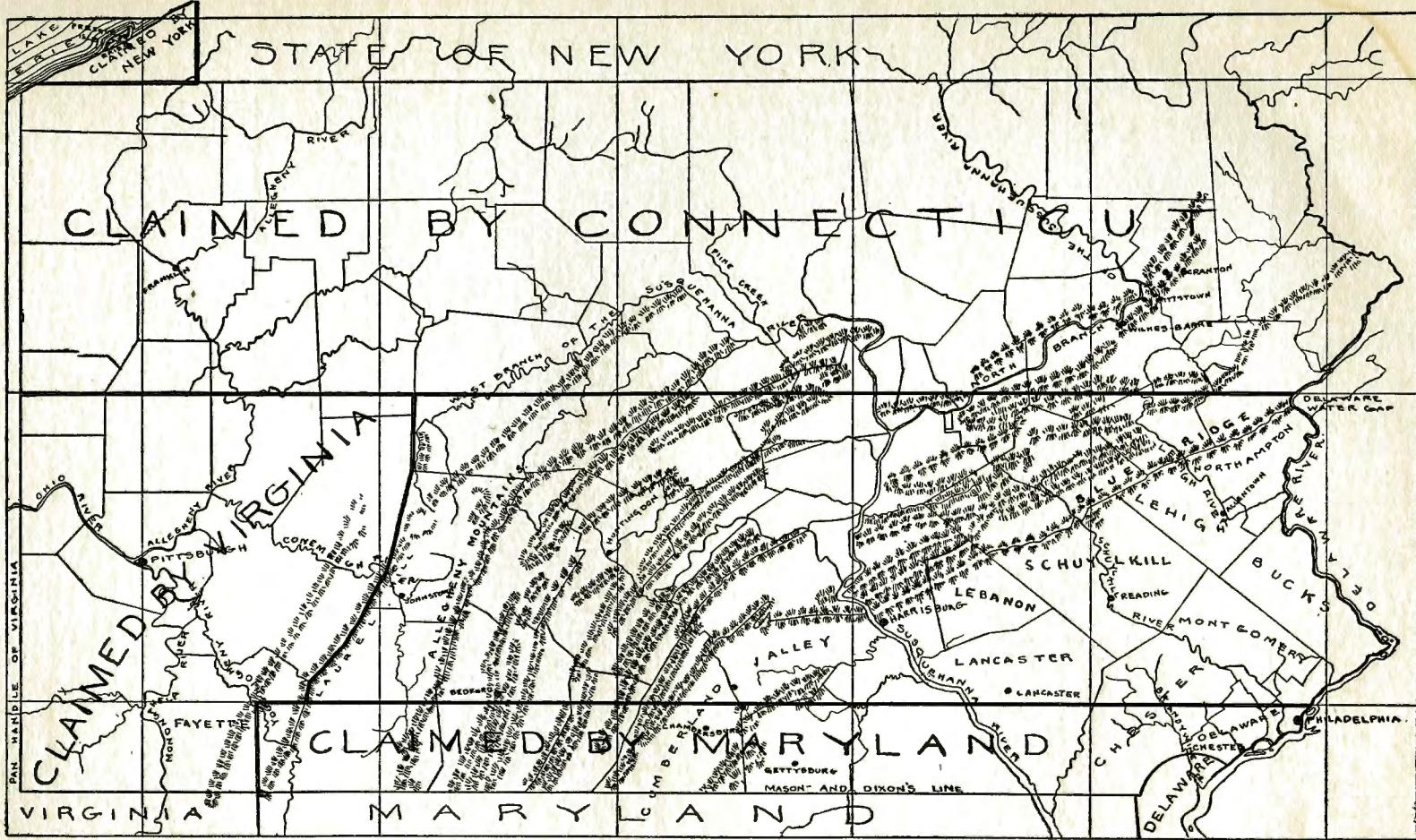


**Site and Relic Society  
of Germantown**

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**Historical Addresses**

[No. 3]



## MAP OF COLONIAL PENNSYLVANIA

# The Dramatic Features of Pennsylvania's History

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An Address

delivered

by

Hon. Hampton L. Carson

Attorney General of Pennsylvania

before

The Site and Relic Society  
of Germantown

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## The Dramatic Features of Pennsylvania History

M R. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I assure you that it gives me much personal pleasure to be called upon to address a Society animated by a patriotic and public-spirited purpose. I intend to talk in a simple and familiar way about matters which ought to be of interest to all citizens of this great State. When I received your invitation I was at a loss for a familiar theme, but about ten days ago, when asked to state, for public announcement, my exact subject, I recalled that I had, but the day before, performed a most interesting official duty—the supervision of the contract between the Capitol Commissioners and the famous artist, Edwin A. Abbey, whom we are proud to claim as a son of Pennsylvania, who had just completed the coronation portrait of King Edward VII—a contract which will require Mr. Abbey to devote the greater part of four years to the painting of pictures for the decoration and adornment of our new State Capitol. It occurred to me that I might put into words some of the subjects familiar to most students of Pennsylvania's history, which Mr. Abbey will probably select, assisted as he will be, by the suggestions of that able and most learned of Pennsylvania's scholars, Governor Pennypacker. Hence I have entitled my subject, "The Dramatic Features of Pennsylvania's History." Strange to say, we are too loath to take up seriously the study of the history of our own Commonwealth, yet we turn much of our attention to the history of other States and other parts of the world and pass over with indifference and with censurable inattention those events which make this a Commonwealth of which all can be justly and honestly proud.

I asked that a map of Pennsylvania should be hung up here so that I might indicate, in a general way, some of the features upon which it is my purpose to dwell. The State is very happily situated geographically; it is washed by the waters of the Delaware on the eastern side, terminating in a great bay below which gives it access to the ocean; it reaches on the northwestern corner to Lake Erie, and is provided with an outlet, so far as our western commerce is concerned, by the great rivers of the Allegheny and Monongahela, which united make the Ohio and give us communication with the Valley of the Mississippi; it is bisected in the north and centre by the branches of the Susquehanna and these uniting flow through the heart of the Commonwealth into the Chesapeake Bay. Nature provided waters which constituted for many years natural highways upon which military and commercial movements took place of the utmost significance to the State and to the Nation, and this accounts for much in our history.

Few of us realize what a hard struggle there was to maintain the territorial integrity of the Commonwealth, but before coming to that I must deal with introductory scenes, and the first picture which deserves to be thrown upon the historic canvas relates to the explorations instituted by the Dutch East India Trading Company in search of a northwest passage, and to the commission given to Henry Hudson to discover, if he could, a northwest passage to China. The Dutch had, in the latter part of the Sixteenth and the early part of the Seventeenth Century, entered into keen competition with the Portuguese and Spaniards, which at that time were the two leading exploring and colonizing nations of the world, and in their efforts to find a more direct and expeditious passage to China, the Dutch Company sent out this adventurous Englishman, Henry Hudson, whose life in itself is full of romance, in order to discover, if he could, some direct route by which the ocean voyage to the Orient might be considerably shortened. He entered the mouth of Delaware Bay in a little ship called "The Half Moon," and al-

though he did not penetrate very far on account of the sand bars, he afterwards entered the North River, as it was then called,—the Delaware, in contrast, being for many years called the South River—yet the fact that he had discovered a new and noble bay was borne in remembrance, and led other enterprising explorers—notably Captain Mey, whose name is now inseparably attached, though with a difference in the spelling, to the southern cape of our sister State of New Jersey. The interesting log kept by Hudson and published both in Amsterdam and London caused subsequent explorations to be made somewhat in the same direction, and led to the sad discovery that the last and closing scene in Henry Hudson's life was on the wintry and desolate shores of the great body of water always to be known by his name—Hudson's Bay. In a series of historical pictures, a front place should be given to some one of these incidents as a proper introduction to the history of Pennsylvania.

A later effort in the way of exploration, resulting in actual settlement, was undertaken by Queen Christina, successor to the throne of the great Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus, and her Chancellor Oxenstierna was the most enlightened statesman of his day. The settlements of the Swedes were confined to the lower part of Delaware, in the neighborhood of Lewes, then known by the picturesque name of the "Valley of the Swans," and New Castle and Christiana, now known as Wilmington. A colony was planted where the principles of civil and religious liberty were encouraged. A little later than this Dutch settlers established themselves on the eastern bank of the Delaware at Old Fort Nassau in the neighborhood of the present town of Gloucester below the city of Camden. For more than forty years the sovereignty was divided and a bloodless warfare ensued, the Dutch capturing Christiana from the Swedes, the Swedes recapturing it, the Dutch resuming possession, and still later Dutch and Swedish power came under English sovereignty under the Duke of York, whose vice-governor was then established at New Amsterdam, now known as the City of New York.

The second series of historical pictures would properly relate to the period of struggle between the Swedes, the Dutch and the English, resulting in the final and peaceful establishment of English rule upon both banks of the Delaware.

The third great series of pictures will properly relate to the coming of William Penn. I venture to suggest that Mr. Abbey might well place upon canvas a conference between William Penn, John Milton, Algernon Sidney and John Locke, engaged in the consideration of a proper frame of government for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I have nowhere seen the fact stated in print that such a conference took place, yet I have not the slightest doubt of its authenticity. It is well known that William Penn was a student at Oxford and there met John Locke. It is well known also that he often talked with John Milton, the author of the *Areopagitica*, or the essay upon unlicensed printing; that he discussed with Pym and Hampden; that he frequently exchanged views with Algernon Sidney, and the probability of the four men conferring together is enforced by the fact that, in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, there is deposited the original chart of the framework of Government for Penn's colony in the handwriting of William Penn, with interlineations in the handwriting of both Sidney and Locke, thus furnishing authentic documentary evidence quite as reliable as the original draft of the Declaration of Independence in the handwriting of Jefferson with interlineations in the handwriting of Franklin and John Adams.

I may remark in passing that although John Locke—one of the profoundest intellects of his day, the author of the work on civil liberty, and, in a certain sense, the master mind of his day—drafted a constitution for the colony of South Carolina, yet it proved a dismal failure, while Penn's draft of a constitution for Pennsylvania has proved to be an immortal success. Hence it is proper to class Penn among the builders and founders of empires, a man who may fitly rank with

those whom Lord Bacon called the "*conditores imperiorum.*" It is the fashion to talk of Bradford, of Winthrop, of Miles Standish, of Carver, of Roger Williams, of Stuyvesant, of Fenwick, of Ballynge, of Cecil Calvert, of Captain John Smith, of Sir Walter Raleigh and of James Oglethorpe, but we can fairly challenge the admirers of any of those founders of other States, whether in New England or in the South, to point to any chart or draft of government comparable to the government written by Penn—whether from the standpoint of political philosophy or of practical statesmanship.

The preparation of Penn for his grand work was certainly peculiar and complete. Besides being a student at Oxford and at Saumur, he had studied law at Lincolns Inn, and had made himself familiar with Magna Charta and the most famous statutes which constituted the basis of British liberty, as well as with the principles of the common law. The son of an admiral who had successfully contested with Van Tromp and De Reuter the supremacy of the seas, a soldier as well as a courtier, Penn was one of the most sagacious men of the age in which he lived, a learned scholar, speaking several languages and trained in the court as well as in assembly of the people, and was fitted to consider the various rights and claims of the different classes of society to freedom of conscience as well as freedom of action. Political literature contains no more concise definition of popular government than Penn expressed in a single sentence. "Any government is free to the people under it, whatever may be the frame, where the laws rule, and the people are a party to those laws, and more than this is tyranny, oligarchy or confusion." Again he said, "Governments, like clocks, go from the motion that men give to them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them are they ruined; wherefore, governments rather depend upon men than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government can not be bad, for if it be ill they will cure it; but if men be bad and government be good, they will warp and spoil it to their turn."

When Penn landed at Old Chester there was already a Swedish settlement on the banks of the Delaware in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Schuylkill. It was but a small portion of his vast province which came originally under his control, and to understand the history of what followed we must picture to our minds the character and topography of the province, which extended 315 miles from the banks of the Delaware in a westerly direction and 158 miles north and south. The southeastern portion of Pennsylvania embraces at the present time the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and a small portion of Northampton, as well as Philadelphia county—embracing, as you will observe by looking at the map, but a tiny fraction, perhaps not more than one-fifteenth of the entire domain of the State. It represents a rolling country, not very much above the sea level, watered by the great river Delaware and its main tributaries, the Lehigh and the Schuylkill, and in the lower portion traversed by the large streams known as the Brandywine and Christiana, both of them emptying into the Delaware. You will observe that to the north and the west of the territory thus described, the mountains of New York State spring from the base of the Adirondacks, and entering the State at the northeast corner, in the immediate neighborhood of the Delaware Water Gap, cut off by their ranges, running in a southwesterly direction, the whole of the portion of the State which was easily accessible to the early settlers under Penn. It is important to observe this, because much of the history of the State is due to the lack of topographical homogeneity, a feature existing at the present day, accounting in part for the difficulty of securing from all parts of the State that unity of spirit, of enterprise and of purpose which results frequently in divided councils and distracted energy. The range of mountains to which I have alluded is not a high one, to be sure, in comparison with other mountain ranges, but it constitutes the first decided physical break in the integrity of Pennsylvania's territory.

To guard the portion of the province in the possession of Penn and his settlers from the incursions of Indians, it was necessary to post at all the mountain gaps certain forts, and of these a long line extended from the Kittanning Mountains in the northeast to Fort Bradford in the neighborhood of the present town of Huntingdon, with the intervening forts at the forks of the Susquehanna along the line of the river in the neighborhood of Harrisburg, down the Cumberland Valley and into the State of Maryland. Thus were the western boundaries of Penn's settlement guarded at the gateways by structures which, while lacking the dignity of feudal castles in the ancient times, played a no less important part in securing to the Quaker and German inhabitants peace and quiet while developing the agricultural interests of the fertile valleys under their control.

The forts were afterwards extended up the valleys of the various branches of the Susquehanna north and west, and the great Valley of the Wyoming, afterwards the scene of the Indian Massacre, was as little known to the settlers upon the shores of the Delaware as Alaska was prior to its purchase from the Russians. Beyond the first range of the mountains which I have described, known as the Blue Ridge, and extending over one-third of the State, was a series of fertile valleys and table-lands, cut, it is true, by a series of hills and traversed by many rivers, but which constitute one of the fairest portions of the Commonwealth, and the most fertile region of the globe. Beyond these valleys we have the uplift of the Alleghenies, rising to a height of from 2,000 to 2,500 feet, and then we descend the western slopes by way of the Valley of the Conemaugh and reach the foothills of an average height of one thousand feet on the banks of the Allegheny and Monongahela.

A glance at the map will show you that the northern branch of the Susquehanna rises in the State of New York; that the Allegheny itself rises in the southwestern part of New York, and you see at once the natural highways which, at that time, were controlled by the French

and the Indians who were under French dominion, and you have but little difficulty in perceiving why it is that the French and Indian wars were so largely fought upon Pennsylvania's soil.

Turning now from the mere geographical or topographical view of the matter to what may be called the legal aspect of the question, as it was embraced within the limits of Penn's charter, we are now ready to consider the struggle for the territorial integrity of Pennsylvania, to which I alluded at the outset of this address. There was a famous controversy between Penn and Lord Baltimore, which Penn was obliged to take before the High Court of Chancery in England, a circumstance which accounts for his long absence from the province. The line now known as the Mason and Dixon line divides Maryland from Pennsylvania. Had the line been drawn as far north as Cecil Calvert contended, the city of Philadelphia would have been well within the boundary lines of the State of Maryland, and you can easily see, by looking at the map and projecting a line north of Philadelphia—starting, say in the neighborhood of Bristol and running out to the extreme western part of the State—how large a portion of the fertile counties of the southern tier we would have been obliged to part with; not Philadelphia alone, but Chester and historic Gettysburg, as well as Chambersburg, and the famous historic soil in Fayette county would have been irretrievably lost to us.

The second claim which Penn disputed was that of Virginia claiming that her land extended upon the west as far north as the top of the "Pan Handle" and so far east as to embrace what is now the city of Pittsburgh, with her sister-city of Allegheny. Had this claim prevailed we would have lost, beyond the hope of recovery, an outlet to the Mississippi and been robbed of the most productive manufacturing centre on the face of the earth.

The third claim which Penn was obliged to dispute was that put forward by the colony of Connecticut, and had Con-

necticut succeeded in maintaining her claim she would have taken the whole of that portion of the State immediately north of the forks of the Susquehanna, and the cities of Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Franklin and the rich oil-producing counties would have been lost to us. Had New York prevailed in her claim to the northwestern section of the State, where the City of Erie is now situated, and which constitutes a little projection known as the "smokestack," we would have been deprived of an outlet to the Great Lakes. Thus Pennsylvania would have been reduced to a narrow strip of land in which Harrisburg, Reading, Lancaster and Johnstown would have been the only important towns.

There can be nothing more dramatic, when considering what might have been the fate of this Commonwealth, viewed as a possible anticipation of the future, than the attitude of Penn standing really on the defensive, but forced by the aggressive action of his neighbors into the attitude of a plaintiff, in order to hold the territory awarded to him under his charter as a recognition of the admirable services which his father, Admiral Penn, had performed for the Commonwealth of England in the days of Cromwell. It is strange that Penn though a peaceful man in principle and practice was forced by circumstances to contend as a litigant in the High Court of Chancery for the recognition of his title, and it is but a slight stretch of metaphor to point to his well-known portrait in a suit of armor to fitly indicate one of the conspicuous features of his restless, and, in a certain sense, stormy career.

We talk of Penn's treaty with the Indians, and we are prone to imagine that because of the good faith with which that famous compact was kept on both sides—a compact of which Voltaire said that it was the only treaty in the history of the world never written and never broken—that the soil of Pennsylvania was free from Indian ravages. On the contrary, the soil of Pennsylvania was the scene of as many bloody strifes as any of the States of the Union; the scalping

knife and the torch were more familiar to the early settlers of Pennsylvania than to any of the southern colonies and but little exceeded by the experiences of the New England colonies. In truth, the critical battles of the French and Indian wars were fought on Pennsylvania's soil, and from what I said a few moments ago about the topography of the State you can perceive the reason. Superimpose upon this map of Pennsylvania a map of the United States: I call your attention to the fact that on the right hand upper corner appears the Gulf of St. Lawrence with the long stretch of the St. Lawrence River running in a northeasterly direction, connecting with the great chain of lakes beginning with Ontario and ending with Superior—Lake Erie located at the front of the territory on the northwest being one of the most important links. Following the lines of the St. Lawrence and the shores of the Lakes, a magnificent body of water extending for more than twelve hundred miles, we find the whole in the possession of the French, with forts extending from Quebec to Montreal and from Montreal to Detroit. These forts were not along the northern shores of the Great Lakes alone, but extended along the southern shores of Ontario and of Erie, and at Presque Isle, in the immediate neighborhood of the present City of Erie there was a fort. The French, with a talent for engineering quite remarkable, extended their line of forts down the Valley of the Allegheny River to the immediate site of the present city of Pittsburg, the fort being known as Fort Duquesne. Thus you will observe that Penn's territory on the north and west were in the hands of foes. The French, with their allies the Indians, were able to glide down the Valley of the Allegheny and throw their forces through the mountain passes upon the peaceful settlements made in the southwestern corner of the State, and many were the outrages perpetrated by excited Indians under the leadership of the great Indian Chief Pontiac. The contests were frightful and sanguinary when viewed from the standpoint of that day. But it was Colonel Bouquet at the battle of Bushy Run who wrested the western portion of the State from Indian depredations.

Observe now that you come to the consideration of a fact of supreme importance—the fact that two great nations, the English and the French, are facing each other on Pennsylvania's soil in the contest for supremacy upon this continent, the centre of the line of battle being on the western border. Turn again to the map of the United States and extending your vision from New England to Georgia you observe that the English line of settlement is confined almost to the sea coast—in point of fact it did not extend much farther into the wilderness than 200 miles; it ran from what is now the State of Maine to Georgia, but it was by no means a continuous line. Communication was cut up and broken by the natural and serious physical obstructions which bays and rivers and swamps interposed. New England had no easy communication with New York, because, although the Hudson River might, from one point of view, constitute an easy line of communication, yet the approaches to the descent from the New England side were broken by the Green Mountains. New England was not in easy communication with Pennsylvania, even if you consider that Long Island Sound and the Delaware River might, under modern circumstances, constitute accessible highways, for I am speaking of days when roads did not exist; when railways and steam-boats were unknown; when travel was by horseback, and attended by danger. Communication between Pennsylvania and Virginia was also difficult, because of numerous rivers and the broad arm of the Chesapeake Bay, and still further to the south communication was interrupted by that desolate tract of swamp known as the Dismal Swamp extending through so large a portion of North Carolina.

It is hard to over-estimate the difficulties under which the English grasp upon this continent was to be maintained. The colonies were separated from the Mother Country by three thousand miles of water on the east untraversed by steam, and upon the west a trackless wilderness of a thousand miles spread itself out, and that wilderness was under the control of the French, because gliding from the Great Lakes,

down the Valley of the Allegheny, thence down the Ohio to the Mississippi and down the Mississippi to the Gulf, you perceive a point of vantage in the possession of the French, and you cannot wonder at the dream of Louis XIV of making a vast empire upon this continent, opposed only by sturdy Anglo-Saxon ideas planted on a narrow strip of the sea coast, surrounded by savages and forests; but thank God Anglo-Saxon ideas prevailed, and on the plains of Abraham through the victory of Wolfe over Montcalm this continent was saved for the Anglo-Saxon race.

At the very time of the critical period of the French and Indian wars Benjamin Franklin, then a well-seasoned man of forty-three, was engaged at Albany with his plan for the union of the colonies in opposition to the French and Indians, and at the same time George Washington, a young Virginian, had three times penetrated our western wilderness, first as a mere lad of sixteen years of age as the agent of Lord Fairfax, next as the representative of Governor Dinwiddie to warn back the invading soldiers of France, and the third time as a Colonel of Virginia Militia under the command of Braddock; so that here again we see that on Pennsylvania's soil was being worked out the problem as to whether this continent should be English or French, and Washington showed, by his military conduct, that French and Indians could be better fought by American soldiery than by British Grenadiers; that American riflemen could be better relied upon in the hour of peril than regulars who had fought under Clive in India.

And so it was that the soil of Pennsylvania, owing to its geographical and intermediate position, became the real battle ground on which contending forces fought for mastery, a conflict terminating only by the death of Montcalm and the triumph of Wolfe, and then it was that there forever passed away the dangerous ascendancy of the French.

By this time Pennsylvania had assumed a position of sufficient strength and integrity to enable her to guard the rivers upon her western border, and there was finally placed

at Fort Pitt a structure of sufficient strength to hold in check all the movements which threatened our western boundary.

We now come to the period of the American Revolution, and we do not content ourselves with the question: Where were the most important battles of the Revolution fought? But where was the critical struggle and on what soil did it take place? It is no idle boast that it was upon the soil of Pennsylvania. It is true that the hostilities of the Revolution broke out first in the city of Boston and its vicinity, but the capture of Boston by the British after the Battle of Bunker Hill meant little or nothing in the way of a permanent British occupation, and when Washington taking possession of Dorchester Heights drove the British from Boston, the question was not settled, for Sir William Howe showed fight and captured the city of New York after the disastrous battle of Long Island. He had not been there very long, however, before he perceived that his occupation of New York was by no means of sufficient importance to enable him to suppress the so-called Rebellion. He was able to separate New England from Pennsylvania, but as long as Pennsylvania was able to resist by force of arms he could not subjugate Virginia, and to vanquish Pennsylvania he was obliged to strike at the very heart of the territory; and hence the critical struggle during the Revolution looked to the permanent possession of the Delaware. The first effort of Sir William Howe was to approach Philadelphia directly across the State of New Jersey, and here he was met by Washington with a display of tactical skill which has at no time been fully recognized. Washington, after the Battle of Long Island, was compelled to retire, but instead of falling back upon the hills and thus exposing the whole of the colonies to the south to British capture, he saw with military sagacity the importance of throwing himself on the line which separated Philadelphia from New York. His men were much demoralized by the defeat at Long Island, and in the retreat across the Jerseys, company after company dropped from the ranks, while Cornwallis led the pursuit, and, flushed

with victory, was pressing rapidly on. By a masterly movement Washington threw his forces to the west bank of the Delaware and halted. The British instead of proceeding to the south on the eastern shore wavered and became uncertain in their movements, and Washington reinforced by fifteen hundred troops from Pennsylvania was able to recross the Delaware, making his celebrated attack in December upon the Hessians, and then instead of continuing his retreat fought the Battle of Princeton, forcing the British back in the direction of New York, and then falling back upon the hills surrounding Morristown was able to shut up the British during the ensuing winter in the City of New York and baffled all their movements. Thus did the attempt on the part of the British to secure Philadelphia meet with complete frustration. Sir William Howe then decided to reach Philadelphia by way of the Chesapeake, a thought suggested to him it is said, upon creditable evidence, by Charles Lee, who had been made a prisoner by the British while he idled away his time and refused to come to the defense of Washington prior to the battle of Trenton. The British landed about the edge of the Elk River and approached Philadelphia; a battle seemed imminent at Pipe Clay Creek, but was subsequently fought at Brandywine. This action, while resulting in a defeat for Washington, did not prove a disaster, and although the British subsequently occupied Philadelphia, as the result of the movements in the great Chester Valley in the neighborhood of Paoli and Malvern and the crossing of the Schuylkill at Swedes Ford, yet Washington undaunted in spirit planned with uncommon skill the attack upon Germantown, and nothing but unforeseen circumstances and a too strict adherence to military rule prevented him from defeating Lord Howe. When Washington withdrew to Valley Forge he was able, during the whole of that winter of starvation and distress, to play the part of a sentinel of liberty upon the Holy Hills, and time and again his troopers harried the region round about, cutting off the British supplies and making the occupation of Philadelphia so difficult that it was

finally determined to withdraw from Philadelphia and march back across New Jersey to New York. Thus was Washington by his masterly tactics, by his watchfulness and sagacity, by his indomitable perseverance able to baffle the best laid plans of Howe and Cornwallis to maintain possession of the Delaware, and did time permit me I might go into that series of brilliant engagements which took place upon the shores of the Delaware at Fort Mifflin and at Red Bank, which make so much of history for our State as well as for New Jersey.

But not alone in the field of battle was Pennsylvania conspicuous. The chief events in the political, Congressional and Constitutional life of the infant nation were enacted upon our soil; it was at the State House in Philadelphia that the Declaration of Independence was framed; this was the city of the Continental Congress, and only during the brief period the British occupied it was that body absent from that Sacred Hall, and then, in the interim, the sessions of Congress were held at Lancaster and at York. Again, it was at the State House that the Constitution of the United States was framed, and Philadelphia for ten years was the national capital under the Constitution then recently adopted. Both of Washington's administrations and that of John Adams are associated with Philadelphia's history.

Passing from scenes of violence and of political struggles to the dreams of philosophers, we find the poets Lovelace, Shelley and Southey attempting to create a pantisocracy upon the shores of the Susquehanna, just as Harrington in days on the eve of the Commonwealth had dreamed of an Oceana; just as Sir Thomas More had dreamed of an Utopia and Lord Bacon of the New Atlantis. The friends of Shelley had sung to men of a spot where liberty could be realized amidst the charms of nature and turned their thoughts to the beautiful valleys and the wooded hills which surrounded the waters of our noblest river.

In the meantime a struggle of much interest and of no little importance took place in the northern part of our State.

I have spoken of the claim made by Connecticut overlapping the States of New York and New Jersey, and seeking to fasten itself upon some of the fairest portions of our Commonwealth. Penn had resisted, as far as possible, the Connecticut claim, but for thirty years actual warfare took place between Pennsylvania's settlers coming from points west and north of Sunbury and Yankees entering the Wyoming Valley from the Colony of Connecticut, and this struggle was entirely separate and apart from the struggle between Great Britain and the colonies—it was in the nature of interneceine strife. You all recall Thomas Campbell's beautiful poem of "Gertrude of Wyoming," where, with a strange ignorance of geography and ornithology, Campbell speaks of palmetto trees in the latitude of Pennsylvania, and of bright winged flamingoes illuminating the swamps. The Indian massacre which took place in the Wyoming Valley must not be confused with the struggles which took place during the Pennamite wars. No more interesting chapter in the history of the State is to be found than that recorded in Miner's History of Wyoming, and it is easy for any visitor to the City of Wilkes-Barre at the present day to find old men and old women who recall listening in their childhood to the tales of grandsires who had participated in the Pennamite wars. The trouble was finally settled by referring it to a committee appointed by the Continental Congress to adjust disputed boundary lines between contending States. There were several of these, notably between New York and New Hampshire, Vermont at that time not claiming separate sovereignty. There was also a struggle between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, but the Connecticut Claim, as it was called, excited more interest because of the persistent warfare which had actually been waged even during the dangerous times of the Revolution. The claim was heard by a committee sitting at Trenton, presided over by William Ellery, and the case was argued in behalf of Pennsylvania by no less a man than James Wilson, a Scotch lad who came in his early years to Pennsylvania, and who afterwards became conspicuous as

one of the most famous members of the Philadelphia Bar, selected by Washington as the law preceptor of his nephew, Bushrod Washington; a man whose name appears as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, to the Constitution of the United States, and who was afterwards appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States over the signature of Washington as President, and who was the first law professor in the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania. Wilson's argument defeated the Connecticut Claim.

Passing now from struggles for the integrity of our State—struggles against foes without and from foes within—Pennsylvania presents a greater variety and diversity of human activities than any other Commonwealth in the Union. We have in many parts purely agricultural interests; in others those of coal and iron; not long ago there were vast timber tracts and the lumber interests were of magnitude; we have oil fields and gas fields; in the Valley of the Lehigh we have slate and marble; in the neighborhood of Allentown deposits of cement, with a capital invested in that industry alone of more than \$50,000,000; great kaolin beds, and railway interests of vast importance, so that it is no exaggeration to say that within a small compass the State presents a battle ground for contending industrial forces. Again, it a matter of surprise to those outside of our borders that Pennsylvanians do not appear to be governed by unanimity of sentiment. Massachusetts men are largely united, Virginians are united, and Ohio men are united. The explanation, as has already been indicated, is that owing to the topography of the State many portions of the Commonwealth are not in close contact with each other. Take, for instance, the City of Erie, it is in close contact with Buffalo on the east and Cleveland on the west, in closer contact with both of these than with Philadelphia or with Pittsburg; the reason being that it is easy to glide along the level shores of Lake Erie in either direction, while it is difficult to climb to the height of a thousand feet in order to overcome the

elevation which cuts off the northwestern portion of the State from that lying to the south and southeast. Besides this, Pennsylvania was not settled by people of one blood or of one religion. New England was settled by people of one blood, and whether they called themselves Pilgrims or Puritans, they were practically of one creed and of one church, and these circumstances account largely for the superb spirit of self-reliance so characteristic of all New England. I am often astonished at the audacity of New England, for she has gone great lengths in adopting and claiming as her own things done by Pennsylvania, the most notable incident being the Massachusetts appropriation of the resolutions known as the "Tea Tax Resolutions." The resolutions are frequently quoted and talked about, but no word is ever spoken of the preamble. The fact is that thirty days before the adoption of the resolutions relating to tea in Boston, the citizens of Philadelphia had forbade the landing of tea in Philadelphia, and had passed a series of resolutions, copies of which were distributed and sent north and south, and the preamble which the New Englanders overlook is couched in these words: "*Whereas*, the sense of the town of Boston can not be better expressed than in the following worthy and judicious resolves of our fellow-countrymen of Philadelphia; *Therefore Be It Resolved*," and then they adopted our resolutions word for word, line for line, and punctuation mark for punctuation mark without any other ascription of their authorship. The spirit of New England is best exemplified by a characteristic resolution adopted in their early days, when men finding that they had to clear the land, cut down trees and build houses, and were without leisure for a meeting of the Legislature or a town meeting, came together in an open glade and passed this characteristic resolution: "*Resolved*, That we will be governed by the laws of God until we have time to make something better." I do not know anything which better illustrates the spirit of New England or her history.

I must not be understood, however, as desiring in the slightest sense to underrate anything that New England has

accomplished. At critical times New England has stood shoulder to shoulder with Pennsylvania, and I cannot forget that when, in the hour of deadly peril to the nation, the great effort of the Confederacy was made upon the field of Gettysburg in Pickett's charge, rising like a billow with a crimson crest and dashing itself against the rock-ribbed Cemetery Ridge, that while it was a Pennsylvanian who commanded the Army of the Potomac in that hour of dread, and while it was a Pennsylvanian who commanded on the Ridge, and while it was a Philadelphia brigade which stood in the Bloody Angle; yet Massachusetts stood by Pennsylvania upon the right, so that it may be safely said that, ignoring local distinctions and rising simply to the supreme thought of the Nation's danger, New England and Pennsylvania have been at one in maintaining the cause of the integrity of the Nation and the supremacy of the law.

Pennsylvania has been the home of many of the most renowned exiles from foreign lands. Priestly was one of the most philosophical men of his day and he made his home in the Valley of the Susquehanna. The exiles from Ireland fleeing from British tyranny found a home in our midst, and many of Napoleon's defeated officers at Waterloo, not forgetting the great Moreau who came earlier—a little earlier—became settlers in our midst. In works of science and invention Pennsylvania has always been pre-eminent. Acquaintance with the work accomplished by the American Philosophical Society sufficiently indicates what has been done by citizens of our Commonwealth in subduing Nature and in emancipating the human mind. It is here, too, that the first printing establishment was set up in all the colonies; it was here that the Bible was first printed in German and in English; it was here that the first copy of the Magna Charta and of Blackstone's Commentaries appeared; it was here that the transit of Venus was first observed by an astronomer in any part of the world; it was here that Bartram, the foremost of American botanists, lived; it was here that the first life in-

surance company was established; it was here that the first manufactory of printers' type was founded; it was here that the first charter was granted for an Academy of the Fine Arts; it was here that the first fire insurance company was established; it was here that the first experiments in the way of navigating waters by steamboats were attempted; it was here that the first expedition was fitted out for Arctic exploration, and it was here that the Sextant and the Oxy-hydrogen blow pipe were invented. Our great men have walked upon the high places of the earth. Their daring penetrated to the remotest bounds of science and their activities cultivated every field of energy. We should study the history of our State, not in a spirit of boastfulness, but with the earnest desire to sustain the truth that Penn's great Commonwealth has, at all times, been worthy of her founder; and if our sons and daughters will only properly appreciate the accomplishments of their sires and yield themselves willingly to the realization of the hopes, aspirations and the ambition of the founder, they will leave to their children and to their children's children a State whose name will always sparkle with inextinguishable glory in the Commonwealth of Nations and in the galaxy of Republics.



THE SITE AND RELIC SOCIETY, in presenting to you its latest publication, takes pleasure in calling to your attention the Museum at Vernon, which is rapidly assuming permanent form and becoming a matter of widespread importance and interest. Since moving to Vernon the collection has been largely increased, and the Society recently acquired by purchase, the cases used by the Historical Commission at the Jamestown Exposition. These cases will enable the Relic Committee to safely and advantageously display many valuable heirlooms and historical curios which heretofore could not be exhibited.

A most interesting series of meetings have been arranged by the Committee on Historical Research. The first of these meetings will be held Friday evening, March 6th, at 8 o'clock, in the Museum, at which time Ellis P. Oberholtzer, Ph. D., the distinguished biographer of Jay Cooke, and the author of the "Literary History of Philadelphia," will read a paper, entitled "Along the Literary Trail of Germantown."

While heretofore it has been the custom of the Society to invite the public to its meetings, it is now the thought of the Directors to invite members only. This decision suggests that in Germantown there are many persons not now members of the Society, in sympathy with its objects and interested in its work who would gladly join its membership. The attached slip affords an opportunity to each member of the Society to propose the name of some such friend, and every member is requested, by the Directors, to secure, if possible, one new member within the next thirty days. Such increased membership would have an important bearing upon the future of the Society, which, in October of this year, should arrange some sort of a celebration in honor of the 225th anniversary of the founding of Germantown.

WILLIAM E. CHAPMAN,  
*Secretary.*

WILLIAM E. CHAPMAN, *Secretary,*

Site and Relic Society of Germantown.

I desire to propose as a Member of the  
**SITE AND RELIC SOCIETY OF GERMANTOWN**

Name .....

Address .....

(The annual dues are \$2.00 per annum.)