

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At the regular monthly meeting of the society on April 29, Mr. Kenneth Du Bois of Pittsburgh made "Some Observations on the Extent and Value of the Society's Collection of Early Portraits and Paintings," and the principal speaker of the evening, Dr. C. Maxwell Myers, a teacher of history in Jeanette High School, and a vice president of the Westmoreland-Fayette branch society, presented a paper on "The Influence of Western Pennsylvania in the Campaign of 1860." Announcement was also made of the second annual award made by the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies to this society as publisher of the best quarterly magazine of its kind and class in the state.

The May meeting, held on the twenty-seventh, was the customary annual "University of Pittsburgh Night," with offerings from graduate students of the history department of that neighboring institution, presented under the direction of Dr. John Wm. Oliver, head of the department. Miss Virginia Beck, a teacher of history in Aliquippa High School, presented a paper on "The Establishment of Government in Allegheny County," and the Rev. Mr. James A. Davidson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Warren, Pennsylvania, recounted the history of "The Baptist Church in Early Western Pennsylvania." A number of additions to the society's collections, received as gifts from Mr. William Frew, Mr. Thomas Mellon II, the Colonial Dames of America, and the Daughters of Colonial Wars, were formally presented and descriptions of them will appear elsewhere in these pages.

At the April meeting the following were elected to annual membership: Rose Danahey, William D. Evans, F. Clifford Franz, Ralph L. Thomas, all of Pittsburgh, and Charles B. Baldwin of Rochester.

The morning session of the Annual History Conference of the University of Pittsburgh was held in the society's building on April 26, and in the evening of June 3, Allegheny Chapter No. 1, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, met here to study the many products of its recent diggings and to transact other business in the field of its interest.

The Westmoreland-Fayette branch of the society held two meetings during the winter and spring. The first, held in the auditorium of Greensburg High School on February 26, was addressed by Congressman Joe Starnes on the subject of "National Defense," and was attended by upwards of three hundred

people. The second, held in the auditorium of Uniontown High School on May 12, attracted about six hundred people, who came to hear Mr. John C. Metcalf speak on "Fifth Column Activities in the United States."

The annual meeting of the branch society was held at Historical House, West Overton, on June 7. Chief interest centered in the awards of prizes, totaling upwards of five hundred dollars, annually provided by Miss Helen Clay Frick as a "Karl F. Overholt Memorial Award." There had been two contests among high-school students of the two counties, one calling for historical essays, and the other for handmade objects reminiscent of olden times. Renwick C. Magee, of Greensburg High School, won the first prize (\$75) in the essay contest, and the honor of reading his essay as the principal feature of the afternoon's program. The other essay prize winners were: second (\$50), Alfred Sandorf, St. Johns High School, Uniontown; third (\$25), Josephine Rich, Uniontown High School; and honorable mention (\$10 each), without other ranking, Catherine Kernicky, Mt. Pleasant Township High School; Theresa McLaughlin, Greensburg High School; Geraldine Schmelzer, St. Xavier Academy, Latrobe; Virginia Yahner, Scottdale High School; Margaret C. Clark and Philip Johnson, Uniontown High School; Robert Simpson, Anna Mae Goodwin, Robert Buzonas, and Eleanor Dillon, St. Johns High School, Uniontown. In the handicraft contest the winners were: first (\$75), Dale House, Latrobe High School; second (\$50), Helen Lukey, Uniontown High School; third (\$25), Donald Holzer, Latrobe High School; and honorable mention (\$10 each), without other ranking, Marie Patrignani and Lucile Delligati, Uniontown High School; Curtis Pritts, Ray Goron, Ceasar Lanzi, and William Carroll, Connellsville High School; Michael Labo, Brownsville High School; Hubert Gower and Thomas Gower, Latrobe High School. Mrs. Lula Frick Taylor, regularly in charge at Historical House, reported 486 visitors there during the preceding year; the Hon. Robert Garland, "Father of Daylight Saving in the United States" and president of the parent society, brought greetings from the latter; and the following were elected as officers of the branch society for the coming year: president, Dr. Thomas St. Clair, Latrobe; vice presidents, Herbert Brauff, H. L. Good, B. B. Whitehill, C. M. Bomberger, Jesse Coldren, C. E. Hess; treasurer, S. L. Denniston, Uniontown; secretary, Richard F. Darsie, Scottdale.