

Clio's Century: A History of Lancaster's Cliosophic Society

John Ward Willson Loose

Few communities in the nation can boast an anomaly quite like the Cliosophic Society. The arts of conversation and genteel discussion, alas, no longer seem to be part of our national culture. Literary societies have gone the way of twelve-course dinners. Indeed, everything about Clio would appear anachronistic. Fortunately, as with many human efforts and institutions in Lancaster, appearances are deceiving. Clio is a remarkably youthful and peppery old lady at the age of one hundred. Probably she is healthier today than at any other time in her venerable history, although fairness compels this essayist to note Clio, never, ever, appeared to be unwell! Her existence has been steadfast and serene. We might be tempted to describe her as a granite institution impervious to natural and man-made attrition. We may risk blasphemy by suggesting Clio even resisted Acts of God with her invincibility but then the thought occurred that *Clio was an Act of God!*

Any institution of such strength and antiquity surely must have a well-founded ancestry. This essayist proposes to survey briefly the intellectual milieu of Lancaster. Perhaps we can perceive those influences that have provided the extraordinary nourishment to the Cliosophic Society. While our British settlers and their German Reformed, Lutheran, and Moravian neighbors were reading and discoursing nearly two and one-half centuries ago, some of their less highly-schooled rural cousins were expressing unorthodox and advanced ideas despite the prevalence of conventional views. A Lancaster bookseller of the 1750s maintained a stock of books of rare sophistication for the literati in the hinterland. The existence of libraries in mid-eighteenth century Lancaster is too well-known to be cited here.

One of Lancaster's earlier literary societies was the Lancaster City Lyceum of the 1840s. The membership roster and titles of subjects discussed leave little doubt that the Lyceum was in truth the direct lineal ancestor of Clio. We find that James Regar and the Reverend Mr. Glessner read papers on "French Language," not exactly the intellectual fare that would "turn on" blacksmith apprentices. Dr. Washington Lemuel Atlee disclosed to his audience the mysteries of chemistry while Dr. George Kerfoot offered lectures on anatomy. In those days the town's chief magistrate was expected to be a gentleman of letters as well as of words. The honorable John Passmore, the excessively corpulent mayor, entertained the Lyceum with a scholarly treatise on the "Genius and Character of John Milton." John W. Forney, the noted newspaper editor and politician, predicted "Our Nation's Future" to his listeners on 19 October 1841.

Amos Henderson Slaymaker, whose interests marked him as mercantile at best, solemnly lectured at the Lyceum on "American Literature," and he did not mean pulp magazines and pornography. Dr. Kerfoot dutifully reported his discovery that the American cranium differs from the decadent European model, an uncommonly rapid mutation that surely would have left early evolutionists gasping. Dr. Eli Parry, Lancaster's Welsh dentist, veterinarian and apothecary, held his 28 June 1841 audience spellbound with an essay on lime. Daniel B. Vondersmith, associate judge of the Lancaster County Courts, delivered an essay on "Civilization and Its Effects Upon Mankind." About ten years later Judge Vondersmith fled from Lancaster civilization ahead of the United States marshal who held a warrant for his arrest. The civilized judge, it was alleged, had yielded to criminal greed.

In the wake of the merger of Franklin and Marshall Colleges in 1853 came the Goethean and Diagnothian Societies from Marshall College. Both societies had German language "auxiliaries" named for Dr. Frederick Rauch (Diagnothian) and Dr. J. C. Friedrich Schiller (Goethean). Unlike other American liberal arts colleges based rather much on English ideas of preparatory and higher education, Franklin and Marshall College made use of and encouraged the German tradition in intellectual inquiry. It was more rigorous, more searching, and tended toward greater philosophical introspection—and lengthy titles.

German scholarship carried into the Theological Seminary of the German Reformed Church when that school was relocated to Lancaster. Thus Lancaster during the nineteenth century was privileged to be a center of superlative German scholarship and intellectual development, especially in philosophy and theology. To sustain this required a first rate foundation in the liberal arts which the small but remarkable faculty was able to provide.

About the time when Franklin and Marshall College was getting settled in Lancaster, a teacher-preparation institution was established at nearby Millersville. It, too, had a pair of debating societies: Page and Normal. In those

days teachers' minds were expected to be cultivated and suitably embellished with thoughts so elevated that their pupils would develop an insatiable love for learning. Some of the nation's most talented educators were attracted to Millersville Normal School where they developed curricula and practical methodology which benefited public education enormously.

The darling of the German scholars, Friedrich Schiller, was born in 1759. Germanic Lancaster observed the centennial of his birth with unbounded fervor. Schiller societies sprang up everywhere. Lancaster's major literary society by this time was the Schiller Verein. The works of Schiller, Goethe, and Heine were hauled out, pondered, and recited at the "drop of an umlaut." Schiller took Lancaster by storm just as Albert Camus and his fellow existentialists did in the 1960s. The Schiller fad faded by 1879. Dr. George Richards, long-time president of the Cliosophic Society, thought the demise of the Schiller Verein was the primary reason for the creation of Clio. A few stalwarts among the German Protestant townspeople—not the "gownspople"—formed the Harmony Literary Society to continue the work of the Schiller Verein, but the initial flush of Schiller interest had run its course.

Lancaster was changing rapidly in the period following the War Between the States. Beginning in the 1840s but retarded by the war, population growth and industrial expansion were altering the face and character of Lancaster. Sophistication was becoming evident in intellectual matters as well as in material things. In the 1870s Lancaster discovered the Victorian Age, and enlightened citizens lost no time in casting off the fears and prejudices of the past. "Nice people" gradually edged up North Duke Street and out the streets approaching College Hill and the West End.

Within the post-war community were to be found three independent but related influences at work.

1. The Status Quo Lancastrians. This group included old residents whose families had not participated for many years in the culture and civic life of Lancaster to any significant degree, but who were convinced that change and new ways would ruin their community. They feared change and resented the newcomers, particularly the "intellectuals" and outsiders connected to the business interests.

2. The Enterprising Lancastrians. This group included the more aggressive merchants and businessmen who saw market possibilities in the staid old town. They were interested in civic improvement and bringing the city's appearance and infrastructure "up-to-date." They attacked tradition when it became an obstacle to commercial success. Canny enough to recognize the market potentialities of a growing population, the new businessmen sought the patronage of Lancastrians who would have hesitated to enter the "old establishments."

3. The intellectuals, as represented by the college and seminary faculties, those who trafficked in ideas, and the better educated professionals such as lawyers, physicians, some clergymen, and a small number of private citizens not afraid to harbor and express unconventional ideas. On occasion this group would combine with the enterprising business people to bring about needed change.

This, then was the milieu of the 1870s in Lancaster.

19 November 1879 - Clio is Born

A few remaining leaves fluttered along the gravel driveway leading to *Caernarvon*, Dr. John Williamson Nevin's mansion near the intersection of Columbia and Spencer Avenues, as several carriages braked to a stop. The eminent theologian and college president came out in the chill late fall air to greet his guests and escort them to the fireside in the parlor of the Victorian Italianate mansion. Alice, Dr. Nevin's daughter, was the hostess. Also present were Dr. Thomas G. Apple; W. Uhler Hensel, Esq. and his lady, Emily Flinn Hensel; Patty Nevin; Dr. John S. Stahr, and Dr. Joseph H. Dubbs.

The idea for the meeting evidently had been developed a short time earlier by

Mrs. Hensel, Patty Nevin, and the wives of several well-placed professional men. As nearly every thinking person recognizes, an intelligent woman usually is the "spark plug" that gets the masculine engine moving. The gas chandelier hissed and the fire in the grate crackled as Alice Nevin explained why the meeting had been called. What Lancaster needed, she explained, was a social and literary society that would bring together town and gown. Before the guests departed that Wednesday evening, Dr. Thomas Gilmore Apple had been elected president and Patty Nevin was chosen to be the secretary. The purpose of the Cliosopic Society was "the promotion of congenial literary study, discussion, and refined social intercourse between persons



Dr. John Williamson Nevin



Clio's first president, Thomas Gilmore Apple (1879-1898)

of kindred tastes with the sanguine expectation harmonious relations between 'town' and 'gown' would be realized more fully." Dr. Apple, a classical scholar, thought Cliosophic would be an appropriate name for the society, explaining, "Clio was the muse of history, and sophic suggests wisdom, hence, 'wisdom through a knowledge of history.'"

Drs. Apple, Stahr, and Dubbs, along with Alice Nevin, comprised the program committee. For the first fifty years Clio met fortnightly from November to May with members taking turns entertaining the Society in their homes. Selecting topics to be researched and discussed resulted in either "stated themes" or "eclectic programs" meaning no special theme. The theme for programs the first season was "Characteristics of Medieval and Modern History." Essayists had the privilege of stretching the context of the subject chosen. The first essay was presented by Dr. Dubbs on "Medieval and Modern Romance." Andrew Jackson Steinman closed the year (1879) with a paper on "Chivalry." Alice Nevin opened 1880 at Dr. Blackwood's with an essay on "Medieval Cuisine." The minutes are silent on the nature of the collation that followed that meeting, but it has become a tradition that Clio's hostesses serve coffee and ice cream. To this day every Clio meeting ends in the dining room with friends of the hostess presiding over the silver coffee and tea service.

By this time Clio had twelve to fifteen families as members. Of its birth, Dr. George W. Richards could say, "Clio was conceived in the home of Mr. Hensel, it was born in the home of Dr. J. W. Nevin, and it was baptized in the home of Dr. William M. Nevin. One could not wish for a better beginning."

Flushed with the success of the first year, Clio prepared for its second season of essays. Additional members were welcomed: Captain and Mrs. James Wiley; Hiram Swarr, Esq., who was James Buchanan's executor; George M. Kline, Esq.; Barton B. Martin, a prominent lumber dealer; and W. Cary Buchanan, secretary-treasurer of A. J. Steinman's new Lancaster Bolt Company. The "town" was being represented by its share of the literati.

Mrs. E. V. Gerhart succeeded Alice Nevin as secretary, and Dr. Thomas Gilmore Apple was reelected president, an office he would hold until his death in 1898. The meeting date was moved to "First Fridays," a decision which continues to this day. I have done some extensive research to determine if any catastrophes occurred on a Clio night which would have disturbed the serenity of the polite discourse, but the only impression I have received therefrom is that the fates that control humankind, those crises that convulse the hearts of tyrants, marginal traders on Wall Street, and assorted Bolsheviks, hide in terror on the nights Clio deigns to meet. The greatest calamity I could unearth was the burning of the Ranck tobacco warehouse on 8 January 1946, causing irritating smoke to waft through the Iris Club, but barely disturbing Dean Sanders P. McComsey as he essayed on American journalism to an oblivato of fire sirens and alarm bells.

Clio's second season, 1880-1881, explored new territory that would have deterred lesser organizations. One night, imagine the reaction of the "town" to the "gown's" decision to devote a whole season to "Modern Socialism." Luckily, Clio never revealed to the newspapers the nature of its essays or who said what during the discussion period, a practice still observed. Perhaps it is just as well the public not be in on the subjects chosen because the essays frequently were interpreted very liberally, that is to say, they were off the subject as much as they were germane. "Modern Socialism" was explored by the following presentations:

Dr. E. V. Gerhart, "The Office of the State in Relation to Public Morality."

Oscar Fay Adams, "A Few Thoughts on the Personality of Woman."

Dr. J. N. Dubbs, "Social Effects of Freemasonry."

Dr. Thomas G. Apple, "Uses and Abuses of Sociality."

W. U. Hensel, Esq., "Give the Woman a Chance."

A. J. Steinman, "Our Relations."

Dr. John Kieffer, "The Ancient and Modern Theatre."

Dr. Jefferson E. Kershner, "Moral Statistics."

Dr. John Stahr, "Social Evolution."

Dr. Apple, "Science versus Superstition."

Edwin K. Martin, Esq., "Communism."

Dr. Apple, "The Social Principle."

According to the minutes, Dr. Apple's "Uses and Abuses of Sociality" resulted in animated discussion that got completely out of hand. The "combatants" were Mrs. William Blackwood, Patty Nevin, Dr. Gerhart, Lottie Apple, A. J. Steinman, and Oscar Fay Adams. Inasmuch as E. K. Martin took his assignment seriously and stuck to his subject, one articulate member (probably W. U. Hensel) offered the opinion that Martin must be a Philistine whereupon another member disagreed, saying that lawyers are Pharisees. Mr. Richards thought the Steinman essay on "Our Relations" was the "most risqué paper ever heard within the hallowed walls of Clio." After that it was decided remarks be limited to five minutes per commentator, and no second remarks until everyone has had an opportunity to speak. About this time the custom started of allowing the host or hostess to initiate discussion.

The third season's theme was "Development of English National Life," with the essayists enjoying a wide latitude of choice.

Clio began to develop a personality of its own during the fourth season (1882-1883). The presiding officer was called upon to exercise great tact and diplomacy. This season three themes were proposed. Dr. Dubbs put forth the idea Clio should explore everything German. Or, if that wasn't acceptable, "The Philosophy of Herbert Spencer," or even "Development of American Nationality." After considerable discussion, and with amendment, the majority selected "Development of National Life in America." Dr. William Nevin

prepared an essay on "American Jurisprudence," a brave effort with barristers Hensel and Martin in the audience.

Clio decided to hold a summer festival on the lawn of The Maples, the Columbia Avenue home of John C. Hager. In true Clio style, the occasion was dubbed "An Estivalia." The event was held on the Fourth of July and commemorated the birthday of Mrs. John W. Nevin (Martha Jenkins Nevin). The Estivalia also featured appropriate music, and a congratulatory poem honoring the Lady of Caernarvon by Dr. William Nevin. Mrs. Blackwood presented an essay on "Women's Declaration of Independence." Letters of regret purportedly from Governor Benjamin Butler, Charles Francis Adams, Oscar Wilde and other luminaries were read, much to the delight of the members.

By the time Clio got around to selecting a theme and assigning essays for the 1883-1884 season, feelings were running high on the quality of essays. Dr. Apple dusted off the oft-rejected themes of "Germany," and "Development of American Nationality." Alice Nevin suggested "Ethnology." "The Basis and Constitution of the Social Economy" was advocated by others. Mr. Hensel vigorously promoted a study of Lancaster and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The vote showed a majority favored "Development of American Nationality." After mulling that over, Miss Nevin asked that the choice be reconsidered because she was certain the majority preferred "Ethnology." Miss Nevin had been campaigning quietly among "the girls." The Reverend Dr. Charles Fry (Trinity Lutheran Church) thought he detected a preference for "Different Presidential Administrations," a subject that had not been proposed until that moment. Dr. Apple decided the members would be in a better humor after hearing Dr. William Nevin tell about "Poetical Inspiration from the Birds." After the obligations to avian inspiration had been discharged, Clio again voted on a theme, and Miss Nevin's parliamentary maneuvering succeeded. The choice was "Ethnology." It might as well have been eclectic. The subjects were:

An American Invention

Babel

Fossils from Ethnological Fields

Cave Myths of American Indians

Evolution in Dress

Marriage and Home

For the 1884-1885 season, "The England of Gladstone and Disraeli" was chosen, "Germany" having gone down to defeat again, much to the consternation of the learned doctors of the College and Seminary. It was a remarkable year. All the topics were related to the theme. Clearly, Clio preferred Britain over Germany.

"Growth and Influence of American Ideas" was the theme selected without controversy for the 1885-1886 season. Dr. Apple congratulated Clio

for its unity and harmony. The following year Clio studied "A Comparison of Ancient and Modern Civilizations" after soundly defeating another attempt to make "Germany" the subject of discussion. The season was concluded with an essay on "Reformed Spelling" which was not a critique of sermon preparation as taught in the Seminary. An Estivalia was not held that summer, but Clio did entertain the Pennsylvania Association of College Presidents and Professors in the hall dedicated to Diogenes.

In 1887 Dr. E. V. Gerhart and the "German Mafia" planned their strategy with the skill of Field Marshal von Moltke. After all the defeats of prior years Clio finally adopted "Modern Germany" as its 1887-1888 theme. Alas, this was the season enlightened Kaiser Frederick died and his son, Wilhelm II, became the German emperor. It was a great day for Clio's braintrust. Out came the scholarly dissertations on Germany. Dr. Dubbs prepared an essay on "The Influence of German Life and Culture on the Social and Domestic Life of America." Dr. T. G. Apple contributed "German Philosophy," while Dr. John Titzel (First Reformed Church) essayed "Goethe." Dr. Richard Schiedt, naturally, explored the life of the "Iron Chancellor, Bismarck." Dr. William Nevin tackled "Schiller." Then in a burst of outrageous anti-Teutonic spite, Thomas Donaldson changed his assignment to "Sir Walter Raleigh." The fates were stirring. Valhalla had been insulted. Wotan was furious.

George Hensel, the sage of Quarryville, invited members of Clio down to his home for a winter meeting on 26 January 1888. The Clio Special rumbled down Water Street from the Stevens House Depot, but soon the train was in snow drifts over its cowcatcher. There was an uneasy feeling the train would become snowbound before reaching Quarryville. The engineer and Clio persevered, and eventually the train pulled into the Quarryville station, late but without mishap. It was too late for a meeting. The minutes tell us the rest of the evening was spent in social intercourse. Dr. George Mull, who was to talk about Germany's educational system, cooled his heels until 10 February 1889. The season's program was finished off with essays on "German Social Life," "Modern German Music (Brahms and Wagner)," "Lessing," and "Frederick the Great."

The following year found devotees of Russia and France campaigning to have their "favorite" nation selected as the theme. The tally was Russia, 23; France, 25. Clio managed to get through the 1888-1889 season on France without severing diplomatic relations with any nation or even being led off the subject. Dr. J. Max Hart (Lancaster Moravian Church) thought it was time for another Estivalia. Miss Alice Nevin reported on Clio's first decade, and pronounced it a success. Waxing poetic, Miss Nevin described the growing significance of The Cliosophic Society of Lancaster:

To-day The Cliosophic closes the first cycle of its existence; and, as we cast a backward glance over the ten years of its infancy and youth, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that its life so far

has not been simply vegetative. From the embryo seed cast into the fertile soil, a living force, a vital stimulus has, year by year, unfolded into a beautiful spiral of upward progression. Though at times chilled by the cold nights and blighting frosts of early spring, the tender plant has arisen again, sending forth vigorous shoots and blossoms, and forming, with each revolving season, a new concentric circle of ever widening, deepening influence. In its outgrowth it has already more than realized the thought that gave it birth. Standing on a purely catholic platform, swayed by no personal prejudices or feelings, including in its membership persons of different ages and representatives of many callings, professions and creeds, it has welded into a social compact the multiform elements of the place, giving rise to a society more cosmopolitan in its tone than is usually found in an inland city. The retrospective sketch we have given to-day of its intellectual work, could not fail to convince one of its powerful effect in the way of general culture and mental stimulus upon the community. It has become, indeed, both as a social and literary factor, an indispensable component in the life of the town.

"Not winter, not storms of wind, nor storms of rain uproot it; it remains unmoved, and through many years enduring, it abides and outlasts many generations of men." So sings the poet Virgil of the sturdy oaks, those mighty pillars of the forest. May it thus be sung of our young sapling in the far away years to come.

There may be times, perchance, when the pioneers of the Clio glance backward with a feeling of lingering regret to the primitive simplicity and the closer intimacies of the earlier days of the Club, sorrowing that the spell of the olden days is gone forever; and we may sometimes also deplore the creeping in of certain innovations that do not seem altogether in harmony with its character and genius. But we know that though environments and relationships may be changed, the life that abides, the seed thought that gave birth to the Club, is still unfolding from the eternal within. Every change of life is but a transformation into a fuller form of life. Realizing this, we pray that it may be given those on whom the mantle of Elijah shall fall, in guiding and shaping the destiny of the Club through the coming years, to lead it ever onward and upward onto still higher Mounts of Vision.

A. N.

During the 1889-1890 season it was Czarist Russia's turn to be placed under Clio's literary lens. The following themes were developed in successive years:

1890-1891 The History and Influence of Art

1891-1892 The Far East

1892–1893 The Discovery of America and Its Influence on World Civilization

1893–1894 Women's Suffrage (treated sympathetically)

1894–1895 The English Novel

1895–1896 (No record is available)

1896–1897 Spanish America Dr. John Bach McMaster addressed Clio on the Monroe Doctrine.

1897–1898 This year the programs were to be eclectic despite the stern rebuke of the secretary who said it violated the tradition of Clio. Thus chastised, Clio reversed its decision and voted to study "The Eastern Question."

1898–1899 President Apple died 17 September 1898, and to honor his memory, the office was kept vacant, with W. U. Hensel, chairman of the business committee, presiding. The year's theme was "The Making of the West."

1899–1900 Dr. Emanuel Vogel Gerhart was elected president. Clio's season did not begin until 29 December 1899. The theme was "The Closing Century in Contrast with the 18th Century." Willis Musser presented an essay, "A Forecast of 2000 A. D." What a shame a copy of that essay is not extant.

1900–1901 The theme was "Civics." The February meeting was cancelled when Dr. M. L. Herr, the scheduled essayist, became critically ill and died the next day. A fortnight later, a blizzard held the attendance down to twenty-five members. Instead of hearing an essay, the members enjoyed fun and games. This may have been the meeting tradition tells us ended with many of the members, now snowbound, being put up for the night in the host's home. The 4 April meeting was thrown into an uproar when the guest essayist, Dr. George N. Zacharias, discovered he had left his manuscript at his home in Washington. He then presented from memory, "The Art Life and the State."

1902–1903 The theme this year was "The Jew." The Reverend Dr. M. Ganss, a Roman Catholic priest from Carlisle, read an essay on "Modern Methods of Historical Study." Dr. J. E. Whittaker addressed Clio on "Zionism" at the February meeting.

1903–1904 This was Clio's 25th year, and proper note was taken of its anniversary by W. U. Hensel, and Misses Alice and Charlotte Apple. Clio was saddened this year by the death of its 87-year-old president, Dr. Emanuel V. Gerhart.



*Clio's second president
Dr. Emanuel Vogel Gerhart
(1898–1905)*

1904–1905 W. U. Hensel, Esq. was elected Clio's third president, an office he held until his death in 1915. About this time there arose some concern that Clio members were departing from those noble purposes and glorious instincts that had been the foundation of the organization. The question was asked, "Can it be possible that Clio women are becoming intellectually indifferent and Clio men socially negligent?" It should be remembered that in Clio's early years formal dress was *de rigueur*, and one never brought guests without obtaining permission from the host and hostess, nor did one leave until the host and hostess had been thanked. Formal dress no longer is required but the other social amenities are practiced at Clio gatherings, including the traditional receiving line.



Clio's third president, W. Uhler Hensel, Esquire (1905–1915)

reminds me of a farmer in a circus looking for the first time at a giraffe. He exclaimed, 'Oh, Hell, there ain't no such animal.'" The members gasped. Miss Alice, perfectly poised, said nothing. During the collation, Mr. Hensel remarked, "Have you noticed that Dr. Stahr is becoming more profane as he grows older?"

Dr. George W. Richards described one Clio stalwart of the period thus: "perhaps the most outstanding and most uncompromising debater on the floor of Clio was Dr. Titzel of encyclopedic knowledge, indomitable courage, disagreeing with essayist and all who took part in the discussion—but always capable of giving reason for his opposition, in his heart never a drop of bitterness against his most virulent opponent, respected and gladly heard by everyone."

Dr. Richards was elected president in 1915, and he was reelected annually up to 1929, a period of 24 years. He retired from office following a beautiful and moving valediction. He was the first Clio president to leave office alive, such were the rigors of early Clio! During Dr. Richards' tenure Clio's membership was increased by

Clio meetings were not without their light moments. One time Alice Nevin read a paper on "Christian Science." During the discussion Dr. John Stahr said, "The subject



Clio's fourth president, Dr. George W. Richards (1915–1939)

the addition of top level executives from major local corporations. F. Lyman Windolph, Esq., served as president from 1939–1942. Mr. Windolph was a Shakespeare scholar, and had published several monographs on that subject. Millersville State Teachers College (now Millersville University) administrators and faculty had begun to take their places in Clio alongside their colleagues from Franklin and Marshall College and the Seminary.

At no time has Clio's program committee been short on ideas for mentally-stimulating and thought-provoking essays. Its vitality stems from the imagination, creativity, and intellectual acuity of its membership.

While some of Clio's program themes appear somewhat whimsical, there is no doubt that serious issues were "grist for Clio's mill." During 1914–1915, for example, the theme was "Modern Problems: Social, Political, and Economic." The following season featured a challenging series of programs on "The Influence of the Public Speakers on American Life." At the height of World War I, Clio studied "Interpretations of Love in Modern Prose Fiction." Of all the modern novelists studied during the year, Lancaster's own Helen Reimensnyder Martin definitely was *not* among them. The Russian Revolution in 1917 created a need for information on "Russia and Things Russian," the theme for 1917–1918. The "War to End all Wars" aroused Clio to ponder "The Rise and Growth of Human Freedom" during 1918–1919. The following year was devoted to "Great Books and Their Influence."

During the "Roaring Twenties," Clio rose above the fast pace brought on by prosperity and Prohibition. Its refreshments continued to be coffee, tea, ice cream and other confections. Inside the Iris Club, isolated from the hedonic world outside, Lancaster's intelligentsia discussed "Biographies and Autobiographies" (1920–1921); "American Men of Letters" (1921–1922); "Great Religions" (1922–1923); "Post War Problems (1923–1924); "Modern Thought and Science" (1924–1925); "The Book I Enjoyed Most" (1925–1926); "Characteristics of Genius" (1926–1927); "The Making of Pennsylvania" (1927–1928); and "Modern Men and Movements" (1928–1929).

Clio's fifty-first year featured "National Epics." "Modern Tendencies" were discussed in 1930–1931. As the Great Depression came crashing down, Clio serenely looked back to the Middle Ages to discuss "Medieval Civilization." As Franklin D. Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover struggled for the United States presidency, Clio took note of "World Problems Since the World War." During 1933–1934, the theme was "Social Trends of Present Day America." "Great Antagonists" occupied the minds of Clio during 1934–1935. In 1935–1936 "The Struggle for Individual and Group Freedom" was explored, doubtless with an anxious eye cast on Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union. Both 1936–1937 and 1937–1938 seasons were "eclectic," with diverse subjects presented. "Modern Problems," hardly differing from "eclectic," was the theme for 1938–1939. Some of the problems discussed were neutrality, prevention of disease, world peace, breakdown of modern reading (Johnny couldn't read

in 1939), natural forces and human labor, modern library problems, roots of American liberty, modern physics, and democracy.

"Ways of Life" were featured as the theme during 1939-1940. During the 1940-1941 season, Clio studied "Pioneers in Thought and Action." The United States was attacked by Japan on 7 December 1941, and five days later Mrs. Lyman Windolph presented an essay on Samuel Pepys. Clio was not about to be intimidated by the Axis powers as it went on with its theme "Great Characters in Fact and Fiction." At the height of World War II, Clio chose "The Comic Spirit" as its theme. More than one dowager giggled as Mrs. W. Nelson Francis delivered an essay on Rabelais! During 1943-1944 Clio discussed "Great Novels in World Literature." Sir Winston Churchill was a subject of the 1944-1945 season when Clio explored "British Statesmen." With the war winding down, Clio in 1945-1946 embarked on the theme, "The Cultural Heritage of America." The following year the theme was "Figures in Contemporary Thought." Mrs. Henry Bagger's essay, "Negro Voices in America," was the first essay given in Clio that recognized the black community. "Thinkers Who Have Influenced the Modern World" was the theme for 1948-1949, and the list included Aristotle, St. Paul, The Rev. John Henry Newman, Darwin, Sir William Osler, Thomas Malthus, John Stuart Mill, Machiavelli, Matthew Arnold, and Thomas Jefferson. In a moment of great daring, Clio in 1949-1950 studied the "Great Heretics." That list included Mohammed, Galileo, Lord Byron, John Calvin, George Fox, Roger Williams,



75th Birthday Party 22 January 1954

(Left to right) Dr. William Toth, Paul A. Mueller, Jr., Esq., Mrs. Charles Foltz, Mrs. Kenneth O. Bates, and Dr. H.M.J. Klein.

Thomas Paine, Frances Willard, Louis Pasteur, and H. L. Mencken.

Clio adopted "Trends and Tensions" for its 1950–1951 season. Dr. James Z. Appel led off with an essay excoriating "Socialized Medicine." Returning to the history theme, Clio in 1951–1952 investigated "Crises in History." For its 1952–1953 season Clio selected "Varieties of Human Culture: Ways of Life in Past and Present." "Journals of Famous Persons: Their Cause and Effect" was the theme in 1953–1954.

Clio observed its 75th anniversary with a gala affair at the Stevens House. Members in period dress gathered in the elegant old ballroom of that distinguished hostelry on Friday evening, 22 January 1954, to enjoy a feast from the Stevens House's much-acclaimed cuisine. John J. Evans, Jr. was chairman of the event. Dr. Harry John Martin Klein presented bits of Clio's history, much to the delight of the assemblage. Paul A. Mueller, Sr. presided, assisted by Dr. William Toth, vice president.

The 1954–1955 season featured eclectic essays ranging from "Atomic Energy" to "The Levels of Culture." John I. Hartman, Jr., Esq. essayed "The Right to Believe," followed the next month with John L. Byerly presenting "A Dissenting View." "The Impact of the 20th Century On -" was the theme of the 1955–1956 season. Subjects discussed were law, medicine, military, education, journalism, the church, science, and government. Clio's 78th season (1956–1957) explored "Highlights of U. S. History."

"Historic Lancaster" came in for study during the 1957–1958 season. Clio likes ideas, and for the 1958–1959 season the theme was "History of Ideas." "Problems Facing America Today" seems to be a recurring theme in Clio's long existence, and in 1959–1960 attention was directed to the nation's problems once more. The 1960–1961 season was eclectic. "Trends of the Sixties" was the somewhat premature subject for the 1961–1962 season. The essays were eclectic for the 1962–1963 season, and they included Dr. Paul Irion's "The Funeral; Vestige or Value," "The Noblest Monument of English Prose," by Dr. Ray Adams, and "Can a Republic Respond to Reason?" posed by Dr. Philip Klein.

"Pioneers in the World of Thought and Action" was the center of attention for the 1963–1964 season. Stirred to action, Clio in 1964–1965 explored "American Foreign Policy: Past, Present and Future." "The Effects of Progress on Man's Institutions and Practices" was the theme for 1965–1966. The ladies of Clio appeared not to object to the use of "man" for all humanity. The next year's essays were eclectic. The Reverend Robert Taylor pondered "Is God Dead?" and during discussion revealed that the seminarians read *Playboy* magazine.

The 1967–1968 season featured eclectic essays, one of which was "The Liberal Tradition in Lancaster County," by this writer. Toby Appel commented sardonically, "This should be the shortest essay in Clio's memory!" Dr. Charles D. Spotts essayed on "Conflicting Ideas That Are Shaping the Modern World," a subject dear to Clio's heart. The 1968–1969 and 1969–1970 seasons con-

tinued the eclectic theme. Tiring of its reliance on a diversity of subjects, Clio adopted "Sorts and Conditions of Men: The Quality of Life, Past, Present and Future" for the 1970-1971 season. Senator Richard A. Snyder, a Clio stalwart, convulsed the audience with "The Legislature: Suppose Charles Dickens revisited them?" The following meeting heard Dr. S. Kendrick Eshleman III discuss "Madness or Insanity—Where is the Difference?" to which a Clio member was heard to ask, "Is this a sequel to Dick Snyder's essay?" Dr. Donald M. C. Englert did provide a "sequel" of sorts with his essay the next month on "Sermons Never Preached in the White House."

Eclectic proved so popular that theme was chosen again for 1972-1973. Among the essays was Matthew W. Harrison's "Objectivity or Advocacy The Thinking Man's Dilemma." "What's New in Your Field?" was the theme in the 1973-1974 season. Of course, the essayists strayed far afield. Facing reality, Clio selected eclectic for the 1974-1975, 1975-1976, and 1976-1977 seasons.

As Clio's century mark approached, the program committee decided the theme for 1978-1979 ought to be "When Clio Was Young." Your writer led off the season on 6 October with the present undertaking. Senator Richard S. Snyder presented an essay, "From Hayes to Coolidge: Years of Growth and Innocence," at the November meeting, followed in December with a paper "From Local Color to Realism in American Literature," by Dr. Carl J. Campbell. Gerald S. Lestz was featured on the January 1979 program with his essay, "Victoria's Gift to Lancaster Architecture." The Reverend Nevin E. Shellenberger explained to Clio at the February meeting "The Difference in the Way of Looking at Nature and the Supernatural in the Victorian Age and Now." "England When Clio was Young" was the topic discussed by Dr. John B. Osborne at the March meeting. Dr. Mark C. Ebersole presented an essay on "Higher Education in America: 1878-1978." In May was an essay by Mrs. Marianne W. Ashbey, "Best-Sellers of a Century Ago."

In place of its usual October 1979 meeting, Clio held a gala birthday party at the Iris Club. A special birthday cake was baked, and Mrs. L. B. Herr, Mrs. Fred Foltz, and Miss Elizabeth Gilbert were given the honor of cutting the cake because the three ladies had attended Clio's 75th anniversary party. Dr. Samuel Hauck presided during the festivities, and the speaker for the occasion was Professor Robert W. Russell, who spoke on "A Writer, His Problems, His Passion."

One hundred years old, and still going strong, Clio bucked all trends and prepared to continue hearing and discussing at its monthly meetings a highly diverse assortment of subjects both enriching and relevant. As long as Lancastrians delight in congenial literary study; in scholarly discussions of the past, present, and future; in challenges to humankind and responses thereto, there will be a Cliosophic Society!

The author has served as historian of the Cliosophic Society since 1972, and as its President 1987-1989.

SOURCES

Minutes of Clio meetings

Privately published programs of Clio, 1914–1929, 1929–1939

Annual printed programs of Clio, 1955–1980

Seventy-five Years of Clio, 1897–1954 (A short history presented by
Dr. H. M. J. Klein for the 75th Anniversary Banquet)

APPENDIX

The Cliosopic Society of Lancaster Presidents

Dr. Thomas Gilmore Apple, 1879–1898

The Rev. Dr. Emanuel Vogel Gerhart, 1898–1905

William Uhler Hensel, Esquire, 1905-1915

The Rev. Dr. George W. Richards, 1915-1939

F. Lyman Windolph, Esquire, 1939–1942

Dr. Sivert N. Hagen, 1942-1944

Dr. Harry Martin John Klein, 1944-1945

The Rev. Dr. Henry S. Bagger, 1945-1947

The Rev. Dr. David Dunn, 1947-1949

Dr. Harvey A. Smith, 1949-1951

Dean Sanders P. McComsey, 1951-1953

Paul Albert Mueller, Sr., Esquire, 1953-1956

Dr. Paul T. Stonesifer, 1956-1957

Frederick S. Foltz, 1957-1958

Dr. W. Nelson Francis, 1958-1959

Dr. Alfred N. Sayres, 1959-1961

Dr. William F. Hartman, 1961-1963

Dr. D. Luke Biemesderfer, 1963-1965

The Rev. Canon Robert C. Batchelder, 1965-1967

Dr. Winthrop E. Everett, 1967-1968

The Rev. Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew, 1968-1970

Alfred C. Alspach, Esquire, 1970-1972

Mrs. Christian S. Wenger, 1972-1974

William A. Mehler, Jr., 1974-1976

Matthew W. Harrison, Jr., 1976-1978

Dr. Samuel M. Hauck, 1978-1981

Dr. Thomas R. Winpenny, 1981-1983

Dr. Michael G. Kovach, 1983-1984

Dr. David T. Zentmyer, 1984-1985

Dr. William E. Irwin, 1985-1987

John W. W. Loose, 1987-1989

C. Eugene Moore, 1989-1991

The Rev. Dr. John B. Payne, 1991-1993

R. Wesley Shope, 1993-1995