

NEWS AND COMMENT

Among the recent acquisitions of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania listed in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for July is the Coates Collection, a group of letters and documents concerned with the Indian trade at Pittsburgh and various frontier forts during the period from 1759 to 1765, including account books, store journals, cash books, invoices, and a number of letters written by Jonas Davenport, Indian trader. In the same issue are an article by Hazel Shields Garrison on the "Cartography of Pennsylvania before 1800," in which the work of such map-makers as Thomas Holmes, Lewis Evans, Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, Nicholas Scull, and Reading Howell is discussed, and an article on "Charles McLean Andrews and the Re-orientation of the Study of American Colonial History," in which Lawrence H. Gipson points out that the appearance of the first volume, on the settlements, of Andrews' *The Colonial Period of American History* "really marks an epoch in American historiography."

The biennial report by Gertrude McKinney of the work at the Pennsylvania State Library, printed in *Pennsylvania Library Notes* for July, includes a note on the rearrangement and classification that has been done in the archives division of the library during the past six months. Among other collections, that of the muster rolls of the Revolutionary War has been identified and indexed, the Burd-Shippen papers have been put in order, and the accumulated papers of various counties have been boxed and shelved. The two new series of *Pennsylvania Archives*, announced for publication several years ago, now include five volumes of the eighth series and all ten of the ninth series; none of them, however, will be available until the index for both series, now in preparation, is completed and printed.

In answer to the article "What Is the Matter with Pennsylvania?" by William A. Russ, Jr., in *Pennsylvania History* for January (noted *ante*, 18: 160), Frank W. Leach in "Nothing the Matter with Pennsylvania," in the July issue, presents evidence to substantiate his claim that neither in the field of politics, as was intimated in the earlier article, nor in any other form of activity, did Pennsylvania play "a minor rôle in the program of national development." In the same issue are a summary by Paul W. Gates of "The Third Annual

Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association," held in Pittsburgh in April, and a continuation of "Pennsylvania Bibliographies" by Henry P. Beers, in which are listed printed source materials and collections of manuscripts relative to the history of the state.

Patrick M'Roberts *Tour through Part of the North Provinces of America, 1774-75* (Edinburgh, 1776), which appeared with a preface and notes by Carl Bridenbaugh in the April issue of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* has been reprinted, with the addition of the original title-page, a table of contents, and an index, as the first number of a new pamphlet series entitled *Narratives and Documents* published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This booklet is printed on good paper in an attractive format and is an example of what may be done in the way of increasing the availability of little-known documents to readers.

The methods by which the government plans to make available the archives of the United States and to insure their preservation are described in detail by G. Gould Lincoln in his article, "The National Archives," in the *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine* for October. In the same issue, under the title "Historical Museums as a Training Ground for Citizenship," L. Hubbard Shattuck, director of the Chicago Historical Society, discusses the work of the society with public school children.

The course of general commodity prices in the Ohio Valley during a part of the nineteenth century has been charted by Thomas Senior Berry in *Wholesale Commodity Prices in the Ohio Valley, 1816-1860* (32 p. 1935), a reprint of an article in the *Review of Economic Statistics* for August. In it prices of commodities in the Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Louisville, and Lexington markets by month and year are given in a series of twenty-two tables that differentiate between agricultural products and manufactured articles. Sufficiently comprehensive data is presented to enable the student to draw conclusions as to the effect of the sale of public lands, immigration, and the fluctuations of western banking and currency upon commodity prices.

"The customs, stories, superstitions, weather lore, chanteys, and amusements that grew out of life aboard commercial sailing vessels when they dominated the commerce of the Lakes . . . during the last half of the last century" are sketched by I. H. Walton of the University of Michigan in "Sailor Lore of the Great Lakes," printed in the fall issue of the *Michigan History Magazine*.

An article by Alston G. Field, former research fellow of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, on "Attorney-General Black and the California Land Claims" is included in the September issue of the *Pacific Historical Review*. Mr. Field discusses the work of the former chief justice of Pennsylvania, Jeremiah Sullivan Black, in untangling the snarl in land titles that resulted from the influx of Americans into California after 1848.

The Illinois State Historical Library has published as volumes 24 and 26 of its *Collections* and volumes 2 and 3 of the *Statistical Series*, the Illinois census returns for 1810, 1818, and 1820. The work is edited with an introduction and notes by Margaret Cross Norton.

Archæological discoveries in Somerset County, at a site on the Youghiogheny River about two miles below the Great Crossings, are described by Donald A. Cadzow in the July issue of the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. The October number of the same quarterly contains a short sketch of "Chief Cornplanter," by Frederic A. Godcharles, and an interesting note about Pennsylvania's present-day Seneca Indians entitled "Cornplanter Indians Observing Green Corn Dance," by Henry W. Shoemaker. A reproduction of Captain John Smith's map of Virginia illustrates the cover of this issue.

An autobiographical sketch of the life of Thomas W. Bakewell (1788-1874), together with five letters from Bakewell to his parents written from 1816 to 1821, are printed under the title, "Audubon & Bakewell, Partners," in the *Cardinal*, magazine of the Audubon Society of Sewickley Valley, for July. Included is some information on the founding of the Pittsburgh flint glass concern of Bakewell and Page in 1808 and on the business conducted by the mercantile firm of Audubon & Bakewell at New Orleans and Henderson, Kentucky, from 1811 to 1816.

A brief *résumé* of the postal history of Clarion by M. M. Kaufman, the town's twelfth postmaster, is printed in the *Clarion Republic* for August 29.

In "The Cardinal of the West" John T. Faris presents to the young readers of *Forward*, a weekly published by the Presbyterian church, a picture of life in western Pennsylvania in 1795 and of prominent figures there, including the Reverend John McMillan and Hugh Henry Brackenridge. The article, which appears in the July 27 issue, is illustrated on the last page of that number with several historical pictures, among them one of the old McMillan home and the Log College.

The history of the old South Pennsylvania Railroad from 1837, when surveys for the road through the southern Pennsylvania counties were first made, to 1885, when the project was finally abandoned, is told by Gilbert Love in "Carnegie's Lost Railroad May Make Possible Super-Highway from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg" in the *Pittsburgh Press* for September 29. The author describes a proposal recently before the legislature to construct an automobile trunk-line highway over the roadbed of the old railroad, in which Andrew Carnegie at one time had a large interest.

The decision of the seventy-one-year-old A. M. Byers Company of Pittsburgh, makers of wrought iron pipe, plate, and sheet, to manufacture steel pipe was the occasion for an historical review of the company's development, in the *Bulletin Index* for August 15.

Business schools, private preparatory schools, colleges, and universities of Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania are described in an historical article, "Pittsburgh District Educational Institutions," in the August number of *Greater Pittsburgh*.

In an article entitled "Public School System Here Century Old" in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* for September 7, a picture of one of the earliest one-room school buildings in Pittsburgh, printed beside that of one of the modern high schools, illustrates vividly the growth of the Pittsburgh public school system, which has expanded since September 5, 1835, from five students and one teacher in a small rented room on Seventh Avenue to 142,128 students and 3,937 teachers in 161 large modern buildings.

A glimpse of the physical appearance of Pittsburgh in the latter part of the nineteenth century is afforded by a description in the *Pittsburgh Automobilst* for July of "An Old Map" of Pittsburgh and Allegheny issued in 1888.

In memory of General Albert J. Logan, the board of commissioners of Allegheny County has given the name of "General Logan Boulevard" to the new road from Saw Mill Run Boulevard to South Park.

The Marietta, Ohio, committee that has been appointed to consider plans for the appropriate observance of the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Northwest Ordinance and of the establishment of civil government in the territory north of the Ohio River has suggested a program that includes an actual four-month pilgrimage of twenty-two men and a Conestoga wagon drawn by oxen from Manassah Cutler's church in Ipswich, Massachusetts, to the Yough-

iogheny River, where a replica of the "Adventure Galley" might be built to carry the pilgrims downstream to Marietta. This proposed undertaking, together with other plans for the celebration, is outlined in *Museum Echoes* for August.

A public reception was held in the garden of the Great House of the Harmony Society in Ambridge on August 18 by the Harmony Society Historical Association to honor state Senator Alonzo S. Batchelor of Monaca and Representative Eugene A. Caputo of Ambridge, who were responsible for securing a state grant for the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the buildings and furnishings of the Harmony Society. Mr. John Duss, the last chief trustee of the Harmony Society, presided. An account of the society since its inception in Germany in the eighteenth century to its dissolution in Ambridge a century later is contained in the Pittsburgh *Bulletin Index* for August 29.

In an article, "Peripatetic Seminars," in the September issue of the *Star and Serpent*, semiannual publication of Phi Alpha Theta, national honorary history fraternity, C. Stanton Belfour describes the annual historical tours sponsored by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the summer session of the University of Pittsburgh.

The Stahlstown scutching festival, an annual event at which Westmoreland County people reenact the steps in the process of cloth-making from flax as it was done by their pioneer ancestors, was held on September 14. An illustrated description of the process and a short history of the Stahlstown festival are contained in an article by Henry Ward, "Antique Implements Make Fine Linen of Flossy Flax," in the *Pittsburgh Press* for September 15.

Replicas of Hannastown's historic landmarks, built by Captain Edward J. Braden of Bradenville, were displayed by him at the Derry Community Fair held in the Derry Township High School building on September 20 and 21. The first Westmoreland County courthouse, the adjoining fort and stockade, the tavern of Judge Robert Hanna, and the jail were included in the group.

The dedication of an historical marker at the junction of the Lakes-to-Sea Highway and the Rockton Road at Luthersburg by the DuBois chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the placing of a wreath on the grave of James Woodside, the first settler in Brady Township, Clearfield County, on July 30, commemorated the sesquicentennial anniversary of the settling of the county. The historical addresses by Mr. George C. Kirk, civil engineer who surveyed much of the county territory, and of Mr. Herbert A. Moore of DuBois are printed in the *DuBois Morning Courier* for July 31.

A marker in honor of Captain Robert Vance, pioneer settler, was unveiled on September 2 at the Montour Church by members of the congregation. Captain Vance, who is buried in the Montour Cemetery, bought land and built a fort on the site of Coraopolis shortly after the fall of Fort Duquesne and in 1788 helped to build the first log building of the church.

The Rural Valley Presbyterian Church, Armstrong County, marked the centennial anniversary of its founding with memorial services from September 8 to 15. An historical address was delivered by the Honorable Robert M. Ewing of Pittsburgh at the evening meeting on September 9.

The First Presbyterian Church of Monongahela City celebrated its 150th anniversary with special services from September 26 to September 29. A marker memorializing the site of the Horseshoe Bottom Presbyterian Church, from which the present congregation evolved, was dedicated, and historical papers were presented by Dr. C. F. Linn of Monongahela City and Professor Gaius J. Slosser of the Western Theological Seminary.

The Blair County Historical Society, whose members held their first meeting of the season early in October, reports that all museum pieces have recently been reclassified and rearranged in special rooms at Baker Mansion, Altoona, and that material has been assembled for the "Hall of Fame," wherein are to be displayed photographs, pictures, and portraits of prominent men of Blair County.

At the annual meeting of the Chartiers Historical Society on July 28 new officers were elected and plans were discussed for the completion and dedication of a memorial marking the site of the residence of General John Neville, where the first armed resistance to Federal authority occurred when the excise tax was levied in 1794. Mr. Andrew G. Smith of Mount Lebanon is president of the organization, and Mr. D. M. Bennett of Bridgeville is secretary.

A new entrant in the field of western Pennsylvania history is the Somerset Archaeological and Historical Society, which was organized at Somerset on June 25 with the following officers: Mr. Charles F. Uhl, president; Mr. Clarence Shaver, first vice president; Mr. Ernest Kooser, second vice president; Mr. Charles H. Ealy, third vice president; Mr. Walker Mong, statistician; Mr. Fred D. Berkebile, secretary; and Mr. Lyle Cage, treasurer. Mr. Donald A. Cadzow, whose archæological work in the county was largely instrumental in the formation of the new society, was the principal speaker at the organization meeting.

The Washington County Historical Society has added to its museum collection several interesting items, among them the reed organ first used in the Catholic church at Washington.

In the article entitled "The Marquis Duquesne," by Charles W. Dahlinger, printed serially in three issues of volume 15 of the WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE and reprinted in book form (Pittsburgh, 1932), the authorship of the *Voyage au Canada . . . 1751 à 1761 par J. C. B.* (Quebec, 1887), from which considerable material is drawn (*ante*, 15: 133, 145-149), is attributed to J. C. Bonnefons, a conclusion arrived at earlier by the Abbé Henri R. Casgrain, who edited the journal in 1887. An interesting comment on this subject has recently been noted in an article entitled "L'Espion de J. C. B.," by Aegidius Fauteux in the March, 1931, issue of the Quebec *Bulletin des recherches historiques*, to the effect that no person of the name Bonnefons ever took part in the events covered by the journal, that the name of an officer, Bonafous, which has several times been erroneously printed "Bonnefonds," was probably misinterpreted by the Abbé Casgrain as "Bonnefons," and that for several reasons, the author of the journal could not possibly have been the officer Bonafous. "J. C. B.," therefore, remains to be identified.