HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Inasmuch as this, the March, issue of the magazine is coming out two months late, and because of significant developments in this latter period, the editor takes the liberty of reporting here and now the activities of the society up to May 1.

At its first meeting of the new year, on the evening of January 2, the society, in accordance with a custom established in recent years, held open house to representatives of its affiliated organizations, and one of the latter, the Historical Society of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church, provided the program. In the absence of the Rev. Dr. Homer C. Renton of Uniontown, president of the Methodist society, the Rev. Dr. Wallace G. Smeltzer of Natrona Heights, historian of the society, opened the program with a brief account of the aims and activities of the organization, and later presented a paper on "The Place of Methodism in the Religious Life of the Pittsburgh Region." Another paper, entitled "Methodism's Struggle for a Permanent Foothold in the Pittsburgh Region," was presented by Mr. Kenneth D. Magruder of Pittsburgh, the author of a forthcoming official "Encyclopedic History of Pittsburgh Methodism, 1784–1825." Miss Helen Bigge, accompanied by Clara Patterson Ruzza, rendered a number of vocal selections appropriate to the occasion.

Dr. Solon J. Buck, director of publications in the National Archives, former director of this society and of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, and author, with Mrs. Buck, of the recently published volume entitled The Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the society on January 30, and he spoke on the subject, "The Service of the National Archives to Historical Research." At the business session preceding the address, the annual reports of the treasurer and the director were presented, and Henry O. Evans, Esq., Mr. John E. McKirdy, and Dr. John W. Oliver were elected to succeed themselves as trustees for five-year terms. Vocal selections appropriate to the occasion were rendered by Mrs. Edna Blyth, accompanied by Mrs. Mathilda McWilliams.

"Pittsburgh's Place in the Fourth Estate" was the subject of a paper presented at the meeting of February 27 by Mr. George Seibel, well-known Pittsburgh journalist, author, and radio commentator, now librarian of the Car-
Another interesting feature of the occasion was the "Selections of Early American Martial Music" rendered by a few members of The Pioneers Fife and Drum Corps, with an historical introduction by, and under the direction of, Mr. Wallace A. Young, fife major of this organization.

A colorful feature of the meeting of March 26 was the formal presentation to the society of a large silk American flag for use at the society's and other meetings in the Historical Building: Mrs. J. George Kahl presented the flag on behalf of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Vice President Gregg L. Neel accepted it on behalf of the society. Followed then the regular program, comprising an address by Dr. Sylvester K. Stevens on "The Program of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, with Special Reference to Western Pennsylvania," and an illustrated address on "The Restoration of Old Economy — Another Williamsburg in the Making," by Mr. Charles M. Stotz, the architect in charge of the restoration. Appropriate vocal selections were rendered by Miss Mary Ann Haushalter of McKees Rocks, accompanied by Miss Dora Sylvester of the same place.

At the meeting of April 30, the Reverend Dr. J. Wallace Fraser of New Bethlehem discussed "Our Presbyterian Heritage," with special reference to Clarion County, and General Richard Coulter of Greensburg presented excerpts from the diaries of three Greensburg men, including his own father, who served in the Mexican War. An exhibit of eight paintings illustrative of former processes of steel manufacture and of more recent flood-control projects at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, had been installed in the auditorium by the artist, Mr. Richard Metherell Harris, director of the Art Institute of Johnstown, and were discussed briefly by him.

At the January and February meetings Mrs. John F. Biddle and George D. Wick, Esq., of Pittsburgh, Mrs. James Newton Nelson of Apollo, Mrs. Mary S. McNary of Crafton, and Eleanor Kay Hutchison of Leetsdale were elected to annual membership; Dr. Anna E. Jamieson of Pittsburgh was received as an associate member; and the Committee on Historical Records of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, Allegheny Chapter No. 1 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and the Leetsdale High School Historical Society were elected annual institutional members.

Members recently lost by death include Mr. Cooke Bausman, Mr. Charles A. Fisher, and Henry Tranter, all of Pittsburgh.
MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

At a meeting of the council of the society held on April 4, the Hon. Robert Garland, one of the senior vice presidents, was appointed chairman of a membership committee, which reports as follows:

TO THE MEMBERS:

During the last few days of April your Membership Committee appointed by the Trustees mailed the following letter to a number of prominent citizens (men and women):

Dear Friend:

THIS IS AN APPEAL TO THE CIVIC PRIDE OF PATRIOTICALLY-MINDED PITTSBURGHERS:

We think you will agree with us that this Society, as the recognized spokesman for Pittsburgh's significant and colorful past, is rendering an important service, not only to its members, but also to the cultural advancement of our Community.

To carry out our program efficiently and effectively and to continue the issuance of our magazine, which has been issued to our membership quarterly since 1918, it is imperative that we receive more support, both actively and FINANCIALLY.

This, therefore, is a cordial invitation to enroll with us, in accordance with any of the terms you will find in the enclosed application blank. You will note that the COST IS NOT GREAT FOR THE SERVICE RENDERED; NO INITIATION FEE.

Hoping to have your favorable response, we are

Sincerely,

Enclosure

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:
Frank L. Duggan
Henry Oliver Evans
Robert M. Ewing
James H. Gray
Mrs. John B. Sellers
Mrs. William R. Thompson
John W. Oliver
Robert Garland, Chairman

The response to the above appeal has been fairly satisfactory so far, although not yet up to our expectations. However, membership applications are coming in daily. Many prospects will delay immediate action — it is the American
way with busy people—and many may be out of the city. It is hoped, however, that applications will continue to come in from time to time.

Inasmuch as the various organizations and clubs have been circularized, we would suggest that our present members act as missionaries in a worthy cause, and as they come in contact with their many friends, they could very nicely put in a reminder that the *door is still open*. In the meantime, your committee will continue its efforts.

The appeal as printed above covers our case. It might further be mentioned that the society receives no state aid, and we permit our beautiful auditorium to be used for worthy purposes without charge.

In this old historic city of ours, we should have at least 5,000 members. We shall very much appreciate the co-operation of our old members and the influx of new members who will receive this magazine. It is our desire to place our society in the front rank of historical societies, and we have yet some distance to go.

Robert Garland, Chairman
Membership Committee

In support of this program, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, in its issue of April 26, published a most informative article, with illustrations, by Miss Anna Jane Phillips, and subsequent issues of the same paper have carried the comments of certain of its readers as follows:

*Editor of the Post-Gazette* [published April 27]:

I was particularly interested in your splendid article on our Historical Society in this morning’s paper. I have been a member of the society for a number of years, and am really surprised that it does not receive more support from patriotic Pittsburghers. The quarterly magazine mailed to members is alone worth the price of membership, and there is no initiation fee.

Surely all of our old Pittsburgh families should have representation in the membership, and inasmuch as we have many good citizens not native Pittsburghers but now lovers of our free, grand and glorious republic, let me remind them that the words of the poet will apply equally to them:

Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself has said —
This is my own, my native land.
If such there be, go mark him well.

He shall go
Down to the vile depths from which he sprung
Unwept, unhonored and unsung.

A PITTSBURGH ADMIRER
Editor of the Post-Gazette [published May 3]:

May I add my thanks to the many you have no doubt received for your co-operation in our effort to add to the membership of the Historical Society. Pittsburgh has a great past and there were great men in it and their example may influence the future. Your help has already brought results.

ELIZABETH B. M. [MRS. HARMAR D.] DENNY

ADDITIONS TO COLLECTIONS

To Mr. Omar S. Decker, the dean of the society's membership and the founder of this magazine, the society is indebted for the gift of an extensive collection of books, pamphlets, maps, prints, miscellaneous printed matter, manuscripts, and portraits. Included are several hundred books and pamphlets relating in the main to Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania history, but also to some extent to the history of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a whole and of the nation at large. Among the published works that are new additions to the society's library, or that provide extremely useful duplicates, are histories of Pittsburgh, biographies and reminiscent accounts, Pittsburgh and Allegheny directories, memorials, published diaries, county histories, church and college histories, historical society publications — notably seventeen volumes published by the Rochester (New York) Historical Society, and many volumes of the Pennsylvania Colonial Records and the Pennsylvania Archives. The manuscript material consists mainly of copies, made by Mr. Decker, of original documents relating to such subjects as the old Market House in Pittsburgh; the early land-holdings of Thomas Smallman along the eastern bank of the Allegheny River a few miles above Fort Pitt; Pittsburgh marriages and baptisms, 1803-1833; and burials of Revolutionary soldiers in Beulah Cemetery. Among the printed miscellany are maps of the Pittsburgh district; a genealogical chart of the Marshall family; and a group of periodicals and newspaper clippings relating to the World War of 1914-1918. A copy of the Otto Krebs lithograph of the "Old Pittsburgh Market and Court House," and a large framed crayon portrait of Robert Pitcairn, noted railroad and industrial magnate of the Pittsburgh district, are also included. Many of the books presented by Mr. Decker fill important gaps in the society's library, and others are welcome as replacements for certain much-used and badly-worn volumes.

Mr. George L. Hailman of Pittsburgh has presented a group of documents and papers that relate primarily to the lives and interests of successive heads of the Hailman family, but that also shed light on general conditions in the Pittsburgh district and in neighboring areas during the periods covered. In-
cluded are the diary of the donor's grandfather, James W. Hailman, for the years 1850–1859, to which are appended a catalogue of the books in the diarist's library, and biographical data entered by his son, George W., on the occasions of his father's death, on July 3, 1860, and his mother's, on June 17, 1870; the diary of George W. Hailman, which he kept as a student at Bethany College, West Virginia, 1849–1852; a minute book of the Philomathic Club of Pittsburgh, 1859–1862, of which James W. Hailman was president, and George W., secretary; and miscellaneous items, 1853–1878, including business cards, bills, advertisements, receipts, a railroad pass (New Castle-Franklin Railroad, 1878), a concert program, certificates of membership in the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society (1853) and the House of Refuge of Western Pennsylvania (1857), and a leaflet entitled The Evils of Long Credit (New York, 1857).

The Historical Society of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church, through its historian, the Rev. Dr. Wallace G. Smeltzer of Natrona Heights, has made another considerable addition to its collections on deposit in the Historical Building. Included are books, pamphlets, leaflets, programs, catechisms, church weeklies, manuscripts, and prints of portraits of John Wesley and other Methodist leaders. Some of the books deal with the history of Methodism in America and various sections thereof, but the bulk of the collection, printed and manuscript, appropriately sheds light on the history of early and mid-nineteenth-century Methodism in western Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia, including published anniversary accounts or brief historical sketches in manuscript of various aspects of the history of the Pittsburgh Conference and of such churches and areas as Carnegie, Elderton Circuit, Ellwood City, Ford City, Indiana, Jacobs Creek, Kittanning, Ames and Denny (Pittsburgh), Racine, South Greensburg, Tarentum, Trafford, Wampum, and West Newton, in western Pennsylvania, and the Clarksburg District and the Huntington and New Cumberland churches in West Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcellin C. Adams continue to present materials and objects that provide important additions to the society's library and museum collections. Among recent gifts from them may be noted: a typewritten copy of a Pittsburgh directory for 1813, "Sold by R. & J. Patterson, Booksellers"; programs and other printed materials relating to the East Liberty branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, including its annual reports, 1905–1910; and an interesting contrivance of the latter decades of the nineteenth century whereby, with strips of gradually varying pictures in a revolving, slotted cyl-
inder, the effect of motion pictures was obtained long before the day of the present "movies."

Miss Maude G. Stewart of Northfield, Minnesota, has recently supplemented her previous welcome gifts to the society's library by the presentation of a number of issues of the New York Weekly Day-Book, 1865–1867, and of eight pamphlets mostly relating to western Pennsylvania history, particularly that centering at Meadville and Washington, Pennsylvania, in the years from 1849 to 1861.

From Miss Julia Morgan Harding, one of the longest-standing members of the society, it has received an original patent granted by John Penn, Jr., and John Penn, on June 21, 1776, to Thomas Gilpin and Miers Fisher of Philadelphia, of a tract of land in the Manor of Pittsburgh embracing 351 acres, which had previously been surveyed for one, Dennis Daugherty, under a warrant dated April 7, 1773. The sum of seventeen pounds, eleven shillings, and nine pence was paid for the tract.

A most welcome addition to our library is a volume of mimeographed transcripts of records of the Pennsylvania Population Company, entitled, Pennsylvania Population Company; Minute Books and Plan of Association, as transcribed and typed by the Works Progress Administration, Official Project No. 665–23–3–596, Frontier Forts and Trails Survey, under the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

From Mrs. John Newton Boucher of Greensburg, widow of the noted southwestern Pennsylvania historian, the society has received a number of manuscripts from among her late husband's papers, including a transcript, apparently in Mr. Boucher's handwriting, of "Records of the Pittsburgh Anti-Slavery Society, formed October 4, 1833," containing a full account of the organization meeting; minutes of meetings of the board of managers, 1833–34; and a list of the officers elected at the annual meeting on August 1, 1840.

Other recent additions will be reported in future issues of this magazine.

THE ANNUAL TOUR

For various reasons not reflecting upon either of the sponsors, it has been decided to omit, this year, the annual two-day historical tour conducted during the past eight years under the joint auspices of this society and of the summer
session of the University of Pittsburgh. It is possible that one-day trips to such places as Old Economy and Erie may be substituted, and ample notice to that effect will be sent to all members. It is hoped that the more ambitious two-day, society-university tours may be resumed another year.