

**A MAGNIFICENT RECORD: THE
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION'S FIRST
THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS**

*Homer T. Rosenberger
Past-President, Pennsylvania Historical Association*

*I*n historical writing a correct, balanced, interpretive, and sufficiently complete account of an important subject is a magnificent record. It is magnificent because of its accuracy and depth. It embraces the successes and failures, the good and the evil, the moral courage and the vacillation, the forthrightness and the scheming of the people with which it deals. In a somewhat different sense the record of historical preservation and interpretation in Pennsylvania, dating from colonial times, and particularly from the founding of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1824, is magnificent. Similarly, the achievements of the Pennsylvania Historical Association comprise an enviable record. The Association has had an exciting past and has the prospect of a great future in a rapidly changing American scene.

The chronicling, and especially the interpreting, of history were largely neglected in America until well into the 19th century, even though the Massachusetts Historical Society was founded in 1791 and the New York Historical Society in 1804.

This article first appeared in *Pennsylvania History*, vol. 37, no. 1, 1970, and is reprinted here in its original form.

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

As a result of recommendations of the American Philosophical Society, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania was established. A joint memorial of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and of the American Philosophical Society, dated December 8, 1836, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth recommended the publication of the Minutes of the Provincial Council from its inception to the Revolution. The following year an act approved on April 4 authorized the printing of 2,000 copies of the Minutes through 1717. In a few more years the Minutes of the Provincial Council and its successor, the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, from March 10, 1683, through December 20, 1790, were published in sixteen volumes by the Commonwealth, the sixteenth volume appearing in 1853. Five years later the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society in Wilkes-Barre was founded. It is the oldest original historical society in continuous existence under the same name in the United States. Over the years it built a library and a museum and produced a number of useful volumes, including *The Susquehanna Company Papers*.

Historical activity in Pennsylvania was rather anemic during the sixties and seventies, although the Historical Society of Berks County was incorporated on December 13, 1869. In the 1880's several new societies were functioning, the Moravian Historical Society at Nazareth in Northampton County, and the Historical Society of Montgomery County. In the 1890's a number of county historical societies were formed, such as the Kittochtinny Historical Society in Franklin County.

Early in the present century there were many historical societies in Pennsylvania, somewhere nearly as many as today. Each went in its own direction. Many were scarcely more than genealogical and antiquarian societies. Some were achieving worthy goals. Nevertheless, it became apparent that coordination of effort would be desirable. The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies came into being in 1905, and in that same year the State Museum was founded and the Governor's Chair was occupied by a competent historian, Samuel W. Pennypacker, whose administration had begun in 1903. Eight years later an act approved July 25, 1913, established the Pennsylvania Historical Commission to mark and preserve Pennsylvania's antiquities and historical landmarks.

By the late 1920's The Historical Society of Pennsylvania already had the oldest and richest historical collection in Pennsylvania, was caring for it adequately, and was making it readily available to the public and was publishing an excellent magazine and high-quality books. However, that Society

tended to draw its support and membership largely from Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania and its publications reflected this emphasis. The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, founded in 1879 but having antecedents beginning with local societies of an earlier period, was publishing its excellent journal, *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*. That quarterly has been issued continuously since 1917. The Federation was a clearing house of ideas for the leaders in the respective historical societies but went little beyond convening annually for a day. The Pennsylvania Historical Commission was given a limited function and a small budget.

There was need for a continuing, professional group, outside of government, and free to act as it would see fit. An organization was needed that could and that would take an objective look at the overall problem of preserving and interpreting Pennsylvania's abundant history, and one which would stimulate the necessary action. As a consequence, the Pennsylvania Historical Association came into being in 1932.

It is usually difficult to determine precisely when and how an organization comes into existence. It is likely that the Pennsylvania Historical Association was born when Roy F. Nichols was chatting with Lawrence H. Gipson at the time of the American Historical Association meetings in 1928 and 1929, although there had been an abortive effort in this direction in 1926. Nichols deplored the fact that no organization was taking a broad look at Pennsylvania's history. Gradually his concern was beginning to be shared by a few other historians.

The Minute Book of the Pennsylvania Historical Association shows that preliminary meetings were held at State College April 29–30 and September 15–17, 1932. The first entry in the Minute Book, in the handwriting of Paul W. Gates, serving as Temporary Secretary, is as follows.

Recognizing the need for an active state-wide historical society which should appeal both to the professional and non-professional historians in Pennsylvania, Dr. Asa E. Martin and Dr. W. F. Dunaway of Pennsylvania State College and Dr. Solon J. Buck of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey decided to call a meeting of those interested in establishing such a society. The meeting was held at State College, April 29 and 30, 1932.

Seventeen men from various institutions and organizations attended the meeting. The minutes of the meeting merely state that after discussing "the needs"

of Pennsylvania history the group decided to invite the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies to call a Pennsylvania Historical Convention in the autumn at State College, and appointed a committee of eight to make arrangements for the Convention. The Commission and the Federation accepted the proposal and circulated a call for the Convention to meet at State College September 15–17, 1932. The Convention was a success. The minutes state that “after due consideration” the Convention decided to organize a new society and, in the words of the minutes “constituted itself as the Pennsylvania Historical Association.” Temporary officers were elected: A. Boyd Hamilton, president; Roy F. Nichols, vice-president; and Paul W. Gates, secretary. Mr. Hamilton appointed two committees, one headed by Solon J. Buck, to draft a permanent constitution, and another, headed by Lawrence H. Gipson, to arrange the Association’s first Annual Convention. The two committees met in Harrisburg January 18, 1933, drafted a constitution and planned a Convention to be held in Bethlehem April 28–29. The new organization patterned itself after the New York Historical Association.

That first Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania Historical Association was held at Lehigh University, at Hotel Bethlehem, at historic Sun Inn, and at Moravian College for Women, the four locations being almost adjacent to each other. At the formal dinner on the evening of April 28, 1933, Roy Nichols presided and three other distinguished persons spoke, Charles Russ Richards, President of Lehigh University; Conyers Read, Executive Secretary of the American Historical Association; and Dixon Ryan Fox, then President of the New York Historical Association and Professor of History at Columbia University. President Richards expressed great optimism for the future of the Association, and Professor Read conveyed the felicitations of the American Historical Association to the new Association. A number of excellent papers were read during the two days. A pilgrimage was conducted to historic sites in Bethlehem and to the Moravian Archives, thus setting a precedent for a tour in connection with the Association’s annual meetings. At the business session on Saturday morning, April 29, a constitution was adopted which provided that the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the Federation of Historical Societies should be represented on the Council (the governing body), as a means of harmonious coordination. The temporary officers were elected as the full-fledged officers of the Association, with Ross Pier Wright, of Erie, a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, a manufacturer, and a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, as treasurer.

Nine persons were elected to the Council. Solon J. Buck urged that the Association begin the publishing of a periodical as promptly as possible, stating that if 200 members could be obtained the periodical would be assured.

And that was the substance of the first Annual Convention of this Association. The convention proceedings were summarized in the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* for August, 1933. The meeting was particularly successful and Professor Nichols declared in *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*, January 1969, that Gipson "shouldered responsibility for making all the arrangements." The new organization had gotten off to a good start, indeed.

On the next day, April 30, the first meeting of the Council was held, in Bethlehem. Arthur C. Bining of the history faculty at the University of Pennsylvania was appointed editor upon the recommendation of Solon J. Buck. A membership committee was to be appointed. The Council held its second meeting on October 13, 1933, in Williamsport and with only \$180 in the treasury approved the launching of a quarterly journal. Six persons were approved by the Council to constitute a board of editors for the new publication—John F. Brougher, Miss Dora Mae Clark, Robert Fortenbaugh, Curtis W. Garrison, Asa E. Martin, and William J. Martin. Shortly thereafter volume 1, number 1 of a spanking new historical magazine, *PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY*, was mailed to members of the Association. Included in that first number was an article of three concise paragraphs, "The Period of Our Origins," in which Roy F. Nichols told how the Association came into existence.

From its beginning the purposes of the Pennsylvania Historical Association have been broad. The Association looked upon itself as a stimulator and a coordinator but it was ever careful to avoid encroaching upon any project being conducted adequately by another organization.

The first article of its constitution states the purpose of the Association as follows.

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Historical Association shall be the development and coordination of activities relating to the history of Pennsylvania. To this end it will (a) undertake to promote the collection, preservation, and utilization of material for Pennsylvania history; (b) compile bibliographies and inventories of such materials; (c) edit and publish bibliographies, documents, papers, and monographs; (d) promote research; and (e) hold meetings, with addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion.

A MAGNIFICENT RECORD

The emphasis was on development and coordination. These two broad functions have always been the focus of the organization.

During all of its thirty-seven years PHA has been the only state-wide historical society in the commonwealth. It is a nonprofit group and usually has been solvent but never in a flourishing financial condition. It has kept its dues as low as possible so as to reach anyone who is interested in the history of our State. The organization has never really searched for an angel, nor has one knocked on its door with a pleasantly noisy thump. Officers, Councilors and Committee Members from one end of the State to the other serve without any monetary recompense from the Association. Ever since the beginning in 1932, laboring for the Association has been a labor of love, which is a desirable even if not a unique situation in a mercenary world.

From its origin the Association has maintained harmonious relationships with those other organizations able to contribute professionally to the cause of Pennsylvania history. This has been particularly true of its contacts with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and its successor, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, with the Federation and the local historical societies, with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction (now the Department of Education), and with the University of Pennsylvania, Temple, Penn State, the University of Pittsburgh, and all the colleges in the State. Nichols, Ross Pier Wright, and Dr. S. K. Stevens each did a great deal to promote effective working relations between the Association, the Federation, and the State Commission. Dr. John F. Brougher, Dr. Ralph Cordier, and others brought the Association and the Department of Public Instruction together in a team effort in behalf of the teaching of history in secondary schools. The Association has not courted the newspapers but perhaps should have more frequently and regularly supplied newspaper editors with concise information from time to time concerning its achievements.

The Association develops constructive proposals for the promotion of research and the care of historical materials and for state and federal legislation concerning the preservation and interpretation of our heritage. PHA cosponsors the Institute of Pennsylvania Life and Culture, although the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission carries the full burden of conducting that highly successful annual event.

Because of the Association's broad concept some of America's greatest historians have contributed substantially to its magnificent record. Nichols and Gipson served as President and Gates as Secretary. Buck insisted that the Association start publishing a quarterly journal at once and suggested for

editor a capable person who quickly set its pattern. Nichols became Vice Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, a position in which he served 1953–1966, and President of the American Historical Association in 1966. Gipson completed thirteen volumes of his life work, *The British Empire Before the American Revolution*. Both Nichols and Gipson won the Pulitzer Prize in history. Gates was Chairman of the Department of History at Cornell University 1946–1956, President, Mississippi Valley Historical Association, 1961–1962, and wrote several important books in the area of American agricultural history. Buck was Archivist of the United States 1941–1948 and Assistant Librarian of Congress 1951–1954, and with his wife was author of one of the best books ever written about our State, *Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania*, 1939. Several of the country's leading historians, including Dixon Ryan Fox, Carl Bridenbaugh, Julian P. Boyd, and John A. Krout, have addressed the Association when assembled in Annual Meetings.

Over the years the professors of history in nearly every college in Pennsylvania and in all of its universities have been a driving force and a steadying influence in the Association.

In each of numerous disciplines—history, economics, public welfare, correctional work, agriculture, forestry, and the like professional societies have a steadying influence on local, state, and federal agencies. This Association, like other learned societies with a broad concept, has always stood ready as an impartial body of professionals to support a worthy project and to raise its voice when a governmental agency might be under pressure to act unwisely in matters relating to the sources or to the teaching of the history of Pennsylvania. This impartial and professional status the Association must always retain. Should it ever lose its independence its usefulness will collapse.

A detailed chronicle of the accomplishments of the Pennsylvania Historical Association would be tedious. However, a few of its specific accomplishments are given here, in brief.

In order to stimulate in all parts of the State an interest in history, the Association has met in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Williamsport, and other cities over a period of years. An additional reason for this mobility is to acquaint members of the Association with the history of much of the State by actually seeing numerous historic sites, structures, museums and manuscript depositories. High-quality papers are the central feature of each Annual Meeting.

The issuing of the quarterly journal, PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, was the first major step taken by the Association. The first issue carried a bibliography

of Pennsylvania history for high school teachers; a list of recent accessions of various depositories within the State; and a section "News and Comment" telling about the activities of each of numerous historical societies within the Commonwealth and about activities of individuals holding major history positions in Pennsylvania. The issue also included an article by Paul W. Gates summarizing current research projects in the field of Pennsylvania history, a paper, "Early Labor Troubles in the Schuylkill Anthracite District," by William A. Itter, and a book review section. From that first issue of sixty-two pages, the journal grew steadily in size and in value to various scholars and groups.

A succession of capable historians have served as Editor: Dr. Arthur Cecil Bining of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. James A. Barnes of Temple University, Dr. William W. Hamilton of Albright College, Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace of Lebanon Valley College and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Dr. John M. Coleman of Lafayette College, Dr. Russell F. Weigley and Dr. Seth M. Scheiner of Temple University, and the current Editor, Dr. William G. Shade of Lehigh University. Numerous capable historians have served on the editorial board of the journal: Asa E. Martin, Wayland F. Dunaway, Paul H. Giddens, Robert Fortenbaugh, Edwin B. Coddington, Wallace E. Davies, and James A. Kehl, to mention only a few. James A. Barnes, Leonidas Dodson, J. Orin Oliphant, J. Cutler Andrews, and Norman B. Wilkinson, in turn, have served as Book-Review Editor.

Through the assistance of Violet Oakley, a famous Philadelphia artist, a unique design for the cover of the journal was produced in the summer of 1953. The design has been followed ever since, with pen sketches by Julia C. McMillan of Wayne and Henry T. MacNeill of Whitford for the cover of many of the issues. Miss Oakley drew the sketch of the Penn coat of arms which has graced the back cover ever since 1953 and which has virtually been the symbol of the Pennsylvania Historical Association from then to the present.

In the life of most historical societies one can find interesting incidents of significance. Winning the assistance of Violet Oakley is one of those interesting incidents of PHA's first thirty-seven years. Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace, as Editor of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY, had expended much effort to persuade Miss Oakley to let him publish her line drawing reductions of the paintings in the Governor's Reception Room with her own words of explanation, but seemed to be getting nowhere. Then he discovered that her sole objection was that she considered the existing cover of the journal ugly and

inartistic. Dr. Wallace proposed that she redesign the cover, and she did! Not merely the coat of arms on the back but the lettering, *Pennsylvania History*, on the front is the work of a great artist. The incident is a striking example of Dr. Wallace's unusual persuasive powers at work.

For nearly thirty-six years the "News and Comment" section has been the most complete single source of information about the achievements of historical societies in Pennsylvania and the historical activities of those persons who have done much in behalf of Pennsylvania's history. The January 1969 issue of the journal added a section, "Historic Preservation" to News and Comment. This feature marks a new emphasis that is certain to grow in PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY and in similar magazines.

There have been skeletons in our closet! Over the years approximately 650 major articles have been published in the journal. An editor can be deceived. A few of those articles were weak. All in all, the complete run comprises one of the most comprehensive sources of information about the origin and development of the colony and commonwealth and the people they produced.

The quarterly issues of *Pennsylvania History* are available in nearly all the major public libraries in Pennsylvania, in most of the college and university libraries of the State, in many of its senior and junior high schools, in large libraries throughout the United States, and in a few libraries in foreign countries. An examination of subscribers to *Pennsylvania History* shows that in Pennsylvania two hundred and fifty-six senior and junior high schools, ninety-three colleges and universities and ninety-one city and county libraries take the Association's journal. Elsewhere in this country the journal is sent to one hundred and seven colleges and universities, twenty-one city or state libraries, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress. Finally PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY can be found in thirteen foreign universities and five other foreign libraries.

A detailed index of the first thirty volumes of the journal has been prepared under the supervision of Dr. Philip S. Klein, a Past President of the Association. The index is about to be printed and will be available to libraries and individuals at a figure that scarcely exceeds the cost of printing.

The January 1938 issue of the journal introduced a new feature. Entitled "Public School Teachers' Department," it was edited by Leroy J. Koehler of East Stroudsburg State Teachers College. In order for the new feature to be of real value to high school teachers in the State that department of the journal carried two articles on teaching and one that provided subject matter for the

high school teacher. The articles were entitled "The Teaching of Local History," "Teaching State History in the Schools," and "James Wilson and the Constitution." That department of the journal continued until the summer of 1946.

As an additional service to high school teachers, the annual meetings of the Association included sessions from time to time devoted to problems of teaching history in secondary schools. Also, much of the material published by the Association was geared to the needs of high school teachers and students as well as to scholars and the general public.

A bibliography of Pennsylvania history was among the original objectives of the Federation in 1905. In about 1917 that organization published an exceedingly useful, well-indexed, undated volume, *A Bibliography of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1745-1912*, which had been prepared by Lottie M. Bausman. In 1933 the Pennsylvania Historical Commission issued a pamphlet of 102 pages entitled *Pennsylvania Bibliography, Articles Published by Societies Belonging to the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies*.

A reliable, extensive, well-organized bibliography is an important tool for the scholar and for an intelligent amateur. Recognizing this fact the journal for April, July, and October 1935 and for January 1936 carried "Pennsylvania Bibliographies" compiled by Dr. Henry P. Beers. These articles were part of the beginning of a large-scale bibliography of Pennsylvania undertaken by the Association. Financial assistance from the American Philosophical Society furthered the project. Under the auspices of the Association, Arthur C. Bining, Robert L. Brunhouse, and Norman B. Wilkinson prepared a bibliography of 6,165 items. The bibliography was published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1946 with the title *Writings on Pennsylvania History, A Bibliography*. A second, enlarged edition of 9,198 items was compiled by Wilkinson, edited by S. K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent, and published by the Commission in 1957 as the *Bibliography of Pennsylvania History*. Thus, a project started by the Association came to fruition through the assistance of two other organizations, an example of exactly what the founders of the Association regarded as part of PHA's sphere.

The Association's *Pennsylvania History Studies Series*, issued in the form of self-contained pamphlets, has been highly successful and self-supporting. The price of each pamphlet has always been kept almost to the cost of printing and mailing so that anyone could afford to acquire the complete set. Each pamphlet in the *Series* was prepared by an authority who wrote for the scholar,

the high school teacher and student, and the general public-no easy task. Pictorial illustrations and bibliographies were included.

Ten *Studies* have been issued, the first in 1947. It was entitled *A Picture of the Pennsylvania Germans* and was written by Dr. Russell W. Gilbert, Professor of German at Susquehanna University. Issued as a 65-page pamphlet, it became so popular that the supply of the first two printings was exhausted and the supply of a revised edition of 1958, too, was depleted. A second revision appeared in 1962 and a total of 14,000 copies of the pamphlet were printed. The most recent pamphlet in the *Studies Series*, published in August 1969, was written by Dr. Irwin Richman and is entitled *Pennsylvania's Architecture*.

The Livingston Indian Records, edited by Dr. Lawrence Leder, were published by the Association in the January 1956 issue of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY and also in the form of a 240-page clothbound book. The publication of this volume is the Association's only book-publishing venture. The decision to publish those records came about after much deliberation on the part of the Council. The bill for printing the book was the largest the Association had ever faced. The book was presented without extra charge to Members and was available to others for a mere \$5.00.

The Livingston book makes available for the first time in print a large quantity of records that shed much light on the early history of Pennsylvania and New York. The book brings to the doorstep of the scholar certain invaluable sources of Indian-white relations which fill an enormous gap in that story. The publication of this work by the Association replaces most of the first two volumes of Indian Records which Sir John Johnson lost on his flight to Canada on the eve of the Revolution. The book is beautifully embellished with two maps, two portraits, and many line drawings. It won for the Association numerous commendations from leading scholars in various parts of the United States.

An article on a Pennsylvania subject published in a historical magazine late in 1961 was called to the attention of the Pennsylvania Historical Association as a plagiarism. The charge was serious and the Council felt a duty to investigate the matter thoroughly. A PHA special committee on professional ethics probed the degree of guilt and made recommendations which in a form modified by the Council were of a type that "should make both scholars and editors more keenly aware of their responsibilities to scholarship

and the profession." A summary report of the matter was published on page 420 of the October 1962 issue of the journal.

Investigations of this sort are serious business and time-consuming. The Association will rise to such occasions whenever necessary, and in doing so will again perform an extremely valuable service for historians and for the general public. The human desire to get into print sometimes pushes scholarly standards to one side. Furthermore, it is simply impossible for editors and publishers to be familiar with all sources of Pennsylvania history. Because of those two situations the Association's watchdog function becomes important.

In Harrisburg on a Saturday, April 2, in 1966, during the J. Cutler Andrews "Administration," the Association's Research Committee held a conference on research needs and opportunities in Pennsylvania history. The one-day meeting in the William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building was attended by fifty-five persons. At the morning session attention was directed to general fields and specific topics needing study. The afternoon session dealt with a large number of collections useful to the student of Pennsylvania history. The conference was so successful that the next year it was repeated, was converted into a two-day meeting, and focused on three Pennsylvania fields, economic history, 1790-1900, political development, 1840-1900, and the researcher's problem of finding a publisher. The meeting convened at Allenberry near Boiling Springs, and reconvened the next morning at the William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building.

A research conference followed in the spring of 1968 and again in the spring of 1969, two-day meetings held in Harrisburg and the Harrisburg vicinity, with interest and attendance mounting. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission acted as host, as it had also done at time of the first two conferences.

It is too early to measure the results of these four annual conferences, but it is reasonable to predict that they are already attracting attention to areas in which research is needed urgently and to useful sources that hitherto had been unfamiliar to some historians who need information which they contain. The conferences carry out the development and coordination purpose which has always been deeply ingrained in the Association. A select group of persons having in the aggregate a wide interest and competence in the field of Pennsylvania history and representing many organizations are the persons to whom an invitation is extended to participate in the annual gatherings.

In order to give attention to a neglected area, the Association has been calling attention to the Negro in Pennsylvania. At the Annual Meeting in October 1968 Seth M. Scheiner and Walter Fisher discussed the teaching of Negro history. On May 3, 1969, the Research Conference reserved the morning session for papers on "Problems and Source Materials in Negro History," presented by Thomas Cripps of Morgan State College and John Macdonough of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress. The Association's Historical Study No. 11, being issued in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, will deal entirely with the Negro in our Commonwealth. The pamphlet is being written by Dr. Ira V. Brown of Penn State and will soon be published.

In order for a voluntary association to accomplish as much as PHA has accomplished many hands are necessary. A host of competent historians each gave many hours of their own time to the Association without charge. Among them, in addition to those already mentioned, are Dr. Elizabeth Geffen of Lebanon Valley College, Stanton Belfour, President of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Dr. Robert L. Bloom of Gettysburg College, Dr. Abram Foster of Millersville State College, Dr. William W. Hummel of Albright College, Richard P. Wright of Reed Manufacturing Company, Erie, Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., a former President of the Association, and Dr. Ralph Shay of Lebanon Valley College. And these are but a few of the many who have assisted diligently.

Our Recording Secretary, Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter, has made a careful compilation of the names of persons who have served the Association as officer or councilor and dates of incumbency of each person. He has also made a tally of total membership in the Association, by year. The roster of officers and councilors is impressive. The membership tally is heartening. The tally shows that the Association already had 306 members in 1934 and that in the next four years the figure rose to 485, and then to 752 in 1950. In 1953 it zoomed to 1,000 and in 1954 to 1,270, and to 1,787 in 1968. The Association now has approximately 1,800 members.

And now, in almost any presentation of this type, one wonders, "what next?" The Association has a magnificent record, but not magnificent enough. What additional goals should it strive toward in the next thirty-seven years? Even though the American and the Pennsylvania scene has been shifting rapidly, particularly in the last five years, because of the advances of science and technology and various social trends, probing should be done and

new goals should be added. An attempt is made here to probe and to suggest in the hope that these thoughts will stimulate ideas and produce a realistic way to expand the Association's overall program in accord with its original broad concept of service to scholars everywhere, to secondary schools in Pennsylvania, and to the general public.

To begin, we might ask the question, "Should the Association organize and maintain a museum devoted to some particular phase of the State's history?" Probably not in the foreseeable future. There are museums in abundance in this State. We should not compete with organizations carrying on a historical function in a comprehensive way. If the Association would establish a museum it would almost certainly duplicate the efforts of some historical society. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, some of the County historical societies, and certain church and other specialized historical societies in this State take care of the museum function very well. There are indications that they will do still better in the future.

Dispensing with any thought that the Association should organize and maintain a museum we can also conclude that it is not within its natural sphere to acquire and maintain historic sites and properties. Again, this function is well taken care of by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, by some of the historical societies in the State, and by groups like Historic Bethlehem, Incorporated.

It seems unnecessary and impractical for the Association to build a collection of manuscript material or a library of rare books, pamphlets, and broadsides. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg, the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, and other depositories make available a vast quantity of unpublished important information about Pennsylvania. The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the State Library in Harrisburg, and numerous other libraries in the Commonwealth have long been gathering excellent collections of early imprints.

The Association's constitution discourages the building of a PHA library or museum. There seems to be no good reason to recommend a change in this point of view.

In the area of publishing and recommending what should be published in the field of Pennsylvania history no group has a reservoir of knowledge superior to that possessed by the Pennsylvania Historical Association. In the realm of judging the worth of the printed word or the value of effort in behalf of historical preservation the Association can readily marshal the necessary competence. In the matter of entering new fields which require ideas rather than large sums of money the Association is well qualified. Therefore it is suggested that the following five additional goals, only two of which pose a financial problem, be considered by the Association as it faces forward.

1. *Establish an endowment fund and use the interest from it to enlarge the issues of PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY beyond the size wade possible by dues from Members.* The size of the quarterly issues can be expanded without in any way decreasing the quality. The Association has always been hard pressed to meet the printing bills for the quarterly issues. At times the Council has been forced to tell the Editor bluntly that he may not go beyond a certain number of pages during the next year in order that the Association can remain solvent.
2. *Appoint a committee to prepare annually for inclusion in the Association's journal a list of documents and other source material on Pennsylvania history that it believes should be published.* This list would no doubt be awaited each year by university presses and commercial publishers and over the years would result n actual publication of at least some of the items included in the annual listings.
3. *Stimulate further interest in the relatively new field of oral history by meeting with each Governor of Pennsylvania during his first year of office and inviting him to chat with the Officers and Council of the Association about his views concerning the field of Pennsylvania history.* Then meet with him again just before he leaves office, to obtain the benefit of his experience as Governor. Arrangements could be made so that institutions and individuals could procure a recording of the Governor's remarks.
4. *Present an award annually to the organization or individual that has made the most effective and most courageous effort during the preceding year to preserve or restore a significant historic site or structure in the Commonwealth, or to protect important source material on Pennsylvania history.*
5. *Publish books as well as the journal and the pamphlet series of Studies, and make those books available on a nonprofit basis so that anyone who wants them can*

afford to acquire them. No organization has greater competence to prepare book-length manuscripts in the field of Pennsylvania history, to edit them, and to see them through the press than this Association. Even though the Association probably is not now equipped to market books that it would issue, it should soon acquire the competence to cause one book to pay the cost of publishing the next, and so on. The Association would complement rather than compete with the university presses and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. PHA's *Pennsylvania History Studies Series* has always paid its own way. A dozen good reasons may be found for not going forward with book publishing, but if it is determined to publish books, then a series of high quality can be produced. To publish books dealing with the history of Pennsylvania is clearly within the purpose of the Association, as stated in article I of its constitution. The question, does the Association really want to expand its contribution or does it want to take the easy road of *status quo*?

These five additional goals reach into fields that are consistent with the overall purpose of this Association. Idealistic? Perhaps so. But what constructive achievement has ever come to pass without the presence of a fair sprinkling of idealism?

Members of the Pennsylvania Historical Association have long admired the poetry and the prose of Stephen Vincent Benet. He is one of our own, having been born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1898, and having addressed this Association at its Annual Meeting in 1941. In closing this Presidential Address, and in passing the mantle to another tomorrow, may I read one stanza written by Benet? It is from a poem he wrote upon the end of his three years' service on the Committee on Admissions of the distinguished Century Association in New York City.

We've stood our tour of duty on the good ship, "Century,"
And some of us had ratings and the rest were just A. B.,
 But we've passed the ammunition and we've tried to praise the Lord,
 And now our trick is over and the new watch comes aboard.