

Dr. Schneider's volume is at once a satisfaction and a disappointment. It is a satisfaction for three reasons: first, because here, within the pages of a single volume, a careful scholar has synthesized, with clarity and grace, a wealth of material on American philosophy; secondly, because the author has continuously emphasized the abiding truth that American philosophy is not, and never was, an isolated growth, but an integral part of European tradition, continuously enriched by "waves of immigration"; and thirdly, because Dr. Schneider has, on the whole, drawn a very fair likeness of the face of American philosophical thought, with occasionally new light thrown on aspects sometimes neglected, such as the St. Louis Hegelians and the leadership of the Sage School of Philosophy at Cornell.

A History of American Philosophy is a disappointment for two reasons that are almost immediately obvious as one opens the volume. In fact, the author excuses himself from judgment on the first of these in the opening sentences of his preface: "Part IX of this work is entitled 'New Realism and New Naturalism' but I shall not live to write it. I could, if there were need for it, expound the chief contemporary systems current in America but their history cannot yet be written." However true this may be, it is disappointing to the layman to find a volume as comprehensively entitled as Dr. Schneider's ending with John Dewey. The second considerable charge that can be leveled against the History—namely, the thinness of its materials on economic thinking, the author, too, is aware of. Such awareness, however, cannot be accepted as a sufficient excuse for this defect.

Beyond these larger reasons, however, there are other reasons why this reviewer found the volume in places disappointing. In a treatise predominantly devoted to developing the thesis that the story of American philosophy is, by and large, the story of the conflict between organized religion and the expanding scientific spirit, it is disturbing to find entire justice done to neither. Especially is this true for the middle and later 1800's. (As was to be expected from the author of The Puritan Mind, Dr. Schneider deals more perceptively with colonial times.) Though there is sufficiently full discussion of the attempted reconciliation between evolution and theology in the Darwinian days, there is slight exposition of the renaissance of exegetical scholarship with which orthodoxy countered criticism. Nowhere is there mention of the monumental work of Philip Schaff, Orello Cone, and James Freeman Clarke. But if slight justice is done to Protestant theologians of the last half of the nineteenth century, none whatsoever is done to Catholic theologians of that period. Orestes Brownson seems to be the only Catholic that Dr.
Schneider thinks worthy of note. The tremendous success of Cardinal Gibbons in incorporating New World mores into Catholic doctrine he nowhere mentions. The debt that Terence Powderley's labor philosophy owed to the Catholic Church he completely overlooks. On the other hand, it would seem that Dr. Schneider has done indifferent justice to scientific thought by so treating that subject that his indexer found it unnecessary to list Lewis Henry Morgan, John Wesley Powell, or Willard Gibbs (or, for that matter, Oliver Wolcott Gibbs.)

We can hardly be satisfied with a discussion of American philosophy of history which is limited almost entirely to the two Adamses, Henry and Brooks; nor with an aesthetic that contents itself with a few slanting references to John Dewey, omitting entirely, to cite only two topics, the functionalism of Horatio Greenough and the poetics of Sidney Lanier. The student of jurisprudence must be distrustful of an analysis of American legal theory which devotes eleven references to Oliver Wendell Holmes, one each to James Kent and Joseph Story (misspelled "Storey"), and none whatsoever to Simon Greenleaf. The educational theorist must wonder at twelve references to William Torrey Harris and none to Henry Barnard. Finally, even while one is reveling in the full "Guides" to the literature which follow each chapter, a nagging doubt as to the comparative value of the authorities listed intrudes when one finds Van Wyck Brooks cited three times on American letters but Howard Mumford Jones not at all, and discovers that Dr. Schneider has preferred Charles A. Madison on Thoreau to Henry Seidel Canby, who is evidently damned along with other authors of the "several biographies on Thoreau none of which are very useful for the interpretation of his philosophy."

Dr. Blau's companion volume to the Schneider History is more accurately entitled. It is just what it purports to be: a compilation of American philosophic addresses delimited by the years 1700 and 1900. As such, it is undoubtedly useful, for there is unquestionably much truth in its editor's introductory statement that, in the days before printed material became as common as it is today, the spoken word was much more likely than the printed word to express the serious thought of the time. Whether the meat of American philosophic thinking even before 1900 can be gleaned from addresses alone is highly doubtful. But Dr. Blau makes no specific claim that it can be.

Wisely used, A History of American Philosophy is a mine of information on American philosophic systems, and its companion volume is a helpful tool. Neither can be called the inspired interpretation of the American philosophical mind for which we have been waiting.

New York State Historical Association

MARY E. CUNNINGHAM


Prepared by the Pennsylvania Historical Survey and edited by Sylvester K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent, this volume has a Foreword by H. F.
Alderfer, executive secretary of the Institute of Local Government and professor of political science in the Pennsylvania State College, and an Introduction by Donald A. Cadzow, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Professor Alderfer is not restrained in his praise of the volume. Mr. Cadzow more correctly characterizes it as "designed to be used in connection with any research work involving county records," and properly hopes that it will "stimulate the use of these records for historical purposes" and be "a convenient and accurate guide for the use of officials, lawyers, journalists, and historians."

The title of the volume is deceptive inasmuch as the voluminous county archives inventoried by the Historical Records Survey are used only in the very adequate historical and analytical treatment of county government in Pennsylvania. Mr. Cadzow is right in his statement that "To the scholar and research worker . . . it will be a key to a rich treasure—to the priceless store of records of state and local history in the sixty-seven county courthouses of Pennsylvania."

Of the forty-three parts of the volume only "I. County Government Organization in Pennsylvania" (with "Charts of County Government") and "II. Board of County Commissioners" are history or political science of the narrative type. The remaining parts classify the county archives in categories relating to aspects of county government. Such classification is serviceable and valuable; the footnotes, however, are generally not to particular archives, but to the Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a result, the volume is predominantly legalistic and therefore of less than expected value on economic and social matters, the features of human life of great interest to the historian as distinguished from the political scientist.

The reviewer is compelled to agree with the Introduction that the book appears "heavy and dull to the casual reader." While the historical fraternity will welcome so substantial a contribution to the matter of Pennsylvania local government, hitherto a grossly neglected subject of research, it may well ask for slightly more journalism in later works of this kind.


In this study Dr. Ditzion has made an important contribution to the history of the public library in America. The title itself indicates the author’s interpretation of the factual data, and, in view of the evidence, this interpretation is not likely to be seriously challenged.

After a preliminary review of the “Anglo-American Library Scene” at mid-nineteenth century, the work takes up briefly the case histories of a group of libraries in the northeastern and middle states and recounts the factual story of their founding and development. This chapter is necessarily concerned
with the transition from the various kinds of subscription libraries to the tax-supported free public library.

The major portion of the study is devoted to an examination of the social, cultural, political, and economic conditions which were to be found in the region, and to the consideration of such factors as urbanization, public education, humanitarianism, organized labor, and philanthropy in their relations to the public-library movement. Examples drawn from the experiences of various libraries make clear the significance of these factors, but unfortunately the method of treatment results in a somewhat blurred picture and in a lack of incisiveness of line which would be desirable.

Dr. Ditzion finds that neither organized labor nor public education directly made significant contributions to the library movement. If these two agencies are considered exemplifications of democracy, the thesis that public libraries were conceived as “Arsenals of Democracy,” or were the result of “Democratic Strivings,” appears to be weakened.

Credit is given to the leaders who were active in the founding of individual libraries, or in securing permissive library legislation, but at the same time it is recognized that they also were products of their time, and served as agents of a cause or movement which drew its strength from a complex of events and forces far greater than any individual or small group.

The contributions of bookmen, publishers, and librarians are noted, and a chapter devoted to the public services of libraries indicates the attention which was given to meeting the needs of readers in such matters as establishing branch libraries, hours of opening, and the purchase of multiple copies of works of fiction.

There may well be some difference of opinion regarding values accorded to the various contributing influences in the public-library movement, but this is a matter of interpretation and emphasis only. The important thing is that the study represents a thorough consideration of the American public library in an important geographic area at the time when the movement first gained momentum. The application to this problem of the methods of the intellectual and social historians produces a work of real merit, even if it does not make as exciting reading as one might like.

Stephen A. McCarthy

*History of Christ Reformed Church (Evangelical and Reformed), Union Township, Adams County, Near Littlestown, Pennsylvania, 1746-1947.*

By John Clark Brumbach. (N. p., The Author, [c. 1947]. Pp. 179. $2.50.)

There is a sense in which local history is the foundation of all history. The story of the origin and development of a two-hundred-year old church is of more than local interest. An old congregation is bound to have wide ramifications in the course of eight generations. Not only the religious life, but the social, educational, and, at times, the political life of our early settlers revolved around their local church.

The Rev. Mr. Brumbach, in this brief but interesting book, gives the reader a clear picture of the early beginnings of one of the oldest Reformed
Churches west of the Susquehanna River. He shows how the Conewago region was settled some years before Christ Church (Conewago) was established there. He relates how Andrew Schreiber, Jr., a young tanner, and his bride, Anna Maria Kaiser, originally from the Palatinate, had come to Conewago as pioneers, purchased 100 acres of land for the price of “100 pairs of negro shoes,” built a cabin, and started to raise a family. Other settlers soon followed. Missionaries from east of the Susquehanna occasionally visited these scattered settlements.

The author shows that one of these traveling ministers named Christian Henry Rauch recorded in his diary that he met the Conewago settlers in a school house in March, 1746. He contends that the congregation was established by Rauch and his associate, Jacob Lischy, who reported about eighteen preaching places.

Up to this time it had been generally surmised that Christ Church was organized by the Rev. Michael Schlatter, who was sent to Pennsylvania in 1746 by the synods of Holland for the purpose of organizing the scattered people of the Reformed faith into a regular church body. Mr. Brumbach's contention is that Schlatter, while making his “grand tour” through the Colonies in 1747, visited the Conewago congregation, which had been organized a year or two earlier by some of the missionary preachers.

Be that as it may, Schlatter on his visit of May 4, 1747, opened the earliest record book, which is still in the possession of the congregation, administered communion to eighty people, and baptized twenty-one children, “under the open heaven because the house could not contain the multitude.”

This book was written as a part of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of Christ Church. It fittingly records the labors of many pastors and the continuity of family life for eight generations in this rural region. The last third of the book is devoted to the more recent history of the church.

Mr. Brumbach made a careful study of all available sources for five years. The result is that the book is thoroughly documented and in many respects is an excellent example of what ought to be done by other older eighteenth-century congregations in Pennsylvania.

An old church is indeed fortunate if its records are not scattered or lost, and it is especially favored if it has a pastor or layman who is able and ambitious enough to see that the records are preserved and made permanent by being embodied in a volume such as this one.

Franklin and Marshall College

H. M. J. Klein

Road to Reformation: Martin Luther to the Year 1521. By Heinrich Boehmer. Translated from the German by John W. Doberstein and Theodore G. Tappert. (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1946. Pp. xiii, 449. $4.00.)

This translation of Boehmer's *Der junge Luther* is another significant addition to the growing list of fine German works on the Reformer which are being made available for readers restricted to the use of English. Those readers who have already become acquainted with Boehmer through his *Luther in Light of Recent Research* will know at once what to expect in
this more recent work. Here is the same careful analytical approach, the
same enthusiasm for original research, and the same appreciative under-
standing of Luther the man.

Road to Reformation is more than a factual biography of the formative
years which prepared Luther for, and led him into, the life of a reformer.
Here is a work which grasps the feelings of the man, his doubts, his con-
victions, his confusions, his clear insights—all that was Martin Luther; and
it presents this man to the reader with a minimum of interpretation. Luther
comes to life in these pages.

But the book also clarifies more than one controversial point. With de-
tailed and accurate scholarship Boehmer makes it apparent that Luther was
not just a medievalist with a new spiritual insight. Luther stands forth as an
independent thinker in matters philosophical as well as theological, bound
to old theories and systems only insofar as they served his purposes and
needs, being fully capable of discarding them when they stood in his way.

This book constitutes "must" reading for any historian who is concerned
with the course of modern civilization, for it depicts in sharp strokes the
break of one of the earliest of the moderns with the medieval. It brings a
definitive and authoritative answer to the question, "How did Luther get
that way?"

The translation is excellent, lapsing only very infrequently into that
peculiar word order which so frequently mars translations from the German.
Here is good, readable, understandable English. The working historian will,
of course, regret the absence of the mechanical equipment of documentation
and will also be somewhat disappointed in the index, which is not as compre-
hensive as it might have been. This is not an unmixed evil, however, for
here is a book which may be put into the hands of the average reader and
classroom student with confidence that it will not swamp such readers with
a maze of scholarly techniques.

Perhaps the best aspect of Road to Reformation is its relative objectivity.
It avoids the error which has afflicted so much of the more recent German
work on Luther—namely, that of looking back on him and evaluating him
in the light of nineteenth- and twentieth-century concepts and attitudes.
Here Luther stands, as he was, a man of the sixteenth century, and, as
such, of tremendous worth for the twentieth century.

Lutheran Theological Seminary

RICHARD C. WOLF

The Road of the Century: The Story of The New York Central. By Alvin
$4.00.)

To the numerous series of popular books dealing with the history of
regions, lakes, and rivers is being added one on outstanding railroads, the
first two numbers of which have come from the facile pen of Alvin F.
Harlow. The Road of the Century, The Story of The New York Central,
the second of these to appear, presents a familiar story, to which Harlow has
contributed little. In fact, his account is based in very large degree on Edward
Hungerford's *Men and Iron, The History of The New York Central*. Harlow has lifted long quotations from it, has followed its narrative very closely—at times too closely—and has used some of its maps and illustrations. He cannot have checked his quotations with the original sources, since he has carried over some of the errors that Hungerford made and has added others of his own. In reproducing quotations he has deleted or inserted words, punctuation marks, italics, and hyphens, and has changed spelling with the utmost disregard of modern practice. To Hungerford's account, which is largely concerned with railroads in New York, he has added the intricate history of the Michigan Central, the Michigan Southern, and the Big Four systems.

In common with most writers on the New York Central, Harlow considers the Vanderbilt family so important to his narrative as to make necessary the insertion of much detail about its chief members. All the old and familiar stories about Cornelius, William H., and others are dished up, the struggles between Drew and Gould on the one hand and Cornelius Vanderbilt on the other are refurbished, and the gyrations of the stock market and the Vanderbilts' share in them are described. This, of course, makes necessary the exclusion of other details concerning the amazingly rapid technical development in the field of railroad operation to which the New York Central was contributing. Financial history is not clearly followed or analyzed, although the degree of stock watering that Vanderbilt was responsible for is given. Engineering, construction, and labor problems are slighted, political attacks are not properly discussed, and the low opinion which outstanding editors held of members of the Vanderbilt family is not given an adequate background.

Harlow applies the whitewash brush at times with subtlety. The innocent reader is permitted to know that Vanderbilt and the New York Central Railroad were frequently misunderstood, and that their motives were impugned and their methods attacked; but never is he permitted to see the anti-social effects of their policies. The Vanderbilt opponents are presented in an unfavorable light, like the "perpetual mischief-maker" Drew, or the "notorious" Venner. The arrogance of the Vanderbilt family, its crude disregard for the rights of others, its disbelief in democratic action—all these are played down. When corruption is indicated, the fault lies with a "knavish" legislature or a city council, and not with the "robber barons." For the pass evil, to which there are frequent allusions, the blame is put upon members of the legislature or other influential groups rather than upon railroad managers who were using free passes as a means of gaining valuable franchises, freedom from restrictive legislation, or friendly judges and a friendly press.

The New York Central is a great railroad whose history has been told frequently, albeit with a definite bias. The Pennsylvania, in most respects, is a greater railroad whose history is less well known. It is to be hoped that when its history is written less attention will be paid to the glamor of big names and more to the part the railroad has played in the building of the nation.

*Cornell University*  
**Paul W. Gates**
This brief volume, brought out for the American Historical Association by the University of Pennsylvania Press, is a study of a comparatively recent period of American colonial administration. As such, it is a contribution to our understanding of a subject of which Americans generally know little. Not a few Americans—even college students—are of the opinion that the United States did not possess any colonies (Alaska perhaps excepted) before 1898. As to the American “territories”—well, they were not colonies for the reason that presently they became states. Any study, therefore, which helps to dispel this illusion and to make clear the fact that the status of an American territory, though a temporary one, was nevertheless a colonial status, will be welcomed by every teacher of American history. What is most needed, of course, is a comprehensive history of the American colonial system; and perhaps some day Mr. Pomeroy will write such a history.

In the present study Mr. Pomeroy, in nine brief chapters, has dealt with the roles of the State and Interior Departments in territorial administration; with territorial finance and territorial justice; with policies and practices as to appointments; with the territorial delegate; with the Committee on Territories; and, finally, with “the system and the people.” Into somewhat more than a hundred pages he has crowded much useful information, information derived to no slight extent from manuscript material either in the Library of Congress or in the National Archives. The size of the book gives no indication of the amount of research that went into the writing of it. Nor is this all. To the text have been subjoined two valuable appendices: one consisting of a list of territorial officers from 1861 to 1890, and the other consisting of a list of territorial delegates for the same period of years. From the first of these lists it can be seen at a glance what contribution Pennsylvania made to the practical politics of territorial administration. From this state, between 1861 and 1890, there were appointed three territorial governors, three territorial secretaries, and seventeen territorial judges. Of these appointees, two later became territorial delegates: Obadiah B. McFadden from Washington and Theodore F. Singiser from Idaho.

To me it appears that Mr. Pomeroy has taken a somewhat restricted view of the functioning of “territorial control.” What does it matter if some of the Federal officers administered “services in states as well as in territories?” Did not the American colonial system embrace all the agencies by means of which the Federal Government discharged its constitutional duties with respect to our western possessions? If that be so, then a history of our colonial administration should be concerned with the surveying and disposing of public lands, with the subduing and controlling of Indians, and with the setting up and administering of local governments. Land offices, Indian agencies, and army posts were agencies of our colonial system. The fact that such agencies persisted after the territories in which they were situated had become states is not important. We need only remember that the political
part of our colonial system had fulfilled its purpose before the process of colonization had been entirely completed.

The foregoing observation is not intended to suggest that Mr. Pomeroy has not done well the limited task to which he set his hand. On the contrary, he has done his work exceedingly well, even though he has made the reading of his narrative slightly difficult by his severely condensed style. The book is well printed and the bibliography is excellent.

Bucknell University

J. Orin Oliphant


This biography of David Curtis DeForest tells the interesting story of a Connecticut Yankee who found "wealth, honor, and happiness" in Buenos Aires during the revolutionary years of 1806-1818. Daring, strong, lucky, he went on an exploratory voyage in 1801, commanded a smuggling expedition in 1804, and made a thousand per cent profit the following year by illegally exchanging naval stores in Montevideo for jerked beef which he sold for cash in Havana. Establishing himself in Buenos Aires, he witnessed the expulsion of the British, the rise of Liniers, Belgrano, and San Martin, the declaration of independence, the arrival of United States agents, and the growing pains of self-government born amidst a people untrained to care for it.

As a commission merchant he promoted commercial, ideological, and political contacts between the United States and the United Provinces of La Plata. After the War of 1812, privateers outfitted in Baltimore through DeForest's initiative made an important contribution to the winning of Argentine independence. Privateering was so profitable that honest Baltimore merchants had to send to Philadelphia to procure seamen for their vessels.

DeForest was instrumental in publishing a Spanish translation of Washington's Farewell Address. He advertised two books that were widely read in Buenos Aires: a concise history of the United States, and the writings of Thomas Paine to which were appended the American Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution of the United States, and the constitutions of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Virginia.

His requests for appointment as United States consul to the Plata River area were denied. When he decided to return to the States, the Buenos Aires government made him its consular official in Washington. All his efforts to secure the recognition of Argentina were in vain, though President Monroe did receive him socially as an American citizen. His insistence was quieted by fear that Spaniards who had been damaged by privateers might instigate law suits against him. Moving to New Haven, he celebrated annually the twenty-fifth of May, Argentina's independence day.

Though its title is somewhat misleading, the book is well documented, lucid, and written in an attractive style. By tracing the career of an adven-
The great national project: a history of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.


The canal era continues to attract its historians. This study is a competent addition to the list of books on the subject. The author describes in workmanlike fashion the rise and decline of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal which started out as a "Great National Project" sponsored by the United States, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, and which ended up as a "magnificent wreck."

This internal improvement was plagued by the same kinds of difficulties that attended canal-building elsewhere, only perhaps they were worse in the case of the Chesapeake and Ohio. These included superhuman efforts to finance the concern; incessant labor troubles; enormous problems arising from terrain; rail competition which tended to defeat the purposes of the waterway even before it was completed; politics which added to the confusion; and floods which finally swamped the canal, both literally and figuratively.

Sanderlin begins with 1749, when the Ohio Company was established, and ends with 1942, when a flood once again smashed the canal banks which had been carefully repaired by United States engineers after the Federal Government secured title and tried to make a public park out of a portion of the right-of-way. Having covered the efforts of the Potomac Company (1784-1828) to improve river navigation, the author really begins his task when he reaches the story of the construction of the canal, between 1828 and 1850.

After herculean efforts between those years, this is what the canal-builders had:

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, as completed in 1850, extended for 184½ miles along the northern bank of the Potomac River from Rock Creek in the District of Columbia to Wills Creek at Cumberland. Included in its works were seven rubble or masonry dams in the bed of the river, eleven stone aqueducts over the northern tributaries of the Potomac, seventy-five stone or composition locks with a lift averaging 8 feet, many score culverts to carry the smaller streams under the trunk, a quarter-mile long tunnel, a towpath 12 feet wide along the river side of the canal, and a waterway 6 to 8 feet deep, ranging in width from 50 to 80 feet (p. 161).

The original intention had been to continue the works over the mountains, but long before 1850 it had become clear that that hope would be un-realizable. And so, as completed to Cumberland, the canal never really went anywhere. That is to say, even during its heyday in the 1870's when "the
"ditch" was fairly prosperous because of the coal trade, it was a regional waterway between the District of Columbia and Cumberland. When the Western Maryland coal fields gave out, the canal no longer had any economic justification at all.

The most persistent obstacle to success was competition from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In fact, on the very day—July 4, 1828—when President Adams was digging the first spadeful of earth to inaugurate the construction of the canal, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was doing the same thing for the railroad. The conflict between the two enterprises for the economic control of the Potomac valley is well told, particularly the legal bickering about rights-of-way at Point of Rocks. Ultimately the Baltimore and Ohio, which did succeed in connecting with the West, secured control of its rival and thus made the victory of the iron horse complete.

The Johns Hopkins Press has done a creditable job of bookmaking. The author writes quite well, although repetitions here and there are evidence that he wrestled with "organization" trouble. Much of the information came from the canal company's records. There is an extended bibliographical note, as well as a serviceable appendix. The latter includes the names of presidents, figures on canal trade, toll rates, and other financial statements. All told, it is a good book.

Susquehanna University

WILLIAM A. RUSS, JR.


In this series of five lectures, Professor Corwin gives to an exposition of the constitutional developments occasioned by World War II that clarity of outline and depth of interpretation which we have come to expect of his ripe scholarship. In general, he finds that it is the pace rather than the direction of constitutional elaboration that has been affected. More specifically, he summarizes the impact of total war on the Constitution in terms of (1) a further increase of Congressional power, (2) the attribution to the President of the power and duty to stimulate the exercise of this power for enlarged social objectives, (3) the practically unlimited right of Congress to delegate its powers to the President, (4) the development of a very broad Presidential "prerogative," and (5) a continuation of the expansion of the administrative at the expense of the judicial process, even in the field of constitutional law.

Professor Corwin is usually content to relate what has happened and to point out its significance in terms of our own constitutional heritage, without evaluation. Not infrequently, however, he voices his own misgivings and even strong disapproval. Of President Roosevelt's threat to Congress that, if it did not repeal a certain legal provision forthwith, he would act on his own account to override the statute, saying by way of apology that "when the war is won, the powers under which I act automatically revert to the people—to whom they belong," Corwin is moved to remark that this doctrine bears a "strong family resemblance to the Leadership principle against which the war was supposedly being fought" (p. 65). But he points out that the claim
of Presidential power in emergency to suspend part of the Constitution in order to save the whole goes back to Lincoln; and he recognizes that the "constitutional relativism" which has been largely relied upon by the Supreme Court to meet the problem of total war dates from the first World War. Jerome Frank's charge (The New York Times, May 4, 1947, VII, p. 35) that Corwin holds F. D. R. and the New Deal responsible for the shift from a "Constitution of Rights" to a "Constitution of Powers" does not hold water. Note, for instance, Corwin's statement that "within the last thirty years [italics mine] total war, domestic crisis, new ideologies, and more recently science have conspired to confront our political and juristic tradition with a challenge such as it has never before been required to face" (p. 181).

The prospect, in the author's opinion, is serious, and it will do no good to blink it; but he is not without hope. Although it is not primarily the concern of this volume to make constructive proposals, there is not the slightest suggestion of trying to turn back the clock. If we are to preserve the value of "liberty against government," it is to other devices than judicial review that we must look. Nor is retreat from positive government the answer. Rather, he suggests, we must rely upon improving executive-legislative collaboration to the end that governmental action may be solidly based upon widespread and well-considered opinion.

In any case, whether or not one shares Professor Corwin's fears, the job of expounding this latest chapter of our constitutional history and of relating it to the past could hardly be improved upon.

Swarthmore College

J. Roland Pennock


The career of Thurlow Weed follows the success-story pattern of the nineteenth century. Born of poor parents, in the shadow of the Catskill Mountains near the Hudson River, Weed began to work his way at an early age. A printer's apprentice, and then a newspaper proprietor in central New York—then virtually on the frontier—he rose to a position of importance in the politics of his state, established an important newspaper, the Albany Evening Journal, and nearly achieved the importance of a boss on a national scale. His early experiences drew him into Anti-Masonry, and he became one of the architects of the Anti-Masonic party. With the failure of this venture, he pushed forward William H. Seward in the Whig, and later the Republican, party. In these years he worked with young Horace Greeley, but Greeley was erratic and broke with the others when they failed to give him political rewards. Weed hoped to make Seward president in 1860, but the opposition of Greeley and of Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania, together with the successful negotiations of the Lincoln men, blasted his hopes. With Seward in the cabinet, however, Weed still exerted so great an influence in national affairs that Lincoln sent him on a special mission to England. Though he sought power and party success, and not office for himself, Weed was not in politics for his health. Better than any other man, he
knew how to pilot measures through the legislature; and banks, railroads, and other interests paid him well for this service. During the Civil War he knew how to place contracts, and how to benefit by the use of influence. This phase of his career makes interesting reading, and here the author opens new ground. Standards of that day were less strict than those of today, but Weed's conduct was questioned in his own time, and his biographer does not spare him.

Of Weed's patriotism there can be no question, and for his contribution to the North's war effort he deserves honor and remembrance. As to his wealth, some of it was certainly made in questionable ways. No man possessed of Weed's vast political power should pilot bills for pay, or act as the agent for a railroad or as the representative of a man like Erastus Corning. Cotton trading during wartime was at least of doubtful propriety, and the Japanese ship deal certainly had its dubious aspects.

In all fairness, however, it should be said that there was probably as little shoddy in Weed's fortune as there was in any of those made during his period. To become a rich man was a general ambition in nineteenth-century America. In the pursuit of that objective, Weed typified a worship of material gain and a blindness to ethical considerations that were all too prevalent characteristics of the social order in which he played so prominent a part.

Yet this is primarily a political biography, and the chain of events is the development of political issues, factions, interests, and measures. These were devious enough in the New York of that day, and if they now appear of little importance to the general historian, they do illustrate the methods of the lobbyist or political boss. This approach leaves little time or space to assess the developing journalism, of which Weed was a part; nor does it provide a character study of the subject. Van Deusen has exploited well the Weed Papers at the University of Rochester, and other sources, but he seems to have come upon little personal data, other than what is published in Weed's Autobiography and Memoir (1883-4). As the first biography of Weed, this is an important study in American politics. It is well written and is based on sound scholarship.

Albright College

Milton W. Hamilton


The story of an old road along which thousands of Americans passed is one of the most appealing and dramatic themes in the newer social history. Dr. Kincaid has done a superb job of story-telling without sacrificing the critical sense. He has displayed a fine feeling for the country, especially the mountains, which the Wilderness Road penetrated. His narrative has been enriched by well-chosen extracts from journals such as the relatively unknown diary of Lord Hamilton, "the Hair Buyer," and the journal of Moses Austin, who has some acid comments to make concerning both the road and the pathetic procession of pioneers seeking the "Promised Land."
This volume covers a wide range of history, for the author has sketched the history of some of the feeding roads, especially the Valley Road from Virginia to the headwaters of the Tennessee. Moreover, he has followed the history of the westward movement from the fall line of Virginia and North Carolina to the Ohio River. His study ends with the foundation of Lincoln University near Cumberland Gap in 1897 and the compact of the governors of Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee in 1943 to participate in the establishment of the Cumberland Gap National Park.

This study will be of considerable value to the social historian. Dr. Kincaid has rightly placed the emphasis in his volume on the pioneering period of the road. Although some of the better known personalities associated with the famous road, such as Daniel Boone, Richard Henderson, and Simon Kenton, appear as shadowy figures, the author has drawn vigorous and interesting vignettes of lesser men, particularly Benjamin Logan, Colonel William Whitley, and the Reverend Lewis Craig, who led his entire congregation in 1781 from Spottsylvania County in Virginia to Kentucky. Better than any other modern author, he has vividly reconstructed the dangers and bloodshed which attended the settlement of Kentucky.

The chief weakness of the volume is its inadequate treatment of the period from 1800 to 1860. Was not the history of the road concerned at all with slavery? The designation of the Whig political rally of 1840 as the "End of an Era" seems artificial and forced. Nevertheless, this volume is a delightful and authentic narrative of colorful episodes in the history of one of the most famous of American highways.

University of Kentucky

Clement Eaton


This very short book is concerned chiefly with John Wilkes Booth's activities in the oil fields of Pennsylvania in 1864. Sketchy biographical material is provided to show how Booth, after some success as an actor in the early sixties, turned from the stage when his voice failed and sought quick wealth in the newly-developed oil fields around Franklin. Working with Joseph H. Simonds of Boston, he invested $6,000 in two oil properties, both of which turned out to be total losses.

Mr. Miller has consulted original sources and has not been misled by popular legends and misconceptions regarding the assassin. Thus he has exploded the general idea that Booth made money in oil; and he has corrected two or three other perpetuated errors.

An interesting revelation in the book is that on two occasions, in Franklin in 1864, Booth had, in the course of violent sectional arguments, threatened his opponent with a pistol.

Mr. Miller is to be commended for his search into first-hand data. In the course of 105 appended notes he cites court records, family documents, letters, contemporary newspaper articles, and especially Louis J. Mackey's shorthand account of Booth's activities in Franklin. The two weaknesses of the book
are its sketchiness of development and its poor writing, which includes choppy sentences, misuse of words (behaviorism for behavior, p. 13), and a few faulty constructions.

*Bucknell University*  

**ALLAN G. HALLINE**


This handsomely illustrated booklet gives an admirable account of the work carried on by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which was created in 1945 by combining the functions of the State Museum, the Archives Division, and the Historical Commission—the official agency for conserving Pennsylvania's historical heritage. In endeavoring to perpetuate this heritage the Commission conducts historical and archeological research and publishes the results secured thereby, promotes the preservation of historical records, manages the State Museum, marks historic sites, takes responsibility for the care and maintenance of the historical properties acquired by the Commonwealth, fosters local history, and extends a helping hand to historical societies and educational organizations seeking to develop their libraries, museums, and publications. These objectives have been carried out in such activities as preserving historic shrines, placing historical markers, collecting source materials, excavating Indian sites, and publishing books and pamphlets.

The Commission has constantly expanded its work, and its significance is becoming increasingly recognized for the excellent results secured. It has already achieved much and is destined to achieve even more in the future. Furthermore, it is fortunate in having a very alert and resourceful state historian.

*State College, Pa.*  

**W. F. DUNAWAY**

*Susquehanna University Studies.* Vol. III, No. 3. Edited by Arthur Herman Wilson et al. (Selinsgrove, Pa.: Susquehanna University Press, March, 1947. 25 cents.)

The leading article in the *Susquehanna University Studies,* Vol. III, No. 3, is a brief biography and an appraisal of Jacob Sechler Coxey, by Dr. George F. Dunkelberger. Coxey, known to many persons only as an erratic man who led an army of unemployed to Washington, D. C., and who named one of his sons Legal Tender, emerges from this paper as a person of some consequence, not as one who has, in the words of Dr. Dunkelberger, generally been known “for what he is not.” Coxey, by the way, was born in Selinsgrove, Pa., on April 16, 1854.

In this number appears also the first part of an article entitled “The Struggle between President Lincoln and Congress over Disfranchisement of Rebels,” by Dr. William A. Russ, Jr., a frequent contributor to these Studies.

The third and last article in this number, one entitled “The G. I. Rules
Germany," was contributed by O. Stanley Stonesifer, a graduate of Susquehanna University.

*Pennsylvania German Copper and Brass.* By Henry J. Kauffman and Zoe Elizabeth Kauffman. [Home Craft Course, XXV.] (Plymouth Meeting, Pa.: Mrs. C. Naaman Keyser, [c. 1947]. Pp. 32. $1.00.)

An illustrated pamphlet dealing with a subject which heretofore has been somewhat neglected.


Besides a foreword by Louis Ederer, "Federation Footnotes" by Elizabeth Wallace Hood, and a book review by Dorothy Landis, this number of *The Junior Historian* contains nine articles, the authors of which are Jane Iseman, Robert Bolger, Merle Moskowitz, Mary Leyden, Jane Mundorf, Joan Redland, Lois Mayer, Janet Mason, Marie Caserta, and Joyce Gillingham.


In July of this year Philipsburg and Waynesboro celebrated their sesquicentennials. The *Bulletin* for July contains a brief historical article on Philipsburg, contributed by Mrs. R. B. Rickard, and that for August contains a similar but unsigned article on Waynesboro.
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