

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The officers and members of the society have been greatly heartened by the receipt of sizable bequests from two of its most loyal supporters for many years, the late Omar Scott Decker and Anna Moody Browne. Mr. Decker's legacy, amounting to \$5,333.41, "is to be added to the Endowment Fund of the Historical Society to be invested and the income therefrom to be used toward defraying the expenses of publishing the magazine now published quarterly by the Society." Miss Browne left the society approximately \$33,500, at least two thousand of which was specifically given "in memory of my beloved brother, David L. Browne, the gift to be known as 'The David L. Browne Memorial Trust Fund'."

Mr. Lowell Inness, assistant headmaster of Shady Side Academy, was the speaker at the annual meeting held on January 29. His subject was, "Blown Glass of the Pittsburgh District," and his lecture was supplemented by lantern slides, maps, and a display of many examples of early Pittsburgh glassware. In the business session preceding the address, Henry K. Siebeneck, Esq., presented a minute on the death of Mr. Decker; the treasurer and the director read their annual reports; Mr. Edward Crump, Jr., was elected a vice president in place of Mr. Decker; Miss Margaret Scully was chosen to fill Mr. Crump's unexpired term as trustee; and Messrs. Harmar Denny, Jr., William M. Duff, and Charles C. McGovern were re-elected trustees for five-year terms.

At the meeting of February 26, Dr. Elbert R. Moses, president of the Pittsburgh School of Speech, gave an address on "Unforgettable Words of Abraham Lincoln," and Mr. Earl W. Hildreth spoke on "Recreation in Western Pennsylvania Prior to 1800," presenting, for individual examination at the close of his remarks, a collection of early prints illustrative of the subject. Before the addresses, Henry O. Evans, Esq., on behalf of Mr. Lawrence Anderson of Temple City, California, and Miss Scully, on her own and Mrs. William H. Singer's behalf, presented the exceptionally significant documents described below under "Additions to Collections." A brief talk on behalf of the current Red Cross drive for funds was given by Mrs. Franklin C. Irish.

The speakers at the meeting of March 26 were: Dr. Donald M. Goodfellow, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, who presented a paper on John Quincy Adams, under the title "Old Man Eloquent Visits Pittsburgh;" and Charles K. Robinson, Esq., who described "A Magnificent Fiasco," an early

attempt to establish telegraphic communication with the Old World, in which the speaker's father participated.

At the meeting of April 30, Dr. Paul R. Stewart, president of Waynesburg College, spoke on "Indians—Their Tribes, Trails, Artifacts, and Arts," with special reference to Greene County. He spoke extemporaneously, illustrating his talk with many artifacts and lantern slides.

On May 28, the customary "University of Pittsburgh Night," Dr. L. Alden Marsh, a teacher at New Kensington High School, read a paper on "Western Pennsylvania's New England Heritage in Education;" and Mr. Lawrence S. Thurman, a graduate student at the university, described "The Daily Account Book of Old Fort Pitt, 1765-67," a recent acquisition of the society. Dr. John W. Oliver, head of the history department at the university, presided.

The following sixty-four persons were elected to membership in the society during the first six months of 1946, largely through the efforts of the late D. Henderson Pacy:

Contributing Members

Frank F. Brooks	Arthur F. Humphrey
Byron H. Canon	Charles E. Schuetz
Robert C. Downie	Thomas Watson

Sustaining Members

C. N. Abernethy	Carlton G. Ketchum
R. Laird Auchmuty	P. H. McCance
Charles B. Baton	Charles L. McCune
Donald G. Clark	Charles A. Peck
Robert C. Clark	Alexander P. Reed
Hiram D. Hirsh	R. T. Rossell
W. R. Huber	Clarence Stanley

Ferdinand T. Weil

Annual Members

Joseph E. Baudino	Edwin C. Conner
John Bindley	John M. Crawford
Robert K. Black	William M. Crow
Franklin Blackstone	Robert C. Daniel
C. C. Carr	Lillian Dermitt
James O. Carr	Thomas Fitzgerald
Emmett F. Cary	T. L. Ford
Howard A. Clarke	Herbert A. Gidney

Robert E. Grove	W. H. Randall
George T. Harris	J. F. Reardon
Arthur W. Henn	Robert W. Richardson
Carl G. Kaessner	F. W. Ries, Jr.
Richard McCall	J. Loughrey Roberts
Walter McClintock	J. E. Roth
V. A. Menaglia	Walter F. Schulten
Adam J. Miller	Frank R. Smith
Mrs. William R. Oliver	John S. Smith
Edward O'Neil, 2nd	E. C. Stone
Mrs. Edward O'Neil, 2nd	Wendell A. Stone
Mrs. R. W. Osborn	Lawrence S. Thurman
Mrs. Florence F. Parry	Raymond A. Tucker

George S. Wasser

In the same period Messrs. Charles F. Chubb, Philip A. Fleger, and Karl M. Knapp changed from annual to sustaining membership, and Mr. A. W. Robertson, from annual to life membership.

Death has taken four more of our members: Edgar J. Welch, Moorhead B. Holland, John K. Tener, and Frank L. Duggan. Mr. Duggan had been a member for twenty-four years, and a trustee since 1931.

REPORT OF THE 1946 MOTOR TOUR COMMITTEE

The committee, consisting of Miss Margaret T. Scully, Mrs. Douglas Stewart, Mr. Charles M. Stotz, Gifford K. Wright, Esq., and Henry K. Siebeneck, Esq., chairman, meeting in April, fixed June 8 as the date of the tour and Fort Necessity as the objective, with lunch en route at Uniontown, where, through the co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harry Gorley of that city, arrangements were then perfected for lunch at the White Swan Hotel.

Approximately seventy-five members and guests participated in the tour, a motorbus having been chartered by the society for the convenience of some score of persons. The rendezvous of the motorcade was at the Uniontown hotel, where an excellent meal was served. Following greetings by President Garland, the chairman introduced the speaker of the occasion, the Rev. Dr. William Blake Hindman, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Uniontown. Dr. Hindman had supervised the reconstruction of Fort Necessity and is the recognized authority on matters pertaining to it. He spoke impressively on Washington's Campaign of 1754, but the limitation of time imposed on the duration of his discourse curtailed an exhaustive recital of the events of that fateful year.

The hope that all members of the society might in the near future be further enlightened on the subject by Dr. Hindman was generally expressed.

After lunch an eleven-mile run was made to Fort Necessity, where Dr. Hindman fully explained the nature of the reconstruction work. A stop was then made at the near-by Fort Necessity State Museum (of whose house committee Mrs. J. Harry Gorley is chairman). Mrs. W. P. Martin, its custodian, graciously and effectively explained the numerous relics it contains, sufficient to make it a model for such institutions.

At Uniontown, on the return trip, some members left the main body and journeyed to Friendship Hill, Albert Gallatin's old home, which was opened for inspection through the courtesy of ex-Judge Thomas H. Hudson of Fayette County.

The major part of the touring body continued to Washington, Pa., where the Washington County Historical Society has recently come into the possession of the Le Moyne House (erected in 1812). It contains some five thousand items of historical interest, chief among which is a portrait of Dr. Morgan painted by Angelica Kauffmann about 1775. Our sister society had invited our touring members to tea. Their hospitality was highly appreciated by those of us who partook of their viands. Robert R. Reed, president of that society, did the honors of the event. As a cicerone he is unexcelled.

Ideal weather greatly enhanced the general enjoyment of the tour.

H. K. SIEBENECK, Chairman

ADDITIONS TO COLLECTIONS

Mr. Lawrence M. Anderson of Temple City, California, has presented a daybook in which were recorded the daily transactions of the trading post at Fort Pitt in the years 1765-67, concluding with a few entries apparently relating to a closing of accounts in 1772. Mr. Anderson writes that the account book was among the family effects when the Andersons left Pittsburgh in 1873 to settle in California, and that it came into his possession upon the death of his father in 1915. News of its existence came to Mr. Charles A. McClintock, the treasurer of the society, through a cousin of Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Finley L. Walton of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and a friend of the latter, Mrs. R. W. Hannon of Pittsburgh. It appeared that Mr. Anderson was desirous of having the old record book preserved in some depository in the city of his birth, and he readily accepted Mr. McClintock's suggestion that it be intrusted to the keeping of this society. A full description and analysis of the document will appear in a later issue of this magazine.

A considerable collection of original Westmoreland County records, ranging in date from 1779 to 1850, has been presented by Mr. A. E. Moredock of Waynesburg. He had purchased the lot from a dealer who apparently acquired them as a result of one of those courthouse "housecleanings" that in the past at least have too often dispersed historically valuable records. The collection in hand is not yet thoroughly organized, and it is doubtful if it includes complete series of any of the many types of documents represented, but it will doubtless help to supply many a missing link in historical and genealogical studies. A cursory sampling reveals such classes of material as court calendars, jury lists, constables' reports, debtors' petitions, tavern licenses, surveyors' warrants, indentures, lists of voters, election returns, militia records, bridge permits, and wolf bounties.

Mr. Moredock has also presented a group of letters, papers, pamphlets, and clippings that he had salvaged from "litter" in the New York bookshop where more saleable items from the library of the late Charles W. Dahlinger were being disposed of. The rescued items relate principally to the founding, management, and enlargement of the Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny, and include some eight brief letters or notes signed by Andrew Carnegie, the founder and patron of that institution.

Mr. James A. Beck, author of "The Old Fifth Ward of Pittsburgh," published *ante*, 28:111-126 (Sept.-Dec., 1945), has presented a considerable number of items reminiscent of the old ward and some of its residents. Chief among them is a set of eight bound volumes of original records of Wesley Chapel M. E. Church (1836-1882), which stood at 17th Street and Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh. Included are records of organization; meetings of trustees, stewards, class leaders, and congregation; class and congregational membership; baptisms and marriages (1862-1872); and miscellaneous lists and accounts. Another Wesley Chapel item is a curious bit of carving made from a piece of the altar by Thomas Cunningham. Other items are: a record book of the Niagara Volunteer Fire Company, organized in 1858, with a list, in the back pages, of assessments in the Ninth Ward in the 1880's; a handmade auger and set of bits used among other things in the rebuilding of the city after the Big Fire of 1845; and a glass paper weight rescued from the fire that destroyed the Union Storage Company building at 13th and Pike Streets on February 9, 1898.

An unusual relic of the Civil War has been presented by Mr. Harry L. Richey and his daughter, Mrs. Dwight Winter. It is a legless field desk used by Captain Hugh A. Ayres of Butler as commanding officer of Company H, 78th

Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, which fought in the battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and other actions in the campaigns of the Army of the Cumberland. The outside of the drop-cover is handsomely carved and bears a large picture, in colors, of a Union officer on a spirited mount, while the pigeonholes and small drawers inside still contain several sheaves of original company records, a few of the captain's letters, and other personal effects. Some years ago Captain Ayres presented the desk to Mr. Richey's father, Abraham Brinker Richey, a lifelong friend who had served under the captain's command.

Mrs. W. Henry Singer has presented, through Miss Margaret Townsend Scully, the following significant documents: a letter from Colonel George Morgan, written at Fort Pitt on February 27, 1778, to Captain Henry Speers at Monongahela, regarding the building of a public storehouse on his land; a printed announcement, dated June, 1827, of the candidacy of A. Sidney T. Mountain for the legislature of Pennsylvania, as a representative of Allegheny and Butler Counties; and a letter from L. A. Brown, chief clerk of the Department of State, Washington, D. C., June 18, 1891, to Colonel A. S. M. Morgan at Allegheny Arsenal, Pittsburgh, relating to the election of George Morgan as "Colonel on the Continental establishment."

At the same time Miss Scully presented on her own account a booklet on *The Dresses of the Mistresses of the White House*, and a replacement copy of J. Heron Foster's *Full Account of the Great Fire at Pittsburgh, on the Tenth Day of April, 1845*.

Another addition has been made to the society's collection of relics of the Big Fire by Mrs. Sumner Ely. It is a cup and saucer found in the ruins of a store on Wood Street.

Mrs. Anna M. Scarborough has presented a number of items relating to her grandfather, Dr. William Werneburg, who came to America in 1837 and located on 2nd Avenue (Boulevard of the Allies) between Wood and Market Streets. After the Big Fire of 1845, in which he lost much of his property, he moved to 905 Penn Avenue, where he died in 1856. Included in Mrs. Scarborough's gift is his daily record of patients received and fees charged in the year 1848, in which appears many a familiar old Pittsburgh name. There are also a number of framed portraits of Dr. Werneburg and members of his family.

A little pamphlet containing an address on "The Inter-oceanic Canal across the Isthmus of Darien" delivered at a meeting of the "Old Residents' Society

of Pittsburgh" on March 9, 1882, by Josiah King, has been presented by the author's grandson, Henry King Siebeneck, Esq. It sheds new light upon the history of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, which about that time was evolving from the "Old Residenter" group.

Miss Lillian G. Dermitt, through Mr. Siebeneck, has presented a "Moon and Star Glass," called the "Palace" in the original catalogue, made sometime in the period 1830-60 by the Adams Glass Company, 10th and Carson Streets, South Side, Pittsburgh.

Copies of the *Pittsburg Dispatch*, the *Pittsburgh Sun*, the *Gazette Times*, the *Pittsburgh Post*, and the *Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph*, variously relating to the premature armistice celebration on November 7, 1918, the real one on the eleventh, and the death of Theodore Roosevelt in 1919, have been preserved and presented to the society by Dr. Frank B. Edmundson. Other gifts of his include a number of pamphlets relating to the Shadyside Hospital, the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, and the Maryland Archives.

The library of Duquesne University has presented, as duplicates of volumes already on its own shelves: *New Jersey Archives*, first series, volumes 1, 2, 4, 20, 26, 27; second series, volume 3. These are additions to the society's library that will be of special interest to genealogists.

Mr. Joseph McConnell, companion of the late Omar Scott Decker in his latter years, has presented a medal, made from the plates of the "Monitor," which was awarded by the United States Centennial Commission in 1876 to Phillips, Nimick & Co. of Pittsburgh for the manufacture of iron plates; and another medal awarded to the same firm in 1875 by the Tradesmens Industrial Institute of Pittsburgh "For Display of General Merchant Iron & Boiler Plates."

The society's small collection of sheet music has been augmented by the gift of the following compositions from Miss Lidie E. Gray: *The Florilla Waltz*, by Henry Kleber (Pittsburgh, 1851); *Shuster's Cotillons* (Philadelphia, 1857); *The Relief Polka*, composed and dedicated to the Committee of Ladies of the Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair by Henry Kleber (Pittsburgh, 1864); and *President Garfield's Funeral March*, by Horace R. Basler (Pittsburgh, 1881).

An ornamental group of wax flowers, under bell glass, made years ago by Mrs. J. F. Maeder (nee Bertha Cappell), has been presented by her daughter, Mrs. Clara Maeder Hogue.