

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

More than three-quarters of a century ago, in a country school house, a curly-headed boy, with tremulous voice and quaking knees, appeared before an audience considerably larger than the one before him to-night, and commenced his address with words some of you may have heard before. They began with:

"You'd scarce expect one of my age
To speak in public on the stage."

At this distant day that young orator does not remember whether the adult portion of his audience received his effort with applause or in silence, and whether his classmates expressed their disapproval with jeers and cat-calls, nor does it matter much. To-night that same youngster appears before an audience more learned and more critical, and with the weight of four and eighty years upon his shoulders and whose head is now white with the snows that never melt, feels that he might begin his address even more appropriately with the same words that he began his first one, seven and seventy years ago.

I have often wondered why none of the members of our society have thought of writing a sketch of our organization which, after an existence of fully thirty years, may fairly claim to be of adult age and size. It is true that our first volume of Papers and Proceedings bears the date of 1896-7, but the facts are that the society had its origin ten years earlier, in 1886, although for a considerable period after that date it lapsed into quietude and silence. As our early minute book is still in existence and the record of our early beginnings and trials is very complete, I shall draw on them to set the facts before you.

The organization of a local Historical Society was talked about and advocated many years before formal action, looking forward to that end, took place, especially in the local newspapers, but it was not until 1887 that public opinion materialized in decisive action.

The first record in our minute book is as follows: "On November 11, 1886, the following call, prepared by A. F. Hostetter, acting for the signers, and signed by F. R. Diffenderffer, Samuel M. Sener, Rev. J. Max Hark and A. F. Hostetter, was mailed to a number of gentlemen who, it was believed, would be interested in the formation of such a society as it suggested.

The Call.

Dear Sir:

Lancaster, Penna., Nov. 11, 1886.

The undersigned, believing that a systematic effort should be made to gather and preserve the materials relating to the history of Lancaster county, and that the time has come for the organization of a County Historical Society, herewith take the liberty of inviting you, as one known to be interested in the subject, to meet with them on Tuesday, November 16th, 1886, at 10 o'clock, a. m. in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, on South Queen street, Lancaster, Pa., to consider the propriety of forming such a society.

Will you please favor us with an early reply, addressed to any of the undersigned?

If you know of any person to whom you think it well to send this invitation, we esteem it a favor to have you give us their names and addresses.

Yours truly,

The day named in the call proved very inclement and only a few persons responded to the call. In consequence, no formal action was taken, and, after some discussion, the meeting adjourned, with the understanding that another should be called at a later date. Subsequently, the signers of the call and several others decided to meet on November 26th, 1886, at the law office of W. U. Hensel, Esq., No. 45 North Duke street, Lancaster, Pa.

The next meeting was held, accordingly, in Mr. Hensel's office, on the date just named. The following persons were present: F. R. Diffenderffer, Rev. J. Max Hark, Rev. Dr. J. H. Dubbs, W. U. Hensel, Esq., A. F. Hostetter, Esq., E. K. Martin, Esq., S. M. Sener, Esq., and Samuel H. Zahm. Dr. Dubbs was chosen Chairman and A. F. Hostetter as Secretary of the meeting. After considerable discussion it was decided to proceed to the organization of an Historical Society, to be devoted to the history of the city and county of Lancaster.

The names of a number of persons throughout the city and county were suggested as likely to take an interest in the subject, and it was resolved that the Secretary should communicate with these and also that a general call should be issued and published in the newspapers of the city for another meeting at the office of Mr. Hensel on Tuesday, Dec. 4th, 1886, at 2 p. m., at which time it is expected to effect a permanent organization and to outline the work to be attempted."

Accordingly, on the date just mentioned, a meeting was held at the office of Mr. Hensel. The following persons were present: W. U. Hensel, Esq., Rev. H. A. Brickenstein, Principal of the Linden Hall Seminary, at Lititz; Rev. Dr. J. H. Dubbs, Prof. of History at Franklin and Marshall College; Rev. J. Max Hark, pastor of the Moravian Church, in Lancaster; F. R. Diffenderffer, Samuel M. Sener, Col. Samuel C. Slaymaker, Chas. F. Steigerwalt, Samuel H. Zahm and A. F. Hostetter, all of Lancaster, and Isaac Walker, of Gap. Dr. Dubbs acted as chairman. After discussing the best method of organizing, it was resolved that the matter of a proper Constitution and By-laws be referred to a committee to report at the next meeting. The following were named as the committee: Rev. J. Max Hark, Samuel H. Zahm, A. F. Hostetter, W. U. Hensel and Rev. Dr. Dubbs. An adjournment was then had to January 6, 1887.

Signed by

A. F. HOSTETTER, Temporary Secretary.

On January 6, 1887, the meeting proposed on Dec. 4th was held in the Orphan's Court Room, Dr. Dubbs presiding. The following persons were present: Dr. Dubbs, Dr. Hark, F. R. Diffenderffer, A. F. Hostetter, W. U. Hensel, S. C. Slaymaker, Samuel M. Sener, Richard M. Reilly, William A. Wilson, Simon P. Eby, Samuel H. Zahm, W. W. Griest, Dr. James P. Wickersham, Chas. J. Steigerwalt, J. M. Johnson and Isaac Walker. Letters of regret were received from the following persons who were unable to attend, but expressed their sympathy with the movement and their purpose to become members of the society: Samuel Evans, Columbia; E. K. Martin, John W. Appel, Elwood Griest, George Steinman, Simon S. Rathvon, Dr. John S. Stahr, of Lancaster; Rev. Dr. Calvin W. Stewart, of Colerain, George W. Hensel, of Quarryville; C. H. Stubbs, of Fairfield; L. S. Reist, of Oregon; W. W. H. Kinzer, of Terre Hill; Hayden H. Tshudy, of Lititz; Henry Carter, of Lyle; H. S. Danner, of Manheim; John C. Martin and Adam Konigmacher, of Ephrata, and J. B. Hipple, of Lancaster.

Mr. Hensel, on behalf of the committee appointed at the last meeting to draft a constitution, reported the following, which was adopted as the constitution of the society. Here follows the constitution as we have it to-day.

On motion of Mr. Hensel, J. Max Hark and F. R. Diffenderffer were appointed a committee to recommend officers for the ensuing year. They reported the following, who were unanimously elected:

President, Rev. J. H. Dubbs, D. D.; Vice Presidents, Hon. J. P. Wickersham and Samuel Evans; Recording Secretary, A. F. Hostetter; Corresponding Secretary, W. W. Griest; Treasurer, Simon P. Eby; Executive Committee, F. R. Diffenderffer, R. M. Reilly, J. B. Hipple, C. I. Steigerwalt, Dr. C. H. Stubbs, H. A. Brickenstein, J. Max Hark, S. C. Slaymaker, P. C. Hiller and W. U. Hensel.

Dr. Dubbs, on taking the chair, expressed his thanks to the society for the honor conferred upon him and spoke at some length upon the importance of the work in hand and the wealth of material for the future historians, which might be gathered by proper effort.

Mr. Issac Walker, of Gap, expressed his pleasure at seeing the society organized and regretted that, on account of age, he could not be present at many of these meetings, but promised his co-operation so far as he could be of service. Mr. Walker then donated to the society an engraving of William Penn and also an autograph letter of Penn, for both of which the society tendered him its thanks, and ordered them to be preserved by the librarian. The society then adjourned.

January 10, 1887.

The Executive Committee of the society and others met in the Eshleman Law Building on the evening of this day. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on some place to conduct the work of the society. Numerous suggestions were agreed upon as promising the best results, and Dr. Dubbs, the President, was requested to prepare a paper to be read at the next monthly meeting of the committee, outlining in detail the scheme of work to be undertaken by the society.

February 14, 1887.

The Executive Committee met on the evening of this day, in the offices of Mr. Hensel. A number of other members were also present.

Dr. Dubbs, the President of the society, then read the paper which he had been requested to prepare. He dwelt upon the importance of Lancaster county as a field for the historian, and the fact that heretofore we have largely neglected our own history. The hope was expressed that much of the early material, now lost, might yet be rescued and preserved. He then gave a general outline of what he thought should be the scope of the society's work.

Dr. W. H. Egle, of Harrisburg, State Librarian, and the editor of "Notes and Queries," was then introduced to the meeting. He gave the committee many valuable and practical suggestions, based on his experience in this kind of work, as to the best methods of conducting the operations of the society. He suggested the appointment of smaller committees on different lines of specialized work. He called special attention to the richness of Lancaster county as a field of biography, and urged the preparation and preservation of sketches of all the prominent citizens of the county, living and dead, portraits of deceased citizens and photographs of old buildings.

Dr. Egle presented the society with a copy of the original plot or draft of Lancaster county as surveyed in 1730, also with two copies of his quarterly magazine, "Notes and Queries."

On motion, the thanks of the committee were tendered to Dr. Dubbs for his address and to Dr. Egle for his suggestions and donations.

Mr. S. C. Slaymaker exhibited an iron axe or hatchet found about twenty years ago at Chadd's Ford. It resembled an ancient battle axe.

On motion, the chairman appointed F. R. Diffenderfer, S. P. Eby and S. C. Slaymaker to look up permanent quarters for the society.

The general subjects covered by the addresses of Drs. Dubbs and Egle were then discussed and a schedule of committees was agreed upon. The President was then instructed to select and appoint these committees, but with the understanding that members should be at liberty to select their work, should they have a preference.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee was held on March 21, 1887, in the rooms of the Board of Trade. The committee on securing quarters reported the Board of Trade had offered its rooms to the committee for its meetings, free of charge. A photograph of the bell ordered to be cast in Europe by Israel Eckerlin, for the Ephrata Monastery, while he was Prior, but which the society refused to receive, and which afterwards became the property of Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster, was presented by the Band of Hope of said church. Some old papers and pamphlets were also donated. Thanks were given to the donors.

A communication from Samuel Evans, Esq., was received, urging the society to secure permanent quarters, saying he had some valuable books which he desired to give to the society so soon as it had a permanent home. He also suggested the names of a number of persons from other localities for membership.

In accordance with instructions given to President Dubbs at the January meeting, the following assignments to the various committees were made:

Archæology: (Including Indian relics, historic remains and numismatics), C. Steigerwalt, P. C. Hiller and S. H. Zahm.

Topography: (Including local nomenclature and the collection of surveys, maps and engravings), Samuel C. Slaymaker, Isaac Walker and George Steinman.

Local Records: (Including the general supervision of the literary work of the society, and the suggestion of subjects for investigation and discussion), F. R. Diffenderfer, W. U. Hensel, Esq., Rev. J. Max Hark, Rev. Dr. James Y. Mitchell and Wm. Aug. Atlee, Esq.

Bibliography: (With special reference to the early imprints of Lancaster county), S. H. Zahm, Samuel M. Sener, Esq., and Dr. C. H. Stubbs.

Periodical Literature: Richard M. Reilly, Esq., W. W. Griest and J. B. Hipple.

Biography: Samuel Evans.

Education: Dr. J. P. Wickersham, Prof. Isaac Geist and Abraham Beck.

Ecclesiastical History: Rev. Dr. C. W. Stewart, Rev. H. A. Brickenstein.

Science: (Including mining and metalurgy), Dr. J. S. Stahr and Dr. S. S. Rathvon.

Political History: W. U. Hensel, Esq., and E. K. Martin, Esq.

Agriculture and Forestry: S. P. Eby., Esq., and Frank Greist.

A motion was made to incorporate the society, and Messrs. Eby, Hensel and Slaymaker were appointed a committee to report on the desirability of such action at the next meeting.

April 18, 1887.

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee was held. Some donations of old-time lottery tickets were made (by whom made was not stated). The Secretary exhibited the roster of the battery commanded by Captain W. W. Nevin during the war of the Rebellion.

May 16, 1887.

The Executive Committee met at the Board of Trade rooms, a number of members being present. Dr. Dubbs exhibited some interesting documents bearing on the history of Franklin and Marshall College.

Peter C. Hiller exhibited a collection of aboriginal stone implements and arrow heads.

June 25, 1887.

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Board of Trade rooms. No business of importance was transacted. On motion it was decided to take a recess during the summer season. Adjourned.

September 19, 1887.

The regular monthly meeting was held Messrs. Hiller and Zahm, from the Archæological Committee, reported the sites of several Indian villages and graves they had visited during the summer. Adjourned.

October 17, 1887.

Dr. Dubbs read and presented to the society a manuscript history of Columbia, prepared by a gentleman whose name was not given, a number of years ago. After a general discussion of the history of Columbia the committee adjourned.

November 21, 1887.

The regular meeting was held. No quorum being present, no business was transacted.

December 19, 1887.

The regular monthly meeting was held. Several members were present but, owing to the want of a quorum, no business was transacted.

That is the last record in the first minute book of our organization. After an existence of one year of active life, and which was begun with high hopes and under favorable circumstances, it seems to have given up the ghost. Temporary Secretary A. F. Hostetter seems to have been so much disgusted with the non-attendance of members that he even neglected to affix his signature to the last two brief records with which he wound up his minutes.

What did it all mean? What was the matter? Does any one here know? One of us does know and I say it with regret, that I am that one, and am still more sorry that I must take a full share of the blame. It is said an honest confession is sometimes good for men and women, therefore I propose to be good.

The Trouble.

You will remember Dr. Dubbs was asked to prepare and read an address. He did so. Our personal relations had long been pleasant and cordial. I was on the committee to nominate officers, and as I considered him the ablest historian in the membership, I nominated him. The day before his address was delivered he called on me at the office of The New Era newspaper, of which paper I was then the associate editor. He talked over various matters to be brought forward at the meeting the next day. As one deeply interested in all that concerned our organization, and also as a newspaperman, I was anxious that the proceedings and the papers read before it should receive the widest publicity possible. He agreed with me, and I then asked him for his address for publication on the next day, and he seemed willing and anxious to do so. After he had read his paper I went to him and asked him for the manuscript, which he had promised me the day before. To my surprise, he said he had given it to W. U. Hensel. At that time Mr. Hensel was one of the owners and editors of the Intelligencer newspaper, and with a newspaperman's natural

instinct, had asked Dr. Dubbs for his address, in his newspaper. Dr. Dubbs told him he had promised it to me, and that I had promised to send "proofs" to all the other dailies in the city. But Mr. Hensel met that statement by saying he would "edit the copy, give it all the headings required and send proofs to all the other papers." Now you are all aware that there always was and will be a natural rivalry between newspaper men of the same locality. In this case I saw a rival taking from me what had been sacredly promised to me not more than forty-eight hours before, while I, like Lord Ullin in the ballad, "was left lamenting." Of course I got angry—very angry—and said to Dr. Dubbs that if he really meant that after all this that he could not ask for the return of his MSS. I would have nothing more to do with it. "But he will send you corrected proofs," was his rejoinder. My reply was, "I am as able to prepare the copy for the press as Mr. Hensel is, and I want none of it—he need not send it to me; The New Era will not touch it nor publish it." I turned on my heel and walked away without another word, about as angry as an editor gets, and that is saying a great deal.

While this episode seems, and is, largely a personal matter between two members, it nevertheless explains the interregnum between Dec. 19, 1887, and April, 1896, a period of nine years, during which I took no further interest in the society. Others did likewise, and the result was that for a long time it ceased to command public interest and if not dead, it was taking a very long and very profound slumber.

The Reorganization.

But the old time desire for a local Historical Society still remained and as we are told in the ballad,

"Time makes all but true love old,"

so our hopes began to manifest themselves again, and on April 20, 1896, an informal meeting was held at the home of George Steinman, where it was resolved by those present that a more formal meeting should be called for May 8th in the Orphans' Court Room.

The proposed meeting was, accordingly, held on the date named. Dr. John S. Stahr, of Franklin and Marshall College, was selected temporary Chairman, and Henry F. Bitner, temporary Secretary. Dr. Stahr stated the purpose of the meeting to be the permanent organization of the Lancaster County Historical Society. Hon. W. U. Hensel said the Historical Society of ten years before had a present existence, and that time might be saved by organizing at once under the old constitution.

Dr. Dubbs stated that the officers of the old society had faithfully served out the time for which they had been elected and proposed that new officers should be elected. By a unanimous vote, it was decided to proceed under the old organization, and to give all who desired, the opportunity to join.

The following persons were then proposed and at once elected to membership: William N. Appel, B. C. Atlee, Rev. A. C. Whitmer, A. J. Kauffman, Horace L. Haldeman, Rev. C. B. Shultz, Thomas Whitson, J. B. Livingston, H. C. Brubaker, Rev. D. W. Gerhard, Rev. Ellis S. Hay, H. E. Steinmetz, Dr. J. H. Seiling, Dr. Wm. Blackwood, J. W. Yocum, Chas. I. Schneaver, Chas. I. Landis, Adam Geist, Dr. M. W. Raub, E. Billingsfelt, J. Frank Buch, Amos Rutter, W. L. Hershey, Dr. J. L. Ziegler, Joseph C. Burkholder, Joseph C. Walker, Jacob H. Kreider, Chas. A. Heinitsh, Jacob Hildebrand, Dr. John B. Kieffer, H. S. Williamson, William H. Keller, Dr. Henry Muhlenberg, O. P. Bricker, David McMullen, Thomas Wright, Reuben D. Herr, Thos. B. Cochran, Eugene G. Smith, James M. Walker, A. A. Newpher, Peter C. Hiller, Miss Marianna

Gibbons and Mrs. L. D. Zell, forty-four in all. It will be observed that the names of the original members do not appear on this list. No doubt they were considered as hold-over members.

The Officers.

A committee of three was selected to nominate permanent officers for the ensuing year. Afterwards the motion was amended to have the committee report at the present meeting. Dr. Seiling, Hon. W. U. Hensel and W. A. Atlee, Esq., were the committee. After consultation, the committee reported the following names: For President, Dr. J. H. Dubbs; Vice Presidents, Samuel Evans and J. C. Walker; Recording Secretary, Frank R. Diffenderffer; Corresponding Secretary, W. W. Griest; Librarian, Samuel Sener; Treasurer, B. C. Atlee; Executive Committee, W. U. Hensel, Horace L. Haldeman, Adam Geist, Rev. C. B. Shultz, Miss Marianna Gibbons, J. W. Yocum, Richard M. Reilly, Peter C. Hiller and E. Billingsfelt.

Dr. Dubbs declined to accept the Presidency. Half a dozen other gentlemen were named for the place, but all declined. Dr. Dubbs suggested George Steinman, and he was at once elected against his protest.

By a unanimous vote it was decided the meeting of the society should, thereafter, be held monthly instead of quarterly. The first Friday of each month, at 2 p. m., was the time selected.

Other miscellaneous business was transacted. Among the rest, writers were named to prepare papers to be read at the next meeting. Dr. Buehrle suggested that much valuable material might be collected by school children, if care was taken to let them know what was wanted. D. H. Heitshu, John E. Eshleman, Edw. P. Brinton, Frank B. McClain and Alfred A. Hubley were also elected to membership. The society then adjourned.

I have given the minutes of this reorganization meeting pretty liberally, so that our membership may become fully acquainted with our early history. The minutes of that meeting were prepared by the temporary Secretary, Prof. Henry L. Bitner. I was prevented by illness from being present at this meeting, but I find the minutes were transferred to the minute-book by myself.

The Society at Work.

The next meeting of the society was held on June 5th, in the afternoon, in the Fulton Opera House, President Steinman in the chair. The following new names were added to the membership: J. W. B. Bausman, Paul O'Dougherty, Dr. J. P. Ziegler, Prof. M. J. Brecht, Rev. C. E. Eberman, C. S. Foltz, Col Samuel Wright, A. B. Hassler, Esq., Dr. E. O. Lyte, P. C. Sentman, David E. Mayer, John P. Schaum, G. F. K. Erisman and William H. Reilly.

Dr. Dubbs read a paper on the names of the townships in the county, Horace L. Haldeman, an article relating to Chickies and other furnaces above Columbia. Casper Hiller sent in a paper of remembrances of Conestoga township. Thomas Whitson read a paper on William Park, the true hero of the Christiana riots. All these papers were ordered printed, and here began the practice of our society to print all important papers read before, in pamphlet form. The thanks of the society were tendered to Mr. Yecker for the gratuitous use of the room. Owing to the heated term being at hand, it was decided to dispense with the July and August meetings. The meeting was numerously attended by the members and others, and much interest was manifested. The society, at that meeting, seems to have struck the progressive gait that has characterized it ever since.

The next meeting was held on Sept. 4, in the Opera House, the new President, George Steinman, occupying the chair. Half a dozen new members were

ected and two papers of considerable length were read, one on the mis-named Baron Stiegel and the other on the Acadians in Lancaster county.

The October 6th meeting was large and several interesting papers were read, and followed by discussions of the same that were not only informing, but brought out additional facts concerning the subjects discussed.

At the November meeting some new applications for membership were received. Valuable papers were read by Messrs. R. M. Reilly and R. J. Huston. The members appointed to the various committees authorized at the October meeting were announced. No fewer than four papers were read at this meeting and they were ordered to be printed. The question of permanent quarters for the society was discussed.

The meeting on Dec. 4th was, as usual, well attended. Six new names were added to the membership and several papers were read and ordered to be printed. Mr. Hensel, on behalf of the proprietors of the late city annex of Rossmere, extended an invitation to the society to take charge of the ceremonies consequent on the erection of a monument and tablet to the memory of George Ross, on the spot where the house of that eminent man once stood. The proposal was accepted and a committee appointed by the President to carry out the scheme. Thomas Whitson also offered a series of resolutions to the effect that the members of the society use all their influence to secure an appropriation from the State Legislature to purchase and own the birthplace of Robert Fulton, the eminent citizen and inventor. It was also announced that the next meeting of the society would be held in the rooms of the Iris Club, on North Duke street, after which a collation would be served. A special session would also be held on the evening of that day, at which several addresses would be made.

That meeting was, accordingly, held on January 7th, 1897. It was very largely attended. An election for officers of the society was held, which resulted in the re-election of all the former officials, and of fifteen new members. A number of valuable donations were received from Dr. W. H. Egle. Mr. Meginnis, the Historian, and Vice President Evans presented the society, in behalf of the Trustees of Donegal Church, namely, Samuel Evans, Henry H. Wiley and Solomon Hoover, with a beautiful gavel and block, made of wood from the historic Donegal "Witness Tree" at Donegal Church.

Several lengthy papers were read and remarks made suitable to the occasion. Donegal Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution had been invited to be present and they were there in large numbers. The Secretary closes his minutes of this meeting in these words: "It may not be amiss to say the meeting was large, enthusiastic and thoroughly successful."

That meeting closed the first year of the re-organized and rejuvenated Lancaster County Historical Society. It will be noted that only six meetings were held during the year, May 8, June 5, September 4, October 4, November 6 and December 4, but as the constitution called for the annual election of officers in January, that was made the commencement of the new year.

Looking back over that first year, what was said and done, and the progress made, its success was remarkable. No fewer than seventy-seven members had been elected. At the earlier organization about thirty-six names appear in the minutes, but most of these became members of the reorganized society.

Seedtime Concluded.

Here, too, closes the "seed time" period of our history. We were all busy during that first year in sowing the historical seeds which have resulted in such satisfactory work later on. Things were not at that time as we have them now. In the first place, our membership was not one-third what it is

now. Members were not pressing forward with papers to be read, as they now are. In fact, one of the most exacting duties of the Secretary was to find some one who had a paper to read. He was expected to have some one on hand, but oft times it was a very difficult task. One time that he recalls, with meeting only two days away and nothing in sight. Standing at my office door, the late Dr. Hassler happened along. "What will we have on Friday night?" was his greeting. "Nothing in sight," was my reply. He paused a moment and then said, "Why don't you write one on ———, you are well up on the subject and could make an interesting paper out of it." I hesitated for a few moments and then replied I would attempt it. I worked at it late that night, all my leisure time during the next day, but four o'clock in the afternoon came along and the end was not yet in sight. I engaged the office typist to remain after office hours and help me through, and he did. For more than two hours I was making "copy" with all the speed of which I was capable while he copied my pages on the typewriter as fast as he got them. We won; I got no supper, but read my paper on time.

In those early days our revenues were scant, and we saved wherever we could. I think that for one entire year or more Mr. Sener put up the pamphlets in wrappers and I wrote the addresses on them. We carried them to the postoffice, sometimes he and sometimes I. Later we concluded the society could afford to pay for that labor and I got an office boy to "dix" the pamphlets, a plan that has been continued ever since. All this may seem trivial and unimportant, but it at least gives proof that the early members had the good of the society at heart and ready to render every reasonable service for her welfare.

I have dwelt at considerable length and with some minuteness on that early formative period of our history. In the first place, many of those who became members at that time are no longer with us, and because by far the greater number of our present members can have but little knowledge of what was said and done in those early days. From this time forward I shall deal as briefly as possible with the history of our society, because fully two-thirds of our members have joined during the past dozen years, and most of them, from their attendance here, are fairly well acquainted with what our organization has accomplished. I shall allude only to the more salient features and occurrences that fell in our way as we went marching down the procession of years.

Our Publications and the Ross Monument.

Volume I.—1896-97.

According to the announcement at the last meeting in December, 1896, the society began the new year by holding its January meeting in the rooms of the Iris Club. There was a morning session, a collation in the afternoon and a very successful evening session. No fewer than four papers were read. The June meeting was dispensed with, the time being given to the dedication of the Ross monument, which was very numerously attended and attracted wide attention. Congressman Brosius delivered a masterly address and Miss Blanch Nevin read a poem, written for the occasion, full of the fire and fervor of the days of 1776. This year Miss Mary Ross donated the society \$100.

The volume of Papers and Proceedings for 1896-97 contained ten pamphlets, 408 pages and twenty-one illustrations.

Volume II.—1897-98.

During the year 1898, eight regular meetings were held. Many papers were read and many donations received. The literary output for the year was

247 pages, with six illustrations. Officers of the last year were re-elected. Members, 112.

Volume III—1898.

The society still continued to meet in the rooms of the Iris Club. The officers of the last year were re-elected. The Secretary and Librarian were appointed editors of the proceedings and publications of the society. Number of pages 215, six illustrations and a dozen good papers.

Volume IV—1899.

Officers of the previous year re-elected. All the meetings of the year were held in the Y. M. C. A. Building. Many papers of value were read and printed. A donation was asked by the Witness Tree Chapter, D. A. R., to aid in erecting a monument at Donegal Church. One hundred and eighty-four pages of literature were printed. Frequently during the preceding and succeeding years the pamphlets were doubled up—in other words, one and two, five and six, and so on, were put in a single pamphlet to complete the usual ten. Lack of papers offered was the reason.

Volume V—1901.

The officers of the previous year were re-elected. The sum of \$15 was voted to the Y. M. C. A. for the use of the room occupied by the society, the Y. M. C. A. making no charge. One hundred and eighty-four pages was the literary output for the year. In 1901 the society was chartered by the county Court.

Volume VI—1901-02.

The annual election for officers resulted as follows: President, George Steinman; Vice Presidents, Dr. J. H. Dubbs and Samuel Evans; Secretary, F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt. D.; Treasurer, Dr. J. W. Houston; Librarian, S. M. Sener; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Martha B. Clark.

A committee on securing a badge for the society was appointed. The literary output was 149 pages, three illustrations. Donations of books large and valuable.

Volume VII—1902-03.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of the old officials. The donation in books and other valuable articles was announced by the Librarian to be large. The society had been meeting on Friday afternoons for a long time, but at the December meeting a change to evening meetings was made. During the year six pamphlets were issued, with ten illustrations and 209 pages.

Volume VIII—1904.

Officers of the previous year were re-elected. At the January meeting it was decided to call the next meeting for February, on the first Tuesday of the month, at 8 p. m. The March meeting was also called in the evening. An earnest plea was made by Dr. Dubbs at the October meeting for more papers, by members. A committee was appointed to see if quarters for the society could be secured in the A. Herr Smith Library Building. Eight pamphlets were given out, containing 275 pages and fifteen illustrations.

Volume IX—1905.

Old officers elected as usual. The scheme to compile a bibliography of Lancaster county imprints adopted. The society made a fall outing to Read-

ing and was very handsomely entertained by the Berks County Historical Society.

Volume X—1905-06—An Irregularity Corrected.

For a number of years there was an irregularity between what may be termed our fiscal and our literary year. The January meeting began our regular year. The officers were then elected and the annual dues made payable. But the literary year began in September, ran over into the next year, and closed in June. The title page of an early volume had two dates, such as 1899-1900, 1904-1905. In the last mentioned year the Secretary directed attention to this irregularity and suggested that the 1905 volume should be continued till the next January, and a new start from January to January be made. The suggestion was adopted and, thereafter, the literary and fiscal year were one, and much confusion prevented. The result was that volume nine contains twelve pamphlets. Thereafter the literary and fiscal years included the same period.

A communication was received from the Y. M. C. A. that the room occupied by the Historical Society would be needed in the fall.

Volume XI—1907.

The society held its annual outing at Accomac on the Susquehanna, on June 27. The society and members individually loaned about fifty articles to the Jamestown Exposition. A series of "Notes and Queries" begun. Annual volume contains ten pamphlets, eighteen illustrations and 425 pages. Attendance large. The first eleven volumes contain eighty-nine separate pamphlets, 146 illustrations and 3,082 pages.

At the meeting held on September 6, the resignation of the Secretary, F. R. Diffenderffer, who had continuously held that office since May 18, 1896, a period of eleven years and five months, was tendered to the society and reluctantly accepted. A vote of thanks was extended to the retiring official and A. K. Hostetter was chosen to fill the unexpired term.

Volume XII—1908.

At the June meeting F. R. Diffenderffer was elected to the First Vice Presidency to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Samuel Evans. The Secretary presented 285 volumes and many pamphlets once the property of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, now disbanded.

Volume XIII—1909.

On September 21 of this year the society erected a bronze tablet to the memory of Robert Fulton at the house in which he was born. A great concourse of people was present. It was a great success. Cost of tablet, \$220. Paid.

Volume XIV—1910.

This volume contains 341 pages, with nine illustrations and is composed of ten pamphlets.

Volume XV—1911.

This volume is almost wholly given to the Christiana riots and the slavery question, and is one of the most valuable compilations on that subject extant. There are no fewer than ten articles that deal with the slavery issue, covering every phase of the question in this State. The compilation as a whole is an excellent piece of historical work, gleaned almost wholly from participants and others who had full knowledge of the situation.

Volume XVI—1912.

This is a notable volume. The ceremonies attending the dedication of the General Hand memorial tablet are found in it and also the full details of the Loan Exhibition of Historical and Contemporary Portraits, held in the Woolworth Building from November 23 until December 13, an exhibition never equalled in this city and rarely excelled in the State.

Volume XVII—1913.

This volume consists of ten numbers, containing 322 pages and three illustrations. There were twenty-five new members during this year.

Volume XVIII—1914.

In this volume we find ten numbers, 276 pages and two illustrations.

Volume XIX—1915.

The contents of this volume number 349 pages, with two illustrations, including ten pamphlets.

Volume XX—1916.

This volume is still incomplete.

Summary of Contents By Volume.

	Pages	Pamphlets	Illustrations
Volume I—1897	408	10	21
Volume II—1897-98	247	8	6
Volume III—1898-99	215	8	6
Volume IV—1900	184	9	0
Volume V—1901	174	3	0
Volume VI—1901-02	149	5	3
Volume VII—1902	209	7	10
Volume VIII—1903-04	275	8	15
Volume IX—1904-05	390	12	37
Volume X—1906	434	11	25
Volume XI—1906-07	425	10	18
Volume XII—1908	358	10	1
Volume XIII—1909	287	10	16
Volume XIV—1910	341	10	9
Volume XV—1911	445	11	13
Volume XVI—1912	487	10	48
Volume XVII—1913	232	10	3
Volume XVIII—1914	276	10	2
Volume XIX—1915	352	10	11
Volume XX—1916	301	10	4
Totals	6,280	182	215

The above is a wonderful showing, inasmuch that the reading matter is nearly all from original sources, and most of it entirely new. So far as my observation has gone, no society in our State approaches our work in extent and originality.

Some Suggestions.

My self-allotted task is nearly done. I have tried to place before you a statement, both clear and fair, of what our society has done during its exist-

of twenty-one years. In one sense, further commentary seems unnecessary. There stand the bound volumes of Papers and Proceedings. Their contents best tell the tale I have tried to place before you. Self praise is often regarded with suspicion, and justly. I am pretty well acquainted with the work of the thirty odd County Historical Societies of the State, and I, without the least hesitation, assert that no similar society in Pennsylvania can, in the extent and excellence of its labors, compare with the work done by our society. I mean original work in local history. As I went over it all in the past few weeks, I am amazed at its extent, great variety and general excellence. It is undeniable that there are some weak spots. There has been too much duplication—repetition, much of it, because the writers did not know, or else ignored, the fact that the same ground had already been covered. The new committee on the examination of papers can, and I trust will, put an end to this trouble. Then, too, there are those who think the longer their papers are, the better they are. That is a grievous mistake. As a rule, the longer the paper is, the weaker it is. I admit to have been an offender in the past, in this respect, but not an intentional one. Even this paper seems to be getting away from me, but as I have not written one for some time past and expect never to write another, I ask your pardon. At the same time let no one be deterred from writing papers, if so inclined. We cannot all write papers, but should give all the aid we can to others. An historical society is, in some respects, not unlike a commercial firm or partnership. The good work of one member redounds to the credit of all the rest. If we do not all write papers, we can come here and, by our presence and approval, encourage those who do. In this way, every member does his share of the work and, unitedly, great results are accomplished. Lastly, we owe a debt to our ancestors which we should take pride to manifest in a modest way. Macaulay has somewhere said, "People who will take no pride in the noble achievements of their ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."

I hope I have said nothing to discourage anyone here from presenting his work to our society. I am sure there is still much latent ability in our membership. All persons cannot jump into the literary arena ready armed, like Minerva. No one knows what he can do until he tries. Don't be afraid of the "high brows," they are human beings like the rest of us. The fact is, no one knows what or how much he can do until he sits down and tries, but let him remember that when he shoots at the stars he must aim high. If you never start for Mt. Olympus, you may be pretty sure you will never get there—not even to the foot-hills—much less to the summit.

Our Library.

There is another matter to which I desire to call your attention, and I do so with no little satisfaction and pride. It is our library, which at first was non-existent, but to-day numbers more than 2,600 volumes. We come here, see them on the shelves, but give them little further thought. But don't suppose for a moment that they are not doing excellent work. From my official connection with the Free Library on the other side, I visit it very often and take pleasure in telling you that almost daily I find readers, copyists and investigators calling for books from this library. I see men from other States and places seated at the tables in the other library, reading and copying from the books in this library. Indeed, in the matter of local history, it is the best equipped collection of books in this city, and answers a most useful purpose. We think little of this silent work done by the library, yet it serves a most useful purpose for which we accord it too little credit.

Memorials and Tablets.

Let me direct your attention for a brief time to what our society has done along the line of inaugurating tablets and memorials to some of the famous men who have lived here and acquired world-wide fame. It is true we did not initiate the movement for a memorial to George Ross, our signer to the Declaration of Independence, but we were requested to take charge of the ceremonies, and a most notable affair it was. But we did erect the fine bronze tablet to the undying memory of Robert Fulton on the walls of the house in which he was born. Who among us can ever forget the erection of the splendid boulder on the spot where the first settlement by white men in this county was made at Pequea, or the monument at Christiana where the first real blow for negro emancipation was struck, or that other bronze memorial tablet to the immortal memory of Lancaster's gallant soldier, General Edward Hand, on Indian Rock, or lastly, the memorial boulder and tablet at the Postlethwaite House, where our first county Courts were held?

A Home.

During the present year a member has again directed your attention to the necessity of acquiring a home of our own. It was not a new tale. Let me quote from my annual report as Secretary, on January 5, 1906, ten years ago:

"Although I have in successive annual reports alluded to the necessity of securing more ample quarters for our meetings, and have failed to convince the majority of the members that such is the case, I feel it my duty once more to direct your attention to this matter. It is very true that in some respects these quarters are acceptable, (we were on the fourth floor of the Y. M. C. A. Building), but there are drawbacks. They are not ours exclusively. Every night in the week they are occupied by other persons. It is a matter known to you all that most of our meetings are disturbed by noises and other demonstrations that compel us to close our doors. Our collections are too exposed for safety. Above all, we have outgrown these quarters. You may not decide to move this year, as you decided on previous occasions, but in the very near future you will be compelled to move, whether you like it or not. We are growing. Expansion is the inevitable decree of the times. To refuse to conform to it, is to fall into the rear, to stand still, to stagnate and to die. We can no more escape that law than we can the snows of winter or the showers of summer. I suggest that the Executive Committee be instructed to look into the matter and make an early report." The committee reported some months later. President Steinman stated that an option on a \$10,000 property was offered. I remember that, at the announcement, fifty men's hands were thrust deep in their owner's pockets—after the required \$10,000, no doubt—but, as the sum needed never came to light, no doubt the same empty hands are still groping in the same pockets.

Now, after a lapse of ten years, during which our society has been pleasantly housed in the A. Herr Smith Memorial Library Building, the same question of a permanent home again confronts us. We will be compelled to leave these comfortable quarters before long. I know whereof I speak; these rooms will be required for the use of the Free Library. See to it in time. Let the hands go into the pockets once more, and let us hope with better results.

We have rich men among us; whether any of them are millionaires I do not know. But I do know they could help us out if they would. What will they do with their gold? They can't take it with them when they go. Even if they could, both they and the gold might be dumped into the melting pot before they could put in a protest.

More than once have members mooted the question of a home that shall be ours for all time. As often as the question comes up, every voice exclaims amen, then all go home and go to sleep. Allow me to say that such drowsy acquiescence will never build either home or hut so long as bricks cost \$10 a thousand and lumber is out of sight.

Our Wandering.

Would you like to know how many movings our society has had? Here is the story. It met for the first time, on November 16, 1886, in the hall of the Y. M. C. A., on South Queen street. Next several meetings were called at Mr. Hensel's offices, on North Duke street. On January 6, 1887, a meeting was held in the Orphans' Court room. On January 10, 1887, in the Eshleman Building. Again in Mr. Hensel's office on February 14, 1887, at which time a committee was named to hunt permanent quarters. The March, May and June meetings of 1887 were held in the Board of Trade rooms. Three more meetings were held at some unnamed place, and then the society, for the time being, went out of business.

The reorganization of the society took place at the residence of Mr. George Steinman, on May 6, 1896. Four meetings were next held in the Fulton Opera House, the first on June 5, 1896. On January 7, 1897, the society met in the rooms of the Iris Club, and continued to meet there until February 18, 1899, when it took up its quarters on the fourth story of the Y. M. C. A. Building, where it remained until September, 1906, when it moved into the A. Herr Smith Free Library Building, where it still remains. We have certainly been a moving organization, and the end is not yet in sight.

Odds and Ends.

In volume II, a department of "Notes and Queries" was commenced, but as only one or two members came to the aid of the Secretary it was continued only through five or six numbers.

In 1909 there were only 907 books in the library; in 1917 there are about 2,600.

In 1908, 285 volumes and many pamphlets were received from the Secretary of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, which had disbanded.

Volume XVI, in 1912, is the most notable volume the society has issued. In that year the portrait exhibition was held in the Woolworth Building, from November 23 to December 13. It attracted wide attention and has, perhaps, never been excelled in this State, save in Philadelphia.

In 1908 an index was prepared to the first twelve volumes of Papers and Proceedings, and 238 separate articles were enumerated, of which, perhaps, seventy-five per cent. were especially prepared for the society.

It was impossible to ascertain how many meetings have been held by the society, as the record since 1912 is incomplete. Probably nearly 200.

Our Bibliography.

To S. M. Sener is largely due the credit for originating the idea of a County Bibliography. Of course, we all helped, each as much as he could, and the result should make a wonderful showing—should make, I say, because it has not yet come out of the printer's hand after all these years. So far as I know, no other Historical Society in the Commonwealth has undertaken so difficult a task.

Officers of the Society.

At the re-organization, as already stated, the following officers were elected. They and their successors, down to the present, have been as follows: President, George Steinman, from 1896 to 1917; F. R. Diffenderffer, from 1917 until now. Vice Presidents, Samuel Evans, 1896 until April 22, 1908; Jos. H. Dubbs, 1896 until 1910; F. R. Diffenderffer, April 5, 1908 until January, 1917; W. U. Hensel, 1910 until 1915; Chas. I. Landis, March, 1915, until now; H. Frank Eshleman, 1917. Secretaries, F. R. Diffenderffer, from 1896 to June, 1907; A. K. Hostetter, September 6, 1907 to January 1, 1908. Corresponding Secretaries, W. W. Griest, from January 6, 1889 to Dec. 1887; Miss Marth B. Clark, from January 7, 1898, until now. Librarians, Samuel M. Sener, from May 8, 1896, until May 1, 1909; Chas. T. Steigerwalt, from October 7, 1909, to January 5, 1912. Assistant Librarians, Miss Lottie Bausman, from October 7, 1910, and Librarian from January 5, 1912, until January 1, 1917; H. L. Stehman, from February, 1917, until now. Treasurers, B. C. Atlee, Esq., from May 8 1896, until January 1, 1902; Dr. J. W. Houston, from January 1, 1902, until April 2, 1909; A. K. Hostetter, from May 7, 1909, until now.

At Rest.

Reluctantly and sorrowfully, I take up another page of our history that must here be alluded to. It is the record of those who have left our ranks for "the land o' the leal"—our departed fellow members. I have not had the courage to call the roll, but the number must be nearly a hundred, and yet I will be allowed to recall a few names because of their great prominence, the great interest they took in our cause, and their invaluable labors. First is that eminent local historian, Samuel Evans, the dean of our society, who knew more about our early history than any one then living. There was Dr. Dubbs, learned, able and ready, always on hand and equal to every occasion. There was Hensel, the very incarnation of energy and initiative, ready and able to put through any enterprise. The names of Hostetter, Sener, Zahm, Hassler, Eby, Brosius, the Houston brothers, Slaymaker, Steigerwalt and many more, all of whom were deeply interested in our work and all of whom were personal friends. All our honorary members are gone: Egle, Pennypacker, General De Peyster and Miss Mary Ross. Only four of the 1886 organization survive, Dr. Hark, R. M. Reilly, W. W. Griest and the writer. I am in no mood to pronounce eulogies on the departed.

"We leave their memories to the hearts that loved them."

But here, too, their names and work will not be neglected nor forgotten. So long as the divine hand of Clio guides the eloquent pen of history, their names will stand recorded in our annals.

Conclusion.

This address is already longer than it was intended to be, and yet I realize I have not done full justice to my subject. As it will be the last time I shall tax your patience to such an extent, I desire to express in this formal way, my deep appreciation of your favor in making me the President of this society. Nearly thirty-one years ago it was originally formed. Next month it will be twenty-one years that it was reorganized. During this long period I have been a member—an officer in it—a veritable "Pooh-Bah," you will say; yet I am proud of the record, proud that you have thus honored me as your President, and I here and now assure you with all the sincerity and vigor of language of which I am capable, that I would not exchange places to-night with the ruler of the German Empire.

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: Seed time and harvest / by F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt. D.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Lancaster County Historical Society (Pa.)--History--19th century.
Lancaster County Historical Society (Pa.)--History--20th century.

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