

## SOCIETY NEWS AND ACCESSIONS

At the meeting of the Council on September 28 the following resolution was adopted:

*Whereas*, it is with profound regret that the Council of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has learned of the death of John Gribbel, President of the Society, and

*Whereas*, Mr. Gribbel was elected a member of the Society in 1910; became a member of the Council in 1914; served faithfully and well in that capacity until 1926, when he was elected Vice-President; was elected President of the Society in 1933 and performed the duties of that office with dignity and grace and

*Whereas*, the Officers and Councillors of the Society, moved to an expression of their deep regret by appreciation for him as a gracious gentleman and a genial friend, as well as by gratitude for him as a wise and loyal counsellor in the business of the Society, which he ever held among his deepest interests, although large affairs in the realm of banking and manufacturing exacted much of his time and energy, do, therefore,

*Resolve*, that an expression of these sentiments be spread upon the Minutes of the Council and published in the PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, and that a copy of them be sent to members of the family.

At the stated meeting of the Society to be held on November 9, 1936, Mr. Samuel E. Morison, tercentennial historian of Harvard University, will deliver an address on "Harvard in the Eighteenth Century." The lecture will be illustrated and there will be an exhibit of books, manuscripts, prints, and objects relating to Harvard. The meeting will be held at 8.30 o'clock in the evening.

In *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* for March, 1936, John W. Harpster describes the "Eighteenth Century Inns and Taverns of Western Pennsylvania," and the gradual evolution of accommodations for travellers in this region. Although there was a marked improvement in the inns by the end of the eighteenth century and continuing through the nineteenth, Charles Dickens found conditions uncomfortable enough in his journey by canal from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh, and thence by steamboat to Cincinnati. His strictures upon this part of the American scene and upon the men and women who figure in it have been extracted from the *American Notes* by Leland D. Baldwin and published in the same periodical in an article entitled "Charles Dickens in Western Pennsylvania."

For the June, 1936, number of this quarterly, Mr. Baldwin edited the "Orders Issued by General Henry Lee during the Campaign against the Whiskey Insurrectionists." The earliest entry in the orderly book was probably made at Cumberland on October 13, 1794, and the last at Pittsburgh on November 18, 1794. In another article in this issue, "Churches and Social Control in the

Western Pennsylvania Frontier," the role of the church on the frontier is discussed by Marian Silveus. The author concludes that "without the churches the transition of western Pennsylvania from a frontier to a civilized region would have been a longer and more laborious process."

"The Minutes of the Young Men's Whig Association of Pittsburgh, 1834," edited for the September, 1936, issue of *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* by Russell J. Ferguson evidences the storm of protest aroused in the industrial and financial circles of Pittsburgh by Jackson's attack on the bank and his attitude toward the tariff. The object of this association was declared to be "the preservation of the fundamental principles upon which our republican Institutions are based," and it was resolved never to "relax our exertions, until our Constitution be re-established, corruption at an end, and the laws triumphant." Other items of interest to Pennsylvanians to be found in the June issue of this quarterly include an essay by Alfred P. James on "Approaches to the Early History of Western Pennsylvania"; one by Henry Oliver Evans on the lives and bibliophilic activities of "Three Notable Collectors of Americana," John Carter Brown, Henry E. Huntington, and William L. Clements; and an account by Marian Silveus of "The Historical Tour of 1936," the purpose of which was to recall the industrial history of Butler, Armstrong, Venango, and Clarion counties.

Bayard Still in "An Interpretation of the Statehood Process, 1800 to 1850," published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September, 1936, surveys the changing attitude toward the legislative branch of government during the first half of the nineteenth century. In the heyday of Jeffersonian democracy the legislatures, as agents of the people, were accorded an unlimited confidence but in time the view that the power of the legislature was subversive and must be checked began to spread. This attitude was reflected in the constitutional reforms inaugurated in the older states and in the constitutions drawn up by the newer ones.

"Some Considerations on the Safety Valve Doctrine," an article by Murray Kane in the same issue of this *Review* presents the thesis that the unsettled western lands offered little opportunity to the unemployed wage earner to better his condition, inasmuch as he could rarely amass sufficient capital to finance the westward journey, to purchase and stock a farm, and to support himself and his family during the first two or three inevitably lean years. *The American Historical Review* for July, 1936, carries two articles in a measure complementary to that of Mr. Kane. One is by Paul Wallace Gates, "The Homestead Law in an Incongruous Land System"; the other by Fred A. Shannon, "The Homestead Act and the Labor Surplus."

Martin Hervin Brackbill gives an account of the arrival of the Swiss Menonites on board the *Maria Hope* in 1710 and of the settlement of this group in Lancaster County in his essay "New Light on Hans Herr and Martin Kendig" published in *Papers Read before the Lancaster County Historical Society*, 1935.

Dorothy Mackay Quynn and William Rogers Quynn edited for the September, 1936, issue of the *Maryland Historical Magazine* the letters of a Maryland Medical Student in Philadelphia and Edinburgh (1782-1784). These letters written by William Quynn present an interesting picture of university life in the eighteenth century. Young Quynn studied anatomy with Dr. Shippen and in one of his letters commented on the unfortunate dissention existing between Dr. Rush and Dr. Shippen which prevented "Rush's Lecturing on Chemistry, a branch, Indispensably necessary to constitute a Physician."

Ralph Albertson contributes "A Survey of Mutualistic Communities in America" to the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October, 1936. These mutualistic communities fall into two main classifications, those organized for the primary purpose of maintaining certain religious views, and the purely secular communities whose organization emphasizes "the social and economic advantages of communistic life." A number of both types were set up in Pennsylvania in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Harmony Society of Butler County and Economy Pennsylvania, founded by the German Separatists led by George Rapp (1804); the Moravian communities at Bethlehem and Nazareth; the Ephrata Community; the Snow Hill Community an off-shoot of the Ephrata group; the Labadist communities; and the settlement at Celesta were examples of the first type. Owen and Fourier were chiefly responsible for the character of the communities founded for economic reasons. There were two Owenite groups in Pennsylvania in the nineteenth century, The Coöperative Society at Pittsburgh, and One Mentian Community. Under the impetus given by Fourier and the publication of Arthur Brisbane's *Social Destiny of Man* (1840) seven phalanxes were established in Pennsylvania. They were: The Goose Pond Community, the Leraysville Phalanx, the McKean County Association, One Mentian Community also influenced by Robert Owen, Peace Union Settlement, Social Reform Unity, and the Sylvania Association.

The first issue of *Chester County Collections*, a new periodical devoted to the historical and genealogical material of Chester County appeared October 1, 1936. The purpose announced by the publishers, Bart Anderson and Marwood Darlington of West Chester, Pennsylvania, is to make the county records more accessible to those interested in them. The October number contains the first installment of a check list of Chester County newspapers prepared by Ethel M. Sauer; an article by Marwood Darlington on "Cheyney Burial Ground"; an account, entitled "An Old Tract in Willistown," by Dorothy B. Lapp of the 1000 acre tract granted by William Penn in 1687 to Thomas Barker; extracts from the docket book of Squire William Worthington of West Goshen Township on the subject of "Some Chester County Marriages"; a reprinting from the *Kennett Advance* of a series of articles on the history of Kennett Square by William W. Polk; an article on the "Descendants of John and Mary (Ignew) Miller" by Bart Anderson; and some abstracts of "Chester County Wills and Administrations" from 1713/4 to 1730.

T. Kenneth Wood has published recently, as a fifth volume of *Now and*

*Then*, a collection of documents and articles illustrative of the history of Muncy, Pennsylvania and of the surrounding district. While the contents of the book were chosen primarily for readers familiar with the traditions and topography of Lycoming County, others may find curious and interesting information within the pages of this miscellany. There is an account of Peter Armstrong and his settlement at Celesta; two narratives of the Wyoming Massacre, both interesting although neither is contemporary; extracts from the *Observations . . . Made by John Bartram in His Travels from Pensilvania to Canada*; extracts from the journal of an English emigrant farmer (1838). This last item and a number of letters belonging to the Wallis family present a graphic picture of life and work on the Pennsylvania borders in the early nineteenth century.

### RECENT ACCESSIONS

On July 10, 1680, John Moll, magistrate of Newcastle and attorney for the Duke of York, purchased from seven Indians the greater part of the present county of Newcastle, Delaware. The deed of sale was witnessed by Johannes de Haes and each of the Indians made his mark at the foot of the document. When William Penn came to America in October of 1682, he demanded and received possession of his lands in that county from the same John Moll and Ephraim Herman, attornies of the Duke of York. And on February 21, 1682/3 this title deed to the lands "att Case and Brott Iland Red CLa Creeke & Witte CLay Creecke quite unto the falls thare off . . . and the Lands aboue Cristina Creeck as ffar as the presincqs off Mary Land, y<sup>e</sup> Land Called mussle Cripple thare in Included" was transferred to Penn and the document endorsed by him: "Jo. Moll Indian Purchass to me W. P." This deed, which antedates all other Penn deeds by about two years, has been acquired by the Society. The mere fact of priority does not constitute the document's only claim to consideration, however, for subsequently it furnished important evidence in connection with the boundary disputes which were endemic in the case of Pennsylvania and Maryland. When the question of the bounds of these two colonies came before the Court of Chancery in the years between 1735 and 1750, five commissioners were appointed by the Court in Great Britain to collect evidence in this matter. This they did in "Chanc'y Philadelphia 20th Octo'r 1740" as a notation on the back of the deed indicates.

The utopian views of life in the American colonies which were spread abroad and the inevitable disillusionment attending hopeful settlers when they arrived in the New World are reflected in a manuscript recently purchased. This manuscript, a petition (April, 1744) from a group of Irish settlers on Spring Manor in Chester County to Lieutenant Governor George Thomas, recites the "Melancoly Sittuation" in which the petitioners find themselves. They had left Ireland where they "Labour'd Under Great Difficulties being cruelly Oppressed with Landlords & Task Masters" in an effort to better their condition. But being poor folk and unable to finance the journey into the interior of Pennsylvania, they settled squatterwise on the Penn lands of Spring Manor, not "w<sup>t</sup> any

view to Defraud" but with the expectation of purchasing the land as soon as their resources permitted. Now they are warned to purchase at once, and at an impossible price or face ejection. They request that a judge be appointed to view the land and arrange more favorable terms.

Photostats of deeds and other legal documents, of a commission (1846) to Hugh Wilson and Joseph Stilwell to be Judge of the Common Pleas in Union County and Prothonotary of that court respectively, and of various manuscripts in German relative to the history of the Becker family were given to the Society by Mr. George Neff.

To the Parrish Collection has been added, by the gift of Miss Anna H. Denniston, 130 papers of the Pemberton family including letters to and from Israel Pemberton, and James and John Pemberton, letters to Dr. Thomas Parke from Richard Vaux, written during the American Revolution from the West Indies; letters of the Barclay family; 100 Ball and Scott letters (1699-1721), and various manuscripts relating to the Parrish Family. Among these last are Ann Parrish's case book recording her "Visitations of the Sick" in 1796; Dillwyn Parrish's "Memoirs of the Parrish Family" (1841); a notebook of Samuel Parrish; and a manuscript in his hand transcribing some of Dr. Joseph Parrish's writings on capital punishment and other matters. In a group of documents relating to the Society of Friends there are 2 letters from John Gratton to William Penn; extracts from the earliest records of the Friends Meetings in America (1676-1771); a copy of the Proclamation of George Fox relating to his marriage, 1669; a contemporary essay on the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment in the Lancaster jail of two Friends, Moses Roberts and Job Hughes, in 1780; papers relating to slavery in America; and a number of Friends Epistles, 1686, 1688, 1690, 1692, 1693, which admirably illustrate the coöperation that existed between the various meetings no matter how far apart they were geographically; a petition to the King and parliament, 1687; a petition to the President, Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, 1790; and a petition to the President, the Executive Council and General Assembly of Pennsylvania, 1781. Robert Proud's manuscript book containing copies of 44 letters of William Penn and others and miscellaneous documents relating to the history of Pennsylvania, 1685-1726, is to be found in this valuable collection as well.

Miss Denniston also presented to the Society what appears to be a unique printed circular, dated the 10th of the 9th Month (November), 1681, signed by Edward Byllynge and addressed to James Harrison offering 100 acres of land to indigent Quakers who would settle in New Jersey; a four page leaflet entitled *The Christianity of the People Commonly called Quakers Asserted . . .* printed in London and reprinted by William Bradford in 1690, an early and apparently unique issue of the first Philadelphia press; and five pamphlets: I. Scott's *War Inconsistent with the Doctrine and Example of Jesus Christ* (Philadelphia, 1804); A. Fisher's *An Epistle in the Love of God to Friends, with a Little Chiefly to their Tender Children* (London, 1696); *The Defence of Warner Mifflin against Aspersions cast on him on Account of his endeavours to promote Righteousness, Mercy and Peace, among Mankind* (Philadelphia,

1796); *Continuation of the Account of the Pennsylvania Hospital* (Philadelphia, B. Franklin and D. Hall, 1761); William Pooley's *Sufferings of Leicestershire & North-hamptonshire, by Informers and Priests* (London, 1683).

Of similar interest to the papers belonging to the Parrish Collection are the 114 letters from Jasper Yeates to his wife (1791-1815); and the 46 manuscripts of the Wistar family, the latter the gift of Mrs. Walter Nordhoff and Mrs. William R. Buffum. Other groups of family papers recently acquired include: 18 manuscripts in French of the Boislandry family given by Mrs. Earl V. Bright; 147 letters of the Morris family of Olney (1842-1849); some of the papers of Robert Waln Jr., including 11 ships insurance policies (1810-1817), 4 receipts of the Library Company of Philadelphia, and 123 miscellaneous manuscripts, the gift of Dr. Emlen Wood; 957 letters of Henry C. Baird (1849-1854), from Mr. Edward Carey Gardiner. In addition, Mr. Gardiner presented to the Society another collection of 235 manuscripts, 7 photographs, and the sword of Captain Thomas J. Baird (1795-1842).

The Society has also received William Tilghman's rent book (1810-1835), 8 letters and documents of Ambrose Vasse and Sharp Delany (1796-1707), 6 documents relating to George Meade (1796-1801), 26 letters to Edward S. Burd (1809-1827), 8 letters to the publishers of the Biblical Repertory (1845-1846) and 37 miscellaneous manuscripts from Mr. Harrold E. Gillingham; some Clay manuscripts (1795-1829), and the correspondence of the Clay and Fletcher families (1830-1894); 514 manuscripts, the gift of Miss Fanny Ewing; 6 letters from James Buch to J. B. Henry (1861-1866), and 1 to William Duffield (1843); 11 letter-books, ledgers, Journals, cash books of the firm of Warder & Bros. and John H. Warder (1829-1859), and 20 engravings from Mrs. W. W. Frazier Jr.; and 1652 manuscripts of the firm of Thomas Wharton and Co.; and 25 letters and documents relating to the building of the Greensburg-Pittsburgh Turnpike. The journal of Jacob Kern's journey from Reading to the Forks of the Delaware in 1758; a photostat copy of Conrad Weiser's journal of his expedition to Ohio in 1748; and a typescript copy of the diary of Moses Chamberlain (1776-1777) kept during the Northern Campaign have been added to the Society's collection of documents descriptive of colonial America.

James Fennell, an Englishman by birth and education who came to the United States in the early days of the republic and interested himself in the manufacture of salt in Maryland and in dramatic activity in Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore as actor, producer and playwright wrote, among other things, "The Force of Nature or the Errors of Concealment, a Tragedy in Five Acts." The manuscript of this play, which apparently has never been published, and a copy of the autobiography of Fennell entitled an *Apology for the Life of James Fennell* (Philadelphia, 1814) have been acquired recently.

The Society's collection of newspapers has been augmented by the acquisition of 615 copies of *The Philadelphia Gazette* (1795 to 1811), the gift of Mr. C. S. Brigham; the files of the *Courier de Boston* from April 23, 1789 to October 15,

1789 and of *The Franklin Repository* (Chambersburg, Pa.) from January 12, 1808 to December 31, 1811 and January, 1818 to December 26, 1820; a copy of *The Mail or Claypoole's Daily Advertiser* for January 9, 1793; Volume One of *The Lady's Magazine* for 1792; and a photostat copy of *Die Chesnuthiller Wochenschrift* for August 20, 1793.

Among other accessions are: 6 letters of James Buchanan; Martha Lees' manuscript book of verse, 1800; the Minute Books of the Northern Liberty Lodge No. 17, Kensington, 1829-1849; and of the Mt. Olive Encampment No. 6, Kensington, 1839-1846; and of Walhalla Lodge, 1841-1849; a share of stock in the Gap Mine Co. signed by Oliver Evans, the gift of Greville Bathe; the excessively rare *Grant and Release of one-eighth part of Carolina, from His Majesty to Lord Carteret* (np., nd.); the William J. Ryan Collection of theatre programs, playbills, librettos, and similar items, the gift of John Ryan; 1728 formal dinner and banquet menus, programs and souvenirs, and 46 letters collected by Colonel Robert B. Beath and presented by his daughter Miss Alice M. Beath; and 33 miscellaneous manuscripts, tickets, menus, broadsides and pamphlets from Mr. Richard Peters, Jr.

Mrs. Adeline Gardiner Clarke has given the Society portraits in oil of Sidney Gardiner, Mary Vernon Gardiner, and a charcoal portrait of John Hampden Gardiner. 320 photographs, views and maps of interest to Philadelphians were given by the Reverend John T. Faris; 55 framed photographs were received from the estate of Henry C. Pratt; and 7 volumes of photographs taken along Philadelphia Railroads, for the most part in the 1880's and 1890's, have been acquired. Dr. Maria P. Ryan presented a mahogany sewing table, a miniature of Mrs. Joseph Pleasants (Nancy Page), the journal of Nancy Page, age 13, kept in France and Italy in 1837, and 98 letters addressed to the same Nancy Page. From the Arabella J. Adams Estate came George Washington's watch, a portrait of Bushrod Washington, and some Washington documents; from Miss Mabel Bayard the Princeton diploma and senior oration of C. P. Bayard, October 5, 1820, the program of the commencement exercises at the University of Pennsylvania on December 22, 1825, and July 27, 1826, a letter addressed to the Senior class at the University of Pennsylvania (1825), and a telescope.

Through the generosity of Mrs. William Stansfield, the Society has acquired a great many interesting and valuable manuscripts and documents including 5 diaries of Nathaniel Snowden (1788-1839), the diary of James Ross Snowden, written when he was thirteen years old, and the diary of General Robert Patterson (1864-1865). It is especially fitting that General Patterson's diary and a part of his correspondence should return to 1300 Locust Street, once the site of the Patterson house. Other papers of James Ross Snowden, some of his speeches, 63 letters, and some correspondence relative to the mint in 1856 as well as older documents on the mint (among which are the orders and directions for conducting the mint in Philadelphia in 1796) are included in Mrs. Stansfield's gift. There are also in this collection genealogical material and notes on the Snowden, Fitz Randolph, Patterson, and Engle families.