"The Era of Good Feelings" in American history ordinarily connotes the nationalistic, emotional years of the Presidency of James Monroe, 1817-1825. George Dangerfield has used the traditional expression describing those years for the title of a fascinating account that is ostensibly a period history. The years actually covered are those from the Treaty of Ghent in 1814 to the defeat of John Quincy Adams in 1828; controversies and "bad feelings," quite correctly, are more in evidence than "good feelings"; and Dangerfield has used the colorful personalities of those years and their thoughts and actions as vehicles to convey his account to the readers.

In five parts, with several chapters in each part, the author traces the rise of nationalism and imperialism to the issuance of the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 and the almost concurrent decline of Jeffersonian Republicanism to 1825. The threads of diplomacy and politics are used as the primary vehicles to carry out his ideas. Both diplomacy and politics lend themselves to the use of personalities, and there were many great and colorful personages in this era. The author has made full use of the great figures both in Europe and America. In fact, the apt biographical portraits of Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, and Albert Gallatin almost obscure the unexpectedly satisfactory peace that closed the War of 1812.

The part devoted to the exuberant years, 1817 to 1819, contains six chapters, four of which are devoted to individuals (President Monroe, General Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and Chief Justice John Marshall). The author has presented a vivid portrait of each man and indicated his contribution. One chapter is devoted to the developing West and Northwest; another to the rising industrialism of the Northeast and the Panic of 1819 to 1823.

Part three recounts the awakening of the consciousness of the South. Southern leaders, such as John Taylor, John Randolph, John Calhoun, and even Jefferson, realized in the debates in Congress that led to the Missouri Compromise of 1820 that a section was crystallized even though unity was maintained. Before long the new West would be confronted with the problem of aligning itself with New England industrialism and its Federalist tenets or the South and its agrarian states-rights doctrines.

Part four, dealing with the background of European diplomacy and the issuance of the Monroe Doctrine, is probably the most satisfactory contribution of the work. The author's penchant for diplomacy and for biographical sketches and his stimulating literary style have enabled him to present a complex account simply and fascinatingly.
The last part, covering the administration of John Quincy Adams, touches upon the unhappy mistakes of that unhappy president. Jeffersonian Republicanism was already submerged in a rising democracy that would place more emphasis on a centralized state.

The author has presented a sound account of the diplomatic and political phases of the development of the young republic in the years that it was struggling to reach maturity. The reader may not be conscious of the people who followed and supported the magnificent statesmen of those years, but he will be conscious of and sympathetic with the leaders. The research was adequate. The account is fascinating.

University of Pittsburgh

Russell J. Ferguson


This little book is a very pleasant and interesting addition to antislavery literature and to our knowledge of the personality of one of the outstanding women of the nineteenth century, Lucretia Mott. Despite its brevity, it is more than that, for the Motts traveled extensively in England, Scotland, and Ireland during their three months' stay and met and talked with many of the leaders of British reform movements and of British dissenting sects.

Since women were excluded from the convention even before its first meeting, the American women who had been elected delegates had much in common and made friendships that endured through the years. This London experience is also a part of the history of the women's suffrage movement, for here was cemented the friendship of Mrs. Mott and young Elizabeth Cady Stanton (p. 22).

Mrs. Mott's comments on the men and women she met in London furnish ample evidence of the internal dissension in the ranks of reformers. The factions among the Quakers are constantly in view because of the Motts' Hicksite position (p. 31-32). The split in the abolition ranks over immediatism and the quarrel between Garrison and Birney factions are given as reasons for the "woman" issue; the non-resistant wing of the peace movement is mentioned; and the controversy over the use of goods made by slave labor is the subject of humorous comment (p. 39).

A sturdy American democratic view of society, plus Quaker principles, made it possible for the Motts to meet members of the British peerage, visit royal castles with equanimity, and make amusing comment on the differences of social standards. British industrialization and its attendant social problems are shrewdly observed, and Mrs. Mott's constant interest in the welfare of women and children is everywhere apparent.

All told, the diary is a refreshing addition to social history, American and British. It is very well-edited, with elaborate annotation to give identifica-
tion of the many men and women mentioned and information upon contemporary movements and events, and there is a good index despite the brevity of the text.

University of Minnesota


In 1866 the late Henry Cabot Lodge wrote that "Gouverneur Morris is by no means so well known to the present generation as he ought to be." At the time this statement was made, the only biography of Morris was the three-volume Life of Gouverneur Morris written by Jared Sparks and published in 1832. Shortly after the above comment had been written, Theodore Roosevelt's biography of Morris appeared. Each of these works had its limitations: Sparks—to quote Daniel Walther, a later biographer—"often felt obliged to modify the text of Morris's writings; he did not hesitate to change, even to suppress, phrases too daring for his taste." Roosevelt, on the other hand, was too prone to use his biography of Morris as a sounding board for his own political opinions.

Now comes Howard Swiggett's The Extraordinary Mr. Morris, based on some new material which became available late in 1950 through the removal of restrictions on the use of the Morris Diaries. In the writing of biography certain principles should be observed, and one of these is that it must, among other matters, deal with the profane things of life. The author has adhered faithfully to this.

Beginning his political career at twenty-three, Morris established a solid reputation as an orator and pamphleteer. Although he served as a member of the Continental Congress, assistant superintendent of finance during the Revolution, minister to France during that Revolution and the Terror, and as Chairman of the Erie Canal Commission, Morris is best known, perhaps, as being responsible for the literary embellishment of the Federal Constitution.

All of these facets of Morris's career are adequately treated by the author. However, a reading of the Swiggett volume tends to leave one with the impression that the major excuse for this most recent life of Morris is to reveal him more fully as an American Don Juan. Vicarious sinners will find plenty to thrill them in this book.

While Mr. Swiggett's work is a faithful portrayal of Gouverneur Morris, it leaves something to be desired in clarity and continuity. The style is generally heavy, although light touches now and then make the book interesting for the casual reader. One would be remiss in his duty as a reviewer were he to fail in calling attention to the not infrequent violations of one of the canons of sound biographical writing: the use of imaginary dialogues and conversations which are reminiscent of Ludwig's Napoleon.

The book is illustrated with portraits, old prints, fragments of letters and of Morris's Diary. An excellent bibliography is appended, and the index is satisfactory. The volume is not documented, however, and it is difficult to
verify quotations in the text by referring to the chapter-by-chapter notes in another appendix.

Mr. Swiggett makes little effort at being objective. Here and there he defends Morris from long standing criticisms. Chapter Twenty is a good example of this. In it the author denies vigorously that Morris was pro-Aristocratic and pro-Royalist and that he was out of sympathy with the French Revolution. As far as Morris's views on America are concerned, Swiggett is certain that "he believed in a republican form of government for this country, and that it should provide personal liberty, safeguard free enterprise and be supported by heavy taxation... He considered that government were better run by aristocrats than by democracy, but no one required of aristocrats more sacrifice for the public good than he, and no one was more tolerant or contemptuous of an aristocracy without brains, vigor, or the ideal of human welfare."

The Pennsylvania State College

Burke M. Hermann


Bissell's The Monongahela is the forty-sixth volume in the Rivers of America Series, edited by Carl Carmer as planned and started by Constance Lindsay Skinner. The Allegheny and Ohio Rivers have already been treated in earlier volumes of the series.

This work on the historic stream contains some entertaining reading, based in the main on secondary sources and the author's experience as a river boatman. It treats in some measure of the region's early character in being forest-covered, its coal fields and coal shipment, early river craft, Old Monongahela whisky, and some sketches of persons, to name a few of its features.

Much of the book, however, partakes of the nature of fiction rather than history, although few sections of the country match this one in historic interest. The language used in telling the story is sometimes rough, frequently profane, and this is not confined to the dialogue of the rivermen, where some such might be expected. But the chief occasion for adverse criticism of this work is what it fails to tell rather than what it tells.

Such scanty history of the Monongahela Valley as the book gives is sketchy and disconnected. The facts which one would expect to be treated are not only historic but prehistoric, for the valley abounded with marks of early occupancy by a race of which some relics, now largely effaced, comprise the only record we have. Wholly lacking in this volume is any consideration of the prehistoric life of the Monongahela Valley.

No mention is made, moreover, of the Virginia-Pennsylvania controversy over the jurisdiction of the section drained by the Monongahela and its tributaries. So great was the tension induced by this disputation that warfare almost certainly would have ensued had not the outbreak of the Revolutionary War brought the two contending parties together in united action against Great Britain.
The Whisky Insurrection, in President Washington's administration, whose locale was in the section drained by the Monongahela, is dismissed with twenty words, in which it is referred to as "a local disturbance, target practice and barn burning." But such was the gravity of the situation produced by this "local disturbance," in which its leaders expressed determination to secede from the Union and set up an independent government, that the President called out an army of 12,950 troops to suppress the outbreak.

As for the river itself, its slackwater improvement comes in for discussion far short of that to be expected in a work descriptive of the stream. Long before there were locks in the river, boatmen built dams at some riffles, with narrow openings for the passage of their early craft; at others they erected V-shaped wingwalls made of boulders laid on the bottom of the river. During the eighteen-forties, the Monongahela Navigation Company constructed four dams with locks between Pittsburgh and Brownsville which provided a virtually constant stage of navigable water between those points. Later the company gradually extended this work up-stream, and finally the Federal Government took it over.

Still another interesting chapter in the history of this river has to do with the steam passenger packets. For years the nation's chief route of travel east and west was by boats on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, having a terminus at Pittsburgh; between there and Brownsville, Pa., via the Monongahela River, on other boats; and from there southeastwardly by stage-coaches on the National Road, now still ranking high in vehicular traffic as Route 40.

After the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was built, there was a choice of travel, by coach or rail, between Cumberland, Md., and Washington and Baltimore in the east. There was no telegraph then, and the boats on the Monongahela carried the mail. Travel was heavy, and often those numbered among the great of the land were to be seen on the boats passing up and down the Monongahela. On these and some other matters of important history of the Monongahela Country (as the southwestern section of Pennsylvania was generally known in the early days) this book is disappointingly silent.

McDonald, Pa. 

Richard T. Wiley


When Mike Fink, the Scotch-Irish Paul Bunyan, raced a raft from Trunkeyville along the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh and rescued a safe taken from the Trunkeyville Bank, containing $15,000 in gold, he is supposed to have said, "he did not wish to use his Deringers on the robbers as the raft might upset and the precious safe go to the bottom of the River."

When he later caught up with the raft at the landing place in Pittsburgh and approached with the Pittsburgh Police, "two of the four robbers were carrying the safe while the other two were guarding it with their loaded Deringers." It is further stated that when Fink returned to Trunkeyville
with the safe, he heard of a timber raft which had been stolen and was on its way down the river, but by that time, it was far out of sight. He left the safe at the Bank and started running down the shore again but "saw nothing of the raft until he reached a quiet hiding place near Pittsburgh where he surprised the thieves with his loaded Deringers and rescued the raft."

These are a few everyday incidents of the times which illustrate the way in which the name of this fine firearm became a part of backwoods vocabulary.

As a well-known writer has stated, "Henry Deringer, Jr., was the only American gunsmith whose name has become a common noun in the English language." Yet until the appearance of John E. Parsons' very informing volume, Deringer was one of the lesser-known personalities in the field of firearms, more obscure even than Samuel Mylin, who made the first of the so-called Kentucky Rifles, in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1709.

Henry Deringer, gunsmith by trade, had apparently moved to Virginia from Lancaster County, by way of Maryland, prior to the Revolutionary War. Strassburger and Hinke's volume on the Pennsylvania German pioneers tells of John Deredinger, who settled in Lancaster County in 1749, and was probably the founder of the family in America. All of the name seemed gun-minded and eager to use this knowledge in warfare. Fully a dozen Deringers, as the name was spelled at that time, served in the War for Independence, among whom was Henry Deringer and Henry Deringer, Jr., the grandfather and father in all probability of the famous gunsmith.

Henry Deringer, 3rd, born in Pennsylvania, removed to Philadelphia where he made guns from 1806, and for many years afterwards. His early products were the flint-lock pistol and rifle for the army. He completed contracts with the United States government for the War of 1812, the Conflict with Mexico, and various Indian Wars. However, it was not until 1845, that Deringer made for the Navy the percussion martial pistol which was often described as a dueling pistol. Later his weapons were used by Daniel Sickles to shoot down his wife's lover, and John Wilkes Booth concealed a similar pair in the wide cuffs of his coat when he entered President Lincoln's box at Ford's Theater.

Many such stories are told of Deringers and their long record of accurate killings. Such a powerful and accurate weapon courted imitations. Many were their pretended duplicates, and long and valiant were Henry Deringer's efforts to repel these frauds. In the end, the originator was successful in his litigations, and the Courts permanently enjoined the use of the Deringer name for guns by other makers. Worn out by his long efforts to secure justice, and constant mechanical labors, Deringer died at his residence in Philadelphia on February 26, 1868.

Mr. Parsons has published a fascinating and accurate volume on the Deringer firearm which is magnificently illustrated and beautifully turned out; it answers every description adequately. This book is a possession which seems almost a requirement for any American arms collector or library.

HARRISBURG, PA.

HENRY W. SHOEMAKER

Most Americans assume that our Constitution and laws provide adequately for any contingency involving the succession to the presidency. This is far from the real situation, as Dr. Silva demonstrates in her important and timely study of the problems of presidential succession. Her book is based upon a thorough search of original sources and provides a scholarly treatment of a neglected phase of American government.

The difficulty began with the framing of the brief and slightly ambiguous presidential succession clause in the Constitution. The framers, realizing the necessity for the continuous exercise of executive power, simply provided that in case of a vacancy or disability in the presidency the Vice-President, and after him an officer designated by Congress, should temporarily exercise the presidential powers, but should not actually become President. However, the constitutional provision has never operated according to the framers' intent. The decisive precedent was established in 1841 when, upon the death of President Harrison, Vice-President John Tyler assumed that he had constitutionally become President and should serve until the end of Harrison's term. Although this assumption encountered some opposition both in and out of Congress, no one moved to call a special presidential election, and Tyler's position was soon accepted. Tyler's precedent has since been confirmed six times, without serious objection.

The Vice-Presidents' assumption of full presidential position in cases of vacancy has created three serious problems, according to Dr. Silva's analysis. First, in cases of disability, either the Vice-President has to dispossess the disabled President, or there are two Presidents at the same time. Consequently a Vice-President is disinclined to assume the exercise of presidential powers even in cases of serious disability, and thus a breakdown occurs in the effective functioning of the Executive Department, as was demonstrated in the cases of Presidents Garfield and Wilson. This is a serious deficiency in the current succession law, and Dr. Silva suggests specific steps which Congress should take to remedy the defect.

Second, although a Vice-President is always a potential President, the author contends that he is usually selected for purely political reasons, is often not of presidential calibre, and may receive "no popular mandate" for the presidency, since he "may stand for principles quite different from those approved by the votes at the polls." This objection seems of questionable validity. Political considerations influence the choice of presidential, as well as vice-presidential, candidates. Both are elected on the same platform, and there is a current tendency, confirmed by both 1952 conventions, for the presidential nominee to select his running-mate. Although the presidential nominee has generally been the superior man, sometimes the reverse has been true. Of the seven Vice-Presidents who became President four (Tyler, Fillmore, Theodore Roosevelt and Coolidge) proved to be equal or superior to their predecessors.
The third problem stems from the Succession Act of 1947, which places the House's Speaker and Senate's President pro-tempore next in line after the Vice-President, although they are not "officers" of the United States as required by the Constitution and often are veteran politicians who are not of presidential calibre. To remedy this defect and to provide a generally constructive answer to the presidential succession problem, Dr. Silva suggests that Congress create the office of "Assistant President," whose incumbent should be appointed by the President and who should be next in line after the Vice-President. Although this is a good suggestion, politics and tradition will probably assure the continuance of the present, deficient system of presidential succession. All congressmen would do well to read this thought-provoking book.

Wayne University

Winfred A. Harbison


The first edition of this handbook was published in 1946 in response to the expressed need of many women in such organizations as the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters and the Federated Woman's Clubs, who sought to promote the study of their local and state governments. The foreword of the present edition states that the book is "designed to give students a general view of the structure and operation of government in Pennsylvania" in the hope of further pointing up the "principles and techniques" involved. Actually, this is a valuable manual for all citizens, young and old, in or out of school. The present reviewer employed the first edition as a supplementary text in a political science class and found it extremely useful. The second edition would be even more useful for this purpose.

It has been brought up to date and enlarged within the framework of the original thirteen chapters. Its format is more attractive; its organization charts are more informative and more legible than the scarcely visible charts of the previous edition; and it now enjoys an index.

Virtually every facet of local and state government is dealt with clearly and succinctly, the topics ranging from "Varieties of Local Government" to "The Promotion and Regulation of Business." Among the new sub-chapter titles are "How Local Governments Meet Local Conditions," "How Local Governments Can Cooperate with Their Neighbors," and "What is the Aim of the Public Assistance Program?" One title has been changed significantly from "Why is the County the Most Important Local Unit of Government?" to "Why is the County an Important Unit of Local Government?"

Among the new items of interest is a brief discussion of the 1950 draft of the city charter of Philadelphia. Also of interest is a notice of Scranton's population decline to a third-class level without loss of its second-class A status, and this while Erie, a larger city with a third-class status, lacks the legal population requirement to qualify as a second-class A city. We learn,
too, that for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1949, federal grants to Pennsyl-
vania amounted to $69,000,000 and were used for various assistance programs
and for highway purposes. (Indeed, according to a report issued in Septem-
ber, 1952, by the Joint Congressional Committee on Nonessential Federal
Expenditures, Pennsylvania was second only to New York in the amount
of federal funds received from 1934 to 1951.)

It may be mentioned in passing that this book went to press before it
could note the legislation, effective May 1, 1951, providing for absentee
ballots for Pennsylvanians in the armed forces.

The chapter entitled “Constitution of Pennsylvania” presents some brief
historical background material which is all too brief even for a handbook.
The value of the book would be enhanced if an historical sketch of Pennsyl-
vania were presented, tracing constitutional and political developments.

Also useful, particularly in the academic field, would be the inclusion of
maps of Pennsylvania showing counties and congressional, judicial, and
legislative districts.

Washington, D. C.

JOHN NORMAN

The Pennsylvania Story. By Marjorie Ruth and Muriel Taylor. (Philadel-
phia: Franklin Publishing and Supply Company, 1951. Pp. 244. $1.92 list.)

The founding of our great state, its leaders, resources, and industrial
strength are well-known facts to mature readers. The Pennsylvania Story,
however, has been written with the youth of our Commonwealth in mind.
In accordance with recent revisions in the curriculum for our public schools,
this social studies text has been prepared. Intended for use on the fourth
grade level, the authors have wisely kept the vocabulary simple and the
sentences short. This has not been achieved at the expense of content. The
material is exceptionally comprehensive, and the chapter divisions lend them-
selves to the development of a dozen or more units on the history and geog-
raphy of Pennsylvania.

Young readers will find the stories of the Lenni-Lenape, the Walking
Purchase, trips upon an early train and canal boat, the pretzel bakers, and
a visit to the capital at Harrisburg very appealing. They will meet many
prominent persons on their excursions through these pages. They will wit-
ness the arrival of William Penn, the experiments of Benjamin Franklin,
Robert Fulton, and George Westinghouse. The songs of Stephen Foster and
the glorious voice of Marion Anderson will be heard; the excitement of
Oliver Perry's battle upon Lake Erie experienced. Acquaintance will be made
with Andrew Carnegie, Russell Conwell, Edwin Drake and many others.
Indian place names, such as Shamokin, Perkiomen, and Monongahela, will
take on greater significance. Additional chapters are devoted to Pennsyl-
vania's important rôle during the American Revolution, the organization
and services of our state government, and the need for the conservation of
our vast natural wealth. An interesting section on soil erosion and the
rotation of crops is also included.

Teachers will approve the fine black-and-white illustrations, the diverse
titles suggested for supplementary reading, and the thought-provoking ques-
tions that appear at pertinent points throughout the text. Cleverly designed
to intrigue young imaginations, these questions will most surely lead to
varied research projects and stimulating discussions. It is readily seen that
the authors are well acquainted with the age group for whom they have pre-
pared the book. Both Miss Ruth and Miss Taylor have had wide experi-
ence in research, curriculum building, and, by no means least, classroom
practice. Aside from the omission of certain deserving Pennsylvanians, e.g.,
Daniel Boone, George Gordon Meade, and James Buchanan, The Pennsyl-
vania Story is a very fine text.

Norristown, Pa. 

JOSEPHINE C. CLEMMER

The Pennocks of Primitive Hall. Written for the Chester County Historical
Society, West Chester, Pa., by George Valentine Massey, II. (West
Chester: Chester County Historical Society, 1951. Pp. vii, 139. $10.00.)

Modern genealogical works no longer present only a bare enumeration
of dates of birth, marriage, and death. Genealogists now endeavor to point
out the contributions which families make to the cultural, political, and
social development of their communities, states, and nations. The late Gilbert
Cope, of West Chester, was the Pennsylvania pioneer in this field. The greatest
published genealogy of a Pennsylvania family was Dr. Robert O. Moon's

On a much smaller scale, but significant within the scope allotted to it, is
Mr. Massey's latest work, The Pennocks of Primitive Hall. It relates the
story of a noteworthy family founded by an Irish Quaker, Christopher
Pennock, who came to Philadelphia in 1683 or 1684. By two wives he had
eight children, of whom Honorable Joseph Pennock (1677-1771), a member
of the Provincial Assembly, established himself in West Marlborough Town-
ship, Chester County, and built the mansion subsequently known as “Prim-
itive Hall.” Famous names were associated with the Pennocks—Penn,
Washington, Lafayette, and others. Important matrimonial alliances were
contracted by members of the family with the DuPonts, Canbys, and Wistars.
Humphrey Marshall, the celebrated Chester County botanist, married Sarah
Pennock.

Mr. Massey has written a scholarly history of the first five generations
of the family in America. Scrupulous attention is paid to source materials,
as the numerous footnotes attest. Family traditions are so designated, al-
though in the case of Joseph Tatnall (of the Elizabeth Pennock branch) two
stories are told as facts that appear to be traditions, namely, the allegation
that he told Washington at Valley Forge, “I can not fight for thee, George,
but I can feed thy army,” and the statement that Lafayette, on his historic
tour of America (1824), “stopped to inquire for his old friend's family”
(page 53). Barbaroux' 3-volume account of Lafayette's tour (published
the next year) makes no mention of the Tatnall visit.

The compiler has established a model for other genealogists to emulate.
His citations of primary and secondary authorities and the excellent index contribute much to the value of the book.

National Genealogical Society,  
Washington, D. C.  

Milton Rubincam


This book is one of a series with a mission. The Council on Foreign Relations, which financed the labor of its production, sought to penetrate the dense ignorance of Americans on our diplomatic predicaments. Time was when "isolationism" was real and the generality felt that diplomacy could be shuffled off with a good conscience. But after participating in two world wars with an international depression in between, the neo-isolationists and the internationalists both testify to extreme public sensitivity on foreign affairs. On them, the American electorate feels confronted, confused, confounded. Also in England, France, Italy, and especially points East, the impact of domestic politics upon foreign policy is strongly, and often disastrously, demonstrated.

The leadership responsibilities of the United States command that her historians shall labor to make political pressure upon her foreign policy so enlightened, so cognizant of background, as to tolerate patience and perspicacity in the State Department.

The State Department has sought the co-operation of historians (too few in number) who sense the need. More than any other power on the face of the globe, the United States has dared to supply reputable historians with verified documentation of its diplomacy. There are those eager to deny this; but Charles Beard, great in many ways, here fulminated on inadequate grounds; and the recent charge of "court historians" would seem to be robbed of force by the incontestable fact that the State Department has leaned over backwards in granting archival access to bitter critics of recent policy.

In this volume—the first of several on foreign policy before and during World War II—two distinguished historians with much experience in wartime Washington present a detailed description of events between the quarantine speech and the destroyer-bases deal. Their analysis is based upon a well-nigh overwhelming mass of primary source material including, besides State Department files, war and Navy documents, foreign records, and private papers of diplomats and cabinet officers in various nations. This reviewer found it objective and fair. Where your reviewer differed with the author's analysis, on a conjuncture of events, it was not on crucial points. The volume is history for historians in the best sense.

As for the clientele of general readers (undoubtedly few in number), they will gain a rich reward even if they read only so little as the opening pages of Preface, Introduction and the first chapter, on "American Attitudes and Policies." For even that little will surely give them some sense of the need
to judge foreign policy *in its context*. They may better comprehend such powerful but elusive-to-the-understanding factors as “Illusions of Security” (Chapter IV), “Agony of Peace (Chapter V), and “Grip of Fear” (Chapter XIV).

The solid diet in this book is made more readily digestible by use of subtopics within the chapters, varying in number from three to seven. The notes are conveniently located on the pages to which they refer. The index of eighteen pages is inadequate, both in coverage and arrangement, needing more subtopic specification over long stretches of page numbers.

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

*Jeannette P. Nichols*


Of all things said about Dr. Boyd’s immense *Jefferson* series, the best is Dumas Malone’s observation: “This is a source book for a man, his country, and his age.”

Volumes four and five cover the great war of that country, man, and age—in its most dismal period, when fighting shifted to the South, British and Loyalist troops under the turncoat Arnold raged through the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Governor Jefferson himself had to skip briskly to avoid capture.

The governorship may not have been Jefferson’s best period. Generally people have thought it was not and have written of it with some measure of apology. But the office of governor was a strictly limited one; Jefferson had really very little power. People then, as now, sometimes expected of him exertions which would have been unconstitutional. Clearly, he worked very efficiently over a vast congeries of problems. He was no sequestered philosopher, but a vigorous, practical man with a bent for thinking. And clearly these volumes add depth and substance to our knowledge of just what the Revolution was, to him and to his generation.

Jefferson’s huge domain of Virginia extended westward to the Mississippi, northward through what is now Ann Arbor. It was an enormous empire to defend. He planned a military expedition under George Rogers Clark against Detroit, he dealt with the restless Cherokees, and as the enemy invaded the commonwealth he supervised the removal of the troublesome Convention Army (the British force defeated at Saratoga) to Maryland. With other governors he exchanged laws and information; he was elected to the American Philosophical Society. It is odd, in a way, to find Thomas Jefferson engaged in the hard business of war, learning what kind of flat boats are best to carry cannon over a river, ordering forty ball tents and four hundred camp kettles, and estimating the number of the enemy’s “feild peices.” We learn nothing of his heart or his pulse beat from these pages, only facts of
his intellect, the encompassing reach of his patience, the staying-power of his energy.

Yet this is the experience that produced the Notes on Virginia, the human background that shaped the contours of his philosophy. The mature and thoughtful Jefferson of the Presidency and afterwards is a man who went through this dismal war. His thought and judgment, his policy and statecraft were addressed to these Americans with whom he shared disaster, and ultimately victory. The uncongenial years of the governorship are as important, perhaps, as the congenial years in France, for they exhibit the always arresting picture of a man exposed to the worst in people, without losing his confidence in human beings or coming to judge issues through interests.

The editorial apparatus continues to be a major addition to American scholarship. Besides textual comments and explanation, special contributions are (IV: 256-278) Notes and Documents Relating to the British Invasions in 1781, and the first full account of just how much aid and comfort pretty Mrs. Mary Willing Byrd gave to the invading enemy (V: Appendix I, The Affair of Westover, 671-705). These extended essays and the important textual notes are in danger of becoming lost in the bulk of the Jefferson Papers as successive volumes appear. Perhaps the editors can be persuaded to gather together, eventually, the most important of them in a single volume and to give a particular analysis of them in the indexes which will finally appear.


Within the past few decades all the great Southern universities from Charlottesville to Austin have accumulated large collections of manuscripts on every phase of Southern history. Many scholars have made industrious examinations of these materials, but few of these scholars have been imaginative enough to create more than catalogues of facts. These catalogues of facts have been convenient source books for historical novelists able to construct books good enough to attract readers. The historians do the work, and the novelists get the money!

Mr. Woodward is an exception among Southern historians. His bibliography of thirty-three closely printed pages proves that he has been as industrious as the most pedestrian scholar. But he does more than collect facts. He uses his facts to give life and significance to what has previously been considered a doldrum period of Southern history. Mr. Woodward discusses all phases of Southern life from politics to feminine styles, with religion, education, the Negro, architecture, literature, and Faulknerian excursions into low life strung in between. It is the most complete presentation
of a period of Southern history I have ever read. Yet Mr. Woodward’s vast collection of facts are not allowed to drown his dominant idea.

The dominant idea of this book is as disillusioning to Southerners as Lytton Strachey’s divesting Queen Victoria of her Shakespearean habiliments was to the English people. Mr. Woodward attacks the legend that the gentlemen who redeemed the South from carpetbaggery and negroism were more honest than carpetbaggers or more efficient than Negroes. He asserts that because Confederate generals were brave and sacrificial on Virginia battlefields it does not necessarily follow that they were also honest and unselfish in civilian life; he also asserts that inheritors of the traditions of the Old South were willing to sell out to Yankee capitalists. In other words, the author presents the Bourbons of the Southern Legend as a second generation of scalawags. They emerge from the pages of this book as Bourbons in reverse: leaders who forgot everything and learned much that was new and sometimes vicious.

Although it will be difficult to make Southerners listen to Mr. Woodward, he presents an astonishing amount of evidence to prove his point. He shows that Bourbon politicians were as willing as carpetbaggers to sell the resources of their people to the despised Yankee. Inherited principles of agrarianism, politics, and anti-negroism were sacrificed along with railroads, minerals, lumber, and land. These sacrifices, the author demonstrates, was smugly done in the name of industrial progress; but actually the principal motive was the enrichment of Northern capitalists and their Southern minions. With a righteous cruelty Mr. Woodward names the illustrious Southerners who played parts in this sorry business. On his list appear the names of Beauregard, Jubal A. Early, L. Q. C. Lamar, John B. Gordon, John C. Calhoun the Younger, Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee, Jr.—in fact almost all distinguished Southern leaders of the post-war generation except Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis.

Mr. Woodward refuses to assume the function of patiently justifying deeds in terms of the age. He does not see statesmanship in the successful attempt of the Bourbons to reconcile the ideals of the Old South with those of the New America. He does not, like William Faulkner, look back to departed glories. He does not, like Stark Young, uphold the romantic dream. Nor does he, like Erskine Caldwell, wallow with the mean folk. Yet he is no Christian pilgrim or eighteenth-century philosopher descending into the Southern hell to redeem the region from its evil ways. He sees no greater virtues in the ways of the invading Northern capitalists than in those of Southerners. He has no easy remedies for the South’s ills. He ends his narrative with a mock triumph. The date is 1912, and the Southerners have just played an important part in making a favorite son President of the United States. Had Mr. Woodward continued his fresh and convincing book I believe he would have found Woodrow Wilson’s New Freedom as shoddy a remedy for the South’s troubles as the remedies that came earlier.

Longwood College

Francis B. Simkins
The Germans in Pennsylvania have had an affinity for limestone soil. Their historians, and writers on Pennsylvania agriculture, have long noted this attachment. In these proceedings of a county historical society located in a predominantly German area, several articles demonstrate the utilization of limestone and the part it played in shaping the agricultural and industrial development of the Lehigh region.

David G. Williams, an engineer with an avocation in history, describes the lime burning carried on by the farmers of the Lower Jordan Valley. Outcroppings on nearly every farm made it easily accessible for its extraction and burning in the kilns they constructed. The details of types of early kilns are shown in excellent photographs and cross-section drawings. The discussion of processes and the chemical aspects of limestone is somewhat technical, but the reader will find much of interest in the sections that tell of the varied uses of limestone as a “manure,” as an ingredient of mortar and plaster, and as a building material. The importance of limestone during the canal era when it was used in hydraulic cement for canal construction, and also carried as a major commodity southward on the Lehigh and Delaware Division canals, places it with anthracite and iron in the triumvirate of natural resources that spurred the industrial growth of the Lehigh Valley.

The second of the articles on limestone is “A Story of Lime” by Paul B. Esser, history teacher in the Allentown High School. Written as a senior thesis in college, it demonstrates that cooperation between historical societies and the history departments of neighboring colleges can produce worthwhile contributions to the knowledge of the local community.

In more detail, this article outlines the uses of lime and limestone in an agricultural economy, but its purpose is to show how abundant limestone deposits led to a concentration of iron works along the Lehigh River when it was learned that limestone was the cheapest and most satisfactory flux. With industrial expansion came community growth, and Esser illustrates the importance of limestone and iron in the economic life of such river communities as Allentown, Coplay, Hokendaqua and Catasauqua. Limestone, anthracite, and iron ore promoted improved transportation throughout the Valley and brought that region into closer connection with seaboard markets and manufacturing centers. The industrial achievements of the Lehigh area during the mid-1800’s were a factor in Pennsylvania’s leadership as the leading industrial producer of the nation. The emergence of the Lehigh Valley as the Portland “cement belt” is sketched too briefly in the light of the paramount position of that industry in the area during the last fifty years. Esser’s article is well illustrated, however.

Rounding out the Proceedings are articles dealing with eighteenth-century buildings located in the vicinity of Allentown. One of these is “Grouse Hall,” the rural hunting retreat of Lynford Lardner, brother-in-law of Richard Penn, and Keeper of the Great Seal of the Province in the 1740’s.
Some knowledge of the now-vanished craftsman’s skill of fashioning wooden pumps is preserved in an account of this old-time household utility that has just about disappeared.

Harrisburg, Pa. NORMAN B. WILKINSON


Records of the War Refugee Board. Compiled by Henry T. Ulasek and Ira N. Kellogg, Jr. [Preliminary Inventory No. 43, Publication No. 52-


CORRECTION

In David A. Shannon’s review of Socialism and American Life (Pennsylvania History, October, 1952, pp. 511-513), the last line on page 512 should read: “George W. Hartmann examines ‘The Psychology [not Philosophy] of American Socialism.’”

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER LETTERS SOUGHT

With the cooperation of the Fenimore Cooper family and the assistance of the Guggenheim Foundation, Professor James F. Beard, Jr., of Dartmouth College is preparing an edition of Cooper’s correspondence. Many of Cooper’s correspondents lived in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Beard would be grateful if owners of letters or other manuscripts by Cooper would write to him at 72 Murray Place, Princeton, New Jersey.
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Julia Comstock Smith did the drawings which appear in this issue. On the cover is a sketch of Selinsgrove Hall, erected 1858, the oldest building on the campus of Susquehanna University.
The most impressive single exhibit in the State Museum is the gigantic oil painting of the "Battle of Gettysburg," by Peter Frederick Rothermel, the largest "Battle scene" in North America, and the second largest in the world.

But few persons now living ever saw the huge painting as it may be viewed today.

During the summer of 1952, the "Battle of Gettysburg" was cleaned, restored, and re-varnished for the first time since it was hung in the Hall of Trophies in the State Museum in 1894. The result, for those familiar with it during the long years it filled the east wall of the Museum's major exhibit hall, is no less than startling. Now, the colors and figures stand out on the huge canvas, with the aid of skillfully-placed indirect lighting, and the initial effect of this magnificent portrayal of the heroism of men and the horrors of war is almost shocking in its intensity.

The artist, John Frederick Rothermel, was born in Luzerne County in 1812, and died in 1895 in Montgomery County. He studied art under European masters, and is believed to have conceived the idea of this famous painting from study of the Da Vinci painting, "The Battle of the Standards," the only battle painting larger than the Gettysburg painting. He began work on it in 1868, and many participants in the battle posed for the artist in his Philadelphia studio. It was first exhibited in 1870 at the Philadelphia Academy of Music. The actual dimensions are 32 feet in length, 16 feet nine inches in height, and the moment represented is that of General George Edward Pickett's famous charge.
Other Interesting Exhibits in the State Museum

THE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILES.
Eight early cars, restored to their original condition, actually in running order, show the beginnings of the automotive era.

THE COUNTRY STORE.
An exhibit portraying the rural store of the period from 1870 to 1900 is complete with all equipment and merchandise, even to a cracker barrel.

THE HALL OF INDIANS.
Exhibits of weapons, utensils, and other artifacts in well-organized groupings show the Indian background of Pennsylvania history.

BATTLE FLAGS OF WORLD WARS I AND II.
On the balcony of the Hall of Trophies, high above the Gettysburg painting, are the flags carried by Pennsylvania’s 28th Division, displayed unfurled in sealed cases.

EXHIBIT OF LOOMS AND WEAVING.
Old-style carpet is shown in the making, as well as the finished product of the loom.

EARLY CHINA, GLASS, AND PEWTER.
Many examples of the tableware used in early Pennsylvania homes.

FIREDAMS AND OTHER WEAPONS.
The “Pennsylvania rifle” and other weapons used in warfare and in hunting.

HISTORICAL DIORAMAS.

NATURAL HISTORY.
Mounted specimens of Pennsylvania animals, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects.

Visit Your State Museum