Surviving records afford a portrait of Lewis Evans in which lack of detail is in part offset by the boldness of such lines as can be drawn. “The man had a way of being positive in all things.” A Welshman by birth, he seems to have located in Pennsylvania as early as 1736, and to have been about as old as the century. In Philadelphia he made a living as surveyor and draftsman, and appears to have had business relations with Benjamin Franklin, many of whose intellectual interests he shared. Evans also had fruitful contacts with men of the stamp of John Bartram and Conrad Weiser, Peter Collinson the English naturalist, and Peter Kalm the Swedish scientist, and the public lectures which he delivered upon electricity and kindred subjects may have been the first of their kind in America. His activities as surveyor and cartographer brought him into contact with persons in official position like Richard Peters, secretary of Pennsylvania, and Cadwalader Colden and Thomas Pownall of New York.

The earliest extant map known to be the work of Evans dates from 1738, and is of the famous Walking Purchase of the preceding year. It was not published. More important is his map of the Middle Atlantic region published in 1749. Based in part upon the observations of others, as Evans freely acknowledged, it went beyond the ordinary maps of the time in indicating frontier houses, Indian villages, roads, portages, and the limits of tide-water on the rivers. It was none-the-less something of a disappointment to the Penns, by whom it was partly underwritten, and whose boundary claims it appeared to compromise. A more pertinent criticism was that a good deal of space on the face of the map was occupied by text dealing with everything from meteorological conditions to the question of the effect of the Deluge upon the formation of the region. The result is much uncharted territory in the north and west. A revised edition, with little change, appeared in 1752. Meanwhile Evans became more immediately concerned in efforts to determine the boundaries of Pennsylvania and neighboring provinces. A project to determine the southwestern and western limits of Pennsylvania fell through for various reasons, and for a while Evans transferred his services to Lord Baltimore, to whom, however, he gave as little satisfaction as he had afforded Thomas Penn. The truth would seem to be that Evans was too objective and independent a thinker to make a good henchman in a partisan quarrel.
By all odds the most ambitious and important of Evans' maps was that of the "Middle British Colonies in America," which he published in 1755 with the aid of a subsidy from the Pennsylvania Assembly. Its appearance was timely, for Evans gave particular emphasis to the Ohio Valley, the Anglo-French contest for which had now reached a crucial stage. It was not based upon new explorations; but so effectively did it bring together and correlate available information that its appearance constituted a milestone in the history of American cartography. The map was accompanied by an Analysis of some thirty-two pages which served the double purpose of keeping the map itself free from explanatory matter and making the latter far more full than would otherwise have been possible. The analysis proceeded from the inevitable topic of provincial boundaries to a consideration of the limits of the territory of the Six Nations, which Evans believed had an important bearing upon Britain's claim to the West. He stressed the importance of heading off the French in the Ohio region, and expanded particularly upon the merits of the Muskingum Valley as a region for agricultural settlement. Upon the navigability of streams he dilated at some length. Indeed perhaps the most delightful part of Evans' account consists of the "personally conducted tours" which he affords his readers along the western waterways, replete with details of shoal water, rapids and portages, and with descriptions of the kind of craft which must be employed along the various stretches of river. A perusal of Evans' Analysis in conjunction with his map is an illuminating experience.

But its contemporary significance was more immediately practical. Braddock carried a draft of it on his march to the Monongahela, and the Analysis reveals the author as an enthusiastic imperialist, convinced that the future of a continent was at stake and that the solution lay in the Ohio Valley. He was particularly impatient of the dissipation of British resources in attempts upon the region north of the St. Lawrence. He insisted that it would be dishonorable to seize territory to which the French had a clear right, a contention estimable in principle but somewhat out of character in one who elsewhere freely recognized the right of conquest. These views of Evans involved him in a bitter controversy over the policies of Governors Robert Hunter Morris and William Shirley in prosecuting the war, in furtherance of which he issued his Analysis No. 2, a document which demonstrates that Evans could be a redoubtable protagonist when his convictions coincided with his cause. The upshot was a suit brought by Morris, which landed Evans in jail and was still pending at the time of his death in June, 1756.

The present volume begins with a biographical study of Lewis Evans, characterized by that thoroughness of scholarship and deftness of exposition which his readers have come to expect of Professor Gipson. There follows a "Brief Account of Pennsylvania" written by Evans at the behest of Richard Peters for the edification of a gentleman of Europe. This illuminating account of the province at mid-century has been taken from one of two extant manuscript copies, which have been collated. Next comes the Analyses I and II, reproduced in facsimile, and five of Evans' maps including that of 1749 and its revision, and of course that of 1755. An
impressive reproduction of the map of the Walking Purchase constitutes the frontispiece.

The volume is of splendid format and the handsome binding is well set off by an effective cover design.

University of Pennsylvania

LEONIDAS DODSON.


Zones of International Friction is the fourth volume in the comprehensive study of The British Empire Before the American Revolution, by Professor Gipson. The entire work aims to present a cross section survey of the British Empire about the middle of the eighteenth century, emphasizing the significant interrelations of its constituent parts and the machinery of imperial control. The first three volumes described the social, economic and political forces motivating various geographical groups within the Empire: Great Britain and Ireland, the Southern Colonies, and the Northern Colonies. This new volume presents the story of "the western push of British colonials in the regions to the south of the Great Lakes during the years just preceding the outbreak of the last of the French and Indian wars in North America."

The main thesis of this volume is that British expansion in North America (outside of the Hudson Bay region) was the result of private initiative rather than governmental planning. While the movement was encouraged by the Crown, the key to it can be found in the desire for profits on the part of British merchants and manufacturers, American trading companies and partnerships, and even distillers on the seaboard.

The chief "zones of friction" set forth include the Florida frontier, the Cherokee country, the lower Mississippi basin, the Illinois country, and the Ohio Valley. Most space is given to the last mentioned region, for here began the great struggle between the English and the French that was to end in the defeat of France and the loss of most of her colonial possessions. The beginning of the French and Indian War, however, is not discussed in this volume. The author plans to treat in Volume V, the Great Lakes frontier, the Iroquoian Confederation, the Albany plan of union, French Canada, Nova Scotia, the West Indies, the East Indies, and the diplomatic background of the Seven Years' War.

The high standard of scholarship set in the first three volumes has been maintained in this one. Professor Gipson displays a talent for historical analysis and literary organization. Original sources have been chiefly used, but the author has also skillfully woven the latest findings of scholars into the narrative. The style is clear and stimulating. The index is extensive. The format, printing and binding are excellent. The announcement is made that the complete series will include "some twelve volumes." The work is of great magnitude and is a most significant contribution especially to American and British history.

University of Pennsylvania

ARTHUR C. BINING.

Here is a book which furnishes meat for the scholar and an absorbingly interesting narrative for the general reader. It has been said that local history, despite myriad books, is the most neglected field of American historiography. It is certainly true that we are just beginning to get studies which, like the one under review, bring scholarship to bear effectively upon the development of restricted areas. The old emphasis upon petty political and genealogical matters has been supplanted by a major concern with social and economic progress. In dealing with a pioneer district, such as Western Pennsylvania prior to the War of 1812, one also has an opportunity to study the mechanics of the development of frontier democracy.

The authors see on the Pennsylvania frontier a simple society of yeomen who were democratic because there were no marked differences in wealth or culture. In any frontier community this view is doubtless relatively correct; but there was often a greater concentration of land in large holdings—the proprietors frequently being absenteees—and a greater number of landless squatters than in older communities. Leadership was usually in the hands of the few, but the fact that they were greatly outnumbered and not well-established in local affection rendered it necessary for them to make many concessions.

Surely these factors are important in analyzing frontier conditions, and they were not absent in Western Pennsylvania where large groups of speculators claimed much of the land. The authors do not neglect this fact, but they do not show what bearing it had upon the development of political leadership in the area. A more extensive use of county records and a greater attention to the political bearing of personal and business ties among the leaders, the existence of which is recognized by the authors, would have been helpful. But in view of the rich feast set before us, it makes us appear as ingrates when we quibble over this point.

The reviewer can think of no other phase of the subject which has not been handled in the most scholarly and attractive manner by the authors. The discussions of economic life, the descriptions of processes involved, are highly interesting and informative; the illustrations are charming and helpful. Scholars will regret the lack of footnotes, but the book was obviously written with the lay reader in mind. The bibliography is exhaustive and well-arranged.

University of Virginia

THOMAS PERKINS ABERNETHY.


In a well-written, sensitively told autobiography George Biddle has set forth the growth of a liberal into maturity. Placed against the various and contrasting backgrounds of Philadelphia's Main Line, New England's "snob schools," the young Southwest, and enough other places throughout the
world to make a list of them sound like a world Baedeker, the story of this growth never lacks sincerity, seldom lacks clarity, and escapes altogether the feeling of one figure looming large in the picture—a feeling very apt to be present in one man’s story.

Nearly always writing in an objective fashion, Biddle spends little time preaching. He states his facts directly and, with the exception of to-be-expected criticism of the Tory intrenchment in his native city and the intellectual smugness of his formal education, prefers to let the reader pass what judgments there may be.

Biddle’s training as an artist, which began much later than is usual, is vague and confused in the telling; and with the dramatic interlude of the first World War serving further to tangle matters, minds, and philosophies, the reader is left with the impression that the development of this artist was extremely hit-and-miss—with success appearing quite suddenly in the form of exhibitions and publicity.

Those excerpts from his diaries included in the book which were written contemporaneously with the happening of them are among the most delightful parts. In them the writing is more lyrical and less forced than elsewhere and is at times quite ingenuous. The impression that Tahiti made on Biddle during his years on that island is a deep one, and the record of that impression is beautiful.

In the last few chapters Biddle makes his really important contribution. The story of the government’s start in encouraging, developing, and furthering the creation of the painter and sculptor is a vital one—and the author gives that story and the account of his fine participation in the work modestly and with conviction. This reviewer could wish only that much more might have been told about the great work that the government has done, is doing, and can continue to do to make life beautiful.

As an artist this reviewer cannot help believing that the title-page of the book is significant. Under the printed title An American Artist’s Story across a double-page spread is reproduced Biddle’s mural done for the Department of Justice in Washington. There, after all, is the real story of the “American artist”—George Biddle.

Philadelphia

BENTON SPRUANCE.


With a great deal of dignity and grace and not a little pride the fair colonial and postcolonial city of Philadelphia sits for her portrait. The result is a beautiful book, beautifully and copiously illustrated. Once read, it will not be put away on a high shelf to grow dusty; the owner will dip into it again and again and will take delight in sharing with his friends the pleasure of seeing in vivid word and illuminative picture the landmarks of a splendid old city. The native Philadelphian will find much to stir his soul, and the outlander will come away from the book with something of an understanding of Philadelphians’ love of permanence and countless other
things, such as pageantry, trees, gardens, homes, and genial and gracious hospitality, that make up the warp and woof of tradition.

In blocking out the canvas on which they portray in bold definite brush strokes the high lights of the painting—historic houses still standing in and around Philadelphia—the artists keep to a simple and arbitrary organization. The volume is divided into three sections—the city “As It Was in the Beginning” (before 1730), “Sturdy Youth” (1730-1783), and “The Golden Age” (1783-1837)—each with an appropriately illustrated brief general description of Philadelphia’s physical aspect and municipal and social life to introduce the treatment of individual houses belonging to the period. About eighty private homes are described in detail, and some space is given to various other significant buildings, many of which have fallen before the onslaught of time. Through the pages run a bright thread of gratification that so much remains of what made Philadelphia in her heyday “the finest city of the United States” and another thread, somber in hue, of sorrow that the march of progress and change has destroyed so much that was worthy. No attempt is made to gloss over the shortcomings that make a muted mosaic for part of the background of the portrait.

Throughout the book the feeling of growth and change is apparent. The authors unfold a sort of panoramic impression of Philadelphia’s development from the troglodytic times when caves along the Delaware were used as shelter to just before “Jacksonian vulgarization and Victorian commercialism... well-nigh wrecked a once beautiful city.” By 1698 the town boasted over two thousand houses, most of them stately three-story brick structures. The architecture was from the beginning predominantly Renaissance, after that of Sir Christopher Wren’s “London rebuilt,” incorporating the characteristic penthouses, balconies, brick masonry, and details of doorways and windows. Early settlers clung tenaciously to their Old World traditions and transplanted many of their habits and ideals into the wilderness of the New World, retaining certain ways of living even while they were carving out a new culture.

The city grew vigorously, and in the surrounding countryside as well sprang up sturdy and comfortable and often grand houses that were to supply for generations the motives of family life. The coming of Congress to Philadelphia in the last decade of the eighteenth century gave to construction and improvement an impetus which long continued. Soon after 1837, however, a deterioration set in that made her “a city of lost opportunities”; many gems were ruthlessly demolished altogether, many were subjected to “remodeling epidemics,” and many were allowed to become dilapidated and even vandalized. Fortunately a great deal of what remains is being salvaged, restored, and maintained through the laudable efforts of various organizations. Some of the houses are still occupied and kept up by their owners.

The book throughout its entirety makes easy, pleasant reading. Although it is primarily a story of houses, at no time is one overburdened with technical architectural terms. Indeed, the houses—many of which were often used for governmental, military, and religious purposes as well as residential—come alive with their occupants and visitors. Seen in their set-
tings of everyday existence, James Logan, David Rittenhouse, Joseph Gallo-
way, Benjamin West, Anthony Wayne, Robert Morris, Charles Thomson,
John Bartram, and many other important people lose their historical aloof-
ness and become flesh and blood. Such notables as Franklin and Washing-
ton move naturally through many of the pages, contributing no small
measure of significance.

Enlightening glimpses into the life of old Philadelphia, from the vigorous
self-repression of the early "plain" Quakers to the luxurious furnishings and
dress and lavish hospitality of eighteenth-century merchant princes, are
supplied through generous quotations from diaries, letters, newspapers, and
other sources. There is an abundance of historical, biographical, and
genealogical material. An occasional flash of humor livens the scene, as
in the passage in which we are given a peep at the great Washington
colliding violently with a gatepost after a dinner party at the Grange.

The format of the book, which is printed in limited edition in large
octavo, is very appealing. The two hundred and fifty-two half-tone illustra-
tions are beautiful as well as instructive, and two helpful maps and nearly
a hundred drawings of family coats of arms add interest. While the critical
reader will notice some minor flaws in spelling and grammar and considerable
overuse of the hyphen, the authors are to be congratulated and the pub-
lis h ers commended for having produced an excellent portrait of British
America's leading colonial city.

Philadelphia

ELINOR BARNES.

Daniel Boone: Master of the Wilderness. By John Bakeless. (New York:
William Morrow and Company, 1939. 480 pp. $3.50.)

The story of Daniel Boone is perennially interesting; it is a true American
saga. For five generations it has been rehearsed in countless books, poems,
and pamphlets, repeated around campfires in the woods, and detailed else-
where to American children of all ages. None the less, few of these forms of
the story are historically authentic. Few have attempted to sift the truth
from the fiction. That has been the task of this author, and herein is the
story of Daniel Boone accurately and fully told.

The problems concerning the life and fame of Boone are many. A few
years ago at an anniversary celebration on the site of Boonesborough,
Kentucky, one participant referred to Boone as Col. Richard Henderson's
"hired man." All Kentuckly resented the implication; none the less, Boone
was employed by Henderson to cut the Wilderness Road, and Mr. Bakeless
thinks Henderson probably financed Boone's first exploration of 1768-70.
At the same time he tells the story so that it detracts nothing from the
fame of the great explorer.

This author also helps to answer the question of Boone's fame. Wherein
does it lie? He was not the first explorer of Kentucky; for that one must
hark back to Thomas Walker and Christopher Gist, if not to earlier French
explorers, and Virginia traders of the seventeenth century. Boone was not
the greatest of Indian fighters. He told his son Nathan he was sure only
that he had killed one Indian at Blue Licks. He did not hate Indians as
did so many other frontiersmen, but he knew them and foiled their wiles.
Boone was great in his mastery of the wilderness, in the gentleness and moderation of his character, in the balance of his powers, and in true wisdom.

Bakeless gives a narrative of Boone's life that will not soon fade, that will endure because it is based on historic truth and careful interpretation. He made extensive and thorough search for dependable sources. He utilized the material Dr. Draper had collected for his life of Boone in the Wisconsin Historical Library. He obtained material from many other collections. Wherever was a Boone letter or a reminiscence that could be depended on, he sought it out and utilized it. He visited the scenes of his subject's life in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Missouri. He has produced the first complete, well-documented, honest, and sincere biography of this Master of the Wilderness, Daniel Boone.

The book is well illustrated and has a large bibliography, end-paper maps of the Kentucky region, and a good index. One of the most unusual illustrations is a cartoon on Governor Hamilton of Detroit buying scalps, a contemporary propaganda print that few have seen before. The author also introduces a photograph of the Boone cabin of 1795-97, recently identified by the aid of the Draper Manuscripts and Draper's interview with Nathan Boone.

Madison, Wisconsin

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG.


This well-written monograph begins with a study of the European background of Franklin College almost a hundred years before the college was established in 1787. The roots of this educational institution extend back to the pietist movement in Germany. As the college grew, there was a constant relationship with the educational ideals of eighteenth and nineteenth century Germany. It was the first American college planned to meet the particular needs of the German element in the colonies.

The background of Marshall College, which was incorporated in 1835 and named in honor of Chief Justice John Marshall, is also well presented. Its growth and development until 1853, when it was combined with Franklin College in Lancaster, is briefly but clearly traced. Emphasis is placed upon the men who guided both colleges through the formative period of their history. The study closes with the establishment of Franklin and Marshall College.

The author has succeeded in his aim of linking together "the various ideas which constituted the cultural background of an old American institution—the intellectual heritage of its founders; the plans of those who pioneered in it; the hopes and ideals of the men who worked with it; and the faith in its permanent usefulness which was kept alive from generation to generation." The format of the book is pleasing and the illustrations are well executed. The study is a contribution to cultural history.

University of Pennsylvania

ARTHUR C. BINING.