
This work, taken in conjunction with Professor Bining's British Regulation of the Colonial Iron Industry (1933) places our knowledge of early iron manufacture upon a broader and more solid foundation than that of any other American industry. Like the earlier work, it is characterized by not only deep, but broad scholarship, and exhibits the writer's ability at condensation without loss of clarity. The volume, moreover, is most readable—an achievement rare in the writing of economic histories.

Pennsylvania iron manufacture is given its proper setting in the first chapter which treats of the early attempts at ironmaking in all the colonies. Then follows an excellent description of "The Iron Plantations," which is more than a mere economic study. It is, in reality, a study of a type of early Pennsylvania society. The establishment of the industry next comes under consideration and is carried from the founding of Thomas Rutter's forge on Manatawny Creek in 1716 to the end of the eighteenth century, during which period over 160 furnaces and forges were operating to make Pennsylvania the pre-eminent center of American iron manufacture.

Professor Bining's exposition of the technique of iron fabrication is extraordinarily lucid for the uninformed reader, and this is to be attributed to his own relations to the industry. He writes not only from the sources, but from his own practical experience in the field, and from an enthusiasm born of that experience.

To the reviewer the most significant chapter is that devoted to "The Workers." This is the best account of early American labor conditions that he has seen, and taken with the chapter on the ironmasters, gives the reader a picture not only of what may be called the economic institution, but also of the men who made it a going concern. When we learn, for instance, that in 1761 John Shaw was to be paid eighteen pounds and a pair of shoes for stocking a forge with charcoal, "and if he does not get drunk above once in three months, a pair of stockings and his diet," we somehow are coming to grips with a human phase of the labor problem.

The industry demanded capital, and the ironmasters were truly masters of men. They lived in the grand manner and ruled over large numbers of people. The management of a plantation required far more than a mere technical knowledge of mining and smelting processes. Nor was the iron industry without its hazards to the entrepreneur. Capital was hard to
secure in the colony and Professor Bining remarks that there was a large number of failures.

Forty-two illustrations of furnaces, machinery, products, and producers admirably supplement the text, although one regrets the fact that the publisher and printer did not do them justice. In the appendix are gathered statistics on all the furnaces and forges established before 1800, and tables of the outputs of certain furnaces. The bibliography is exhaustive.

Altogether this work is a model for research, organization and presentation of economic history, and leads us to await eagerly the appearance of the next volume in which the story will be carried on into the nineteenth century.

Brown University

CARL BRIDENBAUGH.


Political history in the United States is most effectively treated when it comprehends its natural area, the nation. The narrower the scope of the investigation, the more difficult become the tests of organization and interpretation because of the intermingling of local, state and federal issues, and the increasing importance of factors primarily personal. For this reason much honest inquiry into local politics in America has resulted in mere chronicle, interesting as research, but so taken up with locality that it fails to tie up with the broader aspects of history.

Dr. Ferguson, in his presentation of the political history of the tramon-tante counties of Pennsylvania from 1773 to 1823, has succeeded in playing both the annalist and the interpreter. He deals not so much with a dozen counties as with a "segment of the frontier," presenting a case study of political thought and action among pioneer people which ought to command interested readers beyond the geographical limits set by the book.

In a pleasing narrative style, the author takes up the early boundary dispute between Virginia and western Pennsylvania, the formation of the state Constitution of 1776, the early political demands of the westerners, their opposition to the federal Constitution and to the state Constitution of 1790, and the formation of parties based upon national issues. He traces the rapid growth and decline of Federalism beyond the mountains, the triumph of Republicanism, the consolidation of the Jeffersonian party and its continuing power under new leadership after the War of 1812, concluding with a brief statement of the economic issues which motivated political action from 1816 to the rise of Jacksonism in 1823. The narrative is supplemented by numerous biographical sketches and by short summaries at the conclusion of each chapter.

The book leaves the impression that while nothing important has been overlooked, the treatment is less detailed than is desirable in so limited a work. The bibliography and footnotes indicate that chief reliance was placed upon newspapers and secondary materials. For these reasons the reviewer feels that the claim of the publishers that the book is "a definitive
While the study is commendably free of small errors, to one it seems necessary to call attention. In stating that Thomas Atkinson, editor of the Crawford Messenger, inaugurated the "Jackson for President" boom in the fall of 1820, Dr. Ferguson anticipates by two years. The first editorial recommendation of Jackson in that paper was printed on September 17, 1822, not on September 17, 1820, as cited (p. 266, note 18). The reviewer also failed to find any issues of the Crawford Messenger for January 27th or November 23rd, 1823, as cited (p. 266, note 19).

On the whole Dr. Ferguson's work is clear, complete and reliable. The author has dignified regional history by generous interpretation without losing the local flavor of his subject and has presented a highly necessary piece of research into the too much neglected history of the western part of the Commonwealth.

Franklin and Marshall College

PHILIP S. KLEIN.

*Autobiography of Isaac Jones Wistar.* (Philadelphia: The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, 1937. Pp. viii, 528. $5.00.)

Few Pennsylvanians of the nineteenth century had a more adventurous career than General Wistar. From the Gold Rush to the close of the Civil War he was involved in a series of strenuous activities. In 1849 he was just turned twenty-one and as yet unestablished. He heeded the call of gold and traveled overland (April-August) with as absorbing a sequence of dangers and escapes as any romancer could conjure. Then he spent several years as a trapper and trader wandering from Panama to Canada. Thereupon he settled down to study law in San Francisco and became the partner of the famous Colonel E. D. Baker. In 1858 he returned to Philadelphia, but had hardly settled down to the law when the Civil War broke out. His war experiences were strenuous and one marvels how he survived the wounds and illnesses which afflicted him.

Upon the return of peace he entered business, but of this he says little. We may suspect that his business adventures were no less strenuous. Toward the close of his career he became interested in developing the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology at the University of Pennsylvania and generously endowed this notable enterprise. He also became interested in his family history and in relating his own adventures. So he wrote this thrilling autobiography, introduced by a genealogy of the Wistar-Wister families and concluded by a sketch of the Wistar Institute prepared by the late Dr. Greenman and Edmond J. Farris.

This book is absorbing and exciting reading. General Wistar knew how to describe adventure vigorously and interestingly, yet without apparent exaggeration. He displays himself truly as a man of great strength and resourcefulness with very decided opinions, among which was a low opinion of American politics. Its greatest contributions to Pennsylvania history relate to the participation of the Commonwealth in the Civil War and the development of the Wistar Institute, together with some choice bits about...
canals and railroads, and J. Edgar Thomson. But forget history, and read it, just for the fine flavor of adventure which pervades the autobiography. University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS.


Not since the appearance in 1934 of the Pennsylvania German Pioneers (A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727-1808) by Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke, has so fundamental and lasting a contribution been made to the study of the colonial Germans of the eighteenth century. The imposing bibliography presented here by Emil Meynen is so comprehensive, thorough, and penetrating that it replaces everything of the kind that has gone before. It gathers in its dragnet the titles of all existing bibliographies as well as library and archive collections, and advances our knowledge concerning every nook and cranny of source and research material in this particular field of American colonial history.

Dr. Meynen spent three years (1930-1932) in this country on a Rockefeller Fellowship, primarily for a "cultural-geographical survey of the Pennsylvania-German habitat." A bibliography intended originally only for his own orientation grew into an exhaustive compilation of about 8,000 titles, which he now offers not as a bibliophile investigation, but with the purpose of serving research workers. It may be regarded as the first fruit of Dr. Meynen's conscientious labors, his travels throughout the whole area of the German colonial settlements, and his personal acquaintance with land, people, and libraries. Other works in his special department of geographical science (University of Berlin) will follow, as the one announced: "Das deutschpennsylvanische Bauernland. Eine kulturgraphische Studie auf Grund eigener Forschung in den Jahren 1930-1932."

To him it is a part of the large subject of the three great German emigrations of the eighteenth century to three frontiers: the Danube lowlands of Banat and Batschka, the Volga pioneer lands of Russia, and finally the promised land of William Penn and other American colonies, destined to become the greatest German emigration.

Dr. Meynen was undoubtedly himself surprised at the vast amount of writing that has been done on the colonial Germans, especially during the past fifty years. He observes that now Bancroft's remark no longer holds, that neither the Germans nor their descendants have laid claim to all that is their due. In his address before the Pennsylvania-German Society (given at Pennsburg, October 21, 1932), in which he outlines the plan of his
bibliography, he pays a tribute to the esteem in which the Pennsylvania Germans hold their ancestors (p. xix): "I wonder if there is any other group of men among the descendants of colonial emigrants who in honor of their inheritance and in love of their native surroundings have given such effective contributions to the cultural and social history of their own as well as that of their adopted country, as have the Pennsylvania Germans. . . ." The bibliography does not limit itself, however, to the subject of the Pennsylvania Germans, but includes the history of German immigration to all the American colonies.

A Table of Contents, printed both in English and German for wide usefulness on both sides of the Atlantic, exhibits the compiler's broad and scientific approach. The vast material is divided into subjects as: The American and the European background; Germans in the American continent before 1683; the Germans in Pennsylvania, in Carolina, the Palatines in New York, New England, Canada, etc.; the religious denominations; sectarians, churches; education; handicrafts, industries; the wars; and the advance of the frontier. From general we go to special works, treatises in detail, papers, addresses, reports, etc. No sifting of material is attempted, nor is there any criticism. County histories are enumerated with the work of recognized historians, and local items, eulogies, and family history with critical biography. The material, however, is well ordered and grouped. Each title is given a successive reference number up to 7858, but there are many sub-numbers, as: 98, 98a; 214a—214w (25 titles). The numbers are placed conveniently at the right hand below the description of the title. An index of authors carries us readily through the maze of material by means of the reference numbers. A special index of surnames (Familien-namen-Register) gives us the references to about 1,800 titles of family histories, showing that special attention has been given to genealogical records, a feature that will be of great help to American genealogists. Dr. Meynen regrets that he was unable to give account of the historical romances and works of fiction about Pennsylvania and other colonial Germans because he had to give his first attention to scientific source material; but in the above-mentioned address (p. xvii) he expresses the hope that this may become the subject of a subsequent contribution before the Pennsylvania-German Society, since "this body of fiction gives a colorful picture of land, life, homes and traditions."

A valuable suggestion is made by Dr. Meynen in regard to the continuation of this great bibliographical work, viz.: that it be followed by a corresponding work on the German immigration of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the United States. There might be some necessary overlapping of titles, but the material is quite as vast in extent, covering travel literature and biographical and statistical sources spread over still wider areas and therefore not easy of access and little known to research workers. Dr. Meynen has led the way and proved again that the Germans are the best of all bibliographers. We owe to him a large debt of gratitude for this scholarly, scientific compilation of the highest standard, and acknowledge our indebtedness also to the publisher for launching this well-printed,
handsomely fashioned, fundamental, and impressive work. It is destined to become an indispensable book of reference in every American library that is at all interested in the colonial history of the United States.

Cornell University

A. B. Faust.


Mr. Bowden has written a study of Penrose as an example of a machine politician. It is not biography in the usual sense, but psychological analysis and descriptive politics. Penrose's character and intellectual outlook are examined in detail and the author's conclusions are developed repetitiously throughout the book.

The man, Penrose, is characterized by these four generalizations: "His first, last, and only love was politics." "He had an unshakable obsession of greatness." "He was boldly, consistently, beautifully free from hypocrisy." "He had no scruples or 'set' principles to live up to or avoid." The illustration of these, together with descriptions of Penrose's personal habits are the substance of the narrative.

The material has been gathered, we are informed, by interviews with men who knew Penrose. Other than this, there is no internal evidence that any but easily available materials have been used. One who looks here for new light upon any of the events of national politics in which Penrose played a part will be disappointed. The historical framework is used merely to display the character of Penrose and the system of machine politics of which he was a part.

The value of the study lies in its description of the political methods of the recent past. Hidden as these naturally are, their discovery and accurate presentation is an unusual achievement. It is difficult to estimate how adequately Mr. Bowden has done this task as there are no citations of evidence. Instead we are presented with frequent quotations of conversations, some of which cannot be dignified as more than imaginative reconstructions. Then too there is evidence of gullibility in such statements as this, "He was as well posted on the work of state legislators or city councils [sic], from Montana to Florida, as any citizen of these far-away places" (page 208). Moreover, the study is another illustration of the expansion into book length of a thesis much better suited to a brief essay. If the superficial historical framework has not been included and the repetitious elements rigidly eliminated, the book would reduce itself to the size of an article suitable for periodical publication.

University of Missouri

Elmer Ellis.


This book covers an archaeological exploration trip from the source to the mouth of the Susquehanna River in 1916. The writer, Warren King Moore-
head, and his scientific assistant, Alanson B. Skinner of the Museum of the American Indian, New York City, were assisted by six trained field workers and traveled down the river in canoes. The trip was financed by the Museum of the American Indian and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Dr. Moorehead is the dean of American field archaeology. His experience in the field is vast and covers a considerable part of North America. For many years he has been director of the Department of American Archaeology at Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. As this trip was purely survey in nature, only a few of the important Indian sites along the river could be investigated. Dr. Moorehead does not neglect the human interest associated with the trip down the river. To him, field work and archaeology has always been an adventure and he visualized and foretold as early as 1916 about the possibilities of future research along Pennsylvania's great river.

The work contains an excellent analysis of the archaeology of the eastern branch of the Susquehanna River by T. B. Stewart, of Lock Haven. It also includes a more or less modern cultural classification of the upper Susquehanna archaeological sites prepared by Rowland B. Hill, of Oneonta, New York. Altogether the perusal of this book guarantees a pleasant evening to anyone interested in the pre-history of central Pennsylvania.