

**FIRST REPORT OF THE
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION OF
PENNSYLVANIA**

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First Report of the Historical Commission of Pennsylvania by Various

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VARIOUS

**FIRST REPORT OF THE
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION OF
PENNSYLVANIA**

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OF
THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
OF PENNSYLVANIA

CREATED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND
APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

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THE COMMISSION AND TRUSTEES.

WILLIAM C. SPROUL, Chairman, Chester, Pennsylvania.
GEORGE P. DONEHO, Secretary, Coudersport, Pennsylvania.
WILLIAM H. STEVENSON, Treasurer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
W. U. HENSEL, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
HAMPTON L. CARSON, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

THOMAS L. MONTGOMERY, Curator, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

TRUSTEES, EX OFFICIO.

HON. JOHN K. TENER, Governor of Pennsylvania.
HON. A. W. POWELL, Auditor General of Pennsylvania.
HON. ROBERT K. YOUNG, State Treasurer of Pennsylvania.

REPORT.

TO THE GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Sir:—We have the honor to submit herewith the Report of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

Respectfully,
WM. C. SPROUL, *Chairman*,
GEORGE P. DONEHOO, *Secretary*.

By direction of the Commission.

TO THE GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission, appointed pursuant to the Act of Assembly, approved July 25, 1913 (No. 777), entitled, "An Act providing for the establishment of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission; defining its powers and duties; and making an appropriation for its work."

Respectfully Reports:

The Act of the Legislature under which we were appointed, and defining our duties, is as follows:

AN ACT

Providing for the establishment of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission; defining its powers and duties; and making an appropriation for its work.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That within sixty days after the passage of this act the Governor shall appoint five citizens of this Commonwealth who shall constitute the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, which commission shall be a body corporate under its title aforesaid, and shall be charged with the duty of marking and preserving the antiquities and historical landmarks of Pennsylvania.

Section 2. Two of the members of said commission shall be appointed for two years, and three members for four years, and each thereafter shall be appointed for a term of four years. They shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual expenses while engaged upon the business of the commission.

Section 3. The commission shall organize immediately

after its appointment, by the election of one of its members as chairman, another as secretary, and another as treasurer; and it may adopt such rules of organization and procedure as it may deem necessary, and determine the terms and duties of its officers and employes. The commission may, when necessity demands it, appoint a clerk, who shall be a stenographer, at a salary not to exceed one thousand dollars per annum, and a curator at a salary not to exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum.

Section 4. The Pennsylvania Historical Commission may, upon its own initiative or upon the petition of municipalities or historical societies, mark by proper monuments, tablets, or markers, places or buildings, within this Commonwealth, where historical events have transpired, and may arrange for the care and maintenance of such markers or monuments. It may also undertake, within the means at its command, the preservation or restoration of ancient or historic public buildings, military works, or monuments connected with the history of Pennsylvania; and to this end it may contract with cities, boroughs, and townships, for and on behalf of the Commonwealth, or with historical societies or other associations, with proper bond or security, for the maintenance of such buildings, works, and monuments as a consideration for assistance in their erection, restoration, preservation, or marking by said commission.

Section 5. The Pennsylvania Historical Commission may receive, for and on behalf of the Commonwealth, gifts or bequests of relics or other articles of historical interest, which shall be deposited by it in the State Museum; and the said commission may accept for the Commonwealth gifts and bequests of money or securities for the endowment of its work, in accordance with the instructions of the donors; and it shall, in conjunction with the Governor, Auditor General, and State Treasurer, who shall together with the members of the said commission constitute a body of trustees for the care of such funds, invest the same in the bonds of this Commonwealth or of any political division thereof, the interest and income from which may be used by said commission for its purposes under this act, or applied to such uses in line therewith as may be specified by the respective donors of any of said funds.

Section 6. A suitable room in the Capitol or in the State Library Building shall be provided for the said commission by the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, in which the office of the commission shall be kept.

Section 7. The sum of forty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, for the two fiscal years

beginning June first, one thousand nine hundred thirteen; and this and all subsequent appropriations shall be paid by the State Treasurer, upon the warrant of the Auditor General, upon the presentation by the commission of proper vouchers signed by its chairman and attested by its secretary.

APPROVED—The 25th day of July, A. D. 1913, in the sum of \$10,000. I withhold my approval from the remainder of said appropriation because of insufficient State revenue.

JOHN K. TENER.

Although this Act was approved July 25, 1913, no appointments were made under it until November 26, 1913, when Governor John K. Tener appointed and commissioned the following persons, to serve until the end of the next session of the Senate, without designating the term of the respective appointees:

William C. Sproul, Chester.
Hampton L. Carson, Philadelphia.
William H. Stevenson, Pittsburgh.
George P. Donehoo, Coudersport.
W. U. Hensel, Lancaster.

ORGANIZATION.

All the members of the Commission met at the house of the Union League, in Philadelphia, on March 21, 1914, and elected the following officers:

William C. Sproul, Chairman.
George P. Donehoo, Secretary.
William H. Stevenson, Treasurer.

The Commission elected Thomas L. Montgomery, State Librarian, Curator of the Commission. It agreed for the present not to elect a permanent clerk, but to employ and fairly compensate such clerical and typographic help as might be required from time to time. With this assistance furnished, Mr. Montgomery, Curator elect, volunteered to give his services without salary. His advice, suggestion, knowledge of the bibliography of the State and general helpfulness have been of great value to the Commission, and of inestimable service to its work.

These appointments were confirmed by the Senate on February 9, 1915.

Recognizing in the generous appropriation of the bill as passed,

the legislative and popular interest in the general purpose of the Commission, and at the same time realizing the limitations upon its work, owing to the enforced reduction of the appropriation to one-fourth the original amount, the Commission unanimously concluded that its preliminary work must be largely one of inquiry, report and recommendation; and the stimulation of local effort toward the preservation of historic landmarks and their significance.

SURVEY.

To this end it was resolved that:

1. A survey should be made and published of the historic monuments erected in whole or in part under State appropriation; but, profiting by past experience, it would recommend that such future grants should be duly proportioned and measured by some standard of uniformity.

2. A like survey should be made and published of such memorials as had been erected by private benefaction, local societies and individual contributions, so that other important sites should be thus marked; and other local associations and interests should be inspired to similar efforts; and at the same time examples might be furnished of co-operation between the Commission and local efforts in like work.

3. Personal visitation should be made by the Commission to such sections of the State as had been active in like movements, to ascertain and make report of the conditions under which monuments, tablets, markers, etc., had been placed and are maintained so as to furnish popular information as to their design, cost, supervision, etc.

4. Communication to be established with active local historical societies, with a view of enlisting their interest and enthusiasm in comprehensive scheme of projecting and making familiar the too-long neglected historic importance of this great Commonwealth.

In accordance with these views of its powers and duties, and regarding the best methods of exercising its official functions, the Commission since its organization has held meetings at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Sunbury, Greensburg, and an early meeting will be held in Chester.

In addition to these regular business meetings, the Commission sent George P. Donehoo to represent the Commission at a meeting at Sunbury, for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of a monument in honor of Shikellamy, the Iroquois vice-

gerent; Thomas L. Montgomery and George P. Doneboe to the services at Enoch Brown Park, near Greencastle, and the same representatives to the dedication of the monument at the site of Fort McCord, near Chambersburg.

At all of these meetings the members of the Commission present visited historic sites in the respective regions, and made addresses at the public services which were held.

PITTSBURGH.

In the course of the visitation to Pittsburgh, May 8, 1914, the Commission attended and was entertained at an elaborate banquet of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, where the purpose of the Commission was expounded. The home of this Society was visited and its plan of permanent building, repository, etc., is commended to the Historical Societies of other sections. Among the historical sites visited by the Commission in Pittsburgh were the Bouquet Block House, sites of Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt, Shannopin's Town, Fort Fayette, the "Forks" and other places associated with the history of the French and Indian war, the Whiskey Insurrection and the War of the Revolution.

LANCASTER.

In Lancaster, June 13 and 14, 1914, the Commission met the officers and Executive Committee of the County Historical Society. It was furnished with a series of object lessons of what had been done, and could be effectively done, by purely local, voluntary effort. From this point of view a valuable suggestion was furnished to such communities as have a wealth of historic associations, an active local society and generous patrons. The Commission was shown an imposing and suitably inscribed tablet, fastened on a great rock front near "Rockford," the home of General Edward Hand—Lancaster's most distinguished Revolutionary soldier—commemorating the County's part in the War for Independence; a huge native limestone boulder, with bronze tablet, on the site of the original Swiss-Mennonite settlement more than two hundred years ago; tablets erected on the house wherein Robert Fulton was born; a granite pillar in Christiansa, in commemoration of the famous anti-slavery riot of 1851, and the first blood shed in resistance to the Fugitive Slave Law and the result.