
To four popular expositions, The Red Hills, The Wissahickon Hills, The Blue Hills, and The Dutch Country, describing aspects of the Pennsylvania Deitsch triangle with its apex in Philadelphia, Mr. Weygandt adds a fifth, The Plenty of Pennsylvania. The expansive title of this antiquary's delightfully digressive compendium is justified only by occasional references and automobile trips to parts of the state beyond the triangle. The author kindles our enthusiasm anew on such topics as fish weirs, strawberries on the vine, motifs on pottery, Stiegel glass, bear oil, hearthstones, coal, and barber poles. The book is like a museum guide in the discontinuous nature of its descriptions; it lacks original observation and important general ideas.

Mr. Weygandt through his self-characterization as a "potterer" is put in a class with Autolycus, a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles. His capacious bag of oddities holds all sorts of facts and implications. The volume is on an amateurish level, full of the kind of enthusiasm which sends women's-club members scurrying to attics and auctions. To the social historian its details have a secondhand quality, for the author seldom sees anything until a book or an artifact has guided him. Philip Tome's Pioneer Life (1854) sent the author up Pine Creek, "the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania," but the automobile tourist sped along too rapidly to picture adequately the steep hills closely folded together or to spell near-by Salladasburg correctly. (It is not Sollidaysburg.) Laurel, the state flower, gets one passing mention, although anyone in the northern counties aches each season with a surfeit of beauty when seeing millions of acres of bloom. Shadbush is never called by its colloquial name, "sarvis" or service berry. Huckleberries, the imputed cause of many forest fires, are not mentioned. The author seems unacquainted with the areas outside the triangle; he transfers Belle Vernon on the Monongahela to the Youghiegheny River. To a Berks County Deitscher who married a Washington County Quaker the essay on the seven cultures is disappointingly thin. The omission of the Philadelphia Quaker Charles Brockden Brown from a list of Pennsylvania authors causes one to lift his eyebrows.

Yet The Plenty of Pennsylvania makes the mouth water and the mind hanker for old familiar things. Within these fascinating covers every reader will find something interesting; every Pennsylvanian will find a
starting point for endless talk about the good old days. When a book can
do that, why ask for more?
University of Maryland

HARRY R. WARFEL

Early Financial and Economic History of Pennsylvania. By Leighton P.
iv, 85.)

The financial history of Pennsylvania, like that of most of the other
states, has been largely neglected by historians. This monograph helps to
fill that gap in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It covers
the period from the founding of the province to the adoption of the
Constitution of 1873. Although brief, the book presents an excellent
summary of the principal aspects of the financial history of Pennsylvania.
The work is based on careful research.

Upon a background of constitutional and economic development the
author presents such problems and issues as taxation, currency, govern-
ment finance, programs of public works, national banking, and war financ-
ing during the period. The synthesis is well done, the style is consistently
clear and easy, and the material is well selected and ably presented. The
book, although not very large, is a contribution to American history as
well as to the history of the state. It is hoped that the author will continue
his labors in this field and that he will bring the financial story of Penn-
sylvania down to recent times.
University of Pennsylvania

ARTHUR C. BINING