

INTRODUCTION TO THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

Jeffrey A. Davis
Associate Editor, *Pennsylvania History*:
A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies

Since 2005 the editors of *Pennsylvania History* have designated the summer issue of the journal as a special topic issue. This year's special issue is dedicated to a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. When soliciting ideas for the special issue it became clear that I wanted to tap into those who knew and know the PHA best. So I have assembled past Presidents of the PHA, John Bauman, Susan Klepp, Leslie Patrick, Randall Miller, Rosalind Remer, John Frantz, and current President Charles Cashdollar to share their views on writing and interpreting Pennsylvania history as well as their remembrances of the Association. These commentaries are taken from the Pennsylvania Historical Association's 76th Annual Meeting in State College this past October 2007. I also wanted to dedicate space to the significance and history of our journal—*Pennsylvania History*, and for that I called upon our current editor, Paul Douglas Newman, to share his thoughts and history of the Journal. In addition, former editor William Pencak has

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY: A JOURNAL OF MID-ATLANTIC STUDIES, VOL. 75, NO. 3, 2008.
Copyright © 2008 The Pennsylvania Historical Association

added an excellent historiographic essay highlighting the importance of early Pennsylvania history in the study of early America. Lastly, I thought it would be interesting and timely to include two earlier histories of the PHA written by two past Presidents, S. K. Stevens and Homer T. Rosenberger. You will also find throughout the issue several pictures and images from the start of the Association. Included are the original program for the first annual meeting as well as materials for membership drives from the 1960s and 70s. Also, there is a panorama photo of the first meeting in April 1933.

It is clear from all of the contributions to this issue that the PHA and *Pennsylvania History* have played a significant role both professionally and personally in many people's lives. I know for myself that the PHA has helped shape my professional and scholarly career, allowing me to meet and collaborate with other scholars who have an interest in the history of Pennsylvania. On another note, I have made lifelong friendships through my association with the PHA and I look forward to attending the annual meeting every year to catch up with friends and meet new people as well.

I would like to thank all those who helped put this issue together I sincerely valued the advice and suggestions from all. Most importantly I hope that everyone enjoys this special issue which celebrates 75 years of the PHA with which I am proud to be associated.