

# SOCIETY AND SURVEY NOTES

Mr. Arthur Pound, author of *The Iron Man in Industry*, *The Penns of Pennsylvania and England*, and *Johnson of the Mohawks*, addressed a luncheon meeting of the society in the rooms of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce on December 6. Mr. Pound had begun the preparation of a history of industry in western Pennsylvania under the auspices of the University of Pittsburgh and the Buhl Foundation, and on this occasion the theme of his talk, "Over the Hills to Riches," was drawn from his studies in that field. In a short business session preceding the address Dr. Cortlandt W. W. Elkin was elected secretary of the society in place of Mr. Gregg L. Neel.

On January 7 the society held a rally of "friends of Pittsburgh history" at which was presented, in a program of brief talks by representatives of the society and of organizations and groups of allied interests, a bird's-eye view of what is being done in Pittsburgh and vicinity in the way of promoting interest in local history. Among the speakers and the organizations represented were Mrs. Marcellin C. Adams, Colonial Dames; Mrs. Joseph Baldrige, Daughters of Colonial Wars and Daughters of 1812; Mrs. William J. Crittenden, Daughters of the American Revolution; Mrs. Harry A. Ross, Woman's Historical Society; Andrew G. Smith, Esq., Sons of the American Revolution and Chartiers Historical Society; Mr. Louis C. Schroeder, Committee on Western Pennsylvania Folklore; James Gregg, Esq., of Greensburg, Westmoreland-Fayette Branch of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Frank F. Sumney of Dravosburg, Yohogania Court House Association. Dr. Leland D. Baldwin, assistant director of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, reviewed the work of the survey and of a number of other agencies, including the University of Pittsburgh, the Buhl Foundation, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; and Mr. Holbrook spoke on the work and aims of the society. Mr. Henry Hornbostel, newly appointed director of Allegheny County parks, was called upon for a few remarks, and he spoke of the possibilities of historical museums, as illustrated by developments elsewhere in the United States and abroad but as yet far from realized in the Pittsburgh district. The occasion revealed encouragingly widespread interest in local history, and the hope was expressed that the society, as the agency most exclusively devoted to the promotion of local and regional historical activities, might serve increasingly to stimulate, supplement, and coördinate efforts in this field.

At the annual meeting of the society on January 28 Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison, president of Washington and Jefferson College, gave an inspiring address on "The Emotional Fringe in History," in which he reviewed evidences of the moving and integrating power of religious convictions and other emotional loyalties in the shaping of human history and recommended as significant for an emotionally distracted generation a closer study of the ideals that entered into the making of the western Pennsylvania community of today. The business of the meeting included the presentation of the annual reports of the treasurer and the director and the election of trustees. The Honorable Henry W. Temple and the Honorable George E. Alter were reelected trustees; the Honorable Harmar Denny, Jr., was elected trustee in place of the late Albert A. Horne; and Mr. Frank C. Harper was elected a member of the board of editors in place of the late Charles W. Dahlinger, Esq. A resolution expressing appreciation of the faithful and efficient services rendered by Mr. Neel as secretary and acting secretary of the society from January 27, 1931, to December 6, 1935, was presented by Judge Ambrose B. Reid and unanimously adopted.

Eleven persons were elected to active membership in the society at the January 7 and January 28 meetings: Harmar D. Denny, Jr., Robert Carson Görmly, Harry L. McKain, the Honorable H. Walton Mitchell, and Mrs. Earl I. Schall, all of Pittsburgh; Avis M. C. Cauley of Ambridge; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Swartzlander of Aspinwall; John D. Grier of Cheswick; Mrs. W. H. Lewis of Donora; and F. R. Layng of Greenville. Mrs. Swartzlander was enrolled as an associate member, and the others were enrolled as annual members. In addition, the Lieutenant Colonel George Croghan chapter of the Daughters of 1812 was elected to annual institutional membership.

During the quarter ending December 31, 1935, the society lost four members by death: Robert J. Coyle, Jr., October 10; Charles W. Dahlinger, December 19; Henry Wittmer, November 20, all of Pittsburgh; and Mary D. McClane, November 2, of Washington. The death of Mrs. James C. Doty of Ben Avon in July, 1935, has not been previously reported in the magazine.

The society and the survey were represented at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association at Philadelphia, October 25 and 26, by the director; at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Chattanooga, Tennessee, December 27-30, by the librarian, Dr. Silveus; at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies at Harrisburg, January 16, by President Fisher and the director; and at the meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archæology, also held at Harrisburg, January 16

and 17, by the director. Present at the Chattanooga meeting and participating in the program was Dr. E. Douglas Branch, research professor of history in the University of Pittsburgh, who is preparing, in close association with the survey, a history of transportation in western Pennsylvania.

Dr. Baldwin, assistant director of the survey, is conducting at the Historical Building a weekly seminar in the middle period of Pittsburgh history, covering developments in the years from 1815 to 1865.

The director spoke on "Unharnessed Sources of Power for the Development of the Historical Resources of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania" at a luncheon meeting of the Daughters of Colonial Wars at the Hotel William Penn on October 4, and on "The Ever Present Past" over radio station KDKA, under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution, on November 1; Dr. Downes spoke at a meeting held at the Carron Street Baptist Church on December 6, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of that church, on the subject, "What Fifty Years Have Brought."

#### ADDITIONS TO COLLECTIONS.

An important addition to the library is a group of approximately five hundred books and pamphlets from the library of the late Josiah Van Kirk Thompson, probably half of which are primarily of genealogical interest. Such standard genealogical works as John Burke's *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland* (1836-38), Bernard Burke's *History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland* (1871), and Alexander Jacob's *Complete English Peerage* (1766) are included. Of similar interest are George B. Kulp's *Families of the Wyoming Valley* (1885-90), John C. Hotten's *Original Lists of Persons of Quality* (1880), and approximately 175 family histories. Other important items in this collection are Daniel Drake's *Pioneer Life in Kentucky* (1870) and Samuel Kercheval's *History of the Valley of Virginia* (1902); a number of early catalogues and pamphlets of western Pennsylvania schools and colleges—Washington and Jefferson College, Waynesburg College, Washington Female Seminary, and Pittsburgh Female College; W. W. Beach's *Indian Miscellany* (1877); twelve volumes from 1901 to 1914 of the *Pennsylvania German*, which in 1912 became the *Pennsylvania Germania*; six volumes of the *Proceedings* of the Scotch-Irish Society of Pennsylvania; twelve numbers of the *Lineage Book* of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and a number of church and county histories.

Among recently published books added to the library are Joseph N. Kane's *Famous First Facts* (1934) and *More First Facts* (1935), which list "first happenings, discoveries and inventions in the United States," and J. George Frederick's *Pennsylvania Dutch and Their Cookery* (1935).

A bibliographical item recently acquired by the library is Everett E. Edwards' *References on the Significance of the Frontier in American History* (October, 1935). The work is *Bibliographical Contribution*, number 25, of the library of the United States Department of Agriculture.

A manuscript "Plan of Pittsburgh With the Allegany and Monongahely Rivers. Shewing there Connection into the Ohio. Likewise the Different vessels Built at Pittsburgh Octo<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1805 by William Masson" has been presented by Mrs. Joseph B. Shea. Pittsburgh streets and lots, with the names of the owners written in, ferry lines, farmhouses across the rivers from the town, William Greenough's shipyard up the Monongahela River, and the glassworks on the Ohio just south of the Point are all sketched on the map. Minute and delicately drawn ships, with their names and the places where they were built, dot the rivers. Colorful and attractive as well as valuable, this rare map is a welcome addition to the society's collection.

A group of account books and documents, to be known as the Snowden Collection, has been deposited with the society by Mrs. Edward Henesey for her father, Charles L. Snowden. The account books for the years 1793, 1794, 1796, 1814-30, and 1818 of George and William Hogg, who engaged in the wholesale and retail mercantile and general-store business in Brownsville and Pittsburgh during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, contain interesting material for the student of economic and social life. Among other items in the collection are steamboat, live-stock, and sawmill account books; a servant's indenture, issued in 1815; a catalogue of Dunlap's Creek Academy, 1849-63; a "List of the prices of tinware" that seems to have been compiled at an early date; and instructions issued by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Nathaniel Breeding on March 5, 1785, "to Survey on North side Ohio" for the setting apart of depreciation and donation lands. Mrs. Henesey has also presented single issues of various nineteenth-century newspapers of Bedford, Brownsville, Connellsville, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Uniontown, and a number of books, broadsides, maps, and pamphlets, including the annual reports for the years from 1853 to 1873 of the Monongahela Navigation Company, of which George Hogg was one of the organizers and original stockholders. Museum objects are also included—the slippers worn by Mary Ewing at her wed-

ding to Nathaniel Breeding in 1780; a swift for carding flax, a wool winder, and a washbowl and pitcher, all used about 1836; and a collection of children's toys used during the seventies and eighties of the nineteenth century.

Correspondence concerning the public-school lecture series sponsored by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in the spring of 1910 is included among miscellaneous manuscript material from the files of John B. McCormick, former chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, presented to the society by the university through Mrs. Clarence V. Starrett.

Fragments of a will made in 1762 by a Massachusetts seaman, sailing and trading instructions issued to a New England captain in 1829, and a letter describing conditions along the Gulf coast in 1862 are among items of interest recently presented by Mr. Nathan E. Snader.

Single issues of newspapers published in Pittsburgh, Butler, Greensburg, Kittanning, New York, and Washington, D.C., during the early nineteenth century have been added to the newspaper files by Mr. Henry K. Siebeneck. Parts of volumes 6 and 7 of the *Pennsylvania Intelligencer* (Harrisburg) have also been acquired by the society; and a copy of the seventy-fifth anniversary edition of the *Johnstown Tribune*, September 15, 1928, has come from Mr. Arthur Pound of New York.

Through the courtesy of Miss M. Atherton Leach, corresponding secretary of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, the society has received a file of mounted clippings of two series of articles by Frank Willing Leach published in the Philadelphia *North American* during the years 1907 to 1914. One series covers the histories of 166 old Philadelphia families, and the other consists of biographical sketches of United States senators from Pennsylvania, including Albert Gallatin, James Ross, William Wilkins, Matthew S. Quay, Philander C. Knox, George T. Oliver, and others from the western part of the state.

Mr. Winfield S. Solomon of Providence, Rhode Island, has added to the group of old Pittsburgh theater bills formerly presented by him a number of playbills for 1870 and 1871. The majority are programs of attractions at the Pittsburgh Opera House, the Academy of Music, and Trimble's Varieties Theatre.

A collection of over forty World War posters, including some used for Red Cross, Liberty Bond, and Thrift Stamp drives, has been received from Mrs. Jacob B. Hench.

Other acquisitions of manuscripts and miscellaneous printed matter include a one-hundred-dollar note issued in July, 18[50], by the Allegheny Bank, from Mr. George H. Clapp of Sewickley; a "Map of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Cities" in 1886, from Mr. Walter R. Toerge; and a number of newspaper clippings and genealogical notes, from Mrs. Effie W. Teemer of Lorain, Ohio.

Two pieces of surveyor's equipment used by Richard Irwin in early surveys of Venango and Forest counties—a compass made in 1798 and a brass pocket case containing pens and ink for the making of field notes—have been placed in the museum by Mrs. Helen Irwin Savage of Churchville, New York.

From Mrs. Naomi Cook Steck has come the gift of a slate and ruler used by Jacob Cook of Sharpsburg in 1828, and a slate used by Elizabeth Cook, his daughter, in the Sharpsburg Public School in 1850.

Other gifts to the museum include a mirror from the millinery shop opened by Nancy Ross on Market Street, Pittsburgh, in 1820, from Miss Ida B. McMillan; a saber carried in 1855 by Lieutenant James Logan of the "Allegheny Blues," from Mrs. Albert J. Logan; a surgeon's lancet of the kind once used for bloodletting, from Mr. J. C. Sleppy; a cup and saucer annealed to iridescence by the intense heat to which they were subjected in the great Pittsburgh fire of 1845, from Miss Sophie McCormick; a century-old washbowl and pitcher, from Miss Evaline Chalfant; five pieces of infant's apparel made in 1825, from Miss Belle S. McMillen; a doll dressed in the costume of a boy of 1875, from Mr. William Penn Baum; and two daguerreotypes from Mrs. Elvert M. Davis of Philadelphia.