
The pattern of American politics is one of infinite complexity and is, at the very least, tri-dimensional in nature. In the study of political history one should concentrate on those levels of political activity—the state and the local—which immediately affect the individual citizen and in which important dynamic factors in American politics operate. This point of view, emphasized by Dean Nichols in his Foreword, has been consistently adhered to by Professor Kehl.

The basic theme of this study of Western Pennsylvania's politics in the important transitional decade after 1815 is how political behavior in this region was the product of its location, its minority status, its needs, frustrations, and inferiorities. We learn how "Politics in Western Pennsylvania... was more a matter of opportunism of the moment than party or even faction continuity" (page 96). The decade forms a logical period in Pennsylvania political history for, as the author points out in his Preface, in 1815 "... the organization necessary for healthy party conflict was rapidly passing beyond the horizon...", but by 1825 "... political realignments were only beginning to emerge."

This publication complements those of Ferguson and Klein, since Kehl, by concentrating on one region in the state, adds significantly to the material covered in the notable histories of his predecessors. Kehl's bibliography is extensive. He has made good use of local histories and especially of newspapers and graduate theses prepared at the University of Pittsburgh.

Whereas Professor Klein compared the political scene to a playing field, Kehl thinks in terms of a battleground. He has labelled his three main divisions, "The Battlefield," "The Weapons of Battle," and "Major Campaigns." His first chapter, a survey of the area west of the mountains, shows how this area constituted a distinct region within the state. Kehl then discusses the social, economic, and regional basis for the politics of this region. The second chapter, "The People and Their Background," reviews conflicts within the region, notably that of the countryside against Pittsburgh and the county seats. The author points out how differences were minimized by the regional resentment directed toward the East (especially toward Philadelphia). Chapter three, "Confusion in the Social Milieu," discusses how the attitudes of this region were affected by the economic issues characteristic of the era of good feeling—internal improvements, tariffs, banking—and how conflict over these issues made difficult the maintaining of party
discipline. The result was that "... economic localism tended only to mini-

mize party distinctions and promote an area-consciousness" (page 61). In
the chapter entitled "The Battle Lines," Dr. Kehl reviews the adoption by
the Republicans of certain Federalist ideas, the decline of the Federalist
party in Western Pennsylvania and their alignment with independent Re-
publicans, and how, with factionalism rampant, the term "party" for this
period is quite misleading. This factionalism, we are told, was not based
chiefly on issues, but rather on personalities and political methods. The bat-
tle weapons first discussed are "Newspapers and Their Editors." Here Kehl,
along with descriptions of newspapers and their practices, stresses the po-
litical activities of many editors, dependent as most of them were on addi-
tional sources of income. Kehl points, too, to the significant fact that at the
end of the decade newspapers were beginning to shift their emphasis from
local to state and national issues. In the sixth chapter, "The Committee
System," the author dissects important aspects of the machinery by which
the business of politics in the Western Pennsylvania of that day was done
—especially the committees of correspondence, operating chiefly at the county
and intercounty levels, and the committees of vigilance, concerned more gen-

erally with township politics. This chapter contains a section on the difficult
subject of "Election Tickets" which the author handles with real competence.
He makes abundantly clear that: "The fluid line that separated the contend-
ing forces in Western Pennsylvania ... made the movement of politicians
from one camp to the other a frequent practice, and in time the picture of
political alignments became so blurred that distinction was impossible" (page
157).

The following chapter, "Social and Political Alignments," is one of the
most revealing parts of Kehl's study. For this period of party weakness and
in the absence of extensive organization, such as the Washington Club of the
independent Republicans (which is discussed fully), we learn how men ad-
vanced politically, and of the many ramifications for American life which
politics had. We see the multiplicity of factors (then and now) affecting
men's political behavior, and the groups—professions, militia units, churches,
fraternal organizations—important in the political activities of Western
Pennsylvanians. Political careers, Kehl makes clear, were fashioned of a
wide variety of non-political activities.

The final three chapters begin with a review of the gubernatorial cam-
paigns of 1817, 1820, and 1823. Candidates, campaign charges, and counter-
charges are discussed, along with the significant beginning of the return of
party regularity. The discussion of the presidential question centers on the
part played by politicos from Western Pennsylvania in promoting and back-
ing Jackson's candidacy. Kehl's analysis reveals several important points,
including the divisions within the Jackson ranks, the persistence of localism,
and the still immature condition of parties in that part of the state. The
study ends with a review of the opposition to John Quincy Adams' accession,
the return of good times after the postwar depression, and signs of more
distinct party alignments and improved party organization. The age of con-
fusion was receding and trends away from both political personalism and
localism had appeared. As Kehl concludes: "In the short span of ten years Western Pennsylvania had pressed through a cycle from hope to disappointment and despair and back to hope again" (page 247).

This study is especially effective in analyzing the soil in which was rooted the political behavior of Western Pennsylvania, an area, balanced between the East and the West, which was genuinely "a state of mind, as well as a geographic expression" (page 11). Kehl's analysis has been done with care; he sees the grays in the political conflicts, between countryside and town, between manufacturers and farmers. In brief, he has admirably exposed the inner workings of politics in Western Pennsylvania during this period. Those interested in the operation of the American political system will be the wiser for examining the readably presented results of Dr. Kehl's research.

*Muhlenberg College*

JOHN J. REED

*John Filson of Kentucke. By John Walton. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1956. Pp. 130. $4.00.)*

John Filson is probably the only man in history to achieve fame by writing an appendix. Until he did this he lived so obscurely that his biographer, even after meticulous investigation, can establish little more than his ancestry (Scotch-Irish), date of birth (1753), and nativity (Chester County, Pennsylvania). For knowledge of his education and his early occupation as a teacher we are largely dependent on inferences derived from his later career. He went to Kentucky in 1783 and took up land so hurriedly after his arrival that his biographer assumes, quite reasonably, that the trip was made for this purpose. As he points out, the rate of exchange between Pennsylvania and Virginia currency made such a transaction possible, even for a teacher. Having done this, Filson opened a school and began writing a book, supporting himself while indulging in these two luxuries by surveying, in which art he was, from formal education or apprenticeship, an adept.

His book was *The Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucke,* with an appendix containing, among other things, "the Adventures of Col. Daniel Boon"—"the whole illustrated by a new and accurate Map of Kentucke . . ." Professor Walton adopts the orthodox view that the *Kentucke* was a bit of promotional literature designed to attract immigrants and so to enhance the value of land including that of Filson himself. But Filson's lands were in a section of Kentucky to which prospective settlers were little likely to go; his holdings were too small to justify such a costly promotion; and only a small part of the book was of a nature to attract immigration. The reviewer suggests, with diffidence, that Filson had merely contracted a case of *cacoethes scribendi,* a disease to which teachers in all times and places have been peculiarly susceptible. As to the book itself, Professor Walton points out quite soundly that the style is bombastic, that the description is highly colored, that the map is inaccurate, and that the representation of Boone has only a tenuous relation to reality. Whatever the merits of the book, there can be no doubt that it was the Boone narrative that caught the public fancy. Through translation and plagiarism it went around the
world and has given Boone a fame that no amount of criticism will probably ever be able to take away. No more influential book on our folk heroes has ever been published in America, with the possible exception of Weems' Washington.

After the six months required for the writing of his Kentucke, Filson hurried back east for its publication. Keeping his legal residence in Pennsylvania, he made two more trips to Kentucky which he seemed to value chiefly as a point of departure. From Kentucky he made a couple of side trips to Vincennes, one to the Powell Valley in search of the legendary Swift silver mine, and a final one on an ill-fated attempt to make a settlement at Cincinnati. On this last trip he had barely had time to invent for his projected settlement the name Losantiville when the Indians killed him.

Although Filson has had to wait nearly two centuries for his biographer, he has found a worthy one. Professor Walton has written sanely and sensibly. No part of Filson's bombastic style has rubbed off on his biographer. Unless further records become available (which is unlikely) the reviewer is convinced that this will remain the definitive biography of John Filson.

Tallahassee, Fla.

R. S. Cotterill


An American reader may well lay down this volume with a feeling of amazement that one born and educated beyond the confines of the United States could have acquired so impressive a knowledge of and insight into the history of the evolution of this nation. He may perchance be overlooking important advantages which such a background may confer upon the appraiser of an historical epoch. Constant reiteration from early childhood of the story of American history is not necessarily palling, as witness the many who throughout life remain enthusiastic devotees of that discipline. Yet some surfeiting of the taste there surely must be. The eminent historian who recently proposed a society for the abolition of Benjamin Franklin doubtless had a grain of earnestness mingled with his facetiousness. There is something to be said for a procedure whereby a thorough familiarity is established with another field of history before American history is approached. The impact of entirely fresh materials upon a mature mind trained in processes of historical thought may go far to account for an efflorescence such as The Great Experiment. Where the field previously mastered, English history, constitutes so important a background for the later field, the advantages are enhanced, and the continuation of the histories of the two nations simultaneously and with mutual influence affords opportunity for insight and comparison denied to the scholar who knows American history alone.

That Professor Thistlethwaite learned his American history in the manner suggested this reviewer does not presume to know. But this might explain some of the merits of his volume, though certainly not all of them. His work gives evidence of a remarkable gift for condensation which avoids heaviness.
In not many books of this size is so much said, and said well. It is, moreover, an excellently balanced treatment. Demographic, economic, political and cultural factors are appropriately weighted and, what is happier, the relationship between them is deftly set forth. Nor in all this analysis of the forces involved is the narrative element lost, and one senses here the drama of the process whereby a continent was subdued and planted with a new people. Anglo-American comparisons, sometimes suggested, frequently implied, have their immediate appropriateness in a volume intended to introduce American history to British undergraduates, but they will also be illuminating to American readers with a modicum of English history. This work merits a body of readers both numerous and diverse.

University of Pennsylvania

Leonidas Dobson


After reading this book a question naturally comes to mind: Why didn't someone do a work of this kind on this subject before? It is good that it has finally been done, and, on the whole, done well. The general purpose, to demonstrate that the Middle Atlantic section possesses a greater unity than has commonly been recognized, has been satisfactorily achieved. A survey of the salient points of the development of the four states involved is informative and of real practical value to those who have confined their special study to just one of these four states.

Yet it must be said that a work of this scope and size can never approximate full coverage and analysis, nor complete accuracy. The problem of selection is difficult, the necessity to over-generalize can not be avoided, and the details are too numerous and complex to be mastered.

This reviewer arrives at these conclusions, with full sympathy for the writer who had a most difficult assignment, only as they apply to the presentation of the history of Pennsylvania, and notes some errors or inadequacies by way of illustration. The generalization: "A period of political mediocrity prevailed in Pennsylvania from the administration of Governor McKean in 1808, to that of Governor Curtin in 1861, with the main political struggles centering around the canals and their financing" (p. 188), is too easy. The date of the removal of the capital (1810) to Harrisburg from Lancaster is incorrect (p. 140). Thaddeus Stevens was a cripple but not a "little" one, by any standard of measure (p. 189), nor was Chambersburg ever his "home" (p. 206). The border dispute between New York and Pennsylvania was not settled by the purchase of the Erie Triangle (p. 77).

Criticisms of this sort can not honestly be avoided, but they should not be over-emphasized to the detriment of a very useful book which is hereby sincerely recommended to the careful reading of all students of the history of the United States.

Gettysburg College

Robert Fortenbaugh
Middle Class Democracy and the Revolution in Massachusetts, 1691-1780.


This scholarly work was a 1954 prize winning publication of the Albert J. Beveridge Memorial Fund of the American Historical Association. It will be a valuable addition to the library of anyone with special interest in the development of American political institutions which are distinct from the basic British backgrounds.

Every student of the law, of political science, and of constitutional history is familiar with the worship of property which was so much a feature of the common law and of Anglo-American jurisprudence in general. Professor Brown has undertaken to demonstrate that this concept did not affect the evolution of American democracy in New England to the degree which has often been assumed. He has made an examination of colonial tax and probate records in Massachusetts to demonstrate that a very high percentage of men could meet property qualifications for voting and holding office. Moreover, he shows that a large majority often did participate in the many functions which the Town Meeting style of government made traditional in New England.

The book traces the operative features of popular government on the local and provincial level, using Massachusetts as the case study. Theoretically the work begins with the Charter of 1691, but there are many appropriate references to earlier periods. The role of democratic processes during the Revolution, and in the formation of the new state constitution in 1780, conclude the book. The author has appended one of the most complete bibliographies ever prepared upon this subject. The entire volume is thoroughly footnoted, and there is an adequate index. Those who are interested in this period and subject area will find here an invaluable tool and guide for further research.

One of the outstanding features of the book is the intimate picture drawn of some great minds at work. The author has selected and very effectively used quotations from John and Sam Adams, Thomas Hutchinson, James Otis, Francis Bernard, John Hancock, and many others. He succeeds rather well in maintaining his thesis that democracy in Massachusetts was "Middle Class," but at times he seems doubtful about his definition of the term. The reader can conclude that virtually everyone in the colony really belonged in this broad category, even the "meanest inhabitants" such as the debtors and laborers of Boston on the one hand and the small fringe of merchant aristocracy on the other. By European standards of the time the one group would certainly have been above the level of their contemporaries in the Old World, and the other considerably below the status of the upper classes in England.

Professor Brown devotes a good deal of his text to promoting the thesis that the American Revolution was not a struggle against special privilege and infringements upon democracy, but rather a movement with a fixed goal of political separation. The viewpoint that eighteenth century institutions in America were dominated by the "upper classes" and moneyed inter-
ests is one that will probably die hard. Charles A. Beard's economic interpretation of American history during the 1780s remains a veritable gospel for many historians and teachers, although Beard himself backed away from it to some extent in his own later writings. Professor Brown might have added something to the valuable contribution which this book makes by carrying it forward through the period of the Articles of Confederation. In the light of his central theme a reader would find paramount interest in his appraisal of such events as Shays Rebellion and the dynamic struggle which took place in Massachusetts over ratification of the Federal Constitution.

There will doubtless be some inclined to take issue with the author in his handling of the issue of the "established" church. Massachusetts was certainly a "Bible Commonwealth," and its style of democracy had heavy theocratic overtones. This fact cannot be minimized either by pointing out that "the vast majority of people were Congregationalists" (p. 109), or that the blue laws were often violated and ignored (p. 111). Professor Brown's evidence is hardly convincing on this point. The Mother Country had similar laws for dealing with religious dissidents, but non-conformists certainly appear to have had an easier time of it in the Old England than in the New.

Another theme which might have merited more attention would be the effect which prolonged troubles with the Indians and the French must surely have had upon the development of political institutions and attitudes in this key colony. Massachusetts often interposed resistance to plans for united action by the English colonies. The important trade which was carried on with French Canada from Massachusetts ports, in Massachusetts ships, and by Massachusetts sons probably had tremendous significance in a province where popular influences had come as a matter of traditional practice to figure in the policies of government. On page 167 Professor Brown promises that "the results of the French and Indian War and its relation to democracy in Massachusetts will be discussed at a later time." When he does return to the subject it is largely to discuss the effects of the postwar tax policies of the British cabinet.

Temple University


Ever since the appearance in 1913 of Beard's book, An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States, it has been the subject of heated controversy. Its thesis that the Founding Fathers were not guided by their interest in the general welfare but by the economic advantages they expected to reap from the Constitution, posed a real problem of historical reorientation. Reviews of the study quickly revealed that its impact was to be far from casual or ordinary. In fact, few published volumes have elicited as much partisan commentary. Hostile critics condemned its conclusions as preposterous and unwarranted, while friendly reviewers emphasized its importance as an historical corrective.

Whatever its merits, Beard's interpretation gained stature with the passing years. Never wholly accepted or entirely free from criticism, it nevertheless
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found its way into the main stream of American historical writing. Numerous textbooks in American history and government contributed to the spread of the message. Accordingly, a generation of students, professional and non-professional, has come to regard it as one of the keys to an understanding of the origin of the republic.

In recent years, however, interest in the controversial aspects of the thesis has been increasing. The nature of the issue has been brought more sharply into focus for the undergraduate with the appearance of Problems in American Civilization published by D. C. Heath and Company. The pamphlet in this series entitled The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution should help to prepare its readers for what has now developed with the publication of the volume under review.

Professor Brown has provided us with an historical tour de force. He has taken Beard's book and subjected it to a searching chapter by chapter analysis. His purpose as stated is to test the validity of Beard's historical research methods and the accuracy of the conclusions he drew from his evidence. The result is little short of amazing. What has generally been regarded as a major historical work appears to have been demolished—demolished by a tide of evidence and logic that brooks little, if any, rebuttal.

Under Brown's skillful handling of his project, Beard's principal thesis crumbles. The theory that personal property interests foisted an undemocratic constitution upon an undemocratic society simply does not stand up. If there was one single factor, the author observes, that more than any other shaped the thinking of the framers, it was the recognition by them that they had to devise a constitution that would be acceptable to the people. In this connection, it becomes clear that contrary to Beard's view, the number of qualified voters in the states was very large. Indeed, society appears to have been much more democratic than we have supposed. Instead of the states housing a population largely disfranchised by property qualifications, most men owned property and could vote. There were few extremes of wealth and poverty. It seems, therefore, that the Constitution must be explained in the light of the existence of a democratic middle-class society in 1787 and not in accordance with the economic divisions suggested by Beard.

Brown's criticism of Beard's historical method does not stop with the latter's interpretation of evidence. He questions the manner in which Beard selected his material, suggesting that he used only that which supported his hypothesis. Impressive evidence of this is given in abundance. Moreover, going behind the secondary works upon which Beard often relied, Brown has stripped them of their standing by establishing their unreliability.

In the preface to the first edition of his study, Beard stated that his work was fragmentary for want of time and was designed simply to point the way for other scholars. In the 1935 edition, however, he claimed a more definitive status for what he had done. Herein is another pitfall which Professor Brown has exploited fully. It would appear that Beard would have fared better had he chosen to stand by his initial characterization of his work.

Dr. Brown's book must be read to appreciate fully the force of his arguments in behalf of a revision in our thinking about the subject with which
Beard deals. Within the limits of this review, only a bare indication of what is in store for the reader has been given.

I think it is not too much to say finally that, as a result of Brown's work, there will be few teachers of American history who will not have to rethink their presentation of the work of the Constitutional Convention; the effect upon textbook writers will be equally demanding.

Muhlenberg College  
Victor L. Johnson


This seminal work in the history of American ideas was first published on the eve of our entry into World War II, and has had an enormous impact upon the teaching of American history in higher institutions of learning. Its strength rests in part on the modesty of its objectives. It is neither a full-scale intellectual history of America nor even a complete account of the rise and development of democratic thinking. It is limited to an examination of the doctrines of the American democratic faith, and its springboard is the great social and moral crisis of the Middle Period.

As Professor Gabriel sees it, the pre-Civil War era nurtured a climate of opinion considerably different from that which prevailed during the generation of the Founding Fathers. The religion of nature was now held responsible for the French Revolution and as a consequence had lost its former prestige. Evangelical Protestantism was spreading over the land, and the democracy of the Middle Period was rooted in faith. This faith accepted a moral law which man did not make, a law which rested upon the Judeo-Christian doctrine. It also interpreted the concepts of the Declaration of Independence to posit an open-class system, which the author labels as "perhaps the most important single contribution of Americans to the social thinking of Western civilization." This faith was eloquently phrased by Lincoln who paid tribute to the doctrine that it is the mission of America to cherish and to hold steadfastly before the nations the ideal of the free and self-governing individual. While this sense of mission invested the civic duties of the humblest democrat with a world significance, it was also to exercise a profound role in shaping our policy toward other nations. It tinctured that foreign policy with a special and distinctive blend of idealism.

The democratic faith, Mr. Gabriel persuasively demonstrates, formulated a religion of nationalism, which avoided challenging traditional religion. After the Civil War attempts were made, first, to reconcile this democratic nationalism with Social Darwinism, and secondly, to adapt it to the doctrines of Dewey's instrumentalism.

In this second edition Ralph Gabriel has updated his work by rewriting the period since World War I, and bringing the issues down from Hiroshima to almost the immediate present. The new materials underscore the changing approach toward the democratic values over the last fifty years. The disciples of Progressivism assumed that the new power put into the hands of men by science would be controlled by ethical principles. They were optimistic about the shape of things to come. Hiroshima brought about profound
soul-searching among intellectuals. Dependence upon countervailing power, armed with atomic and nuclear weapons, provided little sense of security. It gradually dawned that only moral convictions held by men can tame power and prevent a world cataclysm. But the real question is unanswered: Do both sides subscribe to the same view of moral law? If they do not, and all evidence points to the repudiation inside the Iron Curtain of western principles of morality, will not the side which is restrained by the Judeo-Christian standard of moral law be under a disadvantage in its dealings with amoral statesmen who know full well that the men of the West are checked by their concepts of morality and humanity from triggering the H-bomb? This unanswered and unresolved question poses a critical dilemma which blocks any thought of unilateral disarmament by the West.

In conclusion the author provides us with a timely analysis of the so-called evidence of the Reece Committee regarding the activities of tax-exempt foundations. He questions the Committee's findings that there is a strong tendency on the part of social scientists subsidized by such foundations toward moral relativism. Instead, Professor Gabriel finds today a growing reaffirmation of the old belief in absolute standards. This acceptance of moral standards, he feels, lies behind the Supreme Court decision on segregation. It is the ultimate bulwark, the author suggests, in defense of the individual against the leviathan state and of society against the dangers implicit in man's mastery of the keys to human behavior and cosmic energy.

In short, this thoughtful, perceptive, and even audacious book still provides much food for thought. Some of its generalizations may seem too sweeping, some of its categories too pat, and some of its solutions too simple, but as a work of synthesis and interpretation it still stands as one of the historical classics of our time.

Columbia University  

RICHARD B. MORRIS


Written by a member of the faculty who has served since 1927, this detailed and well-documented account of the fifty years of progress of Pennsylvania's only state-owned trade school devoted exclusively to the training of young men to become skilled craftsmen is both a tribute to the famous testator and the many executors who carried out the provisions of his last will and testament. Thaddeus Stevens conceived this school by a codicil signed in 1867.

The estate of Stevens amounted to a net balance of $69,000 in 1902, a sum insufficient to build a school in the opinion of the trustees. By an Act of the Legislature in 1905, $100,000 was appropriated for the use of Commissioners designated in the Act to erect suitable buildings on a plot of ground donated by the citizens of Lancaster. The initial effort to implement the "Old Commoner's" will had been made in 1899, when the Stevens Orphans' Home of Lancaster was established. We are informed, however, that because of lack of funds, this Home was never incorporated. Lack of finances
slowed but did not deter the school’s growth, even when Governor Penny-
packer cut the 1905 legislative appropriation in half.

The school eventually lost its designation as a school for orphans, or as a
reform institution, and became an industrial school. It enjoys today the
highest reputation for the quality of its curriculum and the many successful
alumni on its rolls. The author is a devoted faculty member, one of the
many men and women, who during the years made personal sacrifices to
carry on with limited assets. Students, too, made their contributions in con-
struction of buildings, grounds, and equipment. Hartzell used original sources
for this fine history: minutes of the Board of Trustees, superintendents’
reports, scrapbooks, student publications, and private letters. He appears to
have missed nothing. There are intimate accounts of student life, athletics,
discipline, and administration. Alumni and friends of the school will appreci-
ate the intimate details gleaned from early commencement programs.

Veterans’ daytime and evening courses expanded the curriculum and
extended the influence of the institution. More pupils were enrolled—there
was a current enrollment of some three hundred at the time of publication—
and the administrative policies were liberalized. Forty-seven counties are
represented in the student body. The author’s sympathetic treatment of the
philosophy of the school, his narration of the hardships of the early years,
and his lucid style present an important work to the history of practical
education in Pennsylvania.

Allentown High School

Banners in the Wilderness. Early Years of Washington and Jefferson Col-
lege. By Helen Turnbull Waite Coleman. (Pittsburgh: University of
Pittsburgh Press, 1956. Pp. 285. $4.00.)

That the familiar appeal of stories of early days and of beginnings may
be exercised even by histories of academic beginnings—provided that the be-
ginnings were early enough and that the stories are well told—is illustrated
by Mrs. Coleman’s account of “the genealogy of a fine liberal arts college”
in southwestern Pennsylvania. The enchantment of “the light of other days”
is stressed rather more in the book’s title, perhaps, than in the text; there
the author observes (p. 28) that by 1788 expressions like “western wilds”
were more rhetorical than factual. Nevertheless, Mrs. Coleman is quite
aware of the romantic attractions of the past, and observes (p. 21) that
they have inspired more than one academic claim to somewhat dubious
antiquity.

Washington and Jefferson College, as it now is, dates from 1865, when it
was formed by the merging of pre-existing Washington College (chartered
in 1806) at Washington, Pa., and Jefferson College (chartered in 1802)
at nearby Canonsburg. The terms of intimate rivalry on which these schools
had lived are illustrated by a curious exchange of presidents: in 1815, Andrew
Wylie presided over Jefferson College, and Matthew Brown over Wash-
ington; by 1822, Wylie headed Washington College and Brown headed
Jefferson. These two colleges, in turn, had evolved from Washington Acad-
BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

envy, chartered in 1787, and Canonsburg Academy, chartered in 1794. Antedating these, in turn, there had been schools conducted by three pioneer Presbyterian preachers who, as might be expected, are popularly claimed as "founders" of Washington and Jefferson College.

The first page of the text makes clear, as the sub-title does not, that the present book is concerned primarily with the antecedents of Washington and Jefferson College. Organization of the material is chronological and topical. In the first five chapters the pioneer schools, the two academies, and the two parent colleges are considered in turn. The sixth chapter, on the united college, contains twenty pages devoted chiefly to the process and problems of unification, and does not get beyond 1881. A chapter on "Extra-curricular Activities" (including Romance) and a brief epilogue complete the 196 pages of text.

The author calls her history an "informal story." Certainly it has not the dry, unread formality too often associated with histories of institutions of learning; certainly it is the better for lacking this quality. If sentences are sometimes sprawling rather than formally balanced (p. 193: "Smith came up to Canonsburg like any other student, from his home in Mercer County where he had gone to school at the Mercer Academy, in the spring of 1833, the same spring in which the trustees celebrated their first meeting in Providence Hall."), the text remains pleasantly readable and is warmed by the author's affectionate, informed approach.

The more than fifty illustrations, including portraits, views, and documents, are well reproduced; and notes, bibliography, and an adequate but not exhaustive index add much, of course, to the usefulness of the book.

One may question a few details, though they do not seem very important. It is not made clear, for example, why the chapter of Alpha Tau Omega is dated from 1882 on page 180, but from 1901 on page 263. To this reviewer, Scots-Irish (p. 4) seems somewhat artificial; whatever distinctions are made in Scotland between Scots and Scotch, they have not been observed in America, where the term Scotch-Irish originated. References (pp. 4 and 13) to the "Presbytery of Newcastle, Pa." are confusing. Most of the presbytery in question lay within Pennsylvania, it is true, but New Castle itself was and is in Delaware, and should not be confused with its probable namesake in western Pennsylvania.

The forty-three pages of appendixes, sandwiched between Mrs. Coleman's "informal story" and her notes, seem hardly to belong in the same book. The closely printed texts of official acts and charters and the formal lists of trustees and faculty members have some reference value, no doubt, but their appeal is surely to a much smaller and rather different group of readers.

Not much is added to the book by the endpaper map of Washington County, an impoverished adaptation of a map used in A Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania, issued in 1954 by the same press. The publishers, whose high professional standards are attested by their publications, including the present one, might in this matter have served the reader better. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

WILLIAM A. HUNTER