

## NEWS AND COMMENT

BY HAROLD L. MYERS

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

Michael P. Weber, program chairman of the forty-sixth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, to be held 14 and 15 October at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, is advertising for program ideas and for papers to read at the meeting. He requests that a two-page proposal be submitted to him at the Department of History, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh 15213, telephone (412) 621-2600, Extension 289. Proposals should be submitted before 15 June.

Bernard J. Weiss, Director of the Duquesne History Forum, which will hold its eleventh annual meeting at Duquesne University, 20, 21, and 22 October, is also seeking paper and session proposals in all areas of history. Proposals should be submitted by the end of April to the Director, Department of History, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh 15219.

A service for the translation and transcription of letters, diaries, *fraktur*, church records and other manuscripts written in antique German script has been announced by the Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society. Old German manuscripts from southeastern Pennsylvania were written in a form of handwriting that is no longer taught, and it has become increasingly difficult to find a translator who can read it. Any individual or institution desiring to have manuscripts transcribed and/or translated should address inquiries to Noah G. Good, Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society, 2215 Mill Stream Road, Lancaster 17602, telephone (717) 393-9745. The cost is five dollars an hour.

The Editors of the Black Abolitionist Papers Editorial Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, seek assistance in locating correspondence, speeches, editorials and any other primary source materials of Black abolitionists, 1830-1865. While the project is topical it focuses on nine prominent figures: William Wells Brown, The Fortens (Robert-James-Charlotte), Henry Highland Garnet, William C. Nell, J. W. C. Pennington, Charles Lenox Remond, Samuel Ringgold Ward, David Ruggles and J. McCune Smith. Any assistance in locating documents will be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Black Abolitionist Papers, 100 Main Hall, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601, Tel. 608-784-6050 Ext. 581. George E. Carter, C. Peter Ripley, Editors.

The Regional Economic History Research Center, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware, will sponsor a conference on social change in early industrial communities 6 May at 2 p.m. in the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library. The speakers will be Andrew Beveridge, Columbia University, and Anthony F. C. Wallace and Stefanie Grauman Wolf, University of Pennsylvania; the commentator, Merritt Roe Smith, Ohio State University; and the chairman, Thomas C. Cochran, University of Pennsylvania. Glenn Porter is the Director of the Research Center.

The Center has also announced a program of interdisciplinary research fellowships to be granted 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1980, for the study of the social transition from agrarian to early urban, industrial economy in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1750-1850. The Center invites the participation of economic, social and intellectual historians, as well as historians of science and technology, agriculture, labor, and others. Scholars in such disciplines as economics, sociology, anthropology and geography are also invited. Research stipends include senior and junior postdoctoral fellowships for the academic year (\$20,000 and \$15,000 respectively) and for less than one semester and for the summer. Those wishing to begin research before October 1977 should have completed application by 15 April.

Three new collections have been accessioned by the Archives Department of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, according to Ruth Salisbury, Society Archivist. They are the records of the Brady's Bend Iron Company, Armstrong County, 1845-1912, including general files, ledgers and stock certificate records; complete records of the Pittsburgh Stock Exchange, 1894-1972; and the records of Fifth Avenue High School, Pittsburgh, 1873-1976, including photographs, scrapbooks, diplomas, and class grade books, 1896-1904.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has published a different kind of book on Valley Forge, *Birthplace of An Army: A Study of the Valley Forge Encampment*, by Colonel John B. B. Trussell, Jr., an associate historian of the commission. Available in cloth for \$4.50 and paper for \$3.00, the study examines by topic the reform of military discipline undertaken during the encampment, the personnel, health, supply, recreation, crime and punishment, and the command of General Washington. Orders, with state sales tax, may be sent to the Commission, Harrisburg 17120.

Announcements of several other publications have been received. They are William E. Shank's *Three Hundred Years with the Pennsylvania Traveler*, a history of transportation, \$13.50 plus 81 cents tax from American Canal and Transportation Center, 809 Rathton Road, York 17403; Paul Kurtz's *Blair Mainline: A History of the Tuckahoe Valley*, \$6 plus 36 cents tax from Bellwood-Antis Public Library, Bellwood 16617; and *College Township, Before and After 1875*, published by the College Township Bicentennial History Committee of Centre County, \$5 plus 30 cents sales tax and 50 cents handling from Frank H. Glenn, Box 115, Lemont 16851. Checks should be made payable to the committee.

The annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Historical Association will be held at the University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown on 14-15 October 1977. Persons wishing to deliver papers should submit proposals by 1 June 1977 to Michael P. Weber, Department of History, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213. Individuals wishing to serve as session moderators or paper commentators should send their names and field to the above address.

### THE SCHOOLMASTER ABROAD

The following letter written by an unsuccessful applicant will explain itself, and show that Mr. Cooke has a huge undertaking before him, in raising the educational standard in this county. But he means to do it or perish in the attempt.

Redstone Sept. the 1875

Mr Cooke

Sir

I received your return on the second day of sept and as I wish to anser it I seat my-self To do so Mr. Cooke I mus say that you are not as good as your woard for you told me at Uniontown at the County Institute that you was a candidate for County Superintendant and if I would talk to my director and get him Two voat for you that you would favor me But if I had done lik some of the Teachers had blannie you might have done so but

I ham not a person That blannies an ny one and you will Find that is so By reading this Letter and as fare as teaching is Concurm me In this County I will let you know That I can better My self

And live indipendant of you and your Certificate you may keep it and this note to

Mr Cooke I would not have written you this letter but I think I disurve Some kind of a Certificate for I have been examined by Tow Different men And you are the first one that refused me yet and I just think That they are as sharp as you dare be Mr Cooke when a person Tries to lower my estate in this World I think I have the same Privilege to do the same to them

Yors truly  
P. M.

[*Genius of Liberty* (Uniontown), 16 September 1875.]

CONTRIBUTED BY SCHUYLER C. MARSHALL, CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE.