

NEWS AND COMMENT

The 175th anniversary of the Battle of Bushy Run was signally celebrated at the battle site on August 6 by a large gathering assembled under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies and the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. The principal speakers were State Senator C. Hale Sipe of Freeport and Dr. E. Douglas Branch of the University of Pittsburgh.

In this decade of tercentenary, bicentennial, and sesquicentennial celebrations and world fairs fell the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Allegheny County's corporate existence, on September 24, 1938. Commissioners John J. Kane, George Rankin, Jr., and John S. Herron by proclamation called upon the citizenry "to pay tribute to the founders and to the name and fame of the County of Allegheny." Through their individual efforts and those of able committees an ambitious program of anniversary observances was carried to a successful conclusion. From September 2 until charter day, September 24, residents of the county and visitors witnessed a series of events beginning with an historical parade, exhibiting Douglas (Wrong-way) Corrigan as a main attraction, boat races, an "aqua ballet," Judge M. A. Musmanno's war drama, "Last Full Measure," and the historical pageant "Western Gateway," produced by WPA and NYA workers. The annual county fair, more extensive than before, was held in conjunction with the celebration. Aside from the official efforts of the commissioners, communities, business organizations, and private individuals gave of their money and time to make the sesquicentennial a success. Many store windows along the appropriately decorated thoroughfares of county municipalities exhibited historical objects and scenes, and on charter day seventy floats participated in a "parade of progress" that had as a high point the re-dedication of the courthouse. To present a perspective of one hundred and fifty years of development and perpetuate the memory of the celebration the county Sesquicentennial Committee published *Allegheny County, a Sesqui-Centennial Review*, edited by George E. Kelly, fuller notice of which will be taken in a later issue of this magazine.

The 1938 annual session of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was devoted in large measure to a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first such conference held in this region west of the Alle-

ghenies. Features of the session were: the issuance of Dr. Jacob S. Payton's *Our Fathers Have Told Us*, the story of the founding of Methodism in western Pennsylvania reviewed above; and a banquet, an exhibit, and a pilgrimage—all stressing the historical theme. The conference historical society, through its historian, the Reverend Wallace G. Smeltzer, and others, has accumulated a considerable collection of Methodist materials, some of which, as related above, have been deposited with the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, official custodian of the Methodist Collection.

The acquisition by the Darlington Memorial Library of the University of Pittsburgh, through the Buhl Foundation, of a valuable collection of Americana from the library of the late Joseph B. Shea of Pittsburgh has not been hitherto reported in this magazine. The collection forms an important addition to the materials on western Pennsylvania available at the library.

The May issue of *Greater Pittsburgh* contains a brief article on Friendship Hill; in the June issue is a letter from Robert W. McKnight concerning "La Salle Discoverer of the Ohio"; and in the August issue is a sketch of the history of Allegheny County from 1788 to the present. The usual monthly indexes of business activity in the region appear in the issues from April through September.

By authority of the mayor and the city council of Pittsburgh, Assistant City Solicitor Hiram Schock has compiled, edited, and published a *Digest of the General Ordinances and Laws of the City of Pittsburgh to March 1, 1938*, or, as the backbone has it, *The Pittsburgh Municipal Digest, 1938*. The preparation of this monumental work of some two thousand pages took seven years and involved, among other things, an examination of all ordinances and statutes affecting the city from its incorporation as such, in 1816, to date. Highly complimentary reviews and notices of the digest have appeared in the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* of May 26, in the August number of the *Municipal Law Journal* of Washington, and elsewhere.

"Work Relief and Work Programs in Allegheny County, 1920-1937," and a history of "The Girl Scout Movement in Allegheny County" are outlined in the May issue of *The Federator*, bulletin of the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

A sketch of the life of Norman McClintock, notable nature photographer of Pittsburgh, is contained in the July number of *The Cardinal*, publication of the Audubon Society of Sewickley Valley.

In a *Genesis of the Pittsburgh Engineer District* (43 p.), written by Robert Seedlock and prepared in mimeograph form by the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army at Pittsburgh, are sections on the geological history of the region, the development of navigation from 1750 to 1870, pioneer river engineering from 1870 to 1936, and the emergence of social and industrial security through measures of flood protection. Included are a map of the "Pittsburgh Engineer District About 60,000 Years Ago," a concise chronology of historical and engineering events from 1753 to the present, and a bibliography. This interesting compilation has recently been printed in somewhat briefer form in *The Military Engineer*, publication of the Society of American Military Engineers.

In "Thomas Jefferson in Pennsylvania," in the July issue of *Pennsylvania History*, Edward Dumbauld recounts the parts played by Jefferson in the questions of the Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary in 1781 and of the route of the National Pike in 1807.

Excavation and research work at the Powell sites in Somerset County are described by Edgar E. Augustine in the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* for July. Also in this issue is an account of the "Activities of the Archaeological Division Frontier Forts and Trails Survey, 1937 and 1938," by Harry L. Schoff.

Notes on the Battle of Bushy Run, Pontiac's Conspiracy, and Colonel Henry Bouquet are contained in reports on state historical activities in the fourth number of *Pennsylvania Notes*, bulletin of the state historical commission. The department "Pennsylvania in History," conducted by Frank W. Melvin, chairman of the commission, in *Public Education*, monthly bulletin of the department of internal affairs, likewise reports historical activities throughout the state and includes a sketch of free public schools in the May issue, lists of Pennsylvania's outstanding scientists and notable personalities in the July and September issues respectively, and a sketch of noteworthy events in state history in the August and September issues.

Interesting information on the "Many Obstacles Encountered by Mason and Dixon" in assisting the commissioners of Maryland and Pennsylvania in running a boundary between the two provinces is furnished in the April *Bulletin* of the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs; and material derived from further records of the two surveyors is presented under the title "Resurvey Failed to Make Changes in Famous Mason and Dixon Line" in the May issue. "Pennsylvania, as Oil Producer, Continues to Hold High Position," in the July issue, contains historical information on the oil in-

dustry; and the history of the depreciation lands in the state is reviewed in the bulletin for August.

"Twenty-four tracts in Cunningham's District of Depreciation Lands . . . about thirty miles from Pittsburgh on 'Little Conquering Creek'" constituted a part of the land properties of William Russell, whose papers, containing correspondence relating to the "purchase, oversight, and ultimate sales of these properties," have recently been acquired by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The collection is described by Raymond Phineas Stearns in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for April. Students of the Whiskey Insurrection will be interested in an informative article by William Miller, in the July issue of the same magazine, entitled "The Democratic Societies and the Whiskey Insurrection."

The June issue of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains an amusing article on frontier satire and wit, by Philip D. Jordan, entitled "Humor of the Backwoods, 1820-1840"; and in the September issue is a history of "The Ordinance of 1787" by Theodore C. Pease.

The works of Benjamin H. Latrobe, including a number of buildings and private residences in and near Pittsburgh designed in the years 1813-16, are listed in "Benjamin Henry Latrobe: Descent and Works," by Ferdinand C. Latrobe II, in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* for September.

Girty's Island in the Maumee River and the character of Simon Girty, Indian trader who fled from Fort Pitt to join the British in 1778, are described under "Little Journeys to Ohio's Historic Shrines," in the April issue of the quarterly bulletin of the Historical Society of Northwestern Ohio.

Notes on a journey down the Monongahela and Ohio in 1785 in the company of General Richard Butler and James Monroe are included in "John D. Shane's Notes on an Interview with Jephtha Kemper of Montgomery County," transcribed from a photostat copy by Lucien Beckner and published in *The Filson Club History Quarterly*.

The story of Alexander McGuffey of Washington County and later of Trumbull County, Ohio, who was the father of the authors of the McGuffey Readers and "in his youth one of the most famous scouts on the western frontier," is told by Alice McGuffey Ruggles in "The Father of the McGuffeys," in the April issue of *The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. In the same issue, under the title "Guillotin Thinks of America," John Francis McDermott gives an interesting account of the journey of J. N.

Piqué and Antoine François Saugrain, agents sent from France in 1787 by Joseph Ignace Guillotin to determine the possibilities of establishing a colony in the Ohio Valley. The emissaries wintered on an island below Fort Pitt awaiting a thaw in the rivers and returned there in June, 1788, after an ill-fated expedition down the Ohio.

Among the letters of Solomon F. Smith, theater magnate and citizen of St. Louis, printed in the July-September issue of *Glimpses of the Past*, publication of the Missouri Historical Society, is one from the actor, Charles Kean, written on May 29, 1865, from the St. Charles Hotel in Pittsburgh, in which he states that the theater "prospect here is great."

Glimpses of early travel in the western Pennsylvania region are presented in "Ferries and Ferryboats," an editorial comment in *The Wisconsin Magazine of History* for June.

A contemporary account of the controversy between the French and English over the Forks of the Ohio in 1754, including a summary of the action at Fort Necessity, are contained in a communication from Quebec of the twenty-eighth of July, which is quoted in a letter written from Paris by Pierre de La Rue, abbot of L'Isle-Dieu (near Rouen), to the secretary of the marine on October 12, 1754. The abbot was the grand vicar of the bishop of Quebec from 1734 to 1777, although he resided in Paris and never made the journey to New France. Much interesting material on affairs in eighteenth-century Canada is found in his letters, the originals of which are in the archives of the archbishopric of Quebec and which are printed, in part, in the *Rapport* of the archivist of Quebec for 1935-36 and 1936-37 and will be concluded in the 1937-38 report.