

BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

EDITED BY RUSSELL J. FERGUSON
University of Pittsburgh

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson. Vol. 5, February 1781 to May 1781; Vol. 6, May 1781 to March 1784. Julian P. Boyd, Editor. Lyman H. Butterfield, Mina R. Bryan, and Elizabeth L. Hutter, Associate Editors. (Princeton University Press, 1952. Pp. 705; 668, plus 16 unnumbered pages. Illustrated. Each, \$10.00.)

The enormous undertaking of the Jefferson papers goes on at a stately pace—two volumes a year, perhaps three in some years. And the superb craftsmanship of the work continues to justify the pains and the time it is taking. Indeed, this epic project has already started other projects in its wake, following the remarks of President Truman at its dedication; and Dr. Boyd's performance is the excellent standard to which the Franklin Papers' editors at Yale will have to conform.

Volume 5 covers only three months, the final months of Jefferson's unhappy period as Governor of Virginia. The material is so abundant for these years of the governorship, that in the whole series more space will have been devoted to them than the subject matter deserves. Much of the text here is included only because this is an all-inclusive project, and is certainly not to be judged of the first importance. Everyone agrees that the things we go to Jefferson to find, we will not find in the governorship.

Yet what we do find is instructive, for the details of administration sit us down at Jefferson's desk with him, and permit us to get very close indeed to the problems of Greene's army, George Rogers Clark's expedition, Benedict Arnold's raids, the war of ships standing tall in the bays and rivers of Virginia—close to a man whose responsibilities as leader of the commonwealth were far greater than the powers constitutionally provided him, and whose temperament was unsuited, but not unequal, to the critical issues of this worst part of the revolutionary war. Some writers in the past have been harshly critical of Jefferson for his conduct as governor. In the plethora of material given here, there seems little reason for deeming him anything but adequate. What other governor dealt any more successfully with militia and stores while his state was invaded?

Volume 6 comes as a distinct relief. It lifts us from the minutiae of the governorship onto more rewarding planes than military matters and into a more significant part of Jefferson's life. It raises new problems for the editors, also, and a long foreword describes these helpfully. The General Assembly thanks Jefferson for his conduct as governor, and absolves him of all the charges that rumor and malice have made against him. But, as the

war ends and he steps out of public office, he steps into a sad private era, for his wife is dying. The moment of triumph for his country is a time of sorrow for him. From August 7 to September 22, 1782, Jefferson wrote nothing at all, apparently, except part of a sentimental page he and his wife joined in penning. This hiatus in the correspondence that fills these fifty-some volumes, is the most impressive silent tribute her husband could have left, to a woman who will always remain a shadowy figure in history. His violent grief was extraordinary; it was astonishing to his friend Madison, it was entirely out of character.

Politics of peace brought Jefferson out of his sad retirement, and the pace of his life picked up again. Dr. Boyd has several occasions for exegesis and expanded comment in presenting the papers of Jefferson's service in Congress, 1783-84. These passages of editorial matter are the high points of each volume, and in them this volume is particularly rich. Subjects fully described by editorial notes include Jefferson's plan (1783) for revising the Virginia Constitution (with the subsequent history of his plan in 1788), Congress' attempt to find a permanent residence and seat of government; Congress' reception of Washington's resignation as commander-in-chief, the judicial settlement of the Connecticut-Pennsylvania controversy over Wyoming lands (on which Dr. Boyd is, of course, the particular authority, and contributes here new elements of the story important to the readers of this journal), the attempt of Congress to erect a permanent standing executive committee, the Virginia cession of the Northwest Territory, and finally the evolution of the Ordinance of 1784 through its various stages.

This last, with Dr. Boyd's account of Jefferson's "Plan for Government of the Western Territory" and his notes on the documents, is the most important thing said on this whole subject of the Land Ordinance in recent historiography, and it is one of the significant original contributions of this series to the understanding of our national past.

Philadelphia

J. H. POWELL

The Beginnings of Bucknell University: A Sampling of the Documents.

Edited by J. Orin Oliphant. (Lewisburg, Pa., Bucknell University Press, 1954. Pp. 79.)

This rather brief treatise, although containing eight chapters, really consists of two parts. The first part, consisting of Chapter I, is the historical story of the beginnings of what is now Bucknell University, as written by J. Orin Oliphant, a professor of history there. The second part consists of the remaining chapters arranged according to the steps in the development of Bucknell's beginnings, but whose content is entirely composed of reprints of source materials relating to these beginnings. Since Bucknell was established under Baptist auspices, these reprints include the records of many actions of various Baptist bodies, particularly of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, as recorded in the *Minutes* of these bodies, as well as

many other related materials, and especially the *Minutes* of the Board of Trustees of Bucknell. All these reprints appear chronologically.

The story itself relates how certain Baptist leaders recognized the slowness on the part of Pennsylvania Baptists in providing schools for their youth, especially in training young men for the ministry. Early in the 1830's at least five Baptist associations had endorsed the efforts of the Philadelphia Association to found an educational institution near Philadelphia. Thus Haddington College was incorporated in 1836. However, the Philadelphia body withdrew its aid and endorsement in 1839, recommending instead Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution in New York (now Colgate) to its youth. This led to the collapse of Haddington. Similarly, and for the same reason, an institution at Holmesburg, New Jersey, collapsed.

Bucknell actually was established as a result of a recommendation made in 1845 by a committee of the Northumberland Baptist Association reporting on "the propriety of forming a Literary and Theological Seminary in central Pennsylvania." Nothing very concrete resulted until a self-constituted group under the leadership of Dr. William H. Ludwig of Lewisburg obtained the services late in 1845 of Professor Stephen W. Taylor from the Hamilton institution to implement the recommendation. He prepared a draft for a charter and proceeded to Harrisburg to get it approved by the legislature, which was signed February 5, 1846. The charter provided for the appointment of not exceeding twenty trustees and not exceeding forty curators, who were to manage and govern it. A majority of the trustees and curators were to be Baptists. The charter further provided:

As soon as said trustees shall have obtained, in the form of subscriptions believed to be valid, the amount of \$100,000.00, they shall purchase a lot or farm, and proceed to erect thereon suitable buildings for the use and benefit of said university, to procure the requisite library apparatus, and specimens in natural history. . . .

Taylor next went to Philadelphia to enlist the support of prominent Baptists there as well as of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. He also secured the endorsement of the Pennsylvania Baptist Convention for Missionary Purposes, and the Pennsylvania Baptist Education Society. In addition, he was asked to write a series of articles in the newly established Baptist weekly, *Christian Chronicle*, in support of the University at Lewisburg.

In the meantime, he had opened in late 1846 "a school preparatory to the university." By 1849 the \$100,000.00 had been subscribed. So the trustees on January 18 voted to proceed with the erection of buildings and to elect a Professor of Greek and a Professor of Latin. Thus what is now Bucknell really began as the "University at Lewisburg" in January, 1849. Later that year the theological department was approved, the library created, "philosophical apparatus" (scientific) purchased, and even student societies formed. The first class was graduated in August, 1851.

Apparently the two persons most instrumental in the beginnings of the

institution were Dr. Ludwig of Lewisburg and Professor Taylor, who was engaged as the full-time leader to get it established. For reasons not apparent, the presidency was given to Rev. Howard Malcolm, pastor of the First Baptist Church, in 1851, and Taylor returned to become the president of Hamilton (Colgate), in which he had taught before.

University of Pittsburgh

JOHN A. NIETZ

Nathan C. Schaeffer, Educational Philosopher. By Charles Dison Koch. (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Telegraph Press, 1951. Pp. xv, 307. \$4.00.)

It is a pity that so few of our citizens today are aware of the great struggles which were fought in the early part of this century to improve that remarkable American institution: the compulsory, free, and universal public school. The many changes which have taken place in our school system since World War I have received so much attention that too few attempts have been made to inform parents (or even prospective teachers) of the important reforms that occurred prior to that time. Such a deep-rooted and far-flung operation as the education of American youth did not spring into being without long years of devoted study and effort on the part of thousands of women and men.

Few people would deny that Nathan C. Schaeffer deserves a high place among these heroic persons. His career as teacher included chairs at Mercersburg Theological Seminary, Keystone State Normal School, and Franklin and Marshall College. After a distinguished period as principal of Keystone, he was elevated to the State Superintendency of Public Instruction, a post which he occupied for more than a quarter of a century. During this same period, he enjoyed the unique distinction of serving for three consecutive years as president or acting president of the National Education Association. In all of these positions, he labored constantly to gain wider acceptance of his educational views.

This volume provides a wealth of material to reveal what these views were. In addition to offering a chronologically arranged biographical section, it includes an analysis of Dr. Schaeffer's opinions and policies regarding the various aspects of the educational system: elementary, secondary, higher, teacher training, and industrial and agricultural instruction. Moreover, almost half the book is devoted to selections from Dr. Schaeffer's speeches, reports, and other writings, arranged in chronological order from 1893 to 1918. Thus the reader is enabled to observe not only the man and his work in particular situations, but also the development of his philosophy over the years.

That this study has much value to persons interested in education in Pennsylvania or elsewhere is obvious from the comments already made. Prepared by an intimate friend and long-time colleague of Dr. Schaeffer, it possesses the many virtues that only such close association can provide. As often happens, however, the author's personal admiration for his subject dulls the edge of his critical powers. While he offers many estimates from persons other than himself, all are completely laudatory. Dr. Schaeffer was far too honest, determined, and forthright not to have made enemies

during his long and productive career, but one would never learn this from the volume at hand.

Carnegie Institute of Technology

WILLIAM E. JOHNSON

A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania. By Lois Mulkearn and Edwin V. Pugh. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1954. Pp. xxiii, 425, sketch maps of counties, one road map, bibliography, index. \$3.00.)

This volume is a remarkable storehouse of historic sites and lore, conveniently organized by county and equipped with maps, road directions, mileages, and an interesting commentary. Theodore Bowman's maps for each of the twenty-seven counties of western Pennsylvania are excellent. Since the *Guide* was composed for travelers, every effort was made to include the landmarks of eighteenth and nineteenth century history. The result is a handy reference for anyone traveling in the area. Teachers of history, too, will find it valuable in making local events meaningful and in planning tours and field trips.

The *Guide* is particularly well done for southwestern Pennsylvania. Historic sites of twenty-seven counties are itemized. One-fourth of the text, or ninety-five pages, is devoted to Allegheny County; one-fourth, to Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties; and one-half, to the remaining twenty-three counties. The interest of the average traveler is probably sufficient reason for such a distribution. If not, the density of population and of historical records in the southwest undoubtedly outweighs the claims of the northwestern counties. Obviously the authors had to choose between what is of historic interest and what is simply historic. A few examples will support this conclusion. Pittsburgh's first public grade school is reported on page 49 as having opened on September 5, 1835, on the southeast corner of Seventh and Duquesne Way. No mention is made of its present condition, if it is still standing. Butler's first public school under the new school law of 1834, built in 1838, is not included in the *Guide*, although it is still standing in excellent condition on the corner of Cliff and East Jefferson Streets. The first Allegheny County Courthouse of 1799, the second, of 1842, and the present building of 1888 are included. The first Butler County Courthouse of 1807, the second, of 1855, and the present one of 1884 are omitted. There is not one single item of historic interest in the listings of Butler County for the City of Butler. Churches of all denominations are noted in the southwestern counties; occasionally one or two are singled out for comment in the northern and eastern counties of the area. For example, in the whole of Cambria County, only Prince Gallitzen's log chapel at Loretto is included. Johnstown and the rest of Cambria County evidently had no schools or other churches of interest.

The Indian towns and frontier forts of the eighteenth century are adequately covered except for one of the four Indian towns of the Kuskuskies. This Indian camp is located two miles west of Slippery Rock on Wolf Creek in Butler County. The site was approved by the National Bureau of

Ethnology in the "Indian Cessions to the United States," eighteenth report, as well as by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's map of 1875. The camp was marked locally in 1925, although not on the highway.

Quotations are liberally sprinkled throughout the text. They add color and timeliness, for the reader gains a sense of being present in the past. Usually the author of the quotation is identified, and this will undoubtedly satisfy most "travelers." Students of history will lament the omission of footnotes. For example, descendants of Colonel Edward Cook in Fayette County may well take umbrage at the note on his mansion, page 242, "The slave quarter, a room 18 x 20 feet, has been converted into a parlor." Since the quarters for the domestic slaves were in a loft above the one-story wing built on the end of the mansion—a loft reached only by ladder—and the original slave quarters were at some distance from the house, a notation of the source would have satisfied the curious. Another comment is of personal interest. For years the residents of Cambria County have argued about the construction of the South Fork Dam breast. Local historians believe it was made entirely of earth. The *Guide*, page 177, reports: "at 3:08 P.M. the arch masonry broke and millions of gallons of water rushed on the city of Johnstown." If the authors have settled this moot point, there are many who would like to know the source.

In conclusion, flaws in *A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania* are few, considering the general intent of the authors and the needs of the traveler. Western Pennsylvanians will be conscious of the historic record that needs to be preserved. History students will welcome the volume as a road guide, while lamenting the rather inadequate coverage of the northern and eastern counties.

Slippery Rock State Teachers College

ROBERT DUNCAN

Two Centuries of the Church of the Brethren in Western Pennsylvania, 1751-1950. Edited by W. J. Hamilton and others. (Elgin, Ill.: The Brethren Publishing House, 1953. Pp. 653. \$5.00.)

A better title for this book would have been, "A History of the *Churches* of the Brethren in Western Pennsylvania," for it is made up chiefly of the history of local churches and congregations.

As churches go, the Church of the Brethren (also known as Dunkards—in this book written Dunkers) is a comparatively recent branch of the Christian Church. It was in 1708, at Schwarzenau, Germany, that eight persons, having carefully studied the Scriptures, covenanted and united together as Brethren and Sisters into the covenant of the Cross of Christ to form a church of Christian believers. "These began to look about them for truth and righteousness, as they are in Jesus, but had soon to see with sorrowful eyes the great decay (of true Christianity) in every place." From this lamentable state of things they were pressed to deliver many a faithful testimony of truth, and here and there private meetings were established besides the public church organizations, in which newly awakened souls sought their edification.

The study of history and the Bible convinced them that the primitive Christians "were planted into the death of Jesus Christ by threefold immersion into the water bath of holy baptism." Thus settled in their minds, the original eight at Schwarzenau "went out together one morning, in solitude, to a stream called Elder, and the brother upon whom the lot had fallen, baptized first that brother who desired to be baptized first by the church of Christ," and then the other six went down into the stream.

Because of their separate and godly walk and conversation, and because of their practice of immersion, persecutions arose against the Brethren. Having heard of Germantown in Penn's Colony, and the freedom of worship there, Peter Becker brought twenty families of the Brethren, one hundred and twenty souls, to America, settling at or near Germantown, and as the years went by they spread out southward into Virginia, and westward over the Allegheny Mountains.

Western Pennsylvania, and especially Presbyterians who have been wont to think that the followers of John Calvin and John Knox had the field to themselves in the early history of western Pennsylvania, will be surprised to learn how early the Brethren pushed over the mountains. For example, Fayette County claims brethren families in 1752, and Greene County in 1751. None of these many histories of the different churches and congregations, however, distinguish clearly between the coming of a Brethren family into the frontier and the organization of a church. Reading these narratives, one gets the impression that these historians of the Brethren Conference take the date that any Brethren person or family appeared in a locality as the date of the founding of a church. This, of course, is quite different from the method of Presbyterian historians. For instance, the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh was not chartered until 1784, but long before that, very soon after the fall of Fort Duquesne, Presbyterian families were settled in or about what is now Pittsburgh.

This book will be of particular interest to the worthy members of the Church of the Brethren, a church which, when so many churches have been drifting into the morass of modernism, still holds fast to the Everlasting Gospel.

First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

CLARENCE EDWARD MACARTNEY

William Penn, Horticulturist. By Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1953. Pp. 38. \$10.00.)

One rarely thinks of William Penn as a horticulturist, but rather as a religious leader, pamphleteer, statesman, colonist, and constitutional writer. In this little booklet the emphasis is placed on the Founder's establishment of what may be considered as the first botanical garden in America, which John Bartram developed so fully in the next century, and his importation into the Province of Pennsylvania of trees and plants and rare seeds and roots.

The author succinctly reviews Penn's background, his early life, his conversion to Quakerism and consequent struggles with the authorities, and his

objectives in acquiring a vast empire in the American wilderness. His experiment at colonization in West New Jersey is glossed over; mention should certainly be made of that great document of which he was the principal, perhaps the sole, author, the *Concessions and Agreements* (page 8), one of the basic documents of our liberties. Especially interesting is the chapter entitled, "Proprietary and Horticulturist," which is a detailed account of the settlement of Pennsylvania, of the development of Penn's estate at Pennsbury Manor, and of his botanical experiments on his two visits to his colony. The story is carried through his later turbulent and unhappy life, down to the time of his death.

Two minor corrections are in order. Penn did not spend "his last years" with Guli, as stated on page 17; she was his first wife, Hannah Callowhill being his second, as shown on page 18. Guli did not die in 1689 (page 31) but in 1694 (as stated correctly on page 18).

Between pages 32 and 33, following a reproduction of Penn's bookplate, is a facsimile of his famous letter to the Free Society of Traders (1683).

Mrs. Hunt's work is not based on original research, but on the writings of such scholars as Janney, Pound, Vulliamy, and Watson. Less than one-third of it is devoted to Penn's horticultural accomplishments, in spite of the title. It is, however, an expression of gratitude in this troubled world for the life of William Penn, "who set up an ideal of government, lived up to it, believed in it, gave his all for it . . ." (page 31).

National Genealogical Society

MILTON RUBINCAM

The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography Index. Vol. 1-75 (1877-1951). Edited by Eugene E. Doll. (Philadelphia, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1954. Pp. xv, 1169.)

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