

## NEWS AND COMMENT

At the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Chattanooga, Tennessee, December 27-30, Solon J. Buck, director of publications in the National Archives and former director of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, presented a paper on "The Early Development of Agriculture in Western Pennsylvania," and E. Douglas Branch, research professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, presented a paper on the Forbes expedition of 1758, entitled "The Administration of a Wilderness Army." Another paper of western Pennsylvania interest was that of Thomas P. Abernethy of the University of Virginia, whose subject was "Virginia's Western Lands." Included among discussions of more general subjects were papers and addresses on the relation of state and local historical agencies to the association; newspapers as human sources; problems of American archivists; and micro-filming as an aid to historical research.

The program of the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, held jointly with the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies in Philadelphia, October 25 and 26, included the following papers and addresses: "The Colonial Records of Pennsylvania," by Justice William B. Linn of the state supreme court; "The Long Lost First Volume of Pennsylvania Statutes," by Edwin Jacquette Sellers; "The Contribution of the Schroenckfelders to the Music of Colonial Pennsylvania," by H. W. Kriebel; "Anna Dickinson, Anti-Slavery Radical," by Mrs. Judith Anderson; "Colonial Farmer at Work in Pennsylvania," by Frederick K. Miller; "John Dickinson and His Political Ideas," by John H. Powell; "Romance of Pennsylvania History," by Herman L. Collins; and "Coöperation between the Schools and Historical Agencies of the State," by C. F. Hoban. One session was devoted to discussions by the Honorable James M. Beck and Congressman Sol Bloom of the approaching sesquicentennial of the formulation and adoption of the federal Constitution. The association considered long-range plans for a survey of Pennsylvania history and for the preparation of a comprehensive state history. The federation, among other things, took action toward securing legislation designed to effect the assemblage and preservation in one place of all court records prior to the year 1800 still to be found in the several counties.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies held its annual meeting in Harrisburg on January 16. At the morning session Governor George H. Earle, who had previously sought the advice of leaders of the federation in the matter, indicated the administration's willingness and desire to coöperate with historical and patriotic societies in preserving and making the most of the historical value of sites and parks in the state's charge. Dr. Lester K. Ade, state superintendent of public instruction, and former Governor John S. Fisher, president of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, were among those who addressed the luncheon meeting, and the afternoon was occupied with reports from constituent societies and a tea in the rooms of the Dauphin County Historical Society. A meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology followed that evening and the next day.

Now that William Penn has at last been elected to a place in the Hall of Fame at New York University, it remains for members of historical and patriotic societies and others to provide a fund of five thousand dollars for a bronze bust and tablet. Nearly half of this sum was assured before February 1 by organizations and individuals in the Philadelphia area, and it is hoped that contributions from other parts of the commonwealth will presently complete the fund. Western Pennsylvanians and others who want a share, no matter how small, in thus honoring the founder of the Keystone State are asked to draw their checks to the order of Mrs. Henry Pemberton, Jr., treasurer, Penn Hall of Fame Fund, and send them to her at Prospect Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has recently acquired a considerable collection of documents pertaining to the petroleum industry in Erie County from 1858 to 1869, the gift of Mr. Harrison W. Smith of the island of Tahiti. The collection is described in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for October. Much information on the growth of Pennsylvania's transportation system during the middle nineteenth century and on the financial operations involved in its promotion is contained in an article in the same issue by Henrietta M. Larson entitled "Jay Cooke's Early Work in Transportation."

The *Pennsylvania Library and Museum Notes* for October contains an illustrated account of an exhibit of Indian civilization, held in the state museum; a survey of genealogical material in the state library; and a description of the Indian deeds and the muster rolls of the Revolutionary War in the state archives. A bibliography of available books on the Pennsylvania Indians, compiled by

Frances Dorrance, is printed under the title, "The Need of Bibliographical Information on the Pennsylvania Indians."

The history and function of the several bureaus in the Pennsylvania department of internal affairs are briefly sketched in the December issue of the *Department of Internal Affairs*, the first number of a monthly departmental publication intended to serve as a vehicle for disseminating information concerning current activities of the bureaus.

Chronicles of several journeys from Marietta, Ohio, to Norwich, Connecticut, through Pennsylvania in the last decade of the eighteenth century are among the journals and correspondence that comprise the Woodbridge-Gallaher Collection of papers of two pioneer Ohio families, which the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society has recently added to its library. Many business and personal letters of Harman Blennerhassett, Aaron Burr's associate, are also in the group, which is described in detail by Harlow Lindley in the October issue of the *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. A sketch of "Lucy Backus Woodbridge, Pioneer Mother," by Louise Rau, in the same publication, is based on information gleaned from Mrs. Woodbridge's letters in the collection and contains glimpses of pioneer life and travel in western Pennsylvania as well as in Ohio.

The picture of early living conditions in Northumberland County that is presented by Chester D. Clark in "Pioneer Life in the New Purchase," printed in the *Proceedings and Addresses* of the Northumberland County Historical Society, issued May 1, 1935, might be applied as well to the western Pennsylvania frontier.

Non-current records of state departments in Ohio are transferred to the custody of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, where the archives are catalogued and stored in a manner to facilitate their use by state officials and students. It is planned to make a complete inventory of all such records within the next year, according to William D. Overman, whose note on the "State Archives" is published in *Museum Echoes* for November. Reprinted in the same bulletin is an article by Arthur C. Parker from the December, 1934, *Museum Service*, entitled "America Needs More Museums," in which the author urges the establishment of a greater number of museums "dedicated to the purpose of vividly portraying the vital facts of the universe and demonstrating them for the enlightenment of all mankind."

That the internal interests of the states were in direct conflict with their external interests during the period from 1775 to 1789 is the conclusion reached by Henry Tatter in a comparative study of "State and Federal Land Policy during the Confederation Period," published in *Agricultural History* for October. The author points out that the representatives of the states were legislating in the federal Congress to insure high revenues from the sale of vacant lands, thus limiting settlement and prohibiting squatting, while at the same time the state legislatures were developing liberal methods of land disposal in an effort to attract new settlers.

"The French and Indian War in Maryland, 1753 to 1756," an article by Paul H. Giddens of Allegheny College, appears in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* for December. Making an exhaustive use of the correspondence of Governor Horatio Sharpe and of the *Votes and Proceedings* of the lower house of the Maryland legislature, Mr. Giddens draws a definitive picture of the difficulties encountered by the royal government in its attempt to persuade the colony of Maryland to coöperate in the defense of the frontier.

"The British Treasury and the Administration of Military Affairs in America, 1754-1774," by Dora Mae Clark, in the October number of *Pennsylvania History*, includes discussions of the financing of Braddock's expedition and the monetary difficulties of the army at Fort Pitt. "Pennsylvania Bibliographies," compiled by Henry P. Beers and printed serially in the same magazine, is continued in this issue.

An interesting account by Claude de Bonnault of the life of La Salle and of his importance in establishing the claims of France in the New World appears in the Paris periodical, *Larousse mensuel*, for October. The author points out that the contest between France and England for lands on the North American continent was waged more for commercial than for political reasons and that the great discoverers, Radisson, Joliet, and La Salle, were traders or merchants as much as explorers. The theory that La Salle descended the Ohio during his exploratory journey of 1669-70 is reaffirmed in this article.

The *Canadian Historical Review* for September contains a note by E. Wilson Lyon concerning certain papers in the French archives that reveal various proposals advanced during the French and Indian War to transfer the French population of Canada to the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, thus insuring the preservation of the rich Louisiana country for France. The earliest plan, dated

February, 1759, includes measures for securing the upper Ohio region that had to be discarded as it became evident that the English intended to maintain Fort Pitt in support of their claims to the territory. A note on "The National Archives of the United States," describing the Archives Building in Washington and the staff of the archives division, is included in the *Review* for December.

In "The New Frontier and the Old American Habit," published in the *Pacific Historical Review* for December, Frederic L. Paxson advances the theory that a social boundary has replaced the old American geographic frontier and that henceforth American political parties will be based on class differences rather than on sectional distinctions.

That Lucius Q. C. Lamar of Mississippi advanced and developed fully the theory of the significance of the frontier in American history in his speech at the dedication of the Calhoun monument at Charleston in 1887, five years before Frederick Jackson Turner delivered his famous address before the American Historical Association, is the thesis maintained by Wirt Armstead Cate in a note on "Lamar of the Frontier Hypothesis," published in the *Journal of Southern History* for November.

"The Trouble with Capitalism Is the Capitalists," by Harold Glenn Moulton, originally published in the November issue of *Fortune*, has been reprinted in pamphlet form (1935. 46 p.) by the Maurice and Laura Falk Foundation of Pittsburgh. The article contains a summary of the study made during the past three years by the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., of American wealth and income in relation to economic progress.

Alexander C. Flick, in an article entitled "We, Too, Are Ancestors" in *New York History* for October, expresses a plea for the preservation of historic source materials in public depositories where they will be available to students. For those who do not care to deposit their old newspapers, books, and manuscripts in a public institution a note in the October issue of the *Missouri Historical Review* will prove helpful in suggesting ways of preserving such materials.

That scholarly interpretations can be utilized by elementary history teachers in a fashion both interesting and comprehensible to grade-school pupils is the contention of Erling M. Hunt in an article, "Scholars' History versus School History," in the December *Social Studies*, the journal of the National Council for the Social Studies, published under the authority of the American Historical Association. He lists the needs and problems of the "professionalization" of ele-

mentary social studies courses such as history, notes the achievements in the field, and voices a plea for more coöperation on the part of specialists, students, and school authorities in determining and executing grade-school programs.

Histories of various industries of regional interest are to be found in *Chemical Industry's Contribution to the Nation: 1635-1935*, a supplement to *Chemical Industries* for May, 1935. In "Columbia Alkali and the Story of an Industry" is traced the growth of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's subsidiary organization, the Columbia Alkali Corporation at Barberton, Ohio, which manufactures alkali and caustic soda for the parent company; and under the title of "The Finger of the Chemical Clock Points Upward" is told the history of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company, whose main plant, since the company's organization in 1850, has been at Natrona.

"One of Andrew Carnegie's First Investments" is described by C. G. Martin, Jr., in *Modern Finance* for October 15. The investment was Carnegie's purchase in 1857 of ten shares of capital stock in the Monongahela Insurance Company, for which he gave a joint, unsecured note that he paid off by turning in the dividend checks over a period of eighteen years. The article is illustrated with a facsimile reproduction of the note and Carnegie's annotations as to its liquidation.

"Washington was the first, and for a long time the sole representative of a new idea . . . America." Thus does Walther Reinhardt appraise the first president of the United States for interested German readers of *Research and Progress*, the quarterly review of German science. His article, "George Washington, the Portrait of a Leader," is printed in the October number.

The story of the fantastic growth of land values on the island of Manhattan and of the New York families who accumulated great wealth thereby is told by Arthur Pound, research professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, in his recently published book, *The Golden Earth* (1935).

Two recent books portray events in the history of North America through the medium of pictures, some of which in each case represent scenes of western Pennsylvania interest. *The American Historical Scene* (1935), with pictures by Stanley Arthurs and short descriptive comments by fifty well-known authors, includes "Pontiac Indian Raid," with comment by Ralph H. Gabriel; "The Siege of Boonesboro," described by James Boyd; "[George] Rogers Clark, Pioneer," in which a barge carrying five hundred pounds of flour for the frontier

settlements is shown, with an explanation by Harry B. Hawes; and "Transportation, 1830," a picture of a stagecoach and a covered wagon, with a description of early transportation methods by James Truslow Adams. *The Story of America in Pictures* (1935), arranged by Alan C. Collins, contains pictures by various artists, notably Alonzo Chappell, including such subjects as "The Whiskey Rebellion," "The Johnstown Flood," and "The Homestead Strike."

Brief but vivid pictures of life in Pittsburgh and old Allegheny during the Civil War years may be glimpsed in the pages of Margaret Deland's recent autobiographical volume of childhood reminiscences, *If This Be I, as I Suppose It Be* (1935). Mrs. Deland's early home was in the Manchester section, which has provided the locale for many of her previous novels and short stories, and one-time residents of the vicinity will recognize many of the people and places of which she writes in this book. As a little girl "Maggie" preferred to attend church on Stockton Avenue because she could watch the water sparkling in the canal outside the window; and she liked to look across at McKees Rocks—"those wooded crags"—and think of "the beautiful Indian lady who had jumped from the top . . . because her beau had run off." Descriptions of the cannons her grandfather Wade manufactured in his iron foundry in Pittsburgh, of the hole in the garden where the family silver was hidden from "Mr. Morgan," of the Sanitary Commission, where the women spent long summer mornings, of the somber mourning services for President Lincoln in funereal St. Andrew's Church across the river—all color the personal chronicle of the years, much as Maggie colored the outlined pictures in her "painting book" from England.

Several illustrations and genealogical information are included in the history of *The Forsythe Log House, with an Account of Peter Perchment and of the McPherson Relief Corps No. 60* by Thomas Mellon II (1935). Peter Perchment was a Revolutionary soldier, the father of Mary Forsythe, and the builder of the house, which now stands on Penn Avenue near St. Clair Street in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh.

*A History of Old Donegal Church, Pleasant Grove, Ligonier, Pennsylvania* (1935) is the title of an attractively bound booklet issued in connection with the celebration, September 22-29, of the sesquicentennial of the founding of that church. The author, Martha G. Martens, has drawn largely on original sources, and her brief but informative account is a welcome contribution to the history of Presbyterianism in western Pennsylvania.

That pioneer Pittsburgh was not only a thriving industrial and commercial center, but also the home of a literary group that exercised an important cultural influence on the community may be concluded from Elizabeth Hawthorn Buck's discussion of "Early Literary Culture in Western Pennsylvania" in the autumn issue of the *Pittsburgh Record*.

The accomplishments of Dr. Edward R. Weidlein and of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, of which he is the director, are recounted in an article entitled "Notable Research Here Recognized" in *Greater Pittsburgh* for November. An article on the "Celebration of the Carnegie Centenary," in the December number of the same magazine, reviews the program held in Pittsburgh's Carnegie Music Hall on November 25 to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Andrew Carnegie.

Among the sketches presenting historical backgrounds for current news items in the Pittsburgh weekly *Bulletin Index* are those on the Passavant Hospital and its founder, Dr. William Alfred Passavant (October 17); Pittsburgh brewing companies and John W. Hubbard, brewer, hardware manufacturer, and riverman, whose ventures in the river packet business are set forth in a communication from Captain Frederick Way, Jr., of Sewickley (November 28 and December 5); the University of Pittsburgh and Chancellor John G. Bowman (November 7); the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, Antonio Modarelli (October 31); David Lytle Clark, candy maker (December 26); Beveridge Webster, pianist (December 5); and Martin B. Leisser, artist (December 12). Of special import to those interested in Pittsburgh's industrial history is the story of the Mackintosh-Hemphill Company that is printed in the same weekly for November 21. Vin Sweeney, in the *Pittsburgh Press* for December 22, also reviews the history of the company in his article, "Steel Giants in Quiet Struggle for Pioneer Mill-Making Firm."

A series of short notes on historical facts concerning the city, under the title "Know Pittsburgh," has been featured in the pages of *This Week in Pittsburgh* beginning October 25.

Of interest to western Pennsylvanians are the following theses submitted since June to the University of Pittsburgh in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts: "Planning an Industrial Town in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania," by Glenn C. McCombs; "The Founding of the University of Pittsburgh," by Edward G. Baynham; and "Seneca-American Relations during the Revolution," by John R. Sahli.



Beginning with Colonel Henry Bouquet's description of the floods at Fort Pitt in 1762 and 1763 and ending with a recital of the damage done by the high waters of 1926 and 1933, Gilbert Love reviews the flood history of Pittsburgh in the January 6 issue of the *Pittsburgh Press*. In the same newspaper for December 15 a topographic map and an imaginative photograph of the probable course of the city's three rivers in prehistoric times, based on geologic surveys, illustrate the report of an interview with Francis X. Kearney of the United States corps of engineers.

A Committee on Western Pennsylvania Folklore was organized in Pittsburgh on December 12 to participate in a movement to arrange for regional and state folklore festivals next summer under the leadership of Bucknell University. The committee seeks to collect and dramatize—at the same time recording for permanent preservation—the tales, legends, songs, tunes, dances, and folk ways that originated in or lent color to life in the region in the days of the pioneers. Louis C. Schroeder, superintendent of the Pittsburgh bureau of recreation, is chairman, Max Henrici of the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph*, secretary, and John Dambach of the University of Pittsburgh, librarian.

In preparation for the observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Meadville, the Meadville Library, Art, and Historical Association, of which the Honorable John E. Reynolds is president, has revived a branch organization known as the Historical Society of Crawford County. The latter, first organized for a similar purpose at the time of the Meadville centennial in 1888 and active for only a short time thereafter, was reorganized on November 9, 1935, with Robert S. Bates as president, Frank Kunselman, vice president, Helen Addams, secretary-treasurer, and with an executive committee comprised of these officers and Mrs. E. A. Walton, Dr. Paul Giddens, and Walter J. McClintock, of Meadville, and Joseph Murray of Titusville. The society plans to equip and open to the public an historical library and museum in a room in the building of the parent organization and to assist in the preparation and publication of a history of the county. At the first program meeting, held on February 6, Mr. McClintock presented a paper on the land titles of the Holland Land Company.

Lewis C. Walkinshaw, Esq., of Greensburg, members of the General Nathaniel Greene chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and other interested and energetic people are conducting a series of one-day hikes—as a rule on every other Saturday, if the weather permits—over the course of the Forbes Road from Bedford to Pittsburgh. The start of the hundred-mile journey was

made on October 19, and by the end of the year the party had reached the site of Fort Dudgeon in Jenner Township, Somerset County, whence it expected to push on and reach Pittsburgh some time in April. Guided by maps, surveys, and letters of participants in the Forbes expedition, and by people now living along the trail, the explorers found many a road scar, fort site, and other evidence of the passage of the little army that pushed through the wilderness to Fort Duquesne in 1758. Moving pictures and snapshots taken at each stage of the walking tour add greatly to the interest and value of this latest effort to trace and preserve the memory of the actual course of the old road.

A monument erected at the entrance to the grounds of the Allegheny County Home at Woodville by the Chartiers Historical Society to commemorate the burning of the home of General John Neville on July 17, 1794, at the outbreak of the Whiskey Insurrection, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, including the unveiling by Mrs. William J. Crittenden, a descendant of General Neville, on October 27. The inscription indicates, among other things, that the actual site of the Neville mansion is half a mile southeast of the monument.

Richard T. Wiley of Elizabeth, author of *Early Western Pennsylvania; a History* (1933), and *Sim Greene, a Narrative of the Whiskey Insurrection* (1907), and of "Colonel Stephen Bayard, His Wife and Their Town" (*ante*, 18: 7-25), was presented with the honorary degree of doctor of literature during the Founder's Day exercises at Washington and Jefferson College on November 16.