

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

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hen *Pennsylvania History* was first launched seventy-five years ago, a president's column was a regular feature of the journal. Our editors have suggested a return to this practice, and I am glad to have an opportunity to write to readers about what is happening within the Association. I am glad because this is an exciting time for us as an organization. We are in the midst of a two-year celebration of our beginning. The first of four featured seventy-fifth anniversary activities occurred last October in State College when over a hundred of you assembled to mark the organization's creation in 1932. This year, we will gather in Bethlehem, the site of PHA's first annual meeting in 1933. Lehigh University will host us again as it did seventy-five years ago when the great colonial historian Lawrence Henry Gipson was in charge of local arrangements. We look forward to a second splendid celebration and a stimulating program. Mark the date—October 16-18, 2008—and plan to join us. Third, because *Pennsylvania History* also celebrates its seventy-fifth year in 2008, the editors are planning a special, commemorative issue for this summer.

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As a fourth part of our anniversary observance, the PHA Council has authorized a **Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Fund** to help secure the association's financial future. As you may know, thanks to earlier generosity, PHA has a modest income-producing fund that helps to ensure the excellence of *Pennsylvania History*, the high quality of publications in the *Pennsylvania History Studies Series*, the interest of our annual meetings, and the continuation of other activities across the commonwealth. But, not surprisingly, inflation has reduced the impact this income once had. The anniversary gives us an opportunity to strengthen the association's fund and to anticipate a future that matches our wonderful past.

A number of you have already responded generously. If you have not taken the opportunity to do so, now is the time. We need your participation. In addition to your annual dues, we ask you to make a 75th anniversary gift of \$75 a year for the next five years. Those able to be more generous might consider making their annual gift a multiple of 75. Single payment contributions of any amount are also welcome. Pledges and contributions (payable to the Pennsylvania Historical Association and noted for the 75th Anniversary Fund) can be sent to the Business Secretary, Karen Guenther, 216 Pinecrest Hall, Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA 16933. I thank you in advance for your generous response; it will help to insure that we can celebrate even greater accomplishments between now and our centennial in 2032/2033.

CHARLES CASHDOLLAR

PHA President, Indiana Univeristy of Pennsylvania