NOTES AND QUERIES

WILLIAM PENN: A RADIO ADDRESS.* Delivered on his Birthday, Wednesday, October 24, 1934, at 4:07 P. M. (time 7 minutes), Station WCAU, Philadelphia. By Albert Cook Myers. Presented as the guest speaker by the announcer as follows: Dr. Albert Cook Myers, noted historian, foremost authority on William Penn, Chairman of The Historical Committee of the Valley Forge Park Commission, Secretary of The Pennsylvania State Historical Commission.

THE ADDRESS

Today, this twenty-fourth of October, by the Gregorian or New Style calendar, is the 290th birthday of William Penn, the illustrious Founder of Pennsylvania and the foremost Founder of the American Nation. The eminent English historian, Lord Acton, called him "The greatest historic figure of his age," and Tennyson wrote that he was "no comet of a season, but the fixed light of a dark and graceless age shining on into the present."

Under mandate of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Governor has issued a proclamation calling upon the people for the observance of an event of such deep import; for each one of us, man, woman, and child of whatsoever race or creed, is indebted to William Penn for the privileges and opportunities we enjoy.

Born in the year 1644, under the shadow of the old Tower of London, Penn was the son, by a Dutch mother, of a young English naval captain, later the noted Admiral Sir William Penn, Knight.

As Proprietor and Governor of Pennsylvania, the great Quaker devoted the best part of his life, a period of over thirty years, to the development of his Province, in its formative period, coming here from England on two personal visits of two years each, 1682-1684 and 1699-1701.

During these two sojourns in Pennsylvania, Penn made his country home upon a tract of over 8000 acres, which he called the Manor of Pennsbury, located in the present Falls Township, Bucks County, near Tullytown, beyond Bristol, and some 25 miles up the Delaware River from his capital city of Philadelphia. There, while on his first American visit, now two centuries and fifty years ago, he erected, along with various outbuildings, a two-story brick mansion known as Pennsbury House. Here he, and his sons after him, entertained and conferred with the Indians. He wrote that he liked Pennsbury better than any other place in which he had lived.

This structure, which was 62 feet in length, stood on a gentle rise of ground, facing the river, about 70 yards from the shore. The house fell into ruin just before the American Revolution.

In 1932, as part of the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Penn's first American arrival, over eight acres of the Pennsbury

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Manor tract, including the site of Penn's ancient buildings, was donated to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the Warner Company. An act of the Legislature placed the property in the control of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission of the State. The Commission acts through a special Pennsbury Committee of three of its members: James N. Rule, Chairman of the Commission and State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Albert Cook Myers, Secretary of the Commission; and Charles Henry Moon, Chairman of the Committee.

A good road to the place has been built recently by the State and national governments, and the property itself has been much improved.

Under the direction of the Commission's experienced archaeologist, Donald A. Cadzow, the work of excavating the Pennsbury site has been in progress for nearly two years, with a most remarkable yield of results. The stone and brick cellar walls of the house have been carefully dug out, and amongst many interesting objects found, and now being classified, are pieces of hardware, such as hinges, locks, keys, nails, and bolts; fragments of leaden casement windows containing bits of glass; seven-inch hearth bricks, five-inch glazed green and yellow tiles of the fire-places, etc. The foundations of the brew house, other outbuildings and an eighty-foot brick garden wall also have been unearthed.

The Pennsbury Committee, with the cooperation and much-needed private support of a group of the Friends of Pennsbury, headed by a Committee of The Welcome Society, of which Henry Paul Busch is President, proposes to prepare plans, which, while providing effective preservation for the historic ruins uncovered, look to a full, critical, historical reconstruction of William Penn's Colonial Plantation of Pennsbury, the buildings, gardens, orchards, fields, etc.

The necessary information, archaeological, historical and architectural, to this end, has been gathered, collated and excerpted. This task has been committed to your present speaker, who not only has examined what has been dug up at Pennsbury, and inspected certain old buildings of near the same period, but has had recourse to many collections of data, historical and architectural, both here and in England.

The most pertinent historical facts with respect to the problem, however, he has gleaned from his own collection of William Penn materials, which he has been assembling over a long period, preparatory to his proposed issue of the Complete Works of William Penn in fifteen or more large octavo volumes. This collection is the largest on this subject in the world.

Your speaker not only has obtained several views of the brew house, but also has discovered a crude contemporary manuscript drawing, or view, of the front of Pennsbury House, which is of prime importance to the objective; he has also found other particulars, respecting the house, largely in the handwriting of William Penn himself, as to the chimneys, the wainscoting, the brickwork, the heights of the ceilings, and the sizes of the doors, windows, and stairs; he has inventories of the contents of the house by rooms, also of the other buildings, and references to the gardens, courtyards, hedges, gates, fences, steps, paths, orchards, fruits, flowers, livestock, the well, etc. So that it is with considerable confidence that we approach the problems of an authentic reconstruction of the Pennsbury Plantation.

The consummation of our plans would be a worthy and impressive memorial to our great Founder. It should be made possible with the
help of as many of our citizens and groups of citizens as possible, but especially should it receive the support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which owes a great unrequited debt to its Founder.

Your speaker would appreciate information as to papers of William Penn, especially his letters, as well as to data bearing on Pennsbury. Address: Albert Cook Myers, Building of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia.

In conclusion: Notwithstanding the fact that the best authorities of both the Old and the New Worlds accord Penn a foremost rank in our country's history, so far, strange as it may seem, he has failed of election to the Hall of Fame of New York University. Over 100 electors, largely educationalists, representing each of the States, vote every five years. The next election takes place early in 1935. Let each one of us do what we can to remedy this oversight.

PHILADELPHIANS AT NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, 1767-1774. Contributed by Dr. Carl Bridenbaugh, Department of English and History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

As early as 1767, Philadelphians seeking relief from the summer heat of the city discovered the charms of Newport, and began that annual pilgrimage which has lasted to the present day. In the decade preceding the Revolution, Newport became a highly developed summer resort which attracted to its society the wealthy planters of Charles Town and the Carolinas, many of the governing class from the West Indies, and the merchant princes of Philadelphia. The visitors from the Quaker City chose to make their way to the Narragansett country by the water route, rather than to pursue a tedious and dangerous journey by land. There was a weekly packet service between Philadelphia and Newport conducted by Captain Joseph Anthony in his sloop Peace and Plenty. Between the years 1767 and 1775, over ninety people came from Philadelphia to spend the summer at Newport. We learn their names from the Newport Mercury which early in its career began a sort of society page. Doubtless there were many other persons whose names are now lost, but the following list gives one a good idea of the class of people who passed their summers on Rhode Island.

LIST OF PHILADELPHIANS VISITING AT NEWPORT, R. I., 1767-1774

July 27/ August 3, 1767. Brig Philadelphia Packet, from South Carolina: "... Mr. Sheed of Philadelphia."

July 4/11, 1768. "Sloop Abigail, from Philadelphia; with whom came Passengers, Mr. Joseph Stamper and his Lady, Miss Sims, Miss Saunders, Miss Rodman, Mr. Gilbert Rodman, Mr. Josiah Hewes, Mr. Joseph Jacob Wallis, Mr. William Wood; of Philadelphia... ."

1 For an account of Newport as a resort, see the article by the present writer in the Rhode Island Historical Society Collections, XXVI., no. 1 (January, 1933).

2 The appended list of Philadelphians visiting Newport is taken from the files of the Newport Mercury, 1767-1776. Several files are missing for May and June, 1771, and therefore the list is incomplete for that year.
August 15, 1768. Capt. Anthony, from Philadelphia: "... Mr. John Wharton, and Sister, Mr. Samuel Nichols, Mr. Williams, and Sister, Mr. Benj. Rawles, of Philadelphia; ..."

September 2, 1771. "Last Tuesday arrived the Sloop Peace and Plenty, Capt. Joseph Anthony, in 6 Days from Philadelphia, with whom came Passengers, the Rev’d Morgan Edwards, Rev’d Erasmus Kelley and Lady, Rev’d John Davis, Miss Peggy Davis, Capt. Duncan Ingraham, Mrs. Guyer, Mr. William Douglass, Capt. William Keith, Mr. John Hart, Capt. William Ladd, Mrs. Knotchell, Miss Phebe Lillibridge, and a number of others."

June 15, 1772. Sloop Recovery, from Philadelphia: "Mr. Clement Biddle and Lady, Mrs. Richardson and Mr. Servan."

August 31, 1772. Sloop Peace and Plenty, in 5 days, from Philadelphia: "... Rev. William Rogers, Mr. Samuel Morton, Mr. William Brown and Lady, Miss Betsey Hadwen, Mr. Edward Lovell, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Seed, and a number of others."

September 14, 1772. Sailed for Philadelphia, the Sloop Peace and Plenty: "... Rev. Erasmus Kelley, Mr. Morton, Miss Polly Parham, Miss Debby Faires, and a number of others."

June 28, 1773. Sloop Peace and Plenty, Capt. Anthony, from Philadelphia: "... Thomas Mifflin, Esq; and lady, Mr. Charles Startin, and lady, Mr. Charles Mifflin, Mr. Lewis Bonnettee, of Philadelphia. ..."

July 5, 1773. Sloop Friendship, Capt. William Grinnel, from Philadelphia, in 4 days: "... Mr. Robert Duncan, merchant, ... and lady."

August 16, 1773. Sloop Peace and Plenty, Capt. Anthony, from Philadelphia: "... Rev. Mr. William Rogers and lady, Mr. Thomas Hopkins, and lady, Mrs. Shillds [or Sheilds], Mr. John Gardner, and Mr. Minchell."

September 6, 1773. "Yesterday sailed, for Philadelphia, the sloop Peace and Plenty, Capt. Joseph Anthony, with whom went passengers, Thomas Mifflin, Esq; and lady, Mr. Thomas Hopkins, and lady, Mr. Charles Startin, and lady, Mrs. Shillds, Miss Nabby Collins, Mr. John Gardner, Capt. George Crump, Mr. William McDonald, Mr. John Grant, Mr. Samuel G. Fowler, Mr. John P. Hicks, and several others."

July 4, 1774. Sloop Betsy, from Philadelphia: "... Myers Fisher, Esq; and his lady, Miss Hannah Redwood, daughter of Mr. William Redwood, of Philadelphia. ..."

July 11, 1774. Sloop Peace and Plenty, Capt. Anthony, from Philadelphia: "... James Maccubbin, Esq; Mr. Christopher Marshall, and his lady, Miss Isabella Marshall, Mr. Evan Morgan, Miss Nabby Collins, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Davis, and Mr. Thomas Borden."

August 22, 1774. "Last Thursday was married, at Bedford, in Dartmouth, Mr. Clement Biddle, of Philadelphia, merchant, to the amiable Miss Becca Cornell, daughter of Gideon Cornell, Esq; late of this town, deceased."

I am just completing a collection of the letters of William Cobbett, the political journalist. Information respecting any letters now in private or public collections in the United States would be greatly appreciated. In particular, information from the present owner or owners of a collection of twenty-six letters to Mr. John Morgan of Philadelphia would be most valuable. This series, running from 5 November, 1804, to 23 December, 1819, is known to have been in the possession of Mr. Nathan Jones of 85 Union Street, Philadelphia, in November, 1852.

William Reitzel, Haverford College.
THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING AGRICULTURE is compiling a history of its activities since its founding in 1785. The Secretary will be glad to hear from any persons having records of interest to the Society.

GEORGE F. CURWEN, Secretary, Villa Nova, Pa.

Book Notices


A couple of years ago the Grabhorn Press of San Francisco announced its intention to make reprints of scarce books and pamphlets which deal with “many phases of American life.” Ten volumes would comprise the first series and among them would be General Sutter’s Diary, reprinted from the Argonaut, The Shirley Letters, 2 vols., reprinted from the Pioneer, California in 1837: Diary of Col. Philip L. Edwards, and the Narrative of Nicholas “Cheyenne” Dawson. The entire series has now been published in beautiful limited editions.

The limitations of the particular book under review are admitted by its author in the preface wherein he states that his narrative was written “fifty-three years after the occurrence of the principal events narrated—and was written mostly from memory.” It is the story of a native of Pennsylvania who, after spending several years of his life as an itinerant school teacher, joined the first “truly distinctive” American immigrant train to California in 1841. Upon reaching his destination he remained in this Pacific coast area for two years during which time he operated a distillery near San Jose, managed a dry goods store in Santa Cruz, and engaged in otter hunting on the Santa Barbaras. In 1843, he returned to the states by way of Mexico, only to repeat his wanderings over much the same route during the period of the Gold Rush.

Dawson’s account of his first trip to California is valuable for its descriptions of the simple pastoral life then existing in this area. “We had expected to find civilization—with big fields, fine horses, churches, schools, etc.,” he wrote. “Instead, we found houses resembling unburnt brick kilns, with no floors, no chimneys, and with the openings for doors and windows closed by shutters instead of glass.” His description of San Jose is particularly vivid:

“San Jose was then a sleepy village of perhaps one hundred and fifty inhabitants, and with no regular streets. With the exception of one or two, the houses were of adobe, a few having shingled roofs, but mostly thatched with tule or dirt on timbers. Only three Americans resided in it—Tom Bowen, Capt. Burton, and Guinac. They all had Mexican wives. There were no farms around, but a few gardens; very few stores, and very little in them; no vehicles but carts, made entirely of wood; very little money, but plenty of hides and tallow.”

References occur to many men important in early California history, chief among whom are Captain John Sutter, Dr. John Marsh, T. O. Larkin, Charles W. Weber, and others. With all these men Dawson came into personal contact.
Pennsylvania should welcome the publication of this little book as another addition to the interesting records left by her many sons who heeded the call of the Far West. The volume is beautifully printed and bound, and the colored drawings done by Miss Arvilla Parker, San Francisco student of the arts and crafts, are very appropriate in that their simplicity and charm are in keeping with the character of the entire volume.

Oscar Osburn Winther.


On the outskirts of the villages of Fox Chase, Bustleton and Cheltenham, and yet still within the city limits of Philadelphia, we find many well kept farms on which the old homesteads still remain. When William Penn deeded his ground many of those who chose to live in Lower Dublin township became the progenitors of families whose branches after many generations have spread far and wide and are now Philadelphia families of which we are justly proud. Accounts of the Pearson, Castor, Shoemaker and other families have already been written and now all interested in history and genealogy welcome the publication of another history, that of the Livezey Family.

The frontispiece is an illustration in color of the Livesey coat of arms. The first chapter deals with the de Livesey family which became prominent in Lancashire, England, about 1200 A. D., and with the ancestry of Thomas Livezey, the Quaker emigrant, who left Norton, Cheshire, England in 1682. The records of Thomas and his male descendants for five or six generations are fully documented by reference to source material, being almost entirely public or semi-public records. The female lines are not carried out unless they have not been published elsewhere. The more recent history has been gathered from family data of the members now living. The whole is well arranged and indexed.

Corona E. Kerns.