Mr. Flexner has given us a lively account of four of the ablest early American painters—Benjamin West, John Singleton Copley, Charles Willson Peale, and Gilbert Stuart—under the caption, *America's Old Masters*. If the title be accepted without the aura that is usually envisaged when the term "old master" is employed, it is well chosen, but to some it may be misleading. Biographical in intent and romantic in treatment, the volume evidences the author's ability to clothe a skeleton of facts with the flesh and blood of vigorous individuality. While there has been no attempt to assay with finality the work of these artists, the brief discussion to be found here and there throughout the volume will intrigue many readers into a closer study of their painting.

From the atmosphere of aesthetic poverty surrounding our Revolutionary forbears is traced the beginnings of American portraiture, the most primitive form in which art interest first manifests itself. Copley refers to the colonials as "a people entirely destitute of all just ideas of the arts" among whom he was overcome with a sense of loneliness "when his good pictures were not distinguished from his bad" and "when pompous Colonial connoisseurs commented only on the likeness."

It was inevitable that each of these painters in turn should have been irrepressibly drawn to Europe. West, with a profound conviction of an exalted mission in life, sailed in 1759 for Italy, where—according to Galt's record, dictated by West, upon which Flexner has been forced to rely—he was received as a young American colonial with extraordinary warmth by the aesthetes of Rome. After three years' study of technique he pursued his way to England, where an anticipated brief sojourn lengthened into a lifetime of achievement in the service of Art.

Undoubtedly West's greatest contribution lay in his furtherance of a wide interest in painting through the founding of the Royal Academy and his generous and untiring efforts in training aspiring young art students; for "nearly every painter of consequence both English and American of the succeeding generation passed through his studio." Forsaking portraiture as unworthy of his best efforts, he devoted himself to historical paintings in the "grand style." His output was enormous, but unfortunately he "spread himself too thin." The unique and staunch friendship that developed between West and King George, to whom Flexner invariably refers as "George," is effectively portrayed with warmth of feeling. Butressed
by this patronage which continued over a period of years, West's position in the art world of Britain became well-nigh impregnable.

In contrast to the self-assured West, John Singleton Copley, shy, sensitive, and introspective, deliberated apprehensively for many years before he could bring himself to hazard a trip abroad. But his "Boy with Squirrel" had been so happily received by the Royal Academy that he eventually found himself in England, and under the guidance and encouragement of West he achieved distinction and acclaim as a portrait painter. His well-known historical canvas, "The Death of Chatham," was signally successful and established his position amongst English artists. Yet with every prospect of an increasingly successful career he still was unhappy in his English environment. Reared in abject poverty as a child, the dread of it haunted him throughout his prosperous years, prompting unpopular ways and means of capitalizing on certain large historical canvases which turned the tide of public favor against him, leaving him a broken and disappointed man at the age of seventy-seven.

Mr. Flexner must have reveled in the innumerable colorful episodes in the life of Charles Willson Peale, for he treats it with a light hand. Peale's amazing versatility was at once his advantage and misfortune—for who could achieve greatly and dip into such diverse fields as saddlery, the arts, active warfare, taxidermy, the establishment of a museum, dentistry, and farming! He spent but two years in England during which time he characteristically attempted to learn the technique of the "whole circle of arts." Returning to America still an ardent patriot, Peale threw himself into the struggle for independence, doing a wealth of miniatures while in active service. Probably, however, his most valuable legacy to posterity is his portrait of Benjamin Franklin at a mature age. His keen sense of joyous and clean color manifest in much of his work is a distinct contrast to the heaviness of color employed by most of his contemporaries. Peale was the embodiment of the early American spirit, with all the ingenuity, abundant energy, and breadth of interest of the frontiersman.

Benjamin Waterhouse has characterized Gilbert Stuart, the youth, as "a very capable, self-willed boy"—"an only son, handsome and forward, and habituated at home to have his way in everything." The author indicates the natural outcome of these qualities in Stuart, the brilliantly successful portraitist, showered with patronage in Britain and living there in extravagant splendor till his debts forced him to flee to America, where his portraits of Washington, though probably not his best work, have given him a very particular niche in the history of American painting.

Mr. Flexner has an obvious flair for characterization and a keenness for the full utilization of the dramatic elements in his material. There are times, however, when some of his readers would wish for more restraint, as when, in contrasting the Boston of Copley's day with that of the present, he says that, "where the best families now live their ancestral codfish swam." Again, after fittingly closing the account of Peale's life with the statement, "But Charles Willson Peale had joined the heroes of the American dream among whom he belonged," he facetiously pictures Peale meeting Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed, and George Washington—adding, "even Rip
Van Winkle took off his hat as the old man scorched by on his velocipede."
On the whole, the volume is admirably done, coupling as it does the results
of constructive imagination and thorough research.
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

JEANNETTE REED GIPSON.

The Constitutional History of the United States, 1776-1876. By Homer
Vol. 1, 1776-1826, pp. xiv, 417. $3.00; Vol. II, 1826-1876, pp. xii, 405.
$3.00.)

The American people have heard frequently, during the past eight years,
that the authorities in Washington have often overstepped their constitu-
tional powers, that the Constitution is endangered, and that the present
Chief Executive is desirous of becoming a dictator.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt made his attack upon the Supreme
Court a few years ago, he compared the government of the United States
to a three mule team, with one of the mules, referring to the Court, being
out of step with the other two. The Executive, the Congress, and the Court
must, therefore, be made to work in unison. This meant that the Supreme
Court must be compelled, in some way, to cooperate with the Executive
and the Congress. The forceful drive thus inaugurated alarmed the conser-
servative element of the Nation. The Courts, however, had withstood
similar attacks before. Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, and others had faced
similar problems and had fought stubbornly against the Court.

The battles against the Judiciary have been many, but the differences,
controversies, and antagonisms that have appeared between the Executive
and the Congress have been, at times, even more bitter and often more
injurious to the public interest. The latter began during the Presidency of
Washington and have appeared at intervals to the present day. The Recon-
struction battles that followed the War between the States threatened the
very foundations of American constitutional government. The constitutional
problems involved in such disputes down to 1876 are ably considered by
Professor Hockett.

Professor Hockett's sound, scholarly, and excellent treatise is primarily
a history of the origin, growth, and development of the Constitution. In
contrast, Professor A. C. McLaughlin's Constitutional History of the United
States is really composed of brilliant essays on the theory and philosophy
of the Constitution. The studies of Professors McLaughlin and Hockett
make an ideal combination, but the student should read Hockett's treatise
first.

The principles of the federal government were, according to Professor
Hockett, "in large part the product of a reaction against monarchy. But
they did not spring into being suddenly with the meeting of the Constitu-
tional Convention, nor did the Declaration of Independence evoke them
out of the void. The continuity of our institutional development has too
often been overlooked by those who have stressed the significance of our
secession from the British empire. Independence, indeed, permitted our
development to take a course which was in many ways new, but the roots of our constitutionalism must be sought in the contest between England's middle class and the royal authority." [I, vii.]

Realizing the roots of the federal government were found in England, Professor Hockett devotes six of the eighteen chapters of the first volume to such matters as "The Rise of English Liberalism"; "Problems of Imperial Government: [in the] Seventeenth Century"; "Progress towards an Imperial Constitution: [in the] Eighteenth Century"; "Defects of the Constitutional System"; "The Great Debate"; and "The Breakdown of the Imperial Constitution."

Dr. Hockett, therefore, has considered such questions as the transition from the gild to the chartered company, the corporation, and the commonwealth. When the companies grew into prosperous colonies, and the king and Parliament began to assert their prerogatives in a rather forceful way at the expense of the local assemblies, the colonists appealed to their chartered rights, to their rights as Englishmen, and finally to the "Higher Law."

The French and Indian War was followed by a wide divergence of opinion in the constitutional theory of the British Empire. The colonial theory is clearly expressed by Otis, Henry, and others in their opposition to the Imperial legislative enactments from 1764 to 1774. The divergence of Colonial and British thought became so serious that all efforts to compromise failed. The clash in constitutional theory led quickly to the arbiter of the sword, the Revolution, and Independence.

Hockett is at his best in his treatment of the Articles of Confederation, the drafting and launching of the Constitution, the Presidency of Washington, and the stupendous problems that faced the Congress, the first five Presidents, and the Supreme Court under the leadership of John Marshall. In analyzing the opinions of Marshall, Hockett presents rather forcefully the nationalizing influence of the great Chief Justice.

Professor Hockett's second volume covers the fifty years from 1826 to 1876. The author, by choice and space limitations, confines the currents of national and sectional thought to those that had a real bearing on American constitutional history. The participants in the discussions of the period, so filled with strife and discord, were many, but the actors in this study of the great national drama had necessarily to be limited to the more forceful leaders of the time.

Professor Hockett does not neglect the slavery issue, but he tries not to emphasize it to the neglect of other vital constitutional problems. In the words of the author "there are other topics in this middle period [than slavery] which, in the perspective of the present, are of perhaps greater interest. The democratization of the federal government, the rise of capitalist industry, the adoption of the corporate form of organization, and the territorial expansion of the United States are developments of these years which affected our constitutional system, in the long run, quite as profoundly as the slavery issue." [II, vii-viii.]

The second volume, like the first, is composed of eighteen chapters. In the first half of the book the author presents the democratizing influences
of Jacksonian democracy and the reaction against nationalism in the 1820's and 1830's. Jackson was able, through the death of some of the members, to remake largely the Supreme Court. The great nationalizing opinions of Chief Justice Marshall gradually gave way to the opinions of "the more careful guardian of state powers"—Roger B. Taney. "While Marshall's chief interest was legal, Taney's was economic and social. For Marshall according to some critics, the heart of constitutional law was the doctrine of vested rights, and the protection of contracts was for him a considerable part of the duty of government. Taney, on the contrary, approached cases from the human rather than the juristic standpoint, and was less attracted to the doctrine of stare decisis. He was inclined to regard the state's power, which touched the daily life of the people more intimately than did that of the nation, as of greater significance and as deserving of wide exercise." [II, 96.]

The latter half of the second volume deals with the constitutional aspects of slavery and expansion, such as the compromises and their failure, the literature of the abolitionists, the use of the mails, the right of petition, the failure of the Fugitive Slave Law, the effect of the Dred Scott Decision, the election of Lincoln, and the secession of the Southern states. This brought forth a repetition of the classic argument on the questions of states' rights and the theory of secession. Secession, nevertheless, followed and civil war became a grim reality. The constitutional problems that faced President Lincoln are briefly but clearly presented.

Finally, the constitutional problems of reconstruction are treated impartially; the Fourteenth Amendment is carefully analyzed; the Legal Tender and Slaughter House cases are ably presented; and the election of 1876 is described as the beginning of a new era.

In summarizing the results of the War and Reconstruction, Professor Hockett writes:

"From the conflict the United States emerged a nation—no longer even in men's theorizing a confederation. States still possessed autonomy in purely local affairs, but of questions concerning their powers, as well as of the constitutionality of acts of Congress, the Supreme Court was accepted as judge, although some continued to begrudge it these functions. With these fundamentals settled and the fourteenth amendment added to the Constitution, the era which now opened was a new one. The country entered its second century of independent existence with a substantially different set of problems and a changed constitutional system." [II, 371.]

Professor Hockett has produced a good constitutional history of the United States. His scholarship is sound and his literary style is excellent. His careful and lucid presentation of the intricate constitutional problems that faced the nation from 1776 to 1876 lifts these two volumes above the realm of just two more ordinary books.

Each volume contains an adequate index and an excellent bibliography.

Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

GEORGE D. HARMON.

Since 1937, The Western Pennsylvania Series has done a great deal in making familiar to the public the early history of that region. This book, the eighth in the series, is concerned with that most absorbing subject, the folkways of the frontier family. There lies in this subject an important historical problem, namely, to what extent were the occupational and cultural patterns brought by the pioneers into the wilderness able to survive and to what extent were they supplanted or modified by the necessities of adjustment to the new environment. It is not the purpose of this book to solve this problem, for the method is not analytical but descriptive and illustrative. Here is presented in clear, straightforward fashion the essential facts about the settlers, their land and crops, their shelter, food and clothing. The wives and children are given full consideration for their share in the pioneering process. The frontier doctor, lawyer, preacher, and teacher are all presented to us as typical characters in moulding the new communities. A description of the first roads, factories, and towns, the development of which denoted that advancing civilization was overtaking the frontier, rounds out the picture.

The authors skillfully introduce quotations from contemporary accounts, printed or unprinted, sometimes identifying the source but often omitting to do so. Occasionally they have used illustrative material from outside the state. Very rarely a doubtful statement is made, e.g. (p. 41), that many new settlers did not recognize poor land when they saw it. It is an especially fine feature of the book that when the authors have kindled interest in some household art or agricultural tool, the reader's curiosity is satisfied by the marginal pen sketches by Clarence McWilliams. There is also a glossary of some one hundred and seventy terms, once in common use but now rather unfamiliar.

The reviewer's opinion is that the book admirably fulfills its purpose, which is to recreate for the modern reader the way of life on the frontier in early western Pennsylvania. It is written simply but it is not over simplified. It is a book that deserves to find its way into the homes, and especially into the high schools of the state.

Harvey L. Carter.


The military history of Carlisle dates back to the period of the French and Indian Wars. In 1754 England sent over four regiments of men to guard her growing frontier. One of these regiments was assigned to the Ohio valley. It spent some weeks at Carlisle, preliminary to its march westward. This marked the first use of Carlisle as a strategic military base. In May, 1757, Col. John Stanwix arrived with a mixed force of
British and provincial troops, and from that date on, Carlisle played an increasingly important rôle in American history. It figures in the Forbes campaign of 1758; Bouquet’s campaign of 1763, and of course in the scenes of the Revolutionary War. Troops from Carlisle were in Boston within five months after the battle of Concord. During the war, this frontier fort was one of the busiest centers in all the colonies. British prisoners were brought there for confinement—among them no other than Lieut. John André. Factories were set up here for the manufacture of arms and munitions. Cannon, shot, gun carriages, nails, barrels, harness and other items were turned out in mass production. It became a supply base for horses, pack and draft animals, and at one time had upwards of 1,200 horses on hand. Washington referred to Carlisle as “the grand arsenal for all artillery on this side of the Hudson River.” (105)

In 1791, Congress decided to reopen Carlisle Barracks, and use this post as the general rendezvous for the Western army. It was the center of military activity during the days of Whiskey Insurrection, during the War of 1812, and during the Mexican War. It was in 1863, however, that the greatest excitement in Carlisle’s history occurred. When Col. J. E. B. Stuart invaded Pennsylvania, he levied on Carlisle for a generous supply of food, provisions, and supplies, but the citizens refused. Col. Stuart shelled the town. Great damage was inflicted and the barrack buildings were burned to the ground. New barracks were soon rebuilt however, and Carlisle again became a center for newly drafted infantrymen, artillerymen, and cavalrymen. Following the Civil War, the Carlisle Barracks became of less and less importance, until Col. Richard H. Pratt, Indian educator, appeared upon the scene. After years of missionary work, he succeeded in having Carlisle Barracks transformed into a Training School for Indians. In 1918 the Indian School was closed and the Barracks were converted into a Hospital Unit. The latest unit assigned to Carlisle was the establishment of the Medical Field Service School. “The future of the town and the Army Post, says the author, lies in the laps of the gods.” Col. Tousey deserves the lasting gratitude of students of Pennsylvania history. He has resurrected the history of one of the outstanding army posts of the United States, and has saved from oblivion the interesting story of its development.

University of Pittsburgh

JOHN W. M. OLIVER.


One of the interesting projects sponsored by the WPA has been the series of historical writings called the American Guide Series. This history of one of the counties of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is an example of how these projects can serve several ends. In the first place, it presents a very readable and interesting sketch of the history of the county and its present government. In the second place, it provides some-
thing which can be generally used in the schools for the purpose of giving accurate information and stimulating general interest in the history of the locality.

Those who have prepared this volume have viewed their problem broadly and have not only detailed the usual chronological series of spectacular events, but they have made much of the normal processes of life in the various periods of the development of Lycoming county. In small compass, this book gives a well-rounded picture of the variety of interests in the life of the community. The volume is attractively made and its value is enhanced by carefully chosen illustrations. The front end paper is a graphic account in map form of the evolution of the county. The Commonwealth would be indeed fortunate were it possible to have a similar volume for each of the counties.

University of Pennsylvania

ROY F. NICHOLS.


This book for older boys presents an interesting picture of a crucial period during the American Revolution. The hero, young Nicholas Ashley, lives near Valley Forge but has Philadelphia relatives who are loyalists. His own loyalist traditions, inherited from his father, who had been a British army officer, are at war with his sympathies for friends and neighbors who have joined the Revolutionary army. As a loyalist he is welcomed in Philadelphia; as a neighbor he is welcomed at Valley Forge. Thus through the eyes of his hero Mr. Holland is able to present the contrast between the life of ease and pleasure led by the British officers in the city and the hardships of the American soldiers in the wintry valley. At the beginning of the book Nicholas' loyalty to the king is severely shaken by the tactics of a group of foraging Hessians; later he helps to get supplies and letters to his friends at Valley Forge, and by spring he is ready to enlist in the Revolutionary Army. The various episodes of the book are well calculated to hold the young reader's attention, and the main thread of the plot, Nicholas' conflict of loyalties, is interesting and novel.

The historical personages in the book, such as Washington, Wayne, Steuben, Lafayette, and Howe, are well drawn and are not so obtrusive as to spoil the narrative interest with heavy-handed historicity.

Washington, D. C.

ELIZABETH HAWTHORN BUCK.


This historical novel is a vivid and swiftly moving tale of life and adventure in western Pennsylvania and the Ohio valley during the years from 1764 to 1782. The story begins at Fort Pitt in the autumn of 1764 with Colonel Henry Bouquet's expedition against the Ohio Indians, and includes Dunmore's War and the events of the American Revolution on the western Pennsylvania frontier.
The westward thrust of the settlers seeking new lands in the Ohio valley, the futile struggle of the Indians to turn back the tide of settlement, and the brave determination with which this "western front" was held during the Revolution are the major themes of the novel. They are well developed with careful and convincing detail which gives evidence of a thorough study of the available materials for the region's history. The men and women who braved the wilderness to find new homes and the soldiers who fought to protect them are recreated against a colorful background of historical episodes. But the settlers are not portrayed as wholly noble; the crudities and barbarities aroused by the harsh conditions of wilderness life and by the struggle with the Indians are not overlooked. There is an almost idyllic picture of life among the Shawnees, and the case for the Indians as defenders of their lands and homes is sympathetically presented.

The fictional plot or romance is interesting but not very convincing. The hero is a settler, trader, and Revolutionary soldier. When he rescues his wife from captivity among the Shawnee Indians as a result of Bouquet's Ohio campaign, he finds her with an Indian son. Believing her husband dead, she has married a Shawnee warrior. This, along with the hero's growing attachment for another woman, a Virginian aristocrat, threatens to wreck their marriage, but his noble character triumphs with the aid of wise counsel from the missionary Zeisberger. His renewed affection for his wife makes him mourn her death from "lung fever." His love for the other woman, however, continues. They are about to be wedded, when he is captured by the Indians. Simon Girty, a former friend, saves him from burning at the stake, but he is sent to the terrible prisons of Montreal. Later he escapes and returns home for the happy ending, soon after the news of Cornwallis' surrender reaches Pittsburgh.

The striking portraits of historical figures and the brilliant descriptions of historical events are likely to be remembered long after the fiction is forgotten. Bouquet's councils with the Indians at Fort Pitt and on the Muskingum, George Croghan's treaty making, the massacre of Logan's family, the battle of Point Pleasant, Brodhead's expedition against the Senecas, the massacre of the Christian Indians at Gnadenhuetten, and many other historical episodes are woven into the narrative. There are good character studies of Henry Bouquet, Logan, Simon Girty, George Croghan, and Lachlan McIntosh. Many other historical characters are described in less detail but as convincingly. It is not surprising that the fictional characters suffer in comparison with the real ones.

Erie, Pa.

Donald H. Kent.