
The antislavery principles of the American Quakers are more or less taken for granted by American historians, although most of the work done on the antislavery movement has not emphasized the Quaker position, possibly because of Quaker refusal to identify their church with the activities of the abolition societies. The names of a few Quakers who devoted themselves either to the crusade against slavery or to the cause of the slave and the free Negro are well known. John Woolman, Anthony Benezet, Benjamin Lundy, the Grimké sisters, and Levi Coffin are examples of names that may be found on the pages of books dealing with reform movements or with social and intellectual history in general. Textbooks are more chary of reference to the antislavery Quakers, however, and in one two-volume work only Whittier and Lundy were mentioned, while in a long text on colonial history reference was limited to Woolman and Benezet. It is high time, therefore, that Quaker material should be drawn upon to set forth Quaker thought and Quaker action on the slavery issue in complete and scholarly fashion.

Professor Drake is in an especially favorable position to write a really definitive work on the subject, for his position both at Haverford College and as curator of the Quaker collection in its library has given him access to Quaker sources. Moreover his search elsewhere for materials has been exhaustive. His interest in the subject has extended over the years since he first used the material in a doctoral dissertation, and it is safe to assume that little material pertinent to the subject has not been examined and weighed with competence and good judgment. Quakers and Slavery, although not a long book, is comprehensive in its examination of source material, a delight to students in the field of social history because of its annotation and its bibliography, a model in its judicious use of quotations from materials not easily accessible, and a thoroughly competent and interpretative summary of the interest of American Quakers in the greatest social problem of their era.

The account starts with the acquiescence in slavery of sixteenth and seventeenth century England and America. Neither the African slave trade nor Negro slavery troubled the consciences of the men of that period. The riches of the New World could not be developed without an adequate supply of labor. A few voices were raised in opposition in the years from Roger Williams to Samuel Sewell, but they were no more apt to be Quaker voices than those of other men of tender conscience. It was not until the humanitarianism of the mid-eighteenth century turned men's minds to the lot of the
slave and an increased interest in the structure and problems of society led to a consideration of the effect of slavery as an institution that men became interested in the ethics of the slave trade and of slavery in general and in the problems that faced those who found themselves in opposition to these institutions.

Professor Drake asserts that the only significant movement against slavery in colonial America took place among the Quakers and proceeds to prove his point in four heavily annotated chapters. At first it was an occasional Quaker, "Crying in the Wilderness," without the sanction of the Quaker authorities or leaders of Quaker thought. George Fox himself was well aware of the evils of slavery but was equally aware of the dangers of stirring up slave insurrections and of the difficulties involved in interfering with the slave trade or with the possession of slaves—even those owned by Quakers. Quaker teaching of the late seventeenth century was directed toward insuring kindly treatment for slaves and toward Christianizing and educating Negroes. Even this mild program was considered dangerous by colonial authorities, especially in Barbadoes where it was first preached. William Penn did little to restrict slavery in his province of Pennsylvania, and the economic interest of Rhode Island in both slavery and the slave trade is well-known. Professor Drake mentions a few seventeenth century Quakers who held that slavery violated the golden rule and that it was based on the spoils of war, but he comes to the conclusion that Quakers on the whole, while condemning abuses and advocating kindness, accepted the current thinking on the subject.

In chapters entitled "The Friends Stop Buying Slaves" and "The Quakers Free Their Slaves" the two facts of mid-eighteenth century antislavery sentiment are discussed. It is in these chapters that the work of John Woolman is stressed and is illustrated by long quotations from his own writings and from those of his contemporaries. Its success is shown by the action taken by individual Quakers and by the Yearly Meetings of the church. Mr. Drake's introduction of John Woolman as the leader of the reform movement among the Quakers says that such a leader "... must, through purity of heart and clarity of mind, be himself brought to the knowledge of the Will of God for man... John Woolman, the greatest Quaker of the eighteenth century and perhaps the most Christlike individual that Quakerism has ever produced, became the channel through which the antislavery impulse flowed into the conscience of the Society of Friends in America."

(p. 51)

In these chapters on the early antislavery movement, due attention is paid to the attitude of the Quaker toward the Negro as a human being. Unlike the later abolitionist, who was obsessed with the sin of slavery, the Quaker was genuinely concerned with the problem of the freed slave. By recompensing the Negro for the labor of his years of servitude and by constant care, advice, and supervision, the ex-owner endeavored to make reasonably certain that the freedman should be able to succeed in making the transition to his new status. When about 1774 in the Delaware meeting alone, 157 men, 144 boys, 134 women, 178 girls, and seven undesignated Negroes were freed
there was abundant evidence of the financial burden assumed by the Friends because of a matter of ethics and faith.

For a decade after the adoption of the Constitution, Quakers continued to lead the way in denouncing the slave trade and in advocating manumission. Then doctrinal discord and other causes led to a diminution of effort. Most Quakers became gradualists and had little to do with the abolition movement, which tore the country apart in the pre-Civil War years. Mr. Drake gives ample explanation for this situation and due credit to the minority which persevered in the cause. The final chapter, "A Quiet Testimony, 1843-1865," shows the part played by the Quakers in the last years of the struggle and ends with a quotation from George Macaulay Trevelyan: "Close your ears to John Woolman in one century and you will get John Brown the next, with Grant to follow." With the last protests of the Quakers against both slavery and war, Mr. Drake brings his account to an end.

A bibliographical chapter of thirty-six pages adds greatly to the value of the monograph and lists the most significant of the Quaker sources, both in manuscript and in print. Professor Drake has made a real contribution to the field of antislavery literature and has furnished ample proof of the magnitude of the part played by the Quakers in that crusade.

University of Minnesota


In view of the spate of books on the background of the Civil War that have issued from the press in recent years, it might well be supposed that nothing significant remained to be said concerning this highly controversial subject. That such is not the case is made amply clear by Dr. Stampp's scholarly analysis (the best this reviewer has seen) of the Northern reaction to the Secession crisis of November 1860 to April 1861.

In his interpretation of war responsibility Dr. Stampp does not subscribe in any real sense to what Bernard De Voto has styled the "revisionist interpretation of the Civil War." In Stampp's opinion the war was the product of deep and fundamental causes, which were not of such a character, however, that they made war either necessary or inevitable. Slavery was the most explosive issue dividing the nation, but other differences essentially, though not exclusively, economic were hardly less important in this connection.

No genuine basis for compromise was ever offered to the South, says Stampp. In large part the cause of conciliation was undermined by open opposition on the part of Secessionists and Radical Republicans alike; by its dependence upon the moderate Republicans, "who deliberately betrayed it;" and by the reluctance or inability of Americans everywhere, enmeshed as they were in the toils of semantic difficulties, to grapple with the deeper aspects of sectionalism. In vain did the Border States men and the Northern Democrats attempt to rally public opinion behind the only compromise pro-
posal (Crittenden's) that had even an outside chance of satisfying the Southern Rights men.

Viewing the Secession flurry in the South as "a colossal game of bluff," the Republican leaders were disposed at first to remain calm, avoid words or acts that might further inflame Southern opinion, and wait for the dormant force of Southern Unionism to reassert itself. The secession of the Cotton States, beginning in late December 1860, brought about a shift in the Lincolnian point of view. While Seward, the self-appointed "premier" of the Lincoln Administration, continued to apply his formula of "masterly inactivity," Lincoln began to envision the possible necessity of using force to compel obedience to federal laws. It was in strict conformity with this policy, first publicly announced in his Indianapolis speech in February 1861 and further defined in his First Inaugural, that Lincoln made his historic decision to reinforce Sumter.

Even a casual inspection of the Stampp volume reveals the important rôle of Pennsylvania during these critical months. Not simply was the Morrill Tariff Law, passed during the lame-duck session of Congress, currently stigmatized by a Southern spokesman as "the issue of a carnal coalition between the Abolitionists of New England and the protectionists of Pennsylvania." Considerable space is also given to the attempts on the part of prominent Pennsylvanians to meet the crisis. Among them were President James Buchanan, whose caution and literal constitutionalism, the author feels, were often confused with personal weakness and moral cowardice; Attorney General Jeremiah Black, "the ablest and most trusted of Buchanan's advisers"; the two United States Senators from Pennsylvania, William Bigler and Simon Cameron; several Pennsylvania congressmen, including the redoubtable Thaddeus Stevens; and Governor Andrew Curtin.

And the War Came is a well documented study, satisfactorily indexed and attractively printed. This reviewer regrets, nevertheless, the author's decision not to include a critical bibliography. Few persons other than Lincoln specialists would be likely to know that The Diary of a Public Man, listed in Stampp's bibliography without any explanation of its nature and cited on at least three different occasions in the author's footnotes, "ought not," in the words of the best informed student of the Diary, "to be regarded as a reliable source in any of its details."

Pennsylvania College for Women

J. Cutler Andrews


David Gilmour Blythe, painter of portraits and genre, was born on a farm near East Liverpool, Ohio, in 1815, a son of Scotch immigrant parents. He served an apprenticeship to a woodcarver in nearby Pittsburgh, showing ability in both carving and drawing. It was pioneer country then, and Miss Miller's description of her hero might be that of the typical pioneer youth "a tall, sturdy, lanky young man, restless in spirit and clever with his hands."

From 1837 to 1840, depression years in which a minor artist would have fared ill at his art, he served as a seaman on an American man-of-war. He
returned to East Liverpool and the painting of portraits, then settled in Uniontown, forty miles below Pittsburgh, where he has left a monument of enduring interest in an eight-foot wooden statue of Lafayette, a heavily complaisant reflection of the old Frenchman, standing hat in hand. He married at Uniontown, but his young wife died within the first year of their marriage. In 1850, Blythe was painting his best portraits and launching an ambitious scheme for the exhibition of a scenic panorama.

His wife's death and the failure of the panorama began the transformation of the salty, exuberant Blythe into the lonely, eccentric, bitterly amused commentator of later years, writing and painting with a sharp humor that has always this tragic background. He returned to Pittsburgh in 1856 and there, until his death in 1865, painted and exhibited in "Gillespie's" shop window the small subject pieces on which his fame rests.

This volume, based on an exhaustive study of Blythe, presents a vivid and pleasantly written picture of him. It is carping to ask for more than these precise and competent pages contain, and yet one cannot help wishing that the generous selection of illustrations had been made larger. The detailed descriptions of pictures only make their absence more keenly felt. One could wish, too, for a fuller quotation of Blythe's highly individualistic poetry, which offers a more direct and personal insight into his character than the paintings. Miss Miller is aware of the parallel between the verses and pictures and of the fact that both sprang from the responsiveness of an embittered mind to a limited, unsophisticated environment. Primarily an art, rather than a social, historian, however, she searches out artistic influences dating back to Breughel—admittedly of a tenuous and doubtful character—while touching too lightly on the unartistic clientele for which Blythe wrote and painted. A painter's style can be shaped almost wholly by his audience. This is particularly true of this provincial shop-window dramatist, who cared nothing for academic influences or taste and never sought a fame wider than the circulation of the local papers. Indeed his merit and originality is founded upon that very fact.

Dickinson College

CHARLES COLEMAN SELLERS

Pennsylvania's Susquehanna—Interesting history, legends and descriptions of the "heart river" of Pennsylvania—its surrounding hills and mountains, its broad valleys and narrow gorges, its canals and railroads, its towns and cities and, above all, its beauty. By Elsie Singmaster (Mrs. Harold Lewars). (Harrisburg: J. Horace McFarland Company, 1950. Pp. xiv, 236. $6.00.)

The subtitle of this volume describes well its contents. The book is written in a somewhat poetic and picturesque rather than in an analytical style. It is not a definitive history, nor does it claim to be. Many persons will read it from cover to cover and enjoy having it on hand to look at after a first reading.

Pennsylvania's Susquehanna is beautifully printed on heavy enamel pages measuring almost eight and one-half by eleven inches. It is illustrated with 156 photographic reproductions, one of which is in full color. Many are
full-page pictures devoted largely to the main stem of the river and its
tributaries, their bridges, surrounding valleys, hills, towns, and cities. Most
of the pictures are well reproduced but are somewhat lacking in variety of
subject matter. This sameness is broken to some extent by reproducing photo-
 graphs of Standing Stone in the North Branch (page 24), Harrison Wright
Falls on Kitchen Creek in Ricketts Glen State Park (page 45), an early
view of the Williamsport Boom filled with logs (page 77), an air view of
Eagles Mere Lake (page 82), a 1936 flood scene at Sunbury (page 116), an
1883 view of a pleasure trip on the Juniata Canal (page 167), and a paint-
ing of Theodore Burr’s famous bridge of 1815 at Mc Calls Ferry (page 208).

No matter where the book is opened, except near the beginning and end,
one or more pictures meet the eye. In most instances the picture is well
described by one or two sentences printed beneath it.

Mrs. Lewars uses a geographical and generally chronological plan in
writing the book, treating the North Branch and its vicinity, then the West
Branch, then the Main River from Northumberland to the Maryland border.
In treating the geographical area represented by each, she first deals with
early incidents, on some occasions with prehistoric times, and then moves
steadily ahead to the present. Mention is made of interesting happenings and
well known characters of history, such as the founding of Asylum on the
North Branch in 1793 as a refuge for the French Queen Marie Antoinette,
and Joseph Priestley’s connection with Northumberland. The thread of the
story also includes a description of the Susquehanna region as one will find
it today.

As one reads along, numerous omissions concerning both the history and
the scenery of the Susquehanna and the area which it drains become appar-
ent. Those who look for a description of the history or scenery of certain
localities along the river will find rather extensive treatment in some in-
stances and none in others. In view of the fact that the Susquehanna drains
approximately half of Pennsylvania these omissions can be expected in a
book of 236 pages.

The work contains a list of illustrations and an index. Both are useful.
The inside of the front and back covers shows in black the Susquehanna and
its large and small tributaries and the location of towns and cities in the
Susquehanna region; other watercourses of the State are shown in blue.

Journals and Journeymen. A Contribution to the History of Early American
Newspapers. By Clarence S. Brigham. (Philadelphia: University of

The Rosenbach Fellowship in Bibliography not only serves to provide
useful lectures and publications but to recognize achievement in the field
of bibliography. Therefore, it was inevitable that Clarence S. Brigham,
compiler of the monumental Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-
1820, should be given this accolade. The present volume is in part com-
mentary to the bibliography. It consists of the kind of pertinent comment
on colonial newspaper history that only Brigham could make. It explains
the earlier attempts at newspaper listing and shows that only the thorough research of one indefatigable worker can do a satisfactory job in this field. There are the fine points developed in the course of the work: what is a newspaper and what is a magazine? what generalizations can be made from a survey of all newspaper titles? what was the earliest use of illustration? and what about the nature of early American advertisements? In visiting so many libraries and in listing so many thousands of newspapers and files, Mr. Brigham says he had little time for that delightful avocation, reading the newspapers. But he could not help but do some browsing, and this has provided material on circulation figures, "Time Lag in the News," "Marriage and Death Records" and "Editorial Scurrility." These are the things which interest the social historian, as well as the historian of journalism, and it is valuable to have this authoritative comment. Bibliographers will be interested in the section on "Carriers' Addresses," and in the account of the first great collections of newspapers.

In "Women Newspaper Publishers," the author for the first time provides a complete list of such for the period of his bibliography. Also printed for the first time are "William Goddard's Additions to Thomas' History of Printing," a manuscript in the American Antiquarian Society.

Here, then, is an important commentary on American newspaper history by the one man most capable to make it. It is a welcome addition to the literature of American journalism—a literature which will be forever indebted to Clarence S. Brigham.

Division of Archives and History, Albany, N. Y.  
MILTON W. HAMILTON


A noted practitioner and teacher of engineering and the art of bridge-building writes the story of two of the most famous American engineers and bridgebuilders. The heroes are John August Roebling (1806-1869) and his eldest child, Washington Augustus Roebling (1837-1926). "The Bridge" is evidently the Brooklyn Bridge, but more than two-thirds of the work deals with the earlier lives of the men.

The elder Roebling was the son of a poor tobacconist in the ancient German "walled town" of Muhlhausen. Inspired and financed by his devoted mother, he received a thorough schooling, completed at the Royal Polytechnic Institute in Berlin, where he also browsed extensively in the humanities at the University and became the "favorite pupil" and intimate friend of the great philosopher Hegel. Roebling fled from arbitrary government and bureaucracy in 1831 to be one of the pioneers of that great German migration to the United States; traveling from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, he started a community project in Butler County on a seven-thousand acre tract of land bought for $1.37 an acre and called "Roebling's Farm," then Germania, and finally Saxonburg. He soon turned to engineering studies, writing, and inventions, and found employment on public works such as the Sandy and Beaver Canal and the Harrisburg and Pittsburgh Railroad sur-
veys. In 1845 he built a new aqueduct to carry the Pennsylvania Canal over the Allegheny River.

He also “invented.” In the 1840’s he began at Saxonburg the manufacture of the “wire rope” so fundamental to the suspension bridge and so useful for many other purposes. He went on to develop the suspension idea and to build a series of notable bridges and aqueducts—the “Monongahela Wire Bridge” at Pittsburgh (1846), Delaware River Aqueduct (1848), Niagara Railway Bridge (1855), Pittsburgh-Allegheny Bridge (1866). He started plans for the Brooklyn Bridge in 1865, became chief engineer in 1867, and died as a result of an accident at the bridge site in 1869. He had moved all his interests from Saxonburg to Trenton, New Jersey, in 1848-49.

Washington Augustus Roebling was born at Saxonburg and was schooled at Trenton Academy and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Civil Engineer, 1857). He was associated with his father’s various activities and succeeded him as chief engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1872 he became a victim of “caisson disease” and from a bed of continual suffering directed “The Bridge” to completion and elaborate dedication in 1883. Like his father he was a voluminous writer on engineering and other subjects, as for example, his Early History of Saxonburg.

This work is difficult to evaluate in the framework of historiography, partly because its most striking literary characteristic is the strong emotional feeling of the author for his subjects. Steinman has composed, with great industry and “the most exhaustive research,” a sort of historical prose poem “in partial discharge of that debt of inspiration” which he owed to a boyhood fascination for the Brooklyn Bridge and later knowledge of its builders. He includes in the preface the peculiar statement that “only in minor features has the writer drawn upon his imagination or taken slight liberties with strict chronology for the sake of the story; these deviations are limited to the early part of the biography.” A poetical organization and somewhat fanciful chapter titles are in harmony with the author’s continual consciousness of the epic and dramatic qualities of his subjects and their achievements.

The text is peppered with idealistic, absolute, and superlative terms. But enough of carping at form and feeling! If any but the stodgiest history student should read this review, let him be not too much dismayed. The book is attractive, readable, and even thrilling. It serves its purpose admirably.

On the jacket, The Builders of the Bridge is described as a “New Edition,” but there is no other indication that it is not simply a new printing of the original edition of 1945. The format and typography are excellent. Eighteen illustrations, mostly bridges, are remarkably good. Pages are uncluttered by footnotes. Twenty-five pages of bibliography and a nine-page index are definite additions to the value of the work.

University of Pittsburgh

William J. Martin

These Too Were Here: Louise Homer and Willa Cather. By Elizabeth Moorhead. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1950. Pp. 62. $2.00.)

The superabundant sources at the disposal of contemporary historians present an ever widening array of materials including the memoir, a first-
hand or personal account of events or circumstances. Indeed we have come to expect a memoir to provide autobiography rather than biography pure and simple. In this reminiscent brochure, largely autobiographical in character, Elizabeth Moorhead pays a handsome tribute to Louise Homer and Willa Cather, both of whom lived for a time in Pittsburgh.

Louise Homer, the daughter of a well known Presbyterian minister forced to give up his church there on account of ill health, began her musical career, which ultimately brought her to the Metropolitan Opera in the days of Caruso, Sembrich, and Scotti, after she left Pittsburgh. Willa Cather, born in Nebraska, came to Pittsburgh as literary and dramatic critic on one of the evening papers and later became the head of the English department at the Allegheny high school in Pittsburgh. The author relates in an affectionate and discerning way her association with these two artists, both during and after their residence in Pittsburgh.

Herself a native Pittsburgher, onetime teacher of English at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, author of several short stories and novels, and compiler of a family history under the title *Whirling Spindle*, she contributes from her broad cultural experience to an understanding of some of the influences which shaped the careers of Louise Homer and Willa Cather, as well as her own. Through her evaluations of time and place some light is thrown on the complex pattern of Pittsburgh's own social and cultural history. Written in a felicitous style as a personal memoir, it does not pretend to adhere to the canons of a formal biography or an historical narrative. The University of Pittsburgh Press has chosen to present it in a distinguished form.

*Carnegie Institute of Technology*  
F. CURTIS SWANSON

*Four Years in the Rockies or the Adventures of Isaac P. Rose, of Shenango Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania.* By James P. Marsh. Reprint. (Columbus, Ohio: Long's College Book Company, n.d. Pp. 262. $5.00.)

This reprint, recounting the exploits of Isaac P. Rose of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, as a Rocky Mountain trapper from 1834 to 1838, was originally published in 1884. As a lad of nineteen, Rose accompanied his friend, Joe Lewis, on a job-hunting venture which ended in their employment with the trapping expedition of Nathaniel Wyeth. The outstanding events which occurred before their return, when Rose was forced by a wounded arm to seek an education and enter the teaching profession, presents considerable incidental information regarding the life and activities of pioneer trappers of the Far West.

Students of Western history will be able to extract much material of significance concerning James Bridger, Kit Carson, and a host of lesser pioneers. While the monotonous succession of crises presented hardly constitutes (in the words of the subtitle) "one of the most thrilling narratives ever published," a detailed understanding of the operations of these men does emerge. Rose's position as the most successful trapper with the Wyeth
expedition for two years leaves no question of his importance or his knowledge.

Among the matters most successfully illuminated by reissue of this rare item are the wide area covered by trapping operations, the varied reaction of Rocky Mountain Indian tribes to white invasion, the personal relations of trappers in season and out, and the myriad risks faced every hour on the job. Capture by Indians; encounters with grizzly bears, as well as red men; desperate searches for food; near approaches to death from wounds are but a few of the experiences which must have made Rose's subsequent years as a teacher seem routine. The fifty-year interval between these incidents and their retelling does not affect in any apparent way the detail or accuracy with which they are told. His Western venture was so outstanding in Rose's life that most of the things remembered must have been passed on endlessly to a succession of enchanted classes, some members of which are listed in the text. Even for his day, Marsh's style is pedestrian rather than distinguished, but it at least possesses the merit of preventing the events described from being buried under a mass of verbiage.

To the text are appended an account of the Whitman massacre of 1847 on the ground that the paths of Rose and Whitman had briefly crossed, as well as the noted elegy, *The Last of His Tribe*, which is strangely out of harmony with the attitude toward the Indian evinced in the body of the text and the immediately preceding appendix!

*Lycoming College*  

LORING B. PRIEST
CURRENT WRITINGS ON PENNSYLVANIA

Compiled by Norman B. Wilkinson
Assistant State Historian

I. ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS


Indian Highways, by Paul A. W. Wallace. Now and Then, V. 9: Nos. 7 and 8, January and April, 1950, 165-176.


II. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS OF INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIANS


III. FICTION


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The cover illustration, a pen-and-ink sketch of James Wilson by Guy Colt, is from "James Wilson, Constitution Maker," a leaflet to be published this year by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.