

The Birthplace of Henry George

On November 9th some forty Georgists converged on the little red brick house in Philadelphia where Henry George was born. This building, recently acquired by the Henry George School, has been renovated and is now operating as headquarters for the Philadelphia extension, as well as a birthplace museum. For the present only the first floor is in use. In time it is hoped that the upper floors will also be renovated, and that one room will be reconstructed in the style of the period when Henry George lived there.

At the November 9th dedication ceremonies at which Robert Clancy served as chairman, Julian P. Hickok, founder of the Philadelphia extension, told of the time when the Henry George Foundation acquired the property in 1926 and of a ceremony that took place there at that time.

Joseph A. Stockman, the director, unveiled a large bronze plaque on the wall, containing the names of fourteen donors whose gifts made the purchase possible. (See October HGN, page 16).

The final speaker was Agnes de Mille, famous choreographer, granddaughter of Henry George, and chairman of the Birthplace Committee. She evoked an appealing picture of the daily life of the Georges as it must have been lived within these walls. Miss de Mille also observed that the birthplace of the famous singer, Marian Anderson, was nearby, and that her message was similar to that of Henry George—that we all “belong,” we are all part of one world.

Miss de Mille concluded by presenting to the birthplace a beautiful wine-red, silk shawl belonging to her grandmother, Annie C. Fox. This shawl and a book of poems given to her by Henry George were the only two things Annie took with her when she eloped with the economist-to-be. The poetry book was also presented by Miss de Mille, and these, together with other George memorabilia, are now on permanent exhibition at the birthplace at 413 South Tenth Street, Philadelphia. Included also are a Bible belonging to George when he was a boy; an author's edition of *Progress and Poverty*; the pen with which he wrote *The Science of Political Economy*; photographs; campaign buttons and various gifts made to Henry George.

Following the dedication ceremonies, a dinner was held at the St. James Hotel. Among the guests who made short talks were Ezra Cohen, Lancaster M. Greene, Geoffrey W. Esty, and Arnold A. Weinstein, trustees of the Henry George School; John T. Tetley, New Jersey director; James A. McNally, Hartford director; George Tideman of Chicago; Miss V. G. Peterson of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York; Lucia Cipolloni, Mr. Stockman's volunteer aide in Philadelphia; and Mrs. Susie Howell, the lady who has lived in the birthplace for thirty-five years and who has kept watch over it.



Ellen Winsor, Agnes de Mille (Mrs. Walter Prude), Robert Clancy and Joseph A. Stockman at the unveiling of the plaque.