
This volume is a selection of French documents from the Viger-Verreau collection of the Archives of the Seminary of Quebec relating to French military activities in western Pennsylvania and New York chiefly from September, 1752, to August, 1755. The compilation is made up as follows: a brief introduction describing the sources used and the editorial principles employed; lists of illustrations, of the documents printed, and of symbols and abbreviations; a bibliography; the documents; and an analytical index. Arranged in chronological order, the documents consist principally of letters received by Claude-Pierre Pécaudy de Contrecœur, the French commander on the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers during 1754-1755, from Governor Duquesne, other officials of Canada, and subordinate military officers. Documents from the papers of other officers, including Pierre-Paul de la Malgue, Sieur de Marin, Jacques le Gardeur, Sieur de Saint-Pierre, and Daniel-Hyacinthe-Marie Liénard, Sieur de Beaujeu were also derived from the Viger-Verreau collection. Letters comprise the bulk of the volume, but there are other types of documents including proceedings of councils with Indians, talks to Indians, orders and instructions, a journal of the campaign of Louis Coulon de Villiers, the capitulation of Fort Necessity, expense accounts for the building of Fort Duquesne, depositions of English deserters, lists of militia troops serving on the Ohio, a list of equipment and supplies for Fort Duquesne, and a plan of that fort. An advance publication of George Washington's journal of March-June, 1754, in English translation (Donald H. Kent, ed., "Contrecoeur's Copy of Washington's Journal for 1754," Pennsylvania History, XIX, Jan., 1952, 1-32) appeared too late for citation by Grenier. An anonymous journal of 1745 is published for the first time.

This compilation has been carefully prepared with full attention to the best editorial practices. The documents are reproduced exactly, even to the extent of using superior letters and irregularities of capitalization and punctuation. Imperfections in the manuscripts are indicated in the footnotes, and words which appear to be missing from the manuscripts and marginal notations thereon are inserted in the text in brackets. Identifications are supplied in the notes for persons and places. The citation of other copies of some of the documents which are to be found in the archives of France would have been worthwhile. Space could have been saved by more compact printing.
Dates should have been inserted at the openings of the documents to facilitate finding them from the list provided in the front of the book. Inasmuch as the volume is selective rather than comprehensive, the inclusion of a calendar of unpublished documents and of others previously printed would have been a useful addition.

This volume constitutes an important contribution to the source materials for the history of the French occupation of western Pennsylvania. Few of the documents have appeared in print hitherto, and the collections from which they have been taken have never been used extensively by historians. The mass of new details embodied in the documents will permit the preparation of more detailed accounts not only of French military operations but also of relations with the Indians and Indian trade. In the military sphere the documents provide information on personnel, the transportation of men and supplies, and the construction of forts. It is to be hoped that the series which this volume inaugurates will have a long life.

*Henry P. Beers*


For a number of years the early history of western Pennsylvania has engaged the attention of the Historical Commission, and several notable publications have been issued. In the course of research, much valuable source material has been gathered from many repositories and some discoveries have been made. One of the latter, the Contrecoeur Papers in the Archives du Séminaire de Québec, has provided the principal sources for the present study and made possible the throwing of new light on one episode of history.

The French expedition to occupy the upper Ohio Valley was carefully planned and carried out by officers in Quebec and Montreal. With limited knowledge of the western country, and well realizing the dangers and hardships involved, they proceeded with deliberation and caution. More was to be feared from the natives and the elements than from the relatively inactive English of Virginia. Yet it was a military task force led by military men. The Marquis Duquesne, royal governor at Quebec, was the man behind the planning, and a young officer named Boishebert led the exploration from Montreal, down to Lake Erie and the portage. This is the first publication to make known his key role in the endeavor. Forts Presque Isle, Le Boeuf, and Venango were set up, under the leadership of Marin, who was to die while on the enterprise. And finally the French forces made contact with the well-known expedition of young George Washington.

Here we have the carefully documented record from the French viewpoint of this "invasion." American historians, viewing it through English eyes, were not clear about details. They relied on the deposition of Stephen Coffin, an English captive who was taken along with the French party, printed in the New York Colonial Documents, as the best eye-witness ac-
count. But Mr. Kent shows that Coffin was in error on several points. He did not catch the French names correctly, and he relied on a fallible memory. Yet his account of his experience and his impressions is valuable.

Even if this were not a momentous venture, in view of its great consequences, the story would be worth the telling. The Contrecoeur Papers supply details of travel, supplies, hardships and geographical information of great interest. The story possesses all the drama of exploration in a new country. Liberal quotation supplies vivid commentary on men and events. The author has allowed the documents to tell the story. The result is a choice bit of history, far more significant than its unobtrusive pamphlet form would imply. The booklet will find ready use in schools and colleges and should be regarded as a work of reference. Contemporary maps and well selected illustrations add to the interest and understanding.

_Milton W. Hamilton_


This is a relatively short biography of one of the controversial figures who sat on the Supreme Court bench in the last decade of the nineteenth century. George Shiras, Jr., of Scotch ancestry, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 26, 1826, and educated at Ohio and Yale universities. Upon his graduation from Yale in 1853, he entered Yale Law School but very shortly returned to Pittsburgh to study law in the office of Hopewell Hepburn, a prominent local attorney and a former presiding judge of the Allegheny County District Court. After a year of practicing law with his brother, Oliver Perry Shiras, in Dubuque, Iowa, George Shiras, Jr., returned to Pittsburgh to follow his profession. His competence and integrity soon led to his recognition as an outstanding member of the Allegheny County bar. His clients included some of the prominent manufacturing and industrial concerns, and he numbered among his friends and associates such leaders in the iron and steel industry as Thomas N. Carnegie, Henry W. Oliver, Benjamin Franklin Jones, and others. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison appointed him Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Senate confirmed the appointment despite the active opposition of Pennsylvania Senators Matthew Stanley Quay and James Donald Cameron. Senate approval of his appointment can be attributed in a large measure to the strong support of his classmates at Yale, many of whom had become important national figures.

Shiras came to the Supreme Court at a time when decisions involving state and national regulation of industry and transportation were arousing active hostility to the Court. He participated in the decisions of the Sugar Trust case, the Debs case, and the Income Tax case. At a re-hearing of the latter case, the Court voted the law unconstitutional by a five to four decision, and the belief was general that Shiras had changed his original vote. His refusal to defend himself or even to discuss the decision led to
bitter and widespread criticism. The author re-examines all of the evidence and has strengthened the relatively recent belief that Shiras opposed the tax in the first hearing and remained constant in his opposition to it. To Justice Shiras, "the real question at issue" was the legality of the Income Tax Act. It should be pointed out, too, that there was no valid reason why Shiras or any other Justice should not change his opinion at the re-hearing.

George Shiras, 3rd, who began the manuscript, and his nephew, Winfield Shiras, who edited and completed the work, have produced a readable book that has a great deal of charm. A considerable amount of background material has been introduced in order to provide the proper setting for the development of the life and character of Justice Shiras. It is this material which contributes to the charm of the book but, unfortunately, it adds little to an understanding of the man himself. The chapter on George Shiras, Jr., at Yale sparkles with anecdote about mid-nineteenth century college life in New Haven, but the reader gains a much better picture of several of Shiras' distinguished classmates, such as Andrew D. White and George W. Smalley. The same may be said of the chapter "Justices and Their Humors," which contains excellent thumb-nail sketches of the Justices who were sitting at the time of Shiras' appointment. The reader feels that he knows them much better than he knows Shiras. These are not major defects in the book, but they do give the impression of the paucity of material about the central figure. The book has an excellent format, copious footnotes, an extensive bibliography, and a good index.

Miami, Florida

FRANK B. SESSA


The whirligig of time brings in its revenges, and the pioneers who had to fight for the recognition of the study of American literature as an independent subject have seen their fondest hopes realized and their early opponents routed. So sweeping has the victory been that the arguments of the other side now seem incredible. But sixty years ago, or even fifty, the case was different, and no one deserves more credit for the change than the late Fred Lewis Pattee.

Born of Yankee stock on a mountain farm in New Hampshire, Professor Pattee had an extraordinarily long and active career that embraced not only half a lifetime at the Pennsylvania State University, with which his name is permanently associated, but rich experience at the University of Illinois, the Breadloaf Writers' Conferences, and Rollins College, along with constant critical activity (his judgments have stood up magnificently) and association with contemporary American writers, major and minor. His reminiscences, presented in a handsome and well-edited volume, make good reading.

One of the most valuable sections is that dealing with Pattee's youth in the northern hill areas of New England, a region that he rightly says has
been ignored by writers inclined to define New England "in terms of Boston and Cambridge and Concord and the coast-line cities." Pattee is the chronicler of the "real" New England that had never heard of transcendentalism and knew Emerson but vaguely. And like Mary E. Wilkins, whom he admired, he is the chronicler of New England not in the era of high tide nor in that of transition, but in "the swift decline and the final wreckage."

The style is remarkable for its simplicity, its lucidity, its vigor, its lack of ornament. There is a strain of naiveté, there is something of the garri
tulty of old age, something of its discursiveness, but one lays down the book with the conviction that Professor Pattee's countless students in "fresh
man composition" were indeed fortunate in their teacher.

Many groups of readers would find this work of absorbing interest—
students of the New England scene; people in academic life, especially
teachers of English; alumni of Dartmouth, of which Pattee was a devoted
son, and of the institutions where he taught; historians of the literature of
the last seventy-five years. But one has the uncomfortable feeling that the book will not get the audience it deserves. So much has happened since
Professor Pattee retired from teaching, so many elderly people write mem
oirs, so far away and unimportant it all seems. But that is too bad, for this
is a wise and sturdy book.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

AUSTIN WRIGHT


This ninety-page paper-bound booklet, commemorating a visitation by the Blair County and Cambria County Chapters of the S. A. R. to the Summit Mansion House, on Flag Day, 1952, reveals a compilation and a re-publication effected by Historian Baumgardner of the Cambria County Chapter and President Hoenstine of the Blair County Chapter rather than any new and original research into the history of the subject which its title names.

Yet it is a most serviceable short volume. For, happily, it devotes forty-eight pages of its text to a reprinting of the most thorough-going and authorita
tive presentation of the story of the Allegheny Portage Railroad (Old and New) to date, and so makes accessible in a convenient form William Bender Wilson's The Evolution, Decadence and Abandonment of the Alle
gheny Portage Railroad, as that work appeared in the 1898-1899 Secretary of Internal Affairs (Pennsylvania) Report, Part IV, pp. xli-xcvi. More
over it re-issues in plates effectually retouched most of the admirable sketches of planes, stationary engine houses, and the like, done for Wilson's narrative by the artist George W. Storm.

So he who runs may read again the story of the proponents of the Portage; of the engineers who built and from time to time re-fashioned it; of its me
chanical features and remodeling of these; of changes from horse-drawn cars to locomotive-engine-drawn trains; of occasional travellers; of saddening statistics of cost in the field of State of Pennsylvania Public Works.
Also he may find considerable interest in the nineteen pages which Messrs. Baumgardner and Hoenstine devote to Sherman Day's notes of 1843 on Hollidaysburg and Johnstown and to the June, 1852, register of guests at the Summit Mansion House, with travellers blown in, as it were, from the four winds of the universe to dine, sup, and sleep at a once famous hotelry. Yet the reader who would like fresh light on the history of the Allegheny Portage Railroad must apparently wait for some time longer.

Harrisburg, Pa.

HUBERTIS M. CUMMINGS


This little book is primarily a Lincoln "item," and a worthy one. It is very attractively designed and manufactured, containing six illustrations and a facsimile of the letter.

The letter, the personal possession of the author, is included in both the Nicolay and Hay (V:256-7) and the Basler (III:486-7) collected works, and so does not add to the sum of Lincoln lore already generally known. It was written by Mr. Lincoln on October 11, 1859, to Dr. Edward Wallace in response to the latter's inquiry concerning Lincoln's views on the tariff in the light of his presidential aspirations.

It has an interest for students of Pennsylvania history since Dr. Wallace was a Philadelphian and wrote in behalf of Republican industrial leaders of that area. He was a brother of Dr. William Smith Wallace, brother-in-law of Mrs. Lincoln and the Lincoln family physician. It was through the latter Dr. Wallace that the letter came to Mr. Lincoln, who replied with the letter in question. In it, however, he said plainly, "I should prefer, to not now, write a public letter upon the subject. I therefore wish this to be considered confidential—"

Dr. Edward Wallace was "rather puzzled, because of the request that it be 'considered confidential'" (p. 27). How could he assure his friends of the candidate's views? He solved his problem by writing to his brother, requesting him to find out from Mr. Lincoln before the nominating convention whether he might use the letter of October 11 even though the writer had expressed his desire that his expression should be considered confidential. On May 12, 1860, Mr. Lincoln, in response to this request, wrote him to say: "I really have no objection to these views being publicly known, but I do wish to thrust no letter before the public now upon any subject. Save me from the appearance of obstruction, and I do not care who sees this or my former letter." This letter (p. 28) is also in Nicolay and Hay (IV:11-12) and in Basler (IV:49).

Gettysburg College

ROBERT FORTENBAUGH

Northern Rendezvous, Harrisburg during the Civil War. By Janet Mae Book. (Harrisburg: The Telegraph Press, 1951. Pp. 138. Illustrated. $2.75.)

This volume, first presented as a Master of Arts' thesis at Pennsylvania
State University, joins a growing list of studies of U. S. cities during the Civil War—Washington, Richmond, Philadelphia, and Detroit among others. Beginning with a brief description of Harrisburg in 1860, the year of its incorporation, the book goes on to describe the role of the city in state and national politics; Lincoln's visit to Harrisburg in February, 1861; the concentration and training of troops at nearby Camp Curtin, "the first military camp to be formed 'north of the Susquehanna River'"; the activities and preparations for the defense of Harrisburg caused by a series of invasion threats; the increased cost of living and other changes resulting from the impact of war upon the everyday life of the citizens. The concluding chapter, "Victory and Grief," is mainly concerned with the passage of Lincoln's Funeral Train through Harrisburg, April 20-21, 1865.

As the capital of the nation's second largest state, located at the junction of important rail, river, and canal facilities, Harrisburg was a highly strategic point. Recruits and supplies poured in from all parts of the North, and the city's rolling mills, machine shops, and car factories were kept busy producing equipment essential to the war effort. The women of the city allotted a great deal of their time to the preparation of food for the soldiers, and at one time it was hinted in Washington that if threats of invasion became too great, the officials of the nation would move their abodes to Harrisburg until the danger had passed. Nevertheless, there was agitation, early in 1864, for the removal of the Capitol from Harrisburg to Philadelphia. Only after the city had agreed to appropriate $20,000 to secure a better residence for the Governor was the bill for the removal of the Capitol dismissed in the House.

Within the limits of a relatively short narrative, the author, a Harrisburg public school teacher, has compiled a useful account of her subject. From Harrisburg newspapers, government documents, manuscripts, and other sources she has gathered the material for a story that was well worth telling. Only a few errors were noted. The name of Teedyuscung, King of the Delawares, is incorrectly spelled (p. 22). The Battle of Antietam did not begin on September 16, 1862 (p. 76). The page caption for p. 137 should be "Bibliography" not "Biography." And there is no real evidence to support the sweeping statement (p. 104) that "no other executive ever was as close to the people as he [Governor Andrew G. Curtin] was."


Arthur Link's Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era, 1910-1917 is a significant contribution to recent reinterpretations of the Progressive Movement. It supplements Mowry's Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Movement, the La Follettes' biography, Robert M. La Follette, Goldman's Rendezvous With Destiny, and Commager's The American Mind. Professor
Link's analysis differs somewhat significantly from these works in that foreign affairs dominate in his discussion of the era. Domestic aspects of Progressivism—which are usually stressed—are covered in only four of the ten chapters.

In the initial three chapters, Wilson's 1912 New Freedom is placed in context by first discussing Republican progressivism and the intra-party schism which evolved during the Taft Administration. Pennsylvania's Gifford Pinchot looms large as a party in the Pinchot-Ballinger affair, the apex of Republican insurgency, and as being instrumental in establishing Roosevelt's leadership of the insurgent group. Once committed to insurgency, to counteract Taft's conservatism, Roosevelt is viewed as proposing a new nationalism, a dynamic democracy, that would recognize the inevitability of concentration in industry and bring the great corporations under complete federal control.

Mr. Link next discusses Democracy's counterpart to the New Nationalism, the New Freedom. Here, Brandeis's influence is seen, leading Wilson "to believe that the most vital question confronting the American people was [not New Nationalism's control of capital, but positive governmental] preservation of economic freedom in the United States" (p. 20).

Interestingly enough, the New Freedom manifested after Democratic victory in 1912 is pictured as not the progressive fight for social justice that had been implied, in glowing terms, during the campaign. Contrariwise the author sees Wilson as a conservative in his relationship to rural credits, the Federal Reserve Act, a federal child labor law, restriction of immigration, women's suffrage, the segregation of Negroes in federal employment, the Sherman Act, and the Federal Trade Commission. "He had done these things," concludes Professor Link, "with a minimum of concession to advanced progressive concepts. . . . To try to portray such a man as an ardent social reformer is to defy the plain record" (p. 80). The work also reveals the disappointed reaction of sectional Democratic progressives to Wilson's conservative behavior.

The period of Wilsonian reform is considered as really being activated in 1916, and then for purposes of political expediency. "[He then] became," notes the author, "a new political creature, [and initiated] . . . the most sweeping and significant progressive legislation in the history of the country up to that time" (pp. 224-25). Before discussing this latter conversion in a concluding chapter, Professor Link turns to foreign affairs.

More than the remaining half of the work is devoted to foreign policy as related to Caribbean diplomacy and the European war. About the former, particular emphasis is given to Wilson's tortuous quelling of Latin rebellions. Our relations with Mexico emerge as significant in the discussion, the author deducing that Wilson embittered Mexican-American relations for years to come. Even so, it is conjectured that the Mexican people may some day remember Wilson as one who stood off European, and some American, forces that sought to undo the Revolution.

The strengths of this biographical work are obvious. Detailed documenta-
tion and revealing interpretations confirm Professor Link's position as a Wilson scholar. The work is also contributory as a concise synthesis of source material on the Wilson era. Indeed, the rather extensive annotated bibliography is a significant historiographical aid. Also, the author's astute analysis of Wilson's administration leaders deserves special note. Manifest weaknesses of the book are its brevity in parts, a seeming over-emphasis on foreign affairs; and a heavy reliance on secondary sources in his discussion of New Nationalism. As a whole, however, scholars will be delighted with *Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era*.

*State Teacher's College, Cortland, New York*  
MARTIN L. FAUSOLD


In this bicentennial year of Washington's activities at Fort Necessity, Frederick Tilberg, Historian for the National Park Service, has published a short handbook, *Fort Necessity*, which might well have been called *Fort Necessity and its Historic Vicinity*. In a short capsule form, the author has indicated the background for Washington's expedition of 1754, the necessity for building the fort, the incidents of the engagement, and the recent discovery of the original area and contour of the fort. The use of maps of the area, reproductions of the French and English military leaders, and photographs of present day sites and restorations make the past more intimate and vivid to the pilgrim who visits the area.

The inclusion of the Braddock campaign of 1755 and its historic sites and markers enriches the work and enables the visitor to complete his knowledge of the region in one pilgrimage. Again, the use of photographs and the guides to sites and markers are invaluable to the person interested in this almost hallowed region.

There is little new information for the scholar in American history in the handbook. The author, however, intended his work as a stimulant for the layman. The simplicity of statement, the accuracy of the work, and the fortunate selections of illustrative material make this handbook ideal for its purpose.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
RUSSELL J. FERGUSON


This attractive booklet, copiously illustrated, was type-set and page-arranged by the author, who has been in the employ of the Hershey Chocolate Company as superintendent of printing for more than forty years. Written to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Hershey Company, the booklet describes in interesting fashion the early life of Milton S. Hershey, the growth of his industrial enterprise and his many philanthropies, and the beginnings of a new Hershey regime following the death of the founder in 1945.


Pennsylvania Archaeologist. Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Bulletin, XXIII, Nos. 3-4, pp. 89-130.