Important News about *Pennsylvania History*

*Pennsylvania History* has been changing, and will continue to change. First, our issues have been getting larger and, I fervently hope, better. Thanks to a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Brent Glass, Executive Director, we will continue to give you more history for the foreseeable future. But it will be different history as well. In the years to come, you will be able to read reports on museum exhibits, descriptions of historical preservation work, articles on collections housing documents and artifacts, and reviews of films relating to Pennsylvania. We consider our audience not only scholars who write about our past, but all those who are concerned with its preservation and interpretation. I need your help to make these additions permanent features of *Pennsylvania History*. Please alert me to subjects and collections you wish to see included, and suggest possible reviewers. With luck, I hope to appoint an Editor of Reviews for Collections and Exhibits to handle a new section of the journal, much as Jack Bauman manages our book reviews. Anyone with the expertise and willingness to assume this task is welcome to write to me, although be forewarned that the only payment I can offer is the satisfaction of furthering the cause of historical understanding.

Second, we have a few special issues in the planning stages. Two, on the history of photography in Pennsylvania and Fries’s Rebellion, are described in our “News and Announcements” section; please think about contributing. Other issues on historic preservation and labor radicalism are also on the horizon, although I hope to limit special issues to one (occasionally two) per year so that we may continue to publish as many good articles as possible on all aspects of Pennsylvania history.

The special issue now before you exemplifies what I hope will become a trend for the journal. Without losing our central focus on Pennsylvania, it demonstrates the critical role of what later became the Keystone State for the history and historiography of the mid-Atlantic region and the world beyond it. Brendan McConville’s document showing that people in New Jersey considered themselves Ranters, and were so considered by others, sheds important light on the question of whether Ranters existed at all, now a hot topic in English as well as colonial history. And his work does double duty by serving as the sort of annotated documentary material I would like to feature.

The theme of this special issue, “Pennsylvania at War: 1754-1765,” more generally situates Pennsylvania history in two greater contexts. First, it demonstrates Pennsylvania’s role in what Lawrence Henry Gipson has dubbed “The Great War for Empire” in its intercolonial and international contexts. Louis Waddell compares fortification and defense policies in three colonies: Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. R. S. Stephenson shows how the international character of Pennsylvania’s armed forces shaped their response to the conflict. Charles Brodine demonstrates the ramifications of Anglo-American military tensions for the American Revolution.

Second, guest co-editor Francis Jennings has written a historiographical introduction...
which reminds us that current controversy over Pennsylvania's military experience in the mid-eighteenth century serves as an index to the great debate in the American historical profession between mainstream or consensus historians and radical or conflict-oriented scholars. Jennings's essay will either delight or infuriate. May I suggest you write us a letter telling us which, for I am using this controversial piece to inaugurate a "Communications" section, similar to those in other journals, in which articles published serve as the springboard for further discussion. So start sending in those cards and letters about the articles we print. (The editor reserves the right not to publish purely laudatory or denunciatory letters which do not in his opinion further the cause of scholarship, and to edit scurrilous or personal remarks.) Healthy controversy is the stuff of historical writing, as of history itself.

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On a more nuts-and-bolts level, you will note that beginning in 1995 our issues are "Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn," not "January, April, July, and October." Why is this so? Until recently, unlike journals with years of material waiting to be published, and staffs of full-time managing and assistant editors, Pennsylvania History had at best one or two future issues ready to go. Like my predecessors, I perform editorial work in addition to teaching and writing. Although we work with extremely prompt, efficient, flexible, and genial printers (Plank's Suburban Press—consider them if you are looking to have something printed), given the need for careful proofreading, getting three to five articles and the book reviews corrected, and ensuring that the final copy is as perfect as humanly possible, delays are inevitable. Given a choice between late or lousy, I'll take the former. Pennsylvania History's record is quite good compared to most journals except the highly-funded and staffed ones, as those of you who subscribe to other scholarly publications will note. In any case, the dates have been changed to bring rhetoric into line with reality, and to give our authors, Jack Bauman, and myself a little breathing space. For instance, if we have to wait two weeks for a good article, we can now afford that. We can proofread more carefully. We are now encouraging submissions on disc to save time and money. We will continue to shoot for January, April, July, and October, and will probably come closer than in the past, as I am now accepting articles scheduled for January and April, 1996. But now we hope it will no longer be necessary to explain "delays" that simply represent the quality control a first-rate journal must have.

More nuts and bolts. Sometime between the end of May and the end of June, I will be moving the editorial office of Pennsylvania History to the History Department, 108 Weaver Building, Penn State, State College, PA, 16802. I will have space, computer equipment, and assistance to serve you better and make my life easier, assuming computers live up to their advertisers' propaganda. I am most grateful to Deans Susan Welch, Ray Lombra, and Margaret Lyday of the College of Liberal Arts, and, especially, History Department Chair Gary Gallagher for making this tran-
sition possible and demonstrating the commitment a state university ought to have to preserving its state's history.

Parting thanks are also in order: to Leonard Mustazza, Academic Director at the Ogontz Campus, for released time from teaching and moral support for the journal this past year; to Jeffrey J. Polizzotto, my unpaid yet efficient assistant, a graduated Penn State history major who showed the same enthusiasm for his subject as he has for his life-saving work with the Paoli Volunteer Fire Department and Philadelphia Emergency Medical Services; to Charles Glatfelter, outgoing Treasurer, who is sorely needed in the nation's capital: he balanced the budget, never dipped into capital, yet all the while found the funds to expand the journal for both Michael Birkner and myself; and to the late Robert G. Crist, past PHA President and Executive Board Member, whose writing and editing of numerous Pennsylvania History pamphlets has made Charlie's financial miracles possible. We will all miss Bob and his herculean contributions to both the PHA and the state's historical life and literature. Jack Bauman, immediate past President of the Association, remains (thank God!) our book review editor. Jack's efforts, and those of the committee chaired by a good friend, Van Beck Hall, to improve our journal are still bearing fruit: notice the innovations in layout and design in this issue.

I welcome two new members to our editorial board. Harold Aurand, Director of Academic Affairs at the Penn State/Hazleton Campus, an expert on the anthracite region and labor relations, has been so good at reading manuscripts that he has to all intents and purposes been functioning as a member of the board already. He should enjoy the honor as well as bear the burdens. Michael Birkner, my predecessor as editor, the giant upon whose shoulders I stand, has similarly merited inclusion with his cheerful encouragement, wise advice, and efficient forwarding of materials that still winds up at Gettysburg. Gerry Eggert, the man who first gave me a permanent academic job at Penn State after five visiting appointments elsewhere, is once again my boss. If the genial yet efficient administrative style he showed as Chair of Penn State's History Department is still his, the PHA can look forward to two productive and pleasant years under his leadership. (Don't forget to buy his PHA pamphlet on the Pennsylvania Iron Industry).

I consider myself privileged that of all the places a native New Yorker could have landed, that it is my good fortune to be in Pennsylvania and to work with and on behalf of so many wonderful people. As I wrote last April, this is your journal, not mine. Please let me know what I can do better; all assistance and ideas for articles, features, book reviews and reviewers (the last to Jack Bauman, please) will be carefully considered.