartographic Laboratory, Madison, Joel Morrison, director. Principal investigator is David Woodward, program director of the Newberry's Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography. The Newberry Library is sponsoring the project with financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Available at The College Store, Dickinson College, Carlisle 17013, *The Books of Isaac Norris (1701-1766) at Dickinson College*, a 315-page volume, is priced at \$21, including cost of postage and handling. Pennsylvania residents add 6 percent sales tax. This catalogue of the Norris books at Dickinson College, entries prepared by Marie Elena Korey, records 1,902 titles in the 1,750 volumes of this predominantly seventeenth-century library. An introduction, written by Edwin Wolf 2nd, reviews the life and career of Isaac Norris II, his library, and its contribution to our knowledge of American culture. A preface containing the history of the Norris books during their nearly two hundred-year stay at the college is offered by Martha Calvert Slotten. The catalogue, a bicentennial project of Dickinson College, was made possible by grants from the Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania and the Pew Memorial Trust.

The Balch Institute, Philadelphia, has moved from its old quarters at 108 Arch Street to its new facility at 18 South 7th Street. The formal opening of the new building, May 4, featured an exhibit celebrating America's ethnic diversity.

"Our American Rural Heritage" will be the general theme as the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Landis Valley Associates

stage the 20th Annual Institute of Pennsylvania Rural Life and Culture at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum, Lancaster County, June 22-25. The institute's theme will be developed through the following seminars: "Sinews of Independence," "Thomas R. Brendel's Collection of Pennsylvania German Folklore, Proverbs, and Remedies," "Barn Architecture of Pennsylvania," "Revolutionary War Weapons and Accoutrements," "Books and Broad-sides of the Pennsylvania Germans," and "Pennsylvania Antiques—1976 Edition." Information on the annual institutes—open to interested persons—may be requested from the PHMC, Box 1026, Harrisburg 17120.

The annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History is scheduled for Albany, New York, September 21-24. Sessions will give attention to various phases of historical agency operation, historic preservation, conservation, and museum interpretation. Sessions will be open to the public. There will be a registration fee of \$40. Contact: Edmund J. Winslow, Senior Historian, New York State Office of State History, Education Department, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12230.

Meeting concurrently with the Quadrennial International Congress on Archives, the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists will be held in Washington, D.C., September 28-October 1. Featured will be workshops in cartographic archives, archival exhibits, publications, oral history, audiovisual archives, local records, grants and funding, college and university archives; conservation, and religious archives. Panels will be conducted on the American archival revolution, reference services, archives and the law, urban history, business archives, collecting, documenting the electoral process, records management, the changing role of the state archivist, documenting science, and machine-readable records. Interested persons may address inquiries to: Society of American Archivists, P.O. Box 8198, UICC, Chicago, Illinois 60680.

The U. S. Army Military History Research Collection, Carlisle Barracks, will host the 2nd Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables, October 1-3. Contact: B. F. Cooling, Assistant Director, Historical Services, U. S. Army Military History Research Collection, Carlisle Barracks 17013.

Albright College will sponsor a Bicentennial Historical Program on Religion in America, October 24-31. Information is available by writing Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., Albright College, Reading 19604.

The Bloomsburg State College Department of History will present its Tenth Annual History Conference on April 28 and 29, 1977. The theme will be "Historical Perspectives on Ethnicity." Persons interested in presenting papers are invited to send, by November 15, the titles, brief summaries of their proposed essays, and vitae to Ted Shanoski, Chairman, Tenth Annual

History Conference, Bloomsburg State College, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815. Individuals wishing to serve as sessional chairpersons or commentators are also requested to respond.

These records have been accessioned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania: archives of the Fairmount Park Art Commission; papers of the Second Baptist Church, Philadelphia, 1822-1965; and architectural drawings and client correspondence of George Roberts, Philadelphia, 1923-1972.

The following records have been added to the holdings of the Philadelphia City Archives: ledger, Special Appropriations at Consolidation, 1854, City Controller; naturalization register, 1795-1851, Court of Common Pleas; bills of indictment, Nolle Prosequi, 1874-1907, Quarter Sessions Court; annual reports, 1889, 1911-1913, 1915-1923, Bureau of Lighting; annual reports, 1856-1857, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1868, 1871, Water Department; ordinances and bylaws, 1859, annual reports, 1886, Trustees of the Gas Works; roll book, 1887-1888, Fire Insurance Patrol; bylaws, membership rolls, 1850, Spring Garden Hose Company; roll books, 1855-1859, Good Will Fire Company; roll books, 1859-1871, Northern Liberties Hose Company; charter and bylaws, 1870, Weccacoe Fire Company #19; roll book and captain's reports, Fox Chase and Rockledge, 1859-1900, Pennsylvania Fire Company #1; and minutes, 1869-1877, Northern Hose and Steam Company.

Records of the Citizens Crime Commission of Philadelphia, 1957-1970, are now located at the Urban Archives of Temple University. Included are general files; special studies on psychotherapy, mental health, organized crime, and the state judicial code; Philadelphia crime statistics, and Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Planning Commission files, 1967-1968.

Official records recently accessioned by the Division of Archives and Manuscripts (State Archives), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, include the following: minutes and agenda of the State Board of Private Trade Schools, 1949-1966; correspondence of the executive office of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission relating to general projects, 1938-1971; Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission minutes, 1954-1955; picture files of the Department of Forestry, ca. 1920-1940; annual school district reports and teacher certificate applications, Department of Education, 1896-1920.