Committee of Management

The Library's Committee of Management met on May 6 to hear reports of acquisitions, financial condition, and to decide on future plans. The Library is joining hands with the Rhode Island Historical Society in sponsoring publication of Gen. Nathanael Greene's letters in several volumes, if the anticipated financial support materializes. Plans for observing the fiftieth anniversary of the Library in 1979 were shaped by endorsing certain activities and rejecting others.

Approval was given to a project for the coming Bicentennial of the American Revolution. It is detailed below.

A meeting at this time of the Board of Governors of the Associates turned out to be impossible and has been postponed.

Participation in the Revolution

The Library has announced that it is collecting statistical information on the total number of men who served either in the Continental Army or in the state militias, and the number of fatalities suffered in battles and camps during the American Revolution.

It may seem astonishing, but we do not yet know how many Americans bore arms in that war or how many lost their lives. All we have are estimates, widely varying, and they deal with enlistments, not persons. Some men enlisted several times, we know. Deaths are even more uncertain.

The figures wanted are to be found in state archives, state historical societies, the National Archives, historical libraries, and in manuscripts of private collectors. The Clements Library has appealed to the Revolutionary Bicentennial Commissions of the original states and is pursuing plans for scholarships to special investigators.

The study is regarded as a first step in collecting, analyzing, and publishing comprehensive data on the American Revolution. If computers must be used, there is considerable experience with them here at the University to draw on.

The Library contains notable source materials on the Revolutionary War, including the adjutant general's record from 1778 to 1783 on the army under Gen. Washington. Three Professors in the history department are cooperating actively with the Library in setting up the research project. Funds are being sought for work in specific areas.

Comstock Letters

The Library is grateful to Mrs. J. M. Huffman of California for the gift of some early family papers which include correspondence of Elizabeth Comstock, a noted Quaker minister and reformer. She was born in England in 1815 and was married there in 1847 to Leslie Wright. By him she had one daughter before he died two years later. Mother and child then migrated to Canada in 1854, where she began her public ministry. Four years later she married John T. Comstock and they settled in southern Michigan.

Mrs. Comstock began to assist fugitive slaves, support temperance and prison reform, and speak up for women's rights. She traveled extensively to work among jail prisoners. She visited hospitals during the Civil War and tried to alleviate the suffering of freed Negroes. When a great number of them moved to Kansas in 1879, Mrs. Comstock went along to look after them and help their settlement, acting officially for the governor. Finally in 1885 she settled in New York and died in 1891. Her service is recognized by her inclusion in the Dictionary of American Biography.

What we have are more than 150 items—letters from her, letters to her, printed broadsides about her work and appeals in Kansas, and other
documents. They had been preserved by her grandson, Albert De Greene of Addison, Mich.

**The Eastburn Captivity**

ROBERT EASTBURN WAS a Philadelphia smithy who found himself on the road to the fort at Oswego, N. Y., in March 1756 when the military party he was accompanying was attacked by French-allied Indians. Eastburn managed to kill one and wound another before he was taken prisoner and carried off to Lake Ontario. A pious man, he felt that God permitted his capture and would save him if He so designed.

Eastburn was carried down the St. Lawrence to a Caughnawaga village near Montreal and adopted. Then he was allowed to work in Montreal. One day some more English prisoners were brought in, and Eastburn discovered his own son, about 17, among them. They managed to get together, and the Canadian governor allowed them to go to Quebec to ply their trade and support themselves. In July 1757 Eastburn made his escape before his Indian family seized him again, and was put aboard an exchange ship going to Boston. He made his way back to Philadelphia to rejoin his wife and said nothing further about his son. Feeling that he was under divine protection, Eastburn published his story early in 1758, with a foreword by his pastor, the famous Gilbert Tennent.

The book is reputed to be one of the scarcest of captivities. It was reprinted three times. We were especially glad to get hold of the copy that had belonged to the James Logan family of Philadelphia, probably since the date of publication.

**The Millenial Harbinger**

AN IMMIGRANT PRESBYTERIAN, Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) moved into western Virginia and the Baptist fold. Still dissatisfied he was one of the founders of the Disciples of Christ Church. He spoke widely and wrote industriously in forwarding his denominational beliefs. Once he engaged in public debates with Robert Owen, the well known English Utopian who espoused religious skepticism. He issued a hymn book, a translation of the Bible, and various sectarian pieces. So great was his mail that a post office, of which he became postmaster, had to be established in his small town of Bethany, now in West Virginia. In 1840 he established Bethany College there.

His magazine publishing began in 1823. By 1830 his interest had shifted to the second coming of Christ and the Millenium, and a new journal, The Millenial Harbinger, replaced the old one. In his “Prospectus” he listed twelve subjects he intended to cover, including “disquisitions upon the treatment of African slaves, as preparatory to their emancipation.” We have just acquired the first 30 volumes of this monthly journal, 1830–60. In this kind of source material researchers seek the social thought of the time as well as the religious practices.

Our set is in excellent condition, as the owner had sought out missing issues and “extras” before binding them year by year. Close collating on our part has brought to light only a few missing pages and two lacking numbers. Campbell’s magazine ranks with similar periodicals issued by older denominations in this country.
Keeping It in the Family

When The British Conquered Canada from France in 1760 they were uncertain exactly what they had won. So General Murray was commissioned to map the wilderness and make a census, which took him two years to accomplish. The result is a magnificent manuscript atlas which survives in five copies, one of which came to the Clements Library in 1955.

General Murray appointed Captain Samuel Holland to direct the survey. Although Holland had difficulty organizing his colleagues, he made a favorable impression on the French Canadian families in Quebec because of his fluent command of the language. He made a special hit with Marie Josephite Rolette (dit Maure), a woman of remarkable beauty and the youngest daughter of François Rolette and Thérèse Grenet. However, the father was adamant in refusing to permit his daughter to marry one of Wolfe's officers, and the couple found it necessary to elope. Holland was later appointed Surveyor General of Lower Canada, and held the office until his death in 1801. Apparently the French in-laws must have forgiven Holland because Joseph Bouchette, grandson of the father of Thérèse Grenet, came to help his uncle in surveying the Eastern Townships of Quebec, in the 1790's. When Holland died, guess who should take over as Surveyor General? Holland and Bouchette occupied the office for a total of 74 years.

Nepotism is not necessarily decadent. Bouchette was talented and left a notable legacy of maps and plans to distinguish his years of service. Most significant was his 4 ft. x 10 ft. map of Lower Canada, dedicated to the Prince of Wales (the future George IV) and published in ten sections by Faden in 1815. The Clements Library recently acquired an original printing of this monumental map to complement the Murray atlas. With this addition, our collection of Canadian maps has taken on a larger dimension. It joins, for instance, another map of Lower Canada done by Holland in 1803.

You might also like to know that the Holland-Bouchette tradition did not expire when Bouchette died in 1841. Bouchette's son, Joseph Bouchette, Jr., succeeded his father and held the office until his retirement in 1878 at the age of 80. For one family to control the mapping of a large country for 120 years is a rather unprecedented accomplishment.

Card Catalogue in Book Form

The Library is proud to have in print its card catalogue of books. The G. K. Hall Co. of Boston has reproduced our 100,000 cards, 21 to a page, in seven large volumes. The first five show author and title cards for all our books published from 1493 to 1860, while the last two volumes show them in chronological arrangement. As other libraries buy this specialized Americana catalogue, scholars all over the country will have a quick way of learning exactly what source books we possess.

Although it is too early for us to feel the effect of this publication, one great benefit has immediately been reaped. We have insurance against any damage to our card catalogue by fire, water, or vandalism. The advertising value of the publication is obvious, and we believe we have performed an unusual service to the scholarly world. We will also receive some royalty from the sales of the sets. It is not a product to be hawked on street corners, but we hope a couple of libraries in every state will find it advisable to purchase this catalogue for reference use.

The Redoubtable James Smith

One of the Undoubted gems of early Americana is An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Col. James Smith Written by Himself (Lexington 1799). First of all, it is an early Kentucky imprint, being preceded by about a hundred Baptist tracts, almanacs, and official state publications.

Secondly, it is scarce. Less than a dozen copies have survived as far as we know. All but one, at this writing, are in libraries.

Thirdly, the text is important. Smith was eighteen in 1755 when he was employed on cutting a road from Bedford, Pa., southwestward to Gen. Braddock's line of march against Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh). Captured by Indians, he was taken to the French fort and gives us the only picture we have of French jubilation at the destruction of Braddock's army and of Indian torture of their British prisoners. Then he was taken into Ohio by his captors and adopted at an Indian village. He visited Detroit three times during the French and Indian War and did not escape from his captors until 1760. Subsequently he was active in Pennsylvania against those traders who tried to sell ammunition and weapons to the western Indians that were so recently in arms against the English. During the Revolution
he was an officer in the Pennsylvania militia and a member of the state Assembly. After the war he migrated to Kentucky, explored Tennessee, represented his district in the Assembly, wrote a manual on how to fight the Indians in 1812 and died later that year, full of honors and vivid memories. Altogether it is an extraordinary Indian captivity narrative and frontier account.

The book, when available, has eluded us, but we are happy to report that we have acquired a copy at an advantageous price.

**Lewis Cass**

**After Roscoe O. Bonisteel's** generous gift of his Lewis Cass material more than a year ago, we hardly expected to make many additions to it. Indeed, we have been able to buy only one Cass letter this year, but John W. McEachren of Grosse Pointe Farms came through with a gift of three Cass letters and a Cass check. Little by little we expand.

That is the story of several other acquisitions in manuscripts this year, to which we’ve added.

**A Weighty Subject**

The Salem Gazette of Friday, September 15, 1820, reports the discovery of a memorandum found in the journal of a deceased officer of the Massachusetts line. It was dated August 19, 1783 and captioned, “Weighed at the Scales at West Point,” and followed by a list of names:

- General Washington .......... 209 lbs.
- General (Ben) Lincoln .......... 224 lbs.
- General Knox .......... 280 lbs.
- General Huntington .......... 132 lbs.
- General Greaton .......... 166 lbs.
- Colonel Swift .......... 219 lbs.

Since the information was published some 37 years after the weigh-in, it seems a bit late for a newspaper to report it. But the Salem Gazette rationalizes it this way:

Those who read their biography would be gratified to know the cubic inches and exact dimensions of the clay tenements occupied by such martial spirits.

Furthermore, there is a lesson to be learned in such a corpulent subject. While the article calls attention to the unknown tonnage of General Bonaparte or his English opponent, the Duke of Wellington, it speculates:

The average weight of these eleven distinguished Revolutionary officers is 214 lbs., and exceeds we think that of an equal number of any other nation.

The next time you see an ad for yogurt, remember that it’s an American tradition to outweigh the enemy.

**Still They Come**

We are happy to report four more Clements Library Fellows who have joined since the printing of the last Quarto. They are:

- Miss M. Elizabeth Dunlap, Oakfield, N. Y.
- Mr. & Mrs. Bert Heideman, Hancock
- Morgan Ramsay, Jr., Bay City
- H. Ripley Schemm, Grosse Pointe

These additions bring the total number of Fellows to 94!

**Amerika**

No, That’s Not the cynical hippy’s version of America, but the name of a German biweekly periodical which we have just acquired. Published in Leipzig beginning June 1818, Amerika was intended for well-to-do German emigrants, travelers, and the cultured curious. We have the three volumes, which are all that were published.

Each issue contains several short articles about the United States, plus advertisements and public notices from America chosen for their insight into “customs, culture, needs, and quirks”! The subtitle indicates that the reader will be seeing America through its own eyes, and the editors have culled material from newspapers, speeches of Presidents and Senators, diaries and letters, though there is also a healthy sprinkling of German editorializing and of accounts of European visitors. South America and its political upheavals also exert a strong fascination.

Early issues were primarily devoted to practical information for the prospective emigrant or traveler, with articles on the American constitution and rights of citizens, American coinage, trade, industry, climate, agriculture, education, and hospitals. Once these essentials were covered, articles appeared on art, poetry, flora and fauna, fashions, religion, cities, smugglers, and sea serpents! There are several long series, one on South America, others on the Indians, U. S. politics, and the American jury system.