BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

Edited by Norman B. Wilkinson


Patriotism on Parade, despite the braggadocio air of its title, is not only No. 66 of the Harvard Historical Studies but sober and candid history, objective and American to the core. Nor is its author handicapped by the fact that, as a small bespectacled boy and earnest member of the Children of the American Revolution appointed to recite the creed of that hereditary society at its national convention in Washington in the early 1920's, he completely forgot his lines at the long-awaited final moment of recitation and had no other enthusiast at hand well enough acquainted with the words of the creed to prompt him. In fact, Wallace Evan Davies has lived sufficiently long within the aura of hereditary patriotic societies and within the field of American history to see both those phenomena steadily and to see them, as Matthew Arnold might say, “whole.” He delivers himself in respect of those two subjects without embarrassment, and he does as well and frankly with military veterans’ organizations.

Where he might have dealt with his material tongue-in-cheek or handled it with the direct censure of stern sustained wisdom, he has treated every phase of the record of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, the Veterans of the Mexican War, the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Confederate Veterans, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Sons of the Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, and the National Society of Colonial Dames (and all the rest of his alphabetical jungle) with patient understanding and unfailing urbanity.

Sentences, paragraphs, whole chapters sparkle with wit; but the writer is always kind as he is incisive. He omits nothing. He condones nothing that is blind, foolish, or jingoistic—and he finds much that is vain, shortsighted and jingoistic in the hereditary societies just as he finds much that is jingoistic, designing, and cupidinous in veterans’ organizations. But always his purpose is, as an historian’s should be, to comprehend the spectacle rather than to condemn it. He is as patient with the G. A. R. and its publications, the National Tribune and the American Tribune, as he would be with the V. F. W. and the American Legion and their publications today, were his book passing on from 1900 to 1955. For him they and their works, like the D. A. R., the S. R., the S. A. R., the Dames (of whatever nomenclature), and their works are integral elements of American history and American life.

For better or worse he sees them here to stay: now as the worst exponents
of our nationalism or the most truculent censors of our internationalism; now as the truest of our patriots; now as the sharpest critics of American isolationism; now as the opponents of American participation in the United Nations; now as the warmest of Anglophiles—cultivators of family trees, aspirants to family crests, as likely to be applicants for admission to the Baronial Order of Runnemede or the Société de Guillaume le Conquérant as to the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

For Mr. Davis thoroughly documents and covers his field, be it "blue blood turning red, white, and blue"; pink teas of Daughters or hot times of Veterans; the patriotic press of many generations; the Veterans' discovery of the welfare state; considered or chauvinist judgment on public questions. And in his book plainly to be beheld are the founders in many a vista of devotion and zeal, many a dilemma or quandary, many a huddle and many an argument: William O. McDowell ever to the fore, General John A. Logan frequently in evidence; Mesdames John King Van Rensselaer and John Lyon Gardiner, the Misses Mary Desha and Eugenia Washington, Mrs. Ellen Hardin Walworth, Mrs. Flora Darling, Mrs. Harriet Lothrop, et alii. Most modest and unassuming are the all but nameless organizers of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union which saved President George Washington's home for the Nation and all our fellow citizens.

But modesty is not Mr. Davies' keynote, for most transparently his book presents a patriotism which is paraded and paying—too often one which courts and cherishes a not immaterial remuneration.

Paxtang, Pennsylvania

HUBERTIS M. CUMMINGS


This book is a noble monument to a great man and a great region. George Washington's part in the winning of western Pennsylvania to its English and American loyalties has long been recognized by historians of the Winning of the West. Seven times this man of destiny visited or approached the western waters. Seven times he applied himself to the western problem, each time adding to the largeness of his concepts. In 1753 Major Washington spoke for a colony and a land company. In 1794 President Washington spoke for a nation and the supremacy of the Constitution. Proud indeed can western Pennsylvanians be of the high auspices under which their Anglo-American history began. Few regions have such distinction with which to leaven their bicentennial celebrations.

The book is primarily a documentary, aided by simple introductory matter, commentaries and notations by Dr. Cleland. For the most part Washington speaks for himself. The story of the famous 1753-54 mission to the French at Fort Le Boeuf is told by means of a facsimile reproduction of Washington's Journal supplemented by a few quotations from the Journal of Christopher Gist. The Fort Necessity campaign is described by extracts from translations of the Memorial and Contrecoeur editions of Washington's captured original. These are supplemented by minutes, notes, and other
Washington items, besides eye-witness accounts of the battle. The famous controversy about the "assassination" of Jumonville is documentarily dealt with. The Braddock campaign is covered by accounts taken from the source collections of Pargellis and Fitzpatrick. A variety of sources is drawn on for the Forbes campaign of 1758, including the papers of Henry Bouquet. The story of the land scouting expedition of 1770 is based on Washington's Journal of that year, but, strangely enough, Dr. Cleland fails to state clearly what source he used and where he used it. The same criticism must be made of the account taken from the Journal of 1784 concerning Washington's inspection of his western land holdings. Finally, Washington's part in the Whiskey Rebellion is told from a variety of sources.

The evolution of Washington's thinking about western problems is well brought out in these pages. In his 1753 mission to the French, he is seen in a highly precarious situation among Indians impressed with French aggression. Washington's dependence on the Half King shows wishful thinking about the efficacy of the divide-and-conquer technique, an over-used technique which involved getting aid from the Iroquois Indians. This dependence doomed Washington before he started on the Fort Necessity campaign, as the well-known sequel shows. As Braddock's aide he learned from professional soldiers some very important rules of warfare. As a Virginia colonel with General Forbes in 1758 he learned even more, especially how to administer a well-equipped army.

The Journals of 1770 and 1784 are, in a sense, tragic ones. They point to the Washington that might have been, had the calls to public duty not been so imperious. As a private citizen, Washington aspired to be a prosperous land owner. As a typical Virginia gentleman, he was in debt. As a veteran and a surveyor, he knew that a solution of his financial difficulties lay in a rise in value of Ohio River land grants received from Virginia's governor. Hence, his agreement with William Crawford and others, and their tour of inspection of 1770. Hence, even more, the inspection of his properties in 1784 —more because of the personal losses and debts of the Revolutionary times and also because of the promise of the increased value of his western lands that would result from promoting communication and commerce across the mountains.

Thus do personal problems and public responsibilities produce the landlord and the expansionist, a blend which provided the incentive to transform a Virginia gentleman landowner into a western-minded constitution maker and nation builder. Questions of land improvement, western state building, trade rivalry with Spaniards, road building, river clearing, foreign immigration, and a score of others thus crowd into the mind of one who knows what goes to make the building of a nation because he has a stake in the process. Even the idea of James Rumsey's "discovery of working Boats against stream" enters into his fertile mind. Hence, by 1794, from the more serene, but not yet storm-proof heights of the presidency of a young republic, he struck down the efforts of the "whiskey rebels"—those "misguided or designing men"—to subvert a stable government.

There are other ways to show the tremendous importance of the unity of
local and national history. But until more comprehensive and synthetic work is done, it is fitting that localities should do as western Pennsylvanians have done, glorify our national heroes in local settings.

University of Toledo

RANDOLPH C. DOWNES


The story of the growth of the labor movement in the United States is often a recital of needless poverty, of bitter controversy, of patient perseverance, and of inequities. It is also, however, one of progress and one of commanding interest. Pennsylvania was an important center in the fight for the rights of the working man. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has added materially to the literature on the subject by the publication of William A. Sullivan's The Industrial Worker in Pennsylvania, 1800-1840.

In spite of the fact that the commonwealth spreads from the seaboard to the eastern edge of the Mississippi Valley and is therefore diverse in its activities and in its attitudes, the author has managed to achieve a commendable degree of unity. He pictures the industrial scene of iron mills, textile plants, engine works, and a host of other producing concerns, and he peoples it with factory operatives, ironworkers, common laborers, and skilled artisans, all with their hopes, their trials, and their tribulations. He describes the workers' efforts to organize, and depicts the strife that marked the protests of both the skilled and the unskilled. He examines also the relations between politics and labor during the Jackson period, and ends with a brief chapter on the wage earners and social reform.

Particularly interesting in the study is the material on wages. In too many instances during the period the pay for a long day's work remained the same or turned distressingly downward; few were the laborers whose working hours grew less. Protests were not lacking, especially by the cordwainers and the printers, but the "turn-out" (strike) was ineffective against depressions and against charges of conspiracy. Not until the days of Jackson did local action begin to merge into a concerted movement of somewhat national scope, and even then conflicts from within and opposition from without palsied effective united action. In 1840 the outlook was still troubled by many of the difficulties that had beclouded it four decades before.

The Industrial Worker in Pennsylvania, 1800-1840 is based on sound research. The author has delved into a great variety of sources and has gleaned many significant facts. Though gladly acknowledging his debt to the studies of John R. Commons and his distinguished associates, he has dug assiduously into what in some instances is new ground. Notwithstanding the abundance of evidence, however, few clear premises stand forth. The evidence concerning labor's disinclination to support Jackson, especially in the city of Philadelphia, is convincing, but many attributes are accorded labor with little supporting evidence. There is no great over-all view of the conflicting and
at times inspiring forces in the nation that marked the years of the study. Occasionally conclusions that have already been seriously questioned by other recent students are made without qualification. Yet the book is of great value, and many Pennsylvanians in particular will hope that the Commission will sponsor the publication of other volumes in the field.


"The noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees," declared Dr. Samuel Johnson, "is the highroad that leads him to England." To many young Scots of the eighteenth century the way to America furnished an even nobler prospect than the highroad to England, but Dr. Johnson, who declared himself "willing to love all mankind, except an American," could not be expected to recognize this rival route to fame and fortune. It led particularly to Pennsylvania and to her neighboring provinces, and along it in 1765 journeyed an Edinburgh clerk, James Wilson, aged twenty-three. In Pennsylvania his noblest prospects for fame and fortune seemed to be realized, but then suddenly his career collapsed. The avidity with which he sought his private fortune darkened his public fame and probably withheld from him an appointment as chief justice which might have been the capstone of his career.

It is astonishing that this distinguished statesman has had no biographer till now. Professor Smith feels that the condition of Wilson's death as "a fugitive from the law in a shabby Carolina inn, made him an uncongenial subject for the filiopietistic pens of nineteenth-century biographers." Yet this explanation is not entirely satisfactory; great achievements had preceded this tawdry end, achievements that have long begged narrating. And though some of Wilson's greatest achievements lack dramatic quality—for example, his work in the Continental Congress, in the Constitutional Convention, in the Pennsylvania ratifying convention, and on the Supreme Court—there are some highly dramatic materials here, like the tale of the attack on Fort Wilson and indeed the bare outline of this emigrant's progress. The story of his last few years, of his final descent into the maelstrom of debt, is particularly moving.

Son of a farmer in Fifeshire, James Wilson was sent to the university at St. Andrews to be prepared for the ministry, apparently being destined for a schismatic branch of the Presbyterian kirk. When his father's death interrupted his studies, he tried his lot as tutor and as clerk, but his prospects in Scotland were unsatisfactory—prospects were always taunting him—and he welcomed the aid of his family in sending him to America, where some cousins had already gone. William Smith hired him as a tutor in the College of Philadelphia, but this post was only a stop-gap; a brighter future opened when he became an apprentice in the law office of John Dickinson.

By 1767 he was on his own, beginning the practice of law in Reading, whence he moved, for greater opportunities, to Carlisle in 1770. Carlisle,
entrance to the West and to the wealth of America for many immigrant Scots, furnished James Wilson with a stepping-stone toward his goals. While yet he was in Reading, his abundant energy had led him into public print, anonymously at first, as collaborator with the future Bishop White in some newspaper essays on manners ascribed to a "Visitant." Here too he wrote, but did not yet publish, his first political essay, "Considerations on the Nature and Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Empire." While resident at Carlisle he became a member of a county committee of correspondence, a delegate to the provincial convention, and a Pennsylvania representative in the Continental Congress, where, unlike his old preceptor, Dickinson, he voted for independence.

In the years that followed, Wilson was a useful member of Congress and, as is well known, one of the two or three most influential members of the Constitutional Convention. Three chapters of this biography are devoted to the convention, where Wilson was set "apart from the other delegates" by the fact "that he was willing to pay for a strong national government by the widest kind of political democracy." A fourth chapter details Wilson's triumphant part in the Pennsylvania ratifying convention. Once the new government was established, Wilson's efforts on its behalf were rewarded by his appointment to the new Supreme Court. Aside from his judicial services, his last public roles were played as a delegate to the state convention which wrote a new constitution for Pennsylvania in 1790 and as the lecturer, at the College of Philadelphia, in the first important law course to be initiated after the inception of the Federal Government. Two chapters are devoted to Wilson's law lectures, which were anything but narrowly technical.

Through these years of public prominence, Wilson had not neglected his private prospects. Moving to Philadelphia in 1778, he used his successful law practice as the foundation for a continually expanding business enterprise, consisting primarily of speculation in lands on or near the frontier, but embracing also such manufacturing enterprises as lumber, grist, and textile mills, dye works, and iron furnaces. Purchasing land on margin, ever optimistic of America's future, Wilson eventually accumulated holdings that were scattered from Pennsylvania to Georgia. "Everyone who had land to sell seemed to find a path eventually to Wilson's door, and very few were turned away." A tight money market in 1796 ruined Wilson, and he suffered the ignominy of jail confinement in Burlington, New Jersey, and in Edenton, North Carolina. Released from jail, he feared to return to Philadelphia, the center of his greatest debts and most numerous creditors, and so he spent months in an Edenton inn till death brought him his final release.

Professor Smith relates this story in language which is at times quite exciting and which profits from such intimate details as a description of some of the furnishings of Wilson's Chestnut Street home. At the same time, he is willing to interrupt his narrative for careful analysis of Wilson's writings, speeches, and other public acts. In some details, especially geographic details, quite peripheral to the main story, the author allows inaccuracies to appear: for example, it was not Rodney, but Graves whom De Grasse repelled from the Chesapeake (p. 169); one can hardly ferry across the Firth of Forth from
Perth, which is farther north (p. 20); the Susquehanna does not divide the Pennsylvania yeas and nays on the Federal Constitution quite as neatly as the author claims (p. 278); in considering moving to Delaware, the Bank of North America did not need to contemplate "moving across the river" (p. 155). This reviewer found it inconvenient that the intelligently-compact notes, which evidence especially thorough research and are therefore of particular interest, are located in the back of the volume.

But such criticism seems unduly carping in comparison with the very great merits of a keen and lively account of the life of one of the most important Americans of the eighteenth century. From his land speculations to his law lectures, readers will find much to interest them in this neglected Pennsylvanian, but his greatest fame will continue to rest on his part in the writing of the Constitution. The Constitutional Convention, says Professor Smith, "was the central fact in Wilson's life"; here he "espoused more of those principles which have since become prominent features of American democracy than any other delegate." Both for its uniqueness and for its singular merits, this is one of the most important of American biographies.

*University of Delaware*

**John A. Munroe**


Many routes were used by the tens of thousands of persons who headed for California in 1849, and one of the less frequently used was the Arkansas Route. It was not only less popular than others, but few journals remain to tell the story of the experiences of the men who followed the trail from Fort Smith to Santa Fe, and on to Los Angeles before turning north to the Mother Lode region.

Three of the men in the little party of six who set out from Lewisburg late in February, 1849, left some written record of their experiences. William H. Chamberlin made the most complete record of the adventures of this small group of men. He had some literary skill and had agreed before departing to send letters back to the local paper, the *Lewisburg Chronicle*. In addition, his diary was later published in the same newspaper. David Howard also made some notes regarding the trip to California and some of the experiences after arrival. Robert B. Green, whose journal is under consideration, kept a day to day record of the trip, the most complete of the three, in terms of daily entries, but it was never revised, and appears in this volume with virtually no changes.

The six men drove wagons to Pittsburgh, sent the horses back to Lewisburg, and obtained passage down the Ohio. At the mouth of the Arkansas River they transferred to a boat going up as far as Fort Smith. There mules were purchased, and the men started west on March 28. The Canadian River was followed for a considerable distance, and then the Santa Fe Trail was followed to its destination. The men went down the Rio Grande until it was time to cut across country to the Gila River, which they followed to its mouth
at the Colorado. The Lewisburgers then headed northwest to Los Angeles, and after a brief stay, the last lap of the expedition was undertaken to the mining region 300 miles farther north.

This journal is the work of a man with little formal learning, but indicates that he was a person of some experience. He held decided opinions and expressed them, at least on paper. One develops the feeling that many people were out of step with Green. His party joined with others to make the crossing, mostly men from southern states. These companions were all condemned as unconscionable scoundrels. He despised the Indians he met along the way, and also the Mexicans. He was horrified by the easy morals of the women, but this did not prevent him from making an unsuccessful attempt to impress one of them at Socorro.

The hardships which Green's party faced during the trip are beyond imagination today. The great difficulty in the spring, caused by rain, mud, and the crossing of swollen streams, faded into insignificance in comparison with the hardships encountered in crossing Arizona and California in mid-summer. Men went on near starvation rations for days. Green's waist shrunk from forty inches to twenty-six during the seven months he spent in reaching California. The men and mules were so weakened by the time they reached Los Angeles that it took them nearly a month to travel from there to the mines, and they were in dire distress in the San Woikin (Green's spelling for San Joaquin) Valley for days.

Green included many small, pertinent comments and stories. He vividly portrayed the tragedy of losing the handle of one's tin cup when coffee was dipped from a common kettle. He had to wait until some friend would dip coffee for him, and wait again until the cup was cool enough to hold. He voiced the feelings of all the Argonauts when he wrote in Arizona, on July 15, "... we are determined to go on as long as we can & then take it afoot & carry our provision [s] on our backs for go we will or die on the road, & with the front croud." Unfortunately this man died in San Francisco before the year was out.

Professor Oliphant has provided a very fine introduction to this brief, but interesting journal of a prospective miner on the Arkansas Route.

Temple University

EDWIN B. BRONNER


One of several books to mark the 250th anniversary of Franklin's birth, this volume is in substance a scholarly footnote to that chapter of American diplomatic history dominated by Franklin and his deftly successful efforts to secure French aid for the American colonists.

Mr. Clark has carefully sifted original sources to document one of the lesser-known activities of the versatile Dr. Franklin—his attempts to obtain the release of American naval prisoners in England by bartering British sailors held in France. It was this humanitarian purpose which caused Franklin to grant American commissions to three cutters, owned by French merchants and manned by Irish smugglers.
Franklin did not relish this role as director of naval affairs in addition to his multiple duties as Minister Plenipotentiary, and he urged Congress to appoint consuls for the several European seaports. Fully aware of the impossibility of exerting adequate control over privateers from his seat in Passy, Franklin nevertheless embarked upon this venture because it promised to strengthen his position in negotiating for the release of Americans whom England held not as prisoners of war but as traitors.

The story of the first ship to be commissioned in Franklin's "fleet" is an engaging tale of conspiracy and misrepresentation, of piracy and double-purpose, which the author has pieced together from private letters, diplomatic correspondence, newspapers, and British Admiralty files.

Early in 1779 the captured Irish smuggler's ship *Friendship* was boarded and cut loose in Dublin harbor by escaped members of her crew, who thus became pirates. Their captain, one Luke Ryan, proceeded to Dunkirk to seek backing as a privateer. With the aid of a French merchant who purchased half interest in the ship, a hollow-headed American who acted as captain, and considerable misrepresentation of fact, Ryan obtained the American commission for his ship, now called the *Black Prince*, and sailed from Dunkirk in search of prizes and prisoners.

Franklin intended to take no part in the disposal of prizes, for neither he nor the American Congress had any financial interest in the privateers. But the good Doctor was involved in spite of himself. After the ship's owners had sorely complained about delay in getting judgment on the prizes brought into French ports, Franklin learned to his chagrin that he had been designated by the French government as Judge of the Admiralty in all cases involving American naval prizes. He had neglected to read papers in his own files which made this quite clear. Although doubtful of the legality of his decisions, the already over-worked and gout-ridden Minister took over this new responsibility.

In addition to the *Black Prince*, Franklin granted commissions to two other cutters. These vessels were successful in capturing prizes, in harassing the English and Irish coasts, and in sending marine insurance soaring. Thus the privateers contributed to the war effort. But they greatly disappointed Franklin in the meager number of prisoners brought back to France.

Mr. Clark writes of the sea and of ships with authority, and he has supplied some Hollywood scriptwriter with enough sea battles, shipwrecks, and maritime heroics to fill many a wide screen. His account of *Franklin's Privateers* is a fascinating story, particularly to the reader whose knowledge of the American Revolution allows him to read this footnote in proper perspective.


The title, *Pennsylvania German Poetry*, is a bit misleading and unfortunate, for the book does not include a single word of the dialect. It is rather a
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presentation of High German poetry in Pennsylvania between 1685 and 1830. the span of time directly before the dialect era. Dr. Stoudt's uncommon usage of "Pennsylvania German" compels him to write in the "Introduction" about "Pennsylvania German poetry in the high German language." He circumvents the difficulty by using Pennsylvaanisch for the dialect, a term coined by Heinz Kloss but not accepted by most scholars in the field. German Poetry in Pennsylvania would have been a more nearly accurate designation—certainly less disturbing.

Dr. Stoudt's book is the first one to present a picture of High German poetry in Pennsylvania as a forerunner of verse in the Pennsylvania German dialect. From newspapers, almanacs, hymnals, original manuscripts, and other sources he has gleaned representative poems for his collection. Space limitations have forced him to include only some three hundred poems by about one hundred and fifty poets. In a fine introduction of one hundred and six pages Stoudt characterizes the three overlapping periods of High German poetry preceding dialect verse, contrasts the English and German productions, presents creative centers and personalities as chronologically as possible, and comes to the conclusion that the quantity and quality of poetry in the High German language during the stated years leave the English efforts in Pennsylvania little chance for supremacy. With figures and comments he stresses the poetic productivity of the Germans in Pennsylvania, saying: "... the unique thing about Pennsylvania Poetry" is the fact "that the urge to create was so dynamically alive and that verse was written at the smallest chance to praise God." More than three hundred and fifty poets are known to have written German verse in America before 1830.

The earliest period, according to Stoudt, produced "the severely religious, even mystical, poetry of the immigrant generations which is preserved mainly in the sectarian hymnals." It was "the deepest poetry of eighteenth century America, far more satisfying than Franklin's deism or even than French rational philosophy and British empiricism." The second period united the "mystical poetry of the sectarian élite with the more popular forms of folk literature." The poems of this group, which appeared in German newspapers, in broadsides, and on illuminated Vorschriften, "democratized mysticism and joined it with folklore." The third period revealed "the transfiguration of the mystical love theme into democratic brotherhood." All three were fore-runners of "dialect verse with its romantic nostalgia for the good old days and for the brave battles of the past." Poetry in the dialect (the fourth period) began around 1830.

Let us look at the initial poetic era for evidence of what the book contains. The reader is introduced to Francis Pastorius, "the first of our poets and perhaps even the first ranking literary figure of his time in Colonial America, surpassing even Cotton Mather, his Puritan contemporary." The reader learns that Johannes Kelpius and the other hermits of the Wissahickon (at least six poets) might be "the first major school of German poetry in America" if their total writings were available. Then the reader meets the early poets among the members of the Ephrata Cloisters, among the Bethlehem Moravians, and the Perkiomen Schwenkfelders. Ephrata had at least sixty indi-
viduals who wrote verse—Stoudt includes fourteen. He calls Conrad Beissel's poetry "the most profound creation in Colonial literature, English or German," and states that the true biographer of Beissel will have to know the latter's mystical verse. "The poetry of the American Moravians has emerged as possibly the finest product of Pennsylvania German literature." Outstanding among the more than sixty Bethlehem poets after the Revolution were Count Zinzendorf, Bishop Cammerhof, and Anna Nitschmann. The most significant Schwenkfeldian poet was Abraham Wagner, a physician and the writer of at least sixty-nine poems. These are only a few of the poets in the earliest period.

One should point out that Dr. Stoudt's knowledge of mysticism and pietism is most advantageous in the evaluation and interpretation of these verse renderings; on the other hand, Dr. Stoudt does not profess to be a philologist and a student of Germanics. Though the reviewer does not share the enthusiasm expressed in the Introduction for the interpretation that "Pennsylvania German poetry marched the road from high mysticism to democracy," he nevertheless strongly believes that the Yearbook is an outstanding and vital contribution which will more than open the way to an unexplored and unappreciated field. This book brings to light the need for considering the early poetry of the Germans in Pennsylvania as "a significant chapter in the history of American letters."

One should add that the Yearbook had the benefit of careful editing by Dr. Preston A. Barba, who was assisted by Dr. Harry A. Reichard and Dr. Ralph C. Wood. Under the name of each poet in the text are given essential and helpful bits of information about him. The sources of the poems are listed at the end of the text.

The volume closes with Dr. Arthur D. Graeff's annual report on Pennsylvania German activities in 1954.

Susquehanna University

Russell Wieder Gilbert


This little book, the fourth in a series of occasional publications that have come out in recent years under the sponsorship of the Friends of the Princeton Library, is as charming as it is informing. It is beautifully designed by P. J. Conkwright and attractively printed by the Princeton University Press. The occasion of its publication was the presentation to Princeton University, in 1954, of a collection of Boudinot papers.

The title of this work is slightly misleading. Actually, the book consists of Elias Boudinot's diary of a journey (June 22-October 2, 1809) from Burlington, New Jersey, via New York, New Haven, Hartford, Providence, and Boston, to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and back to Burlington. On this journey Boudinot was accompanied by his widowed daughter, Mrs. Susan Bradford, and by a young friend, Miss Mary Binney, who later married Lucius Manlius Sargent of Boston.

The important thing about this book, however, is the contents—not the
title. The author, a distinguished American patriot who by 1809 had become an elder statesman, was widely known in his own country. Wherever he went on this journey, Elias Boudinot met either friends or acquaintances, and everywhere doors swung open to him. Moreover, he was a discriminating observer and a good reporter. Consequently, we get from his diary not only glimpses of towns and of the countryside through which he passed, but also views and impressions of important institutions that he saw and of numerous distinguished persons that he met. We read, for example, interesting descriptions of New Haven, Providence, Boston, and Portsmouth; and we learn something about the colleges called Yale, Brown, and Harvard. Also, we get glimpses, inter alia, of William Samuel Johnson in retirement at Stratford, of President Timothy Dwight in New Haven, of Eli Whitney in his "Gun Manufactory," and of Stephen Gano of Providence and William Ellery Channing of Boston in their respective pulpits. Moreover, we go with Boudinot to Quincy to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, and to Harvard to attend the farewell lecture of Professor John Quincy Adams.

This book is ably edited. It will be valued by every person who is interested in the early period of our national history.

Bucknell University

J. ORIN OLIPHANT


Dr. Clark's biography of Bishop Simpson is an old-fashioned narrative account of the life of a great man. There is in it neither the glamorous hero worship nor the joyful excursions into the mythological which once upon a time seem to have been regarded as the sine qua non in telling the story of a great man's sojourn here on earth. We miss, too, the psychological and especially the pathological. Did the good bishop have no fixations, no frustrations—alas, no libido? Well, we guess he did. But apparently he did not have much time to spend in reducing the processes of his cerebral cortex to the contents of a card index. He had too much to do to bother with such stuff. In journeyings often, in smacking down unkind religious editors, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians alike, in putting Democrats in their proper place, in stilling the murmurings of good brothers of the clergy disappointed with their conference appointments—in all these things including, as it were, on the side, sermons and lectures almost without number, the bishop was a reasonably busy man.

Dr. Clark has made a contribution to American history which needed to be made. In much of the story of the Winning of the West, the place of the Methodist preacher has been ignored. In these days when it is very evident that the estimable Davy Crockett single-handed cleared the wilderness of "bar" and other noxious "critters" and prepared the way for culture of the classic type, it is well to remember that there were other sources of refinement and general improvement. None of these was so potent as was the Methodist circuit rider and the Baptist preacher. It is well to remember that many of the first families of the West, as well as of the East, for that matter, were pio-
neers, either because some of their members didn't care a great deal for the
Ten Commandments, or were too lazy to do a good job on the farm at home.
The principal moral and cultural force in their lives was the occasional
preacher. And the pioneer mother just had to go along. Too tired to do
anything much but to bear as many children as possible, as soon as possible,
it is no wonder that filth and bedbugs and "miskeeters" and "chiggers" joined
with her in welcoming the Methodist circuit rider when he came to her home.
He spoke to her and her family of wrath and judgment to come but he spoke
too of a land of hope and glory.

Of the second generation of this company of pioneers, Matthew Simpson
was one. He was, to quote from Dr. Clark, "born in the little village of Cadiz,
Ohio, in 1811, to parents who, a decade earlier, with their respective families,
had slashed and chopped their ways into the frontier wilderness."

Simpson's first asset was a widowed mother, for shortly after his birth, his
father, James Simpson, died. His next asset was revealed when "the itinerant
preacher, who frequently stopped overnight at his mother's house, asked him
if he . . . could read," and made him, more than ever, resolved to learn. After
a brief but imposing literary education, he became a doctor but shortly after
gave up medicine for the ministry.

When twenty-seven years old, he was made president of Indiana Asbury
University, an institution with a feeble enrollment: twelve in the college and
seventy-four in the preparatory department. At forty-one he became a bishop.

His career in the Episcopacy is well-known. He was a church administrator
as well as a preacher of no slight stature. He was given to "politicking,"
especially when the recognition of Methodists was at stake. He was a friend
of Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, and Garfield. He joined with Thad Stevens in the
bitter attack on Johnson.

Of all these things and more, Dr. Clark tells us in a factual, interesting
and scholarly way. He reminds us that before there was big business in
America, there were big men.

Presbyterian Ministers' Fund, Philadelphia

ALEXANDER MACKIE

The American Collector. Four Essays Commemorating The Draper Cen-
tennial of The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1954. Edited by
Donald R. McNeil. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wis-
consin, 1955. Pp. 61. $2.00.)

The year 1954 marked the hundredth anniversary of Lyman Copeland
Draper's appointment as superintendent of The State Historical Society of
Wisconsin. At that time he had been collecting manuscripts and reminiscences
of the pioneer history of the Trans-Appalachian West for ten years, and the
collections of the Society consisted of 50 books. When Draper retired in 1886,
he had built an incomparable collection of pioneer materials, a state historical
society with 110,000 titles, and an outstanding collection of American news-
papers.

The essays in this slender volume were delivered during the Founders Day
celebration in January, 1954. Lyman H. Butterfield, editor of the Adams
Papers, in "Draper's Predecessors and Contemporaries," discusses those men who, like Draper, collected, preserved, and edited: Pierre Du Simitière, Jeremy Belknap, Jared Sparks, Peter Force, the Hazards, the Stevenses, and many others. He points out their shortcomings as well as their virtues, and emphasizes that although too often dismissed as quacks and antiquarians, these were the men who preserved the materials of American history.

In "The Modern Collector," Roy P. Basler, Associate Director of the Library of Congress, examines some of the problems confronting the contemporary collector, both private and institutional, with emphasis on the collecting aspects for the publication of *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*.

Donald R. McNeil, assistant director of The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, in "The Wisconsin Experiments," outlines the current projects and policies of his society: the system of regional depositories, the staff of field representatives who quarter the state seeking manuscripts as Draper and his contemporaries did the nation, the surveys of the state as regards business records, labor and medical history, and the collecting of current political material.

In "The Draper Manuscripts," Miss Alice E. Smith, Chief of Research of The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, discusses the 486 bound volumes of manuscripts which comprise the single greatest collection on the Trans-Appalachian West, points out the past uses of the collection, and details subject fields which have not been fully utilized.

The Draper Centennial Year was celebrated with the publication of William B. Hesseltine's biography of Draper, *Pioneer's Mission*. At the meetings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association and the American Association for State and Local History, papers appropriate to the observation were read. The publication of these essays serves to illuminate the important role of the American collector, the precursor of the American historian, in the profession. This small volume is an attempt to place "The American Collector" in a proper historical perspective. It is properly eulogistic of Draper; it is a valuable addition to the literature, and should be read by all interested in American historiography.

-Hagley Museum, Wilmington, Del.

ROY M. BOATMAN
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