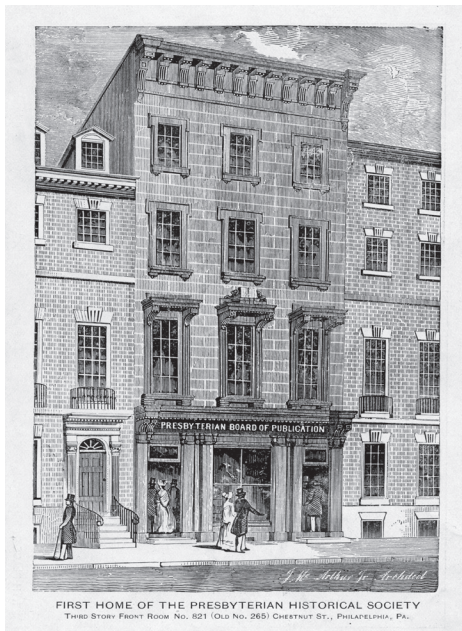


Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

Where History Lives: The Presbyterian Historical Society at 160

On May 20, 1852, in Charleston, South Carolina, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (Old School) approved the creation of the Presbyterian Historical Society at the urging of Cortland Van Rensselaer (1808-1860), secretary of the Board of Education. One hundred and sixty years after Van Rensselaer advocated for an organization that would rescue the treasures of the Presbyterian Church from the “diluvium of time,” the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) remains true to its founding and central mission: to collect, preserve, and share the historical materials of the Presbyterian Church.



Presbyterian Historical Society.

A few weeks ago we published the proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Historical Society. The Society, as we then stated, was organized at the meeting of the General Assembly, in Charleston, S. C., May 20th, 1852.— Below we insert the Constitution then adopted, and also a list of the officers.

CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be known by the name of the “PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.”

ART. II. The objects of this society shall be to collect and preserve the materials of the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and to promote the knowledge of said history as far as possible.

ART. III. Any person may become a member of the society by the payment of two dollars as an initiation fee; and shall thereby be entitled to receive annually a copy of the Annual Report.

ART. IV. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, six Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee, to be elected annually at the time and place of the meetings of the General Assembly.

ART. V. The Executive Committee shall be composed of nine members, of whom the Corresponding Secretary shall be one *ex officio*, to whom shall be entrusted the work of devising and executing measures to accomplish the purposes of the Society. They shall cause an address to be delivered during the meeting of the General Assembly, shall make an annual report of their proceedings at the anniversary meeting, and shall have power to issue from time to time all necessary publications, subject to the direction of the Society, and to provide means for defraying the necessary expenses for their operations.

ART. VI. The formation of a LIBRARY, containing manuscripts and publications, old and new, being essential to the prosecution of the objects of the Society, the Executive Committee shall have the oversight of this subject among their other duties.

ART. VII. This constitution may be altered by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any annual meeting.

Officers of the Society.

President.—James Hoge, D. D.
Vice-Presidents.—Charles Hodge, D. D.; George Howe, D. D.; Hon. Walter Lewis, R. J. Breckinridge, D. D.; William B. Sprague, D. D.; Wm. H. Foote, D. D.

Secretary.—Richard Webster.
Treasurer.—James N. Dickson, Esq.
Executive Committee.—C. Van Rensselaer, D. D.; J. C. Backus, D. D.; Thomas Smyth, D. D.; David Elliott, D. D.; Wm. C. Alexander, Esq.; John Forsyth, D. D.; R. Davidson, D. D.; Wm. Shippen, M. D.; Samuel Agnew, Esq.; R. Webster, *ex officio*.



Current home of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

The Presbyterian Historical Society provides resources for Heritage Sunday, a day set aside by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to celebrate and learn more about the rich history of Presbyterianism in America.

Additional resources for Heritage Sunday are available on our website at: www.history.pcusa.org

