NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

ROBERT GARLAND—A MEMORIAL

Robert Garland, long a distinguished member of our Historical Society and worthy president of this Society, was born in County Tyrone, North Ireland, on September 27, 1862. He was educated in the public schools of his community, and at the age of fourteen he migrated to the United States and settled in Pittsburgh. He was employed soon after he arrived, as a clerk by the firm, Lewis, Oliver, and Phillips, a predecessor of the present Oliver Iron and Steel Corporation. Within a few years he rose to the position of general sales manager, which he held until 1890.

That year he and his brother John organized the Garland Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of electric conduits. In Fleming's History of Pittsburgh, this company is described as one of the oldest of its kind in Pittsburgh.

Robert Garland was interested in a number of Pittsburgh activities. In 1911 he was appointed by Mayor William A. Magee to fill a vacancy in City Council, caused by the resignation of A. J. Kelly, Jr. Later in the year he was elected to that office, and continued to serve in Council until 1939. For many years he served as chairman of the finance committee, and in 1934-1935 he served as president of Council.

No City Father ever gave more freely of his time and talent. A roll call of his many activities would include, among others, his success in building the Mt. Washington Roadway; changing the name of Monongahela Boulevard to the Boulevard of the Allies; the passage of a fireworks ordinance; the removal of the so-called "hump" on Fifth Avenue; and perhaps the one project by which he will longest be remembered—the passage of a Daylight Saving plan.

During World War I, while Mr. Garland was serving as
president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, and manager of the War Resources Committee for Western Pennsylvania, he conceived the idea that greater production would be achieved if the clocks were advanced one hour during the spring and summer months.

He took the matter up with the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and finally succeeded in having a federal law passed legalizing what came to be known as “fast-time.”

After the close of the war, Mr. Garland continued to proclaim the recreational value of daylight saving time. He won the members of the City Council over to his idea, and later saw the plan adopted in most of the major cities of the nation.

Mr. Garland was a trustee of the Carnegie Institute, the Carnegie Library, a director of the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, director of the Third National Bank, and of the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company.

He held membership in the Duquesne Club, the University Club, the Scotch-Irish Society of Western Pennsylvania, a trustee of Grove City College, a member of the American Hardware Manufacturers Association, was an active Mason, a member of the Oriental Lodge of Wilkinsburg, Duquesne Commandery, Syria Temple, and the Masonic Veterans Association. Also, he was a member of the Calvary Episcopal Church.

We of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania remember him best for his keen interest, and his vast knowledge of Western Pennsylvania history, and also his knowledge of English and American history. Our society has never had a more loyal member, or a greater friend. The records show that he joined the society in 1913. While a member of City Council he initiated the move of having City Council appropriate funds annually for the work of this society. Next, he asked the Commissioners of Allegheny County to do the
same, and succeeded in having his request granted.

The society honored itself in electing him, first a trustee, then a vice-president, and finally, president of this organization which he loved so well, and for which he worked so faithfully. He served as president from September, 1940, to June, 1948. Following his resignation as president in June, 1948, the society, out of respect for his long service, elected him president emeritus.

On April 12, 1888, Mr. Garland married Alice Noble Bailey, who died in 1932.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Roy H. McKnight, of Inverness Avenue, this city, with whom he lived for the past fifteen years; two grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Robert Garland died on April 19, 1949. Funeral services were held in Calvary Episcopal Church of which he had been a faithful member.

John W. Oliver, Chairman
Harmar Denny, Jr.
Richard S. Rauh

After Dr. Oliver's presentation of the foregoing memorial sketch, at a meeting of the society on May 31, 1949, the following resolution, offered by the committee, was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Robert Garland, a former trustee, vice president, president, and president emeritus of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, died on April 19, 1949, and
WHEREAS, Robert Garland was for thirty-six years one of our faithful servants in the cause of Western Pennsylvania history,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution of respect for his many years of loyal service, and an expression of regret over his passing, be voted by the members of this society.