

# THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

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## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA: AN UPDATED HISTORY

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THIS is the story of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania during the past third of a century, supplementing a comprehensive history of the earlier years written in 1938 by the then director, Franklin F. Holbrook, and published in the Society's magazine in March of that year. A brief updating of the history by the secretary at that time, Cortlandt W. W. Elkin, M.D., was published in the spring-summer issue of the magazine in 1955.

As the summary of Dr. Holbrook's early account suggests, and as later events confirm, history is everybody's interest and but few persons' business. Consequently, any historical society leads a precarious existence unless it is adequately financed for routine operations in the intervals between great public hue and cry for staging of centennials and other celebrations. And, consequently, any historical society is dependent upon a coterie of devoted staff and members to hold fast the preservation of the past for the enlightenment of the future; in this our Society has been singularly fortunate.

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Mr. Anderson, Esq., a vice-president of the Society, has been a frequent contributor to the magazine and as a history hobbyist has been particularly interested in the French and Indian War period in Western Pennsylvania.—Editor

### *Highlights of Early History*

Our present Society can trace its roots to "The Historical Society of Pittsburgh," organized in February 1834. This earliest society represented the first organized stirring of interest to acknowledge the historical heritage of Western Pennsylvania and to recall and preserve local history. Perhaps because the founders themselves were too close to the history they sought to preserve, this initial organization was short-lived.

Nine years later, in October 1843, leading citizens "interested in collecting and preserving materials relating to the early settlement of the Western country" organized under the name of "The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania." Harmar Denny was elected president and *Gazette* editor, Neville B. Craig, corresponding secretary. The society was held together for a time by collecting and editing materials for Craig's monthly *Olden Time* magazine but apparently dissolved concurrently with the last issue of the magazine in December 1847. The great fire of 1845 destroyed many of the books, papers, and records collected by the society.

The Pittsburgh centennial celebration of 1858 served to rekindle interest in early history. In November of that year a third society, again under the name, "The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania," held its first meeting. During the seventeen months of the society's existence, it held some twenty meetings. The extant minute-book lists April 9, 1860, as the last meeting.

Interest in a historical society again peaked in 1879, and in April of that year the actual forerunner of our present Society held its organization meeting, styling itself the "Old Residents Association of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania." As was the case of the predecessor societies, "old timers" — by now considerably older — played a major part in the revival. Initially membership was restricted to men of fifty years, or more, residence in Western Pennsylvania. A year later women were admitted to membership on the same conditions as men, and two years later membership was opened to persons of any age who subscribed to the purpose of the organization "to perpetuate facts relating to our local history, by securing the legendary and traditional before they pass into the region of mythology." Soon the name of the group was changed back to the early and more descriptive "Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania." For a three-year period, from 1882 to 1885, a rival organization functioned under the name of

“Western Pennsylvania Historical Society” but then merged with the older group.

A struggled existence can best describe the next few decades of the Society's existence, marked by the tenacity of individual officers to hold together the organization. In the absence of permanent quarters, “relics,” archival materials, books, and papers were kept in the homes or offices of leading members. From 1879 to 1886, during the term of William N. Gormly as secretary, monthly meetings were held with but few interruptions and with an average attendance of fifteen to twenty persons. Meetings generally were held in the city's common-council chamber during this period.

Following Mr. Gormly's death, Father Andrew A. Lambing, pastor of St. James Roman Catholic Church, carried the torch of history for the remainder of the century — as secretary from 1888 to 1892 and as president from 1892 to 1900. In this period the Society was incorporated and its collections were brought together in a room in the newly finished courthouse. In 1891 they were removed again to quarters in the Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny. The public lecture programs became more systematic, and the Society undertook site-marking projects. Renewed efforts were made to preserve the Bouquet Blockhouse and the mound at McKees Rocks. A number of publications were issued. Celebration of Pittsburgh's 1894 centennial as a borough was a Society project. In 1896 the Society moved into quarters in the newly completed Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in the Oakland area, the move providing additional space for the growing effects of the Society.

No minutes have been preserved for the period 1899 to 1908, and apparently while Society activities somewhat slowed down, they were kept alive by a corporal's guard of interested citizens. However, the sesquicentennial in 1908 of the capture of Fort Duquesne served to spark new life into the Society and gave impetus to a drive for permanent quarters. Two new torchbearers came forward to guide the growth of the Society: Burd S. Patterson who had chaired the sesquicentennial celebration and merchant and civic leader William H. Stevenson. Reorganization of the Society was completed in May 1909, and it embarked on a vigorous program of public events and membership recruitment.

In 1909 the Society reintroduced its now traditional summer history tours, visiting Bushy Run and Ligonier that year and Hannastown the next. Earlier trips, as far as records reveal, had been those to

Arlington Camp Meeting Grounds in Castle Shannon in 1879 and to the James P. Fleming Farm in Evergreen Hamlet in 1895. In 1911 the Society was active in the centennial celebration of the launching from the Monongahela Wharf of the replica of the *New Orleans*, the first steamboat to ply the western waters. In 1913 the Society took a lead in the celebration of Allegheny County's 125th anniversary, and in 1916 it sponsored the centennial celebration of Pittsburgh's incorporation as a city.

The long cherished dream of quarters of its own was realized by the Society in 1914 when the first unit of the present building was occupied. Purchase of land and construction of this first unit was made possible by a state appropriation of \$25,000 in 1912, supplemented by funds from other sources.

This first building unit was recognized as only a start for the Society's permanent needs. Under the leadership of Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Patterson repeated efforts were made to secure funds to complete the building project. Success came in 1929 when the state, prodded by Governor John S. Fisher, a Society member, appropriated \$40,000 conditional upon the Society securing a like sum. The condition quickly was met with the aid of grants from the Buhl Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, and more than a hundred individual donors.

The resulting enlarged building was rededicated in the fall of 1931, and it provided a substantial and fireproof structure, with space for library and archives and museum exhibits and an auditorium for meetings. The auditorium was dedicated as Stevenson Hall in memory of Mr. Stevenson who had died the previous year. It is significant that even in death Mr. Stevenson left evidence of his concern for the financial needs of the Society, making a bequest of \$1,000, the first bequest in the Society's history.

The new building brought new responsibilities as well as opportunities, and the Society was faced again with the recurring problem of adequate staff. Money, easy to obtain for capital expenditures and special activities, was more difficult to secure for routine and unglamorous day-to-day operations. With the opening of the first unit of the new building in 1914, Mr. Patterson served as a one-man staff, assisted the next year by Miss Emma D. Poole as office secretary. Miss Poole was placed eventually in sole charge, with the title of librarian, and continued in this capacity until establishment of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey in 1931.

While finances limited staff, volunteer members kept alive the

Society's many services to members and public, including continuation of the lecture series, acquisition of books and archival materials, and the summer tours. The *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* was launched in 1918 and despite shaky beginnings has now gained stature as one of the leading historical magazines in the country. At the suggestion of, and with substantial financial aid from Helen Clay Frick, a Westmoreland-Fayette branch of the Society was organized in 1928. Located at West Overton, the branch continued its informal association with the Society for many years.

### *Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey — 1931-1936*

Concurrent with the planning for an enlarged home for the Society was the planning for a complete written history of Western Pennsylvania, a task that seaboard historians had ignored and that county and local efforts had not supplied. In 1931 a five-year Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey was launched under the joint sponsorship of the Society, the history department of the University of Pittsburgh, and the Buhl Foundation. Basic financing came from a grant of \$70,000 from the Buhl Foundation and of \$25,000 from the University.

Working space for the many writers and researchers involved in the project was provided by the enlarged building of the Society. A board of control was appointed, including five representatives from the Society and four from the university. Dr. Solon J. Buck, for sixteen years secretary and superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, was named director of the survey and as director of the Society. The Society's current president, C. V. Starrett, served as liaison between the Buhl Foundation and the survey activities. Dr. Buck's scholarly article, "Program for Research," appearing in the February 1932 issue of the Society's magazine, describes the challenge that faced his talented staff.

After an initial compilation of resources available locally in documents, books, and newspapers and of similar materials available in libraries and historical societies nationwide, the survey project occupied itself with the preparation of popularly written but nonetheless historically accurate books. Altogether, the books form an outstanding and unique portfolio of regional history. For their publication, with a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the university established the University of Pittsburgh Press. Aided by grants from the Buhl Foundation, the university press brought to the public: *Pittsburgh: The Story of a City*, by Leland D. Baldwin (1937); *Early Western Penn-*

*sylvania Politics*, by Russell J. Ferguson (1938); *Pen Pictures of Early Western Pennsylvania*, compiled by John W. Harpster (1938); *With Rifle and Plow*, by J. E. Wright, Elizabeth M. Sellers, and Jeannette C. Shirk (1938); *Whiskey Rebels: The Story of a Frontier Uprising*, by Leland D. Baldwin (1939); *The Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania*, by Solon J. Buck and Elizabeth Hawthorn Buck (1939); *Pioneer Life in Western Pennsylvania*, by J. E. Wright and Doris Corbett (1940); *Council Fires on the Upper Ohio*, by Randolph C. Downes (1940); and *The Keelboat Age on Western Waters*, by Leland D. Baldwin (1941). A preliminary *Guidebook to Historic Places in Western Pennsylvania* also was produced by the survey staff and published by the university press in 1938, to be replaced by a more comprehensive publication of the university press in 1953 — *A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania*, by Lois Mulkearn and Edwin V. Pugh.

It is interesting to note that the Darlington Memorial Library materials of the university were temporarily transferred to the Society building in cardboard boxes for use by the researchers. Materials in the Society's library and archives were researched and used by the members of the survey, as were those in the Pennsylvania Room in Carnegie Library.

While the survey was an outstanding and formalized example of cooperation between the university and the Society — not forgetting the financial and intellectual contribution of the Buhl Foundation — it was but a continuation of the cooperation which existed, before and since the golden five years of historical research and writing, between the university and the Society. In the early years the former chancellor, Dr. Samuel B. McCormick, had been active in Society activities and during the survey period Chancellor John G. Bowman kept personally in touch with progress. Dr. John W. Oliver, then head of the university's history department, served for many years as trustee of the Society. Later, Dr. Alfred P. James was a mainstay and almost scholar-in-residence of the Society. He edited the comprehensive index to the magazine for the years 1918-1960, published in 1963. Prior to the appointment of a staff editor of the magazine, various faculty members from the university's history department served as editor, including Dr. James, Dr. John J. Geise, and William J. Martin.

Appropriately, in connection with university cooperation, mention should be made of the long interest in Society affairs of Dr. J. Cutler Andrews of the Chatham College faculty, a former trustee of

the Society. His willingness to participate in Society lectures and to contribute articles to the magazine typify the continuing contributions of professional historians from local colleges and universities.

### *The Society Since 1936*

With the conclusion of the survey and dispersal of its staff, the Society found itself with facilities and services greatly expanded but with depleted financial reserves and an annual income little greater than that prior to the survey. A membership of 651 in January 1937 dropped to 536 in December 1938.

Once again, as in its early history, the Society entered into a period of struggled existence, aware that membership dues alone could not sustain a working staff and a physical plant, when dues hardly paid for the editing and printing of the magazine furnished free to all members.

Devoted leaders again sustained the Society. A few of the survey staff, mostly on a part-time basis, were retained in an effort to hold together something of the advances made in association with the survey. Here we must pay particular tribute to Dr. Franklin F. Holbrook, a member of the survey staff, who continued on as the Society's director until 1951, when he assumed the responsibilities of librarian and editor, and was succeeded as director by Philip H. Lantz. Robert D. Christie, who followed Mr. Lantz as director in 1953, aptly summarizes Dr. Holbrook's tenure: "With the departure of the personnel of the survey, he took over the many and varied activities of the Society, sometimes with help, often without."

Another member of the original survey staff, the late John W. Harpster, became director in 1968, and Mr. Christie became director-emeritus. Mr. Harpster served until mid-1972 when he was succeeded by the present director, Joseph G. Smith.

There were other major staff changes and additions during these years. In 1946 Lawrence S. Thurman, now curator of the Daniel Boone Homestead, joined the staff part time as museum curator and assistant to the director. He continued to serve the Society, along with his duties as senior curator of Old Economy, until 1965. In 1955 Miss Prudence B. Trimble joined the staff as editor and librarian and continued the high standard of the magazine. Upon her retirement in 1971 she was succeeded by Mrs. W. Howard Pollard as associate editor, later editor. Mrs. Ruth K. Salisbury, long-time assistant to Miss

Trimble, was named librarian in 1968. Upon her retirement in 1972 she was succeeded by her daughter, Miss Ruth Salisbury.

Miss Salisbury, a trained librarian and archivist, formerly head of the Darlington Memorial Library at the University of Pittsburgh, and for the two years previous to joining the Society's staff, rare-book librarian at Syracuse University, now has the title of assistant director and librarian. Newest addition to the staff is Helen Wilson, also a trained librarian, appointed in June of 1973.

Outstanding leadership of trustees and officers in the past third of a century has brought the Society into sound financial condition, has made possible modernization of the Society's building, and has provided increased services to the community and leadership in historic affairs.

Recent presidents have been: former governor John S. Fisher, 1935-1940; former city-council president Robert Garland, 1940-1948; Henry Oliver Evans, 1949; Chas. A. McClintock, 1950-1963; Harmar D. Denny, 1963-1965; C. Stanton Belfour, 1965-1969; C. V. Starrett, 1970 to the present.

Cortlandt W. W. Elkin, M.D., served as secretary from 1935 to 1969 and was succeeded by the present secretary, author Robert C. Alberts. The office of treasurer also has been in good hands. Incumbents have been: John E. Potter, 1932-1944; Chas. A. McClintock, 1944-1949; James K. Ebbert, 1951-1953; and John W. R. Creighton, 1953 to the present.

Space does not permit proper acknowledgment of the outstanding services of individual trustees and members. To cite a few — Col. C. C. McGovern, former chairman of the Allegheny County commissioners, for years delivered weekly radio talks on local history, passing the 1,000th broadcast mark in 1955. Henry K. Siebeneck, long-time member, left the Society many of his effects and a substantial contribution to provide their proper housing. Charles M. Stotz, senior vice-president, author, historian, and architect, has masterminded renovations in the Society's building and has been the guiding force in many of the historical restorations in Western Pennsylvania — witness Fort Ligonier, Compass Inn, the Johnson House, the Old Stone House, Fort Pitt and Point Park, Old Economy, and the Neill Log House in Schenley Park.

If we were to separate the Society's last third of a century into equal parts, the part prior to 1950 was one of continued struggle and that subsequent to 1950 one of rejuvenation.





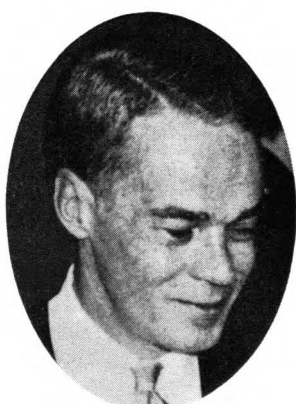
Father Andrew Lambing



William H. Stevenson



Robert Garland



C. Stanton Belfour



Chas. A. McClintock

PAST PRESIDENTS



1935 Tour to Johnstown, Altoona, and Indiana. John W. Harpster (later director) is in the back row. C. Stanton Belfour (later president) and Mrs. Belfour are in the middle of the front row.



1939 Tour through Clearfield, Kane, and Warren counties. The automobiles were led by an escort of city and state police.



Robert D. Christie



Franklin Holbrook

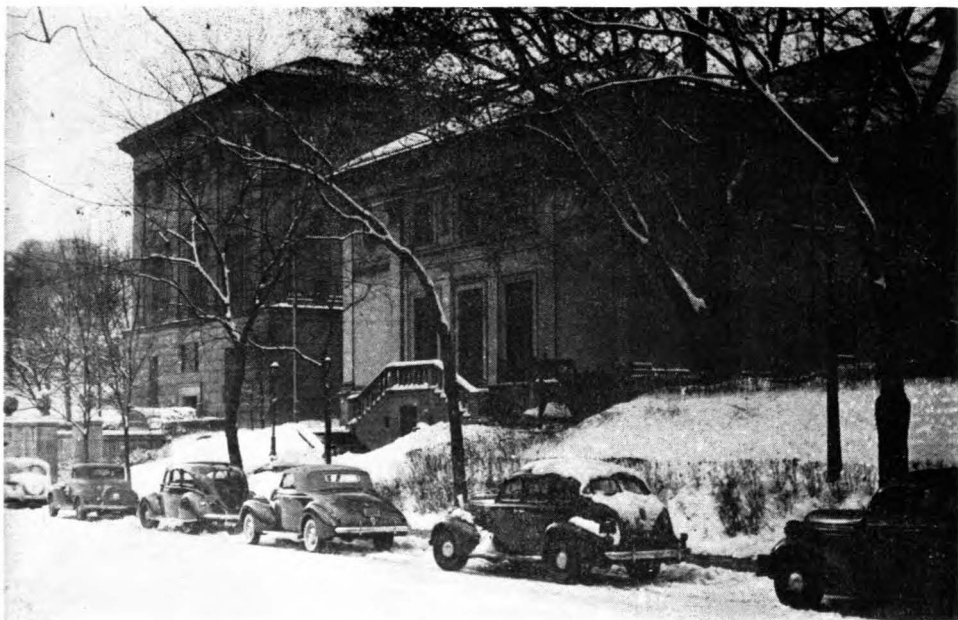


Solon J. Buck

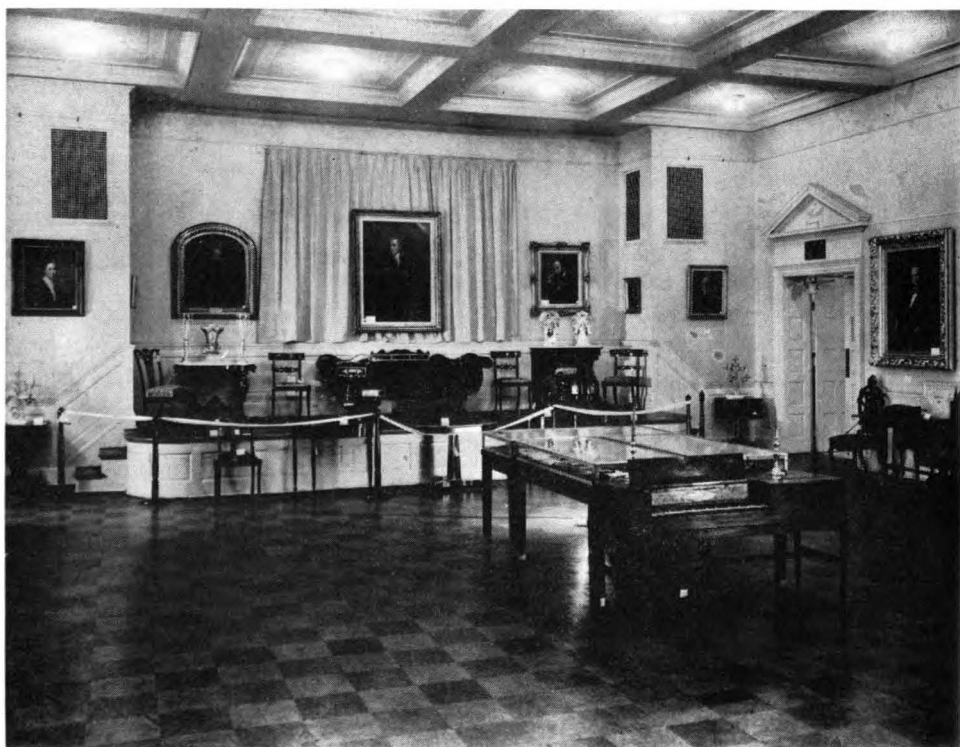


Burd S. Patterson

A FEW OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE  
CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE YEARS TO THE SOCIETY.



The Society building in the 1940s.



A 1945 exhibit in the auditorium commemorating the Great Fire of 1845.

*1937-1950*

While depleted finances and the problems of World War II made for a threadbare existence following the historical-survey period, by no means was the Society inactive or inattentive to its challenge. Public lectures were continued, historic summer tours continued (although suspended 1942-1945 because of gasoline rationing), the magazine was continued, the building was open to serve the public and members, and the collection of archival and library materials continued unabated.

Noteworthy among archival materials was the deposit of materials at the Historical Society by the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church at the instance of author and Society member Rev. Wallace Guy Smeltzer. This has been followed by the deposit of materials from other denominations, the latest being from the personal records of the late Rev. Thomas F. Coakley, accumulated during his long term as pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in the East End.

In 1937, at the suggestion of member Frank C. Harper, a committee was appointed to promote the establishment of a national park at the Point. Daily paragraphs entitled "Today in History" were prepared for publication in the *Pittsburgh Press*, starting in 1942. In 1943 planning was begun for the "Centennial of the Great Fire of 1845," and in 1945 attractive exhibits of the fire were displayed. As noted earlier, Lawrence S. Thurman joined the staff as assistant to the director and museum curator in 1946. The museum collection was revised under his direction and a busy speaking program promoted. Mr. Thurman also initiated meetings with junior historians at the high-school level. In 1949 a grant of \$2,000 was made by the Sarah M. Scaife Foundation to investigate methods to increase income and programs, and an additional grant of \$6,000-\$6,500 was received from the same foundation to employ a trained librarian for one year and to bind loose newspapers and other materials.

*The McClintock Era: Post 1950*

As we come to the present, it becomes more difficult to distinguish the trees from the forest, and as we single out individuals we probably inadvertently skip some persons who quietly contributed substantially in ideas and ideals and money and time to the growth of the Society. With this caution in mind, we nonetheless characterize the period of progress since 1950 as the McClintock era, and if a knight must have a squire, then we name Director Robert D. Christie as a proper administrator of Mr. McClintock's program. This is not to ignore the

trustees, of course, or the devoted staff members and volunteer helpers.

Banker, civic leader, lay historian, and genial friend of all, Chas. A. McClintock first joined the Society in 1934 and ten years later was elevated to the office of treasurer, becoming president in 1950. During his term as president, the Society took steps towards achieving a relatively comfortable financial position as a result of a campaign to build an endowment or investment fund, it improved its physical plant, increased its archival and library collections, and gained an outstanding and representative collection of Western Pennsylvania glass. Ongoing programs continued — lecture series, outside talks, visits to the Society building, research help, the magazine, and summer tours.

In 1950 a grant from the Pitcairn-Crabbe Foundation permitted resumption of quarterly publication of the magazine from its temporary twice yearly status. The next year a substantial grant from the Sarah M. Scaife Foundation permitted enlargement of the staff and expansion of services. Also in that year, a campaign was launched to improve the glass collection.

In 1952 a legacy of \$5,000 was received from the Galen C. Hartman estate, the third legacy in the history of the Society, and one that again served to point to the importance of this source of additional funds. Here it is appropriate to mention that annual grants from Allegheny County and from the city of Pittsburgh, until two years ago when its grants to most civic endeavors were suspended (temporarily we hope), have materially helped the Society meet its budget. The Society, in a sense, preserves the archives of a people, and governmental support is both prideful and appropriate.

In 1953 — and we see here the fine hand of the late trustee and later president, Dr. C. Stanton Belfour — the Society played a major part in the 200th anniversary of George Washington's visit to the Point.

The year 1955 saw the initiation of committees to plan for the forthcoming bicentennial of Pittsburgh and appointment of President McClintock and trustee Belfour to the official city Bicentennial Executive Committee. In connection with the forthcoming celebration, Society facilities were made available to Stefan Lorant as he gathered materials for his book *Pittsburgh: The Story of an American City*. They also were made available to Roy Stryker and Mel Seidenberg, authors of *A Pittsburgh Album: 1758-1958*. In a foreword to this book the authors gave special credit to "Prudence Trimble, kind and gentle

librarian of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and editor of its very fine quarterly magazine, and to Robert D. Christie, the Society's articulate director."

The bicentennial gave the Society opportunity to engage in its first book-publishing venture, made possible by grants from the Pittsburgh Foundation and the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Association. Trustees Dr. Alfred P. James and Charles M. Stotz were coauthors of *Drums in the Forest*, a book that has had the rewarding distinction of requiring a second edition.

In line of further book publications made possible by foundation grants, the Society in the late sixties gave its imprimatur to the Falk Foundation's book, *The Falk Foundation, a Private Fortune — A Public Trust*, authored by trustee Agnes Lynch Starrett. Trustee-emeritus Lowell Innes, with editorial assistance from Secretary Robert C. Alberts, is at this writing completing the final pages of a definitive story of Western Pennsylvania glass, supported by the Laurel Foundation. Just off the press, and made possible by a grant from the H. J. Heinz Foundation, is a biography of the founder of the Heinz Company, authored by Robert C. Alberts. It bears the appropriate title *The Good Provider*.

The first major physical renovation of the Society's building during this period was the altering of space in the basement in 1959 to create the Siebeneck Memorial Room, an adjoining members room, a small kitchen, washrooms and a cloakroom, and a new entrance at ground level to the outside. The Siebeneck Room is the one used for collations following lectures.

In 1962 the building was closed for five months for the installation of a new furnace, a projection screen and new lighting in the auditorium, and a modernized and relighted library and magazine room on the second floor. Since that time fixed seats have been installed in the auditorium and an elevator installed for the convenience of members. And this past year a small washroom on the second floor has been converted into needed office space.

Not keyed to any particular year, but rather on a continuing basis, physical facilities of the building have been made available to allied organizations and community groups. Not until the late thirties did a research staff of Federal Archives Projects vacate the building. In 1939 office space was provided for two members of the history department of the University of Pittsburgh. In October 1945 the Oakland Red Cross vacated wartime quarters. The auditorium has been

used for many years by the Women's Historical Society for afternoon meetings. And this past year (1973) the auditorium was utilized by the Fort Pitt Museum Associates, Hurricane Agnes having damaged meeting facilities at the Fort Pitt Museum.

To augment Society income, letters appealing for year-end gifts for specific projects have brought in welcome support. Accent on increasing the endowment fund and encouraging legacies also has continued. The latest bequests were in 1972, in the amount of \$3,000 from Willard R. Rhoads, and in 1973, the entire estate of former member and director John W. Harpster. The estate of Mr. Harpster, when settled, not only will have considerable cash value but also includes a fine collection of books and research documents numbering approximately 2,500. Also in 1973, Kenneth B. Haas, author, university professor, and former Pittsburgher, and his wife, have informed the Society that their wills are being changed to leave a substantial bequest to the Society to promote research.

President C. Stanton Belfour, who succeeded Chas. A. McClintock to the presidency in 1965, well noted that the Society is "not a group of antiquarians looking up our ancestors, but a group involved with bringing our heritage to life." This was the keynote of his all too short term in the presidency, during which he stressed both sound financing and expansion of Society activities. At his suggestion the bylaws were amended to streamline operations through election of trustees by the membership, officers by the trustees, and supervision of operations by an executive committee.

Our current president, C. V. Starrett, who succeeded the late Dr. Belfour in 1970, has accented the programs of his immediate predecessors and has given particular attention to increased outreach to the public, to internal security of prized possessions, and to building a truly professional staff. Public lectures have been so popular that twice last year it became necessary to move to larger auditoriums at the last minute — to the Twentieth Century Club in one instance and to the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in another. To keep the lectures in the Society's own building, the last lecture of the spring 1972-1973 series was duplicated in afternoon and evening sessions with good response. This practice is being continued in the 1973-1974 series.

To help guide Society operations, the board of editors for the magazine has been reorganized, and two new trustee committees have been appointed, one on accessions and one on finance. The first three issues of an informal newsletter have been circulated to members.



Another innovation this past fall was the Society's sole sponsorship of the Hidden Valley-weekend history seminars. These popular seminars, initiated by the University of Pittsburgh in 1967, have been cosponsored by the Society since 1969.

In 1971 a grant of \$39,000 was received from the Buhl Foundation to finance a three-year program to increase community activities, the Society's obligation being that of continuing the program for a like period with its own resources. This has permitted the employment of present director Joseph G. Smith to implement the Community Services Project. He brings to the Society a wealth of experience in private industry as well as being a college history professor who in the past found vocation and avocation difficult to separate. Thankfully, avocation has won out, and he effectively complements the leadership of President Starrett.

And finally we should mention, for it has been a continuing affair rather than a chronological one, the many scholarly contributions of members and friends to the Society's magazine. The magazine has national stature, and the citation *WPHM* is seen with increased frequency in historical writings. Many articles from the magazine have been reprinted. A recent article, "A Guide to the Old Stone Blast Furnaces in Western Pennsylvania," by members Myron B. Sharp and William H. Thomas, printed in the magazine in 1966, proved so popular that it was reprinted in paperback form. Reprints of other articles are planned.

### *Facing the Future*

The Society has imaginative leadership in its president, in its director, in its officers and trustees, and in its membership. The Society likewise has a truly professional staff, the first since the halcyon days of the survey staff in the early 1930s. Jointly, the staff and officers and trustees are considering long-range plans on the sound premise that our matured Society has a continuing and unique place in the growth and future of Western Pennsylvania.

For the moment, the grant from the Buhl Foundation for a community-action program will permit some expansion of existing programs and introduction of new ones. It will permit reaching more and more school children and college students. The challenge for this program and for the Society is to make all citizens, young and old, aware of our historical heritage and to participate in sharing the knowledge and lessons and pride of the past.

The Society has many resources for scholars and for the public. The archives and library, with professionals at the helm, are available for the casual genealogist, the student and scholar, and the browser. Selective museum exhibits, particularly the glass collection, and auditorium presentations are available for interested individuals and groups. A speakers program, limited now, is expected to expand rapidly. Additional brochures and other historical publications are in the offing, as is a program of special events for members.

Once again the Society is being called upon to participate in another celebration, and it is wholeheartedly gearing up to give local significance to the forthcoming 1976 bicentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Accented will be the part Western Pennsylvania played in the fledgling days of our country, particularly during the revolutionary-war period. Committees now are at work preparing special exhibits, programs, and publications.

Finally, as the Society grows, it might reasonably look forward to: expansion of physical facilities, doubling of endowment to assure adequate annual income and doubling of library space, tripling of archives, and quadrupling of membership. Proud Western Pennsylvania should be satisfied with no less.