
Meet the Amish: A Pictorial Study of the Amish People. By Charles S. Rice and John B. Shenk. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press [c. 1947]. Pp. 118. $5.00.)

The Pennsylvania Dutch (i.e., Deutsch) are among the oldest and most firmly rooted stocks in the United States. They excel in farming, business, and the professions. They take a distinguished part in the councils of the nation, and they provide America with some of her best soldiers, writers, and scientists. Yet the general public likes to think of them as a people apart, quaint and outlandish in their customs and dress. During the past two hundred years, a strong literary tradition has grown up which assigns the Pennsylvania Dutch to this rôle.

Traditionally Pennsylvania Dutch is in the succession. The book is well named. Its pictures (it is a picture book), helped by a very simple but appropriate text, stick closely to the tradition. Here are the things (some of them extinct) which the general reader in this field expects to find: barn signs, apple butter boiling, the outdoor oven, the Conestoga wagon, the Kentucky rifle, the quilting party, corner ball, the vendue, barn raising, the Schnitzel-Bank, pretzels, Schnitz-un-Knepp, etc., etc.

To say it is traditional is by no means to condemn it. It is a lively, happy book; and not only those who have casually visited the so-called Dutch Country, but also those who know it well and love it, will find much in its pages to enjoy. Its thirty-four full-page black and white drawings are strongly dramatic. Each tells a story and is full of smiling and laughing people engaged in one or another of the various activities associated with the tradition. There is a touch of caricature, perhaps, and the faces are almost too "Dutch"; but the caricature is never unfriendly, and the types intended are all recognizable. A recent issue of The Historical Review of Berks County used "The Vendue" on its cover.

Vignettes in sepia decorate the margins: sketches of household utensils, food in abundance, farm implements, and, best of all, sharp and penetrating character studies, drawn with a lithe and fine movement, that alone are worth the price of the book.

There is nothing traditional about Meet the Amish. That Charles S. Rice and John B. Shenk should have succeeded in taking and printing these 198 excellent photographs of the plainest of the Plain People (followers of the Swiss Mennonite, Jacob Amman), is in itself a considerable break with
tradition, since the Amish are notoriously camera shy. A greater break is found in the fact that the authors have resisted the temptation to look for the quaint. They have looked for the facts. As a result, their photographs, though entertaining enough, give an honest and well-rounded picture of the Amish people as a group—a picture of which the Amish themselves should have no reason to complain.

There are pictures of farms, farm animals, and farming operations, pictures of houses and home life, costume pictures, character studies, pictures of business, weddings, school in session, transportation, public sales, carriage making, and so on. There is even a series of eighteen good shots of a barn-raising in its various stages of progress.

The clothing shown here—broad hats and buttonless coats (the strict among them use hooks and eyes) worn by the men, and the bonnets and shawls worn by the women—may seem strange to most Americans; and certainly the gentleness expressed in the faces of men, women, and children is not what one sees in the movies. Nevertheless these pictures remind us—all of us, whether we come from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, or from New England, Texas, or California—of ourselves. These are normal human beings, differing from the most of us chiefly in the fact that certain moods of quiet which we know well enough in ourselves, but which we do not care much to foster, predominate in them, encouraged as they are by their religion, their history, and their partial isolation from the world.

The photographs are amazingly well taken, especially when we consider that many of them were “sneak shots.” They are dramatic, sometimes humorous, but never superficial. The subjects are well chosen to represent the actual life of the people. The pictures themselves show good composition and a touch of imagination, reminding us that in artistic hands the realism of a photograph may have depth, and evoke both sympathy and understanding.

Meet the Amish is a distinguished book, both in form and substance. The type is good, the printing excellent, the binding firm and comfortable. Each picture has an appropriate line or two of explanation. There is a first-rate introduction, explaining such things as the religious development of the Amish, their group characteristics, church organization, and education. The topics are well chosen and the handling is simple but skillful.

It is a pleasant book to browse through. It is also a valuable social document, showing the work and play of a shy but courageous people who have managed to preserve a primitive Christian ideal amidst all the distractions of our heady, anxious, modern civilization.

Lebanon Valley College

Paul A. W. Wallace


This is an unusual book because it condenses colonial history into 335 pages, and because it is written not by a historian, but by a professor of English. His literary interests have led him into historical fields and caused
him to catch the spirit of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The result is a book that any historian will gladly pause to think about.

The subject matter of the book is not necessarily new nor the interpretation revolutionary. Even the arresting title has a familiar sound. Many of us have been insisting for years that the colonies were parts of the British Empire. But in dramatizing this idea the present author has been signal success. He has also produced a swiftly moving narrative. He has introduced about 425 personal names, so treated that they are not a mere catalogue, but seem to represent personalities. These, together with some direct quotations and much detail, lead to vividness of presentation.

It is true that one can take issue with the author on some points. When John Eliot and William Penn are commended for their kindness to the Indians, it seems unfortunate that Roger Williams could not have been included. The first charter of Rhode Island was granted not directly by Parliament, but by a Parliamentary commission.

The last chapter, entitled “The Colonies Come of Age,” contains a multitude of facts about colonial wars, and about economic, social, religious, and intellectual conditions. Apparently the “coming of age” consisted mostly of a growing sense of self-reliance and of tendencies toward unity. It is here suggested that political activity should be added to the list. It is no doubt true that the aristocrats tried to dominate the representative assemblies. England also had its aristocratic minority and did not get its first reform bill till 1832. But still there was a vast amount of political activity on both sides of the Atlantic, more in proportion to the population in America than in England. This activity must have played a part in the growing-up process.

A curious type of citation is used in this book. Instead of footnotes on each page, with small letters to indicate their point of application in the text, there are about ten pages of references massed at the back of the book. These are arranged according to chapter and page in such a way that many extra words are needed to explain what part of any page a particular note refers to. An important feature of the book is the inclusion of eighteen illustrations taken from documents in the excellent collection of the Huntington Library, with which institution the author is connected. These illustrations add much to an already excellent book.

Beaver College

MARY P. CLARKE

The Selected Writings of Benjamin Rush. Edited by Dagobert D. Runes. (New York: Philosophical Library [c. 1947]. Pp. ix, 433. $5.00.)

This is a regrettable book. Benjamin Rush deserves discriminating treatment by the well-informed; here he receives careless, capricious treatment, by an editor who exhibits no familiarity with his subject or the period. Selection may be an anthologist’s own affair, but some apparent principle should govern him. No principle can be discovered which explains why Rush’s extraordinary, fertile, and voluminous writings should be classified in four meaningless groups: On Good Government, On Education, On Natural and Medical Sciences, On Miscellaneous Things; or why the liveliest and most entertaining essays should be omitted, and dull, tedious pieces in-
cluded; or why titles should be changed irresponsibly; or why chronological relationships should be destroyed; or why the reader should be asked to regard this as a reliable work.

The editor's preface is a slight thing, packed with errors in fact and with dubious judgments. The selections have no notes, introductions, or even identifications as to source; a "selected bibliography" proves miscellaneous and unhelpful, and a list of Rush's writings is both inaccurate and incomplete.

Now Benjamin Rush is a major figure, who belongs on the shelves of every Pennsylvania library. For $2.00, Goodman's fine biography can be obtained; the forthcoming editions of writings by Dr. Corner and Mr. L. H. Butterfield will certainly be authentic and authoritative. The present volume is listed at $5.00, for which sum, or a little more, a library could secure Rush's Diseases of the Mind, his most important work (entirely ignored in this volume), or his Medical Inquiries, his most pretentious effort. It would be wise to do so.

Poor editing and irresponsible publishing cannot entirely efface the abundantly vital charm of Dr. Rush. There is much good material in this book. Nevertheless, in our age of reprints such inadequate performances must be condemned, for reprints represent re-discoveries. They should add to the pleasure and expand the horizons of our re-discoveries. In the case of Mr. Philip Foner's Paine, completeness and fresh material excused a partisan tone the editor chose to take; in the case of Runes' Rush, no virtues plead a pardon for a furrow very crookedly plowed.

The Free Library of Philadelphia

J. H. Powell


Stewart Mitchell's edition of hitherto unpublished letters of Abigail Adams is exceedingly valuable. A calendar with dates, places, and brief descriptions of the letters precedes an admirable introduction. Four charts provide the genealogy of the Adams and allied families. The footnotes are unusually readable and illuminating. The editor has neither modernized the spelling nor censored the contents of the letters.

There is not much in the letters that will greatly amplify the knowledge of the historian. It can be understood from the correspondence why President John was accused of nepotism. The tragedy of the death of Charles Adams comes to clear view. Abigail's resentment over the public celebration of George Washington's birthday in 1798 is a neat example of the occasional petty-mindedness of the Adamses. One catches glimpses of Washington, for whom Abigail professed a great admiration. She did, however, believe that Washington received too much adulation, and she was of the opinion that he "used sometimes to give a man an office of whom he was afraid" (p. 189). The well-known sensitivity of John Adams is evident in a passage to the effect that after his defeat in 1800 the "President had frequently contemplated resigning" (p. 263). Some historians have tried to clear John Adams of the onus of the Alien and Sedition Acts by stating that he
did not insist upon their rigorous enforcement. The letters, however, reveal a distinct approval of the two measures which did so much to discredit the Federalist party. The correspondence is rich in comment about sicknesses, difficult servants, perils of travel, the latest fashions, and social etiquette.

The reader can detect how fortunate John Adams was in having a wife who could make butter, nurse the sick, manage the mansion at Quincy, fulfill her social duties, keep an eye on the crops, and even scold her husband for opening her mail without permission. Although Mrs. Adams was without formal schooling, her letters reveal a knowledge of Shakespeare, Milton, Sterne, Pope, Burke, and Molière. Occasional flashes of humor and numerous neatly turned phrases make the correspondence a source of constant delight. The reader might sometimes wish that Mrs. Adams would not indict her husband's opponents with such words as "Madman (p. 38), "lying wretch" (p. 146), "Hireling" (p. 117), and "sly . . . artful . . . insidious" (p. 151). Despite occasional outbursts of anger, Abigail Adams succeeded in fulfilling her stated longing to do good and to practice virtue.

These new letters reveal how much Abigail Adams contributed to the idea that the First Lady should personify the best in American womanhood. One can not read her correspondence without experiencing a renewed faith in human nature and a feeling of gratitude toward Stewart Mitchell for his contribution to our knowledge of the infancy of the Republic.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

NORMAN H. DAWES


Most of the Franklin-Jackson papers appearing in the present volume have been drawn from originals in the possession of the American Philosophical Society, though these have been augmented by other related material. The association which they reflect began rather casually through mutual intellectual interests, and was later cemented by personal acquaintance and a common preoccupation with, and support of, the cause of the American colonies during the years preceding the Revolution. Franklin being so much the better known, it will presumably be in Jackson that the volume will arouse the greater interest. The two were both alike and dissimilar. Each was, during the period of their friendship, a man of independent means, but Jackson had inherited wealth and Franklin was a self-made man. The shy, modest, retiring and unambitious lawyer of Lincoln's Inn had a personality very different from that of the Philadelphia printer. Both were encyclopedic in their knowledge, though it seems fair to say that Jackson could not match Franklin either in his profound understanding of men or in his literary ability. Both were men of affairs, for though his record of public service can not compare with that of Franklin, Jackson was for years agent for several of the American colonies, was counsel to the Board of Trade, sat in the House of Commons for over two decades, and as confidant of George Grenville offered to that Secretary of State advice more of which he might well have followed.
The subject matter of these papers is not easily characterized, for it represents the common concerns of two men conspicuous for the range of their knowledge and interests even in a century so prolific of universal genius as was the eighteenth. The political aspects of American affairs loom large, but one also finds everything from agriculture to religion, from international politics to primitive cultures, from science to land speculation. In his introduction Carl Van Doren ably supplies a background most helpful in comprehending the significance of the documents, and displays characteristic knowledge and understanding in wrestling with some of the problems which they present.

*University of Pennsylvania*

**Leonidas Dodson**


The publication of Clarence S. Brigham's monumental work—the history, bibliography, and check list of American newspapers through 1820—is an event of greatest importance to historians. For years scholars have relied on his list published serially in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, 1913-1927; but now the revised and completed list, the result of thirty-five years of painstaking research, is provided in two convenient volumes, an indispensable reference for all libraries.

In the section devoted to Pennsylvania, there are 369 titles, with data on printers, publishers, and editors, dates of changes and variations in titles, and locations of existing files (even separate copies of rarer issues). Thus for the period covered it is more comprehensive than the *Check List of Philadelphia Newspapers* (1944), published by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, which listed only holdings in this state; and it supplements Gregory's *Union List of American Newspapers, 1821-1936*. Of these Pennsylvania titles, sixty-six represent German-language, and nine French-language, newspapers. The historical aspect of the work, and the thoroughness with which data have been compiled, are indicated by the fact that fifty-four titles are represented by no existing copy; they are known only from other references. Yet these “lost” newspapers may be of considerable interest to historians. For example, there was the *Western Sky*, which apparently was published in Beula (see *Pennsylvania History*, April, 1947) in 1798. No less valuable to library users will be the facts of well-known papers and persons; some will discover that Benjamin Franklin and Hugh Meredith succeeded Samuel Keimer as publisher of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1729, and that Franklin ceased to be a publisher in 1765. Readers of the *Saturday Evening Post* may be disturbed to learn that the *Gazette* discontinued publication, without a successor, in 1815.

Primarily, however, this is a reference work, and its usefulness is enhanced by several comprehensive indices. Newspapers are grouped by states, and listed alphabetically by place of publication (with cross references where necessary); but there are also an alphabetical list of titles, a list of libraries, and a compilation of printers-editors-publishers, with their dates.
and newspaper connections. The introduction is an interesting account of the
great newspaper collections of our country and of their origins.

Albright College

Milton W. Hamilton

By the Committee on Historical Research. 3 v. [Pennsylvania Society of
the Colonial Dames of America, Publications, IV.] (Philadelphia: The
Society, 1926-1947. Pp. xiii, 261; xii, 291; xiii, 217; xiv, 221-576. $21.00.)

The Committee on Historical Research of The Pennsylvania Society of
the Colonial Dames of America has set out to collect and illustrate the music
of the early settlers of Pennsylvania and to show the gradual awakening of
musical talent in this colony and state in the eighteenth century. At the same
time, an attempt has been made to show the musical influences which con-
tributed to the social life of the period.

The compilation of the data presented in these volumes has taken some
twenty-one years, and in the group which finally completed the task one finds
but one name which appeared on the original Committee. This frequent
change of direction is possibly responsible for a certain loose-knit, aimless
organization which leaves the reader confused as to the relationship of vast
quantities of good material. The feeling is also present that too little em-
phasis has been placed upon the music, and that too much irrelevant detail
has been presented in its place: 144 pages devoted to a facsimile reproduction
of the hymnal of Johannes Kelpius yields a few meager fragments of actual
music and no impression other than that it was some of Pennsylvania’s
earliest hymnology; a short chapter on Indian music in Pennsylvania, at the
close of the first volume, quotes Alice C. Fletcher’s valuable articles on gen-
eral American Indian music and discusses the Cherokees and other southern
tribes. From a scholarly viewpoint, can one trust these findings based upon
other tribes to be, of necessity, true in the case of the Pennsylvania tribes?
Extended duplication occurs between pages 181-3 and 198 in the first volume;
and again between I, 207-8, and II, 40 ff. The former duplication is in ma-
terial, the latter in long passages exactly identical. Such duplications
strengthen the supposition made above that the Committee worked in
isolated fashion, unaware of the total plan. Volume III, Part 1, devotes
220 pages to the subject of “Backgrounds of English Musical Life in Penn-
sylvania and Other American Colonies,” an account which begins with the
Reading Rota “Sumer is icumen in” circa 1240! If this is a compilation of
source materials for the future worker in Pennsylvania music of the eight-
eenth century, the volume title seems inappropriate, and the treatment of the
six centuries of English music history, the substance of which is available
in any standard history of music, seems to place undue emphasis upon Eng-
land instead of Pennsylvania.

On the credit side comes the fine presentation of the pietistic sects, largely
from the Palatinate, showing that most of them brought their hymnbooks
along with them and that the German choral tunes formed the common root
of their early music. Vivid and informative are the sections on the Moravians
at Bethlehem and on the precocious musical development which that com-
munity enjoyed. The detailed accounts of the Ballad-Opera in Philadelphia, and most of the other sections of the book, seem fully to have attained the goals set by the original Committee in the foreword to Volume I. The numerous collations and facsimile title pages of early hymnals will be of genuine service to the future research worker in this domain. An adequate bibliography follows each volume and will serve as spadework for many other students interested in this subject.

For a long and difficult task, the farsighted and public-spirited ladies who planned and helped to execute these volumes deserve much credit.

Bucknell University

HAROLD E. COOK


Number three of the Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science for 1946 is a thin biography of William Rufus Day by Joseph E. McLean. As the title suggests, it is primarily concerned with the judicial career of the individual under consideration. Day, born in a small town in Ohio in 1849, lived a long and useful life with never, apparently, an aggressive reaction to the stirring events that swirled about him. It would have been hardly possible for him to escape the legal profession, for interest in the law came through a long New England lineage that on both sides was studded with an astounding number of judges. He studied at the University of Michigan and in 1872 moved from the “thriving, pleasant village” of Ravenna to Canton, where for a quarter of a century the firm of Lynch and Day not only cared for an ever-growing general practice but also looked after the interests of a surprisingly large number of industrial and financial corporations. The appellation “country lawyer,” however, always had some applicability.

Day, with the exception of one appointment by Warren G. Harding, owed his entire political and diplomatic career to his friend and fellow citizen of Canton, William McKinley. He was appointed First Assistant Secretary of State in April, 1897, but his lot under an aging superior whose grasp of public affairs had palsied was not a happy one. In April, 1898, he took over the headship of the State Department as the course of events forced the doddering John Sherman to retire. When the brief war with Spain was over, he left his cabinet post to John Hay to become chairman of the United States delegation to the peace conference in Paris. The end of negotiations did not mean a return to private life, as the Ohioan had hoped; McKinley soon appointed him a judge in the Sixth Judicial Circuit of the Federal courts, and on January 26, 1903, Theodore Roosevelt publicly announced his elevation to the Supreme Court by addressing him at a McKinley memorial meeting in Canton as “Mr. Toastmaster, Mr. Justice Day.”

Dr. McLean properly devotes a great part of his book to Day’s twenty years of service on the bench of the highest court in the land. In a lengthy
chapter entitled “A Strict Constructionist of National Powers,” and in an equally lengthy one designated “A Liberal Constructionist of State Powers,” he presents the jurist in action. Students will be grateful to the author for the wide range of cases covered, though some will wish for more details than are offered. Except for court records, the volume is written almost entirely from secondary sources, and it therefore contributes little that is new. Though family papers probably are not available, other existing manuscript materials might have enlivened the study somewhat. The story, like Day himself, is even and unchallenging. Considerations of space probably made it impossible to do more than mention such dramatic things as the bankruptcy of McKinley, the campaign of 1896, and the stirring episodes of the Spanish-American War, but many readers will regret that notwithstanding the author’s avowed intent the judicial mind of Mr. Justice Day is not explained. The book, nevertheless, is a helpful addition in its field.

Temple University

JAMES A. BARNES


This book is the autobiography of Gifford Pinchot, covering that part of his life which has to do with the conservation movement in general and with forestry in particular. It has nothing to say about the author’s career as governor of Pennsylvania, which he regarded as incidental to his main work. Forestry was his first and last love, and it was to this that he devoted his enthusiasm and efforts over a long period of years. He was a pioneer in this movement, and to him, more than to any other man, American forestry owes its origin and progress. His career, especially from 1889 to 1912, is the story of how practical forestry, hitherto neglected, rose and flourished in this country; and how it, in turn, was the chief factor in giving birth to the movement for the conservation of natural resources. In fostering this movement, he was “breaking new ground.”

Pinchot was the first professional forester in America. Upon graduation from Yale, he decided that forestry was to be his profession, and from that time forth it remained the great passion of his life. Since there were no opportunities in the United States for the scientific study of this subject, he went to Europe and studied under the foremost professional foresters of Germany and France. In 1898 he was appointed head of the Forestry Division in the Department of Agriculture. In 1901 this became the Bureau of Forestry. In 1905 its name was changed to Forest Service, and as such it set a new standard of efficiency in Washington as the best government organization of its day.

The conservation movement had its real origin in the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, and was the most significant movement of that administration; and in the originating of this policy Pinchot played a leading part. This was acknowledged by Roosevelt, who, in a letter to Pinchot dated March 1, 1910, says: “Besides being the chief of the forest bureau, you were the leader among all men in public office—and the aggressive, hard-hitting leader—of all the forces which were struggling for conserva-
tion, which were fighting for the general interest against special privileges.” This was indeed high praise; but who shall say it was not deserved? The friendship of Pinchot and Roosevelt, like that of David and Jonathan, was one of the famous friendships of history.

When, however, Roosevelt left the White House, the situation underwent a rapid change. Taft, though pledged to carry out the Roosevelt policies, soon came under the influence of the conservative wing of his party and turned his back upon most of the progressive ideals of his predecessor. Secretary Ballinger undertook to reverse the most important of the Roosevelt natural-resources policies, and in this was supported by President Taft. Hence arose the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, resulting in the ousting of Pinchot from his position as head of the forestry service. This episode is familiar to all students of American history, and need not be dwelt upon here. Though Taft sided with Ballinger, the public sided with Pinchot, who, though he lost his job, held on to his place in history as a faithful and efficient public servant—the heart and soul of a great movement in the public interest.

Pinchot’s book is an important contribution to the history of forestry and of conservation, a book which no one interested in these subjects can afford to neglect. Furthermore, it is readable and informative, and throws considerable light on the politics of the time. Its format is good, and it has a satisfactory index.

State College, Pa.

W. F. Dunaway


In seeking to understand somewhat of the life and character of a great historical figure, it is not enough to learn what is known of that figure himself. It is also necessary, for an accurate and complete appreciation, to learn somewhat of those who have undertaken as specialists to describe him. In other words, since the “biographee” is generally known in the light of what the “biographers” have concluded about him, it is important to know the biographers. Or, since it is the responsibility of the biographers to transform “history-as-actuality” into “history-as-record,” it is essential to know the purposes and methods of the biographer-recorders.

This is particularly true in the case of a monumental historical figure of whom much has been and will be written. It is emphatically true in the case of Abraham Lincoln, concerning whom there seems to be no limit of consideration. Lincoln’s personality, moreover, is very complex.

Benjamin P. Thomas, one of the most competent of the authorities on Lincoln, has undertaken to acquaint the non-specialist with the principal general biographers of Mr. Lincoln for the purpose of aiding him to arrive at a more accurate and complete appreciation of their subject. He has based the “story behind the Lincoln books” on “the correspondence of Lincoln’s biographers” (p. ix), and has gathered this correspondence from many widely-scattered depositories. Though the basis of the study is in the letters
of certain principal general biographers, the author drew his materials from many other sources, and wrote his conclusions largely around the fourteen persons whose portraits are so effectively drawn by Mr. Proctor. These are: Herndon, Holland, Lamon, Nicolay, John Hay, Weik, H. C. Whitney, Ida Tarbell, Horace White, Barton, Beveridge, Logan Hay, Sandburg, and Angle, with R. T. Lincoln's portrait added.

"From the letters" (and, of course, from other sources) the theme of the book emerges as a struggle between two conflicting schools of thought regarding the way to write about Lincoln. One school would depict him as a national hero with all the attributes a national hero is supposed to have. The other school would represent him as he was. At first, public opinion was solidly behind the former view. Gradually it shifted. Now people want the facts. Yet even those who have tried honestly to show us Lincoln as he was have had a feeling of failure. There was something about the man that the most probing technique can not always penetrate (p. x).

Mr. Thomas has written a valuable book, and has justified his conclusions, stated as follows: "In so far as realism and idealism in Lincoln literature are concerned, they should be complementary rather than antagonistic. Neither the realists nor the idealists have been equal to the task of portraying Lincoln conclusively. Those biographers, like Tarbell, Charnwood, and Sandburg, who combine realism with a measure of imagination, have come closest to success. Yet both the realists and idealists have left essential marks. . . . Both realism and idealism have a place in Lincoln literature. . . . For as our portrait of Lincoln becomes true, it also becomes more superb."

Gettysburg College

ROBERT FORTENBAUGH


This little volume, "published in the Penn Mutual's centennial year in honor of the man whose name the Company adopted at its founding in the year 1847," represents a very worthy expenditure of centennial celebration funds. Its publication, obviously high-class advertising, is also meritorious public service.

The biographers of William Penn are very numerous. Of them Dr. Comfort, former president of Haverford College, is in some ways the best. Among the living biographers of William Penn he is without a peer. His 1944 volume, William Penn, A Tercentenary Estimate, was far the best of the more recent writings on Penn. In regard to the volume herein reviewed, Dr. Comfort protests that "this is in no sense a biography of Penn," but either his Quaker humility has gotten the better of him or his concept of biography is too comprehensive and too exacting. Indeed, there is ground for complaint that the volume is too much biographical rather than too little biographical. It includes many aspects of the religious and intellectual life of William Penn, and these are the very essence of biography. The real trouble is with the title. The use of the word "and" in such a title, a very common literary device, is ambiguous and confusing. Are there two subjects, "William Penn" and "Our Liberties," or is there just one integral subject, "The Rôle of
William Penn in the Establishment of Our Liberties”? Actually there seem to be two subjects rather than an integral concentration on one aspect of the life and career of Penn. If, as would seem to be the case, one integral subject was intended, disappointment may be expressed here, that the truly significant rôle of William Penn in the promotion not only of religious tolerance and religious freedom, but also of civic freedom and political liberty was not more fully elaborated and given a much larger part of this lovely treatise.

Other writers, in larger works, have presented greatly more factual data about the external life of William Penn, but it is a reasonable conjecture that no one has grasped, so fully as has Dr. Comfort, the inner life, the mind and spirit (not always mystical, as Dr. Comfort reveals), of the founder of Pennsylvania. The reader of William Penn and Our Liberties will close the book with a distinct impression of the validity of the terminology “Holy Experiment” so far as its creator was concerned. Well printed and well bound, this little book may rightly be described as an evening’s delight.

The University of Pittsburgh

ALFRED P. JAMES


Professor Porter has undertaken one of the more important tasks facing American political science—that of delineating the evolution of county government. His choice of Virginia as the back-drop for his study is a most fortunate one. Virginia, representative of an influential section of the American political scene, furnishes the example of a fairly large state which is not so Southern as to be atypical of the more populated states of the eastern seaboard.

As its sub-title shows, this work employs the historical approach. It first treats of the colonial phase of county administration, then of the ante-bellum development of county government, and concludes with an account of the changes in structure and jurisdiction resulting from the Reconstruction Era and the pressures of the late nineteenth century. The conclusion is capped by a brief and not very comprehensive summary of the main phases of the evolutionary process affecting county government in the Old Dominion.

This work suffers from the fact that it is a legislative history in the narrow sense of that term. The mere recitation of laws creating or abolishing certain duties of a sheriff or other officer does not make a satisfactory work. It is neither good political science nor good history merely to review the laws and to append footnotes to such a review. The reader expects, and has a right to expect, much more of a writer. When one undertakes the task of depicting the development of a political problem such as public administration at the county level, one must approach the job from the standpoint of one’s reader. Mr. Porter probably had a graduate faculty in mind when he composed his book, but even so it was his duty to give his account of the history of Virginia county government flesh and sinew. This he could do
only by placing his problem in its proper social and cultural environment. Too often political historians forget that the mere recounting of facts and figures is meaningless. In every account of a political institution there should be included a clear, succinct statement of the cultural situation in which that institution is functioning. In this book one looks in vain for a description of the types of society in Virginia which gave rise to the laws the author documents so meticulously. It is a pity that Mr. Porter did not remember his reader more often. If he had done so, he would have portrayed the spirit of the times prevailing at the different stages of the evolution of Virginia county government, and would have let this portrayal serve as a back-drop for his legislative survey. A perusal of a study so written would indeed be rewarding, for such a study could hardly fail to kindle a desire in the professional and lay reader alike to delve more deeply into the vagaries and mysteries of local government, past and present, wherein the germs of American political enterprise abound.

*University of Delaware*

PAUL DOLAN


This is a book designed for popular consumption. Large print, illustrations, and bits of Pennsylvania German art make it attractive. Each chapter heading is a continuation of the title to a complete thought. The title of the first chapter, for example, is "It's an Old Pennsylvania Custom to Dwell in Caves." Mr. Mitchell writes with a fascinating style, which fact, together with that of the attractive appearance of this volume, should insure him a wide circle of readers.

The research student who is looking for an exhaustive treatment of Pennsylvania customs, with numerous footnote references and a bibliography, will be disappointed in this book. There are some references throughout the text, but no bibliography. We should not hold these omissions against the book, however, because a little popularizing of Pennsylvania history certainly will do no harm. The historical material which the author presents appears to be accurate. He does make use of some legends and stories, but they are presented as such, and their inclusion would seem to be permissible in connection with the subject of "Customs."

The author follows a practice which is all too prevalent in both history books and newspapers—namely, that of glamorizing the bizarre, the eccentric, and even the criminal. One must stretch the meaning of words considerably to make it appear that living in caves, or being a criminal, or even founding a Utopia, is an "Old Pennsylvania Custom." The author devotes numerous pages to these items, which have had little or no effect upon the development of Pennsylvania, and at the same time practically ignores the good old Pennsylvania custom of going to church, a custom which has had a profound influence in the state. Educational customs are likewise neglected. It is presumed that the word "Old" eliminates consideration of the customs of the Italians, Poles, Czechs, and other late immigrants who have contributed
much to the industrial development of the state. At any rate, their customs are not mentioned.

The author has confined himself pretty largely to the Pennsylvania Dutch, the Quakers, and the Amish. He has given a brief history of the Utopian groups, and has written interesting chapters on "Magnificent Barns," "Cone-stoga Wagons," and "Kentucky Rifles." In general, he has presented attractive material on certain peculiar customs of early Pennsylvania life. Glenside, Pa.

G. Morley Richards


In his study entitled Niles' Weekly Register, Norval Neil Luxon has dealt with a subject that is not entirely new. In 1933 the Johns Hopkins Press brought out for Richard Gabriel Stone a little book entitled Hezekiah Niles as an Economist, most of the contents of which overlaps, to some extent, the contents of Mr. Luxon's book. Mr. Luxon, however, has treated more extensively the labors of Hezekiah Niles (1777-1839) than has Mr. Stone, with the result that the book now under review is a distinctive contribution to our knowledge of American history. Essentially a study in the history of American journalism, Mr. Luxon's book is not, however, a history of what might be called a typical American newspaper; for the weekly newspaper (or news magazine) which Hezekiah Niles founded in Baltimore, in 1811, was nothing if not distinctive. Maintained without advertising, printed on pages of book size, and devoted to the dual policy of recording news that was currently significant and of preserving documents and statistics for posterity, the Register embodied at one and the same time characteristics of the late Literary Digest, of a present-day news magazine, and of the World Almanac. For thirty-eight years it was published, during twenty-five of which it was Niles' personal organ. Today it is much used by historians of the period it covers. Hezekiah Niles was an historian's editor.

Mr. Luxon's study covers the entire life of the Register (1811-1849). It deals with the Register as a business enterprise, with the careers of Niles and his successors, with the general policy of the Register in respect of news and editorials, and then, in several chapters, with the attitude of the Register to various significant questions of the time, questions of national as well as of international import. The chapter on Anglo-American relations and the chapter on Latin America are especially significant. The book closes with a critical essay on authorities.

The hero of this book is Hezekiah Niles, and the major interest of the reader will naturally center in the history of the first fifty volumes of the Register, for which Niles was personally responsible. The period that followed Niles' retirement was anticlimax. Mr. Luxon has confessed as much, perhaps unwittingly, for the title he has chosen, emphasizing as it does the period of Niles' control, is not altogether an accurate one. For the last twelve years of its life, the onetime Niles' Weekly Register was published as Niles' National Register.
During the quarter-century that he edited the Register, Niles became a national figure, an editor whose periodical was read in every state of the Union, and whose views on important questions of the time influenced people everywhere in the United States. He was one of the great editors of our era of personal journalism. The esteem in which he was held by contemporaries is revealed in part by the fact that his memory is perpetuated in the names of two cities of the United States—Niles, Michigan, and Niles, Ohio.

Pennsylvanians should have more than a passing interest in Hezekiah Niles. Although he lived most of his life in Delaware and Maryland, Niles was born in Pennsylvania, of Quaker parents, and he served a short apprenticeship in Philadelphia, within the period when that city was the national capital. But in an important way not mentioned by Mr. Luxon, Hezekiah Niles touched the history of journalism in Pennsylvania. His Register, there can be little doubt, served as the model for Samuel Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania (1828-1836). One can not turn many pages of the first volume of Hazard's Register without concluding that Hazard was attempting to do for Pennsylvania what Niles was attempting to do for the United States.

Mr. Luxon's book is an important one, despite the fact that it is somewhat marred by stylistic deficiencies. It is beautifully printed on paper—mirabile dictu!—of superior quality.

Bucknell University

J. ORIN OLIPHANT


In 1750 Lord Hardwicke declared that the problem of determining the status of the lower counties on the Delaware was "of a nature worthy the judicature of a Roman senate rather than of a single judge" (p. 55). Dudley Lunt, an attorney of real literary ability, has in this brief volume given the public the fruits of his research here and in England to determine the boundaries of Delaware. Conflicting claims of Swedes and Dutch, of Lord Baltimore, the Duke of York, William Penn, and the English Crown, and of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the United States are here skillfully related so as to make clear a story of negotiations and litigations which is almost unbelievably complicated but fascinating withal. The southern boundary depended upon a misplaced cape; the western boundary was drawn in 1764-1765 by Mason and Dixon, a circumstance resulting in the fact that Delawarans, though few of them realize it, live not north or south, but east of the Mason and Dixon Line; the northern boundary involved a compound curve, a "Wedge," and a "Horn," and was not settled until 1921; and the eastern boundary, last to be defined, comprises two arcs in the river, the mean low water mark on the Jersey shore, the main ship canal, and the ocean.

University of Delaware

JOHN A. MUNROE

The eleven authors of this volume have compiled a fine work dealing with one of our present-day political problem areas. The problem of discussing Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, and Turkey is complicated by dissimilar political control at various periods, by complete or partial partition of a country or empire at the close of various conflicts, and by the recency of some autonomous political units.

The first third of the volume is devoted to the historical backgrounds of the various countries to the end of World War I. The remaining two-thirds is devoted to the individual countries from the period of World War I through World War II—the last five chapters dealing with German and Russian occupation practices, governments in exile, economic problems of the area, and “Russia Over Central Eastern Europe.” The material is up-to-date for such a compendious volume, but it is doubtful whether the book will receive more than classroom use. Many topics have received less treatment than some students of this area will feel is justified, but better balance may come if the volume is revised at a later date. At times, various authors have been too generous in attributing one major event as the cause of some action or opinion.

Though the treatment is not directed toward a study of migration, the reader can easily understand many reasons why millions migrated from this area to America. The loss of this man-power and the future problem of accumulated non-emigrating population are discussed. With Russia dominating the area, surplus man-power will be distributed to deficient man-power areas—voluntarily or otherwise; the theoretical problem of surplus population has been “solved.”

Bowling Green State University

LEROY O. MYERS


Here is a brief study which shows that the critical acumen of Lorenzo Valla is not dead. The matter here in controversy, to be sure, is not the question of the authenticity of the Donation of Constantine; it is the question of the authenticity of The Horn Papers—something that happened in Pennsylvania in these latter days. An exhaustive inquiry into the nature of this recent publication, an inquiry made by a committee of historians under the auspices of The Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Va., was the basis for the article now under review. On the foregoing committee the Pennsylvania Historical Association was represented by Dr. Lawrence Henry Gipson.

Inasmuch as The Horn Papers have already been brought to the notice of the readers of this magazine [Pennsylvania History, XIII (October, 1946), 309-310], it will suffice here to set forth briefly the findings of the above-
mentioned committee of investigation, as summarized by Messrs. Middleton and Adair.

In view of the fact that intensive investigation failed to discover a shred of evidence to substantiate the authenticity of the documents and, on the contrary, found convincing evidence of their spuriousness, it is our opinion that the primary material in *The Horn Papers* is a fabrication and therefore that historians and genealogists ought not to rely on any data in Volumes I and II; even the extract from the Federal census of 1790 in Volume II is grossly inaccurate, and the chapters by Messrs. Jones and Moredock appear to have been based, in good faith, on the material now shown to be unreliable. Volume III, on the other hand, containing warrant, survey, and patent maps prepared by the Pennsylvania Land Office, is valuable. The Greene County Historical Society rendered a real service to historians and genealogists by publishing these maps and surveys.

It is the opinion of the Committee that the part of Mr. A. L. Moredock and the late Mr. J. L. Fulton in the affair of *The Horn Papers* is entirely honorable, and that their endeavor to publish documents relating to the early history of the region is highly commendable.

Thus it is shown that most of the publication called *The Horn Papers* has taken on the character of infamous immortality—like other historical frauds; but to the student of historical methodology both *The Horn Papers* and the investigation exposing them are records of great value. They should persuade present-day students, as the work of Lorenzo Valla in the fifteenth century could never persuade them, of the necessity for historical investigators to be ever alert, to take nothing for granted, to remember that frauds will be with us always. When someone finally gets around to the task of bringing out a long overdue American edition of Ernst Bernheim's *Lehrbuch der Historischen Methode*, he should not pass by the opportunity to append to his English translation of that monumental work the capable study entitled *The Mystery of the Horn Papers*.


In this pamphlet, a publication of The Institute of American History at Stanford University, Professor Robinson has presented a “summary of research and teaching in the field of American history in the colleges and universities of the United States” during the period of World War II. The pamphlet is well worth careful study. Professor Robinson’s conclusion with respect to public interest in American history is as follows:

Public interest in American history, in teaching, in presentation through publication, and in investigation is increasing. The time is gone when testing as to factual information will suffice to meet the public interest either in teaching or in the products of publication. Consequently, the purpose of the study of history, the scope of the inquiries pursued by American scholars, the choice of subject matter, and most of all, the value of the discipline, are more and more at the center of the discussion given history by the layman. On all
matters of teaching and research it seems that the public may be more disposed than in the past to ask the historians of their findings, and to follow these findings as those of experts in a special field of knowledge (p. 33).


A sympathetic appraisal of the career of Charles M. Schwab is contained in this pamphlet by the chairman of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. It was delivered as the first annual address in the Charles M. Schwab Memorial Lectureship of the American Iron and Steel Institute, Hotel Pierre, New York, May 21, 1947. Here is an item that every collector of Pennsylvaniana will wish to have.


George Korson, one of the editors of The Child's Book of Folklore, is well known for his work on Pennsylvania folklore. Readers of Pennsylvania History will recall his Minstrels of the Mine Patch (1938) and his Coal Dust on the Fiddle (1943), both of which books were brought out by the University of Pennsylvania Press.


The York County Society, which at the end of 1947 had a membership of 805, reports that its staff during the preceding twelve months had "done a large job in research, indexing, copying, and filing." The partial list of additions to the library of the Society during the year, as shown by this report, is impressive. On May 10, 1947, the Society received the Award of Merit of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, the award being "based upon recognition of the work of the Society in the last year in the organization and development of its historical materials for greater use, and for its attention to providing the public with information concerning York County history."


The Collector's Art, A and Z. By Asher J. Odenwelder, Jr. [Home Craft Course, XXVI.] (Plymouth Meeting, Pa.: Mrs. C. Naaman Keyser [c. 1948]. Pp. 32. $1.00.)


This report, among other things, describes the material received by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library during the last year, which material was
significant and considerable; describes the measures taken for arranging and preserving material; and tells what use has been made of the Library's material. President Roosevelt's vision of what this Library was to become, the Archivist writes, is still far from being fulfilled. "The principal impediment even to planning for this realization during the past year," the Archivist explains, "was the fact that the Library had not received the bulk of the late President's papers and did not know whether it would receive them." Happily, this question is now decided, for on July 21, 1947, the Dutchess County Surrogate Court ruled that Mr. Roosevelt had given his papers to the Government.

The Story behind the Names of Western Pennsylvania Counties. (Pittsburgh: John M. Roberts & Son Co., n. d. Pp. 56.)

A collection of stories "reprinted from Roberts' advertising in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph." Seventy-five thousand copies of this pamphlet were printed.


An attractively printed and a beautifully illustrated bulletin.

To the Book Review Editor:

The well-deserved acclaim which has greeted Dr. Russell W. Gilbert's Picture of the Pennsylvania Germans is in large measure due to the general view which he presents, in bold strokes, of the historic rôle of these people. In such a popular account it is not unusual to find some errors of fact and detail which do not alter or mar the over-all picture. Hence it will in no wise detract from the value of this publication to point out certain errors which thus far have eluded the reviewers.

On page 18 of Dr. Gilbert's pamphlet there is a statement about the importance of Pennsylvania as a center of printing and publishing which slights the contributions of other states in that field, and which is quite inaccurate:

"Late in the eighteenth century [writes Dr. Gilbert] there were thirty-one places in Pennsylvania where printing was done, three in Maryland, four in Ohio, five in Virginia, one in Massachusetts, and one in New York" (Italics mine).

These figures are practically all wrong. There are two works which may be cited as authorities on the dates for early printing: Douglas C. McMurtrie's History of Printing in the United States (Vol. II, The Middle Atlantic States [the only one published], New York, 1936), and C. S. Brigham's History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820, just published. According to McMurtrie, Pennsylvania had fifteen centers of printing in the eighteenth century, but Brigham (more recently) lists twenty-four places where newspapers were printed. For the other states in the eighteenth century, McMurtrie lists printing in fifteen places in New Jersey, thirteen
in Virginia, and five in Maryland. His volume does not cover Massachusetts or all of New York, but for these a fair comparison may be obtained by listing the places of newspaper publication given by Brigham: twenty-seven for New York and nineteen for Massachusetts.

Another assertion Dr. Gilbert makes with respect to this same subject of early printing is that the younger Christopher Sauer in 1772 "established a typefoundry and thus became the first typefounder in America." It is true that Sauer made this claim on his title page, "Gedruckt mit der ersten Schrift die jemals in America gegossen worden." Dr. Lawrence C. Wroth, the acknowledged authority in this field, however, states in his *The Colonial Printer* (Portland, Me., 1938), pp. 98-100, that Abel Buell of Killingworth, Connecticut, in 1768, became the first American typefounder. Furthermore, the claim for Sauer was even less valid, since he made his types from imported European matrices, and did not make his own moulds.

Pennsylvania, indeed the Pennsylvania Germans with their early presses at Germantown, Ephrata, Lancaster, Reading and elsewhere, can boast of great achievements in early printing and publishing. In support of such accomplishments there is no need to disparage in any measure the achievements of other colonies and states.

Milton W. Hamilton
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