
The story of early Philadelphia is full of fascination for the reader interested in the beginnings of American history. To approach it through this study of the Jewish community is to see it from a most illuminating point of view. One reads of familiar incidents with new perspective, and one is given keener insight into the contribution of the Jews toward every aspect of our growth.

An old receipt book of the Quaker merchant, Thomas Coates, who came over with William Penn, gives the first evidence of the presence of Jews in Philadelphia. It records transactions with six Jews from New York and the West Indies who were visitors between 1706 and 1719. As the city grew, essentially a commercial town, and with an atmosphere of sympathetic tolerance created by Penn, records of local Jewish merchants began to appear. In 1737, Nathan and Isaac Levy settled here, and "entered the hubbub of colonial trade." In 1740, David and Moses Franks arrived from New York, and established a business partnership. Soon, however, Nathan Levy and David Franks combined to form a major Jewish company. When, in 1742, a group of businessmen met to establish an equitable rate of exchange for the Pennsylvania pound in London, Levy and Franks were among them.

During the French and Indian War, David Franks and his father Jacob, in New York, were official agents for the British Army in America. One of their contracts was to gather together provisions needed by General Braddock as he marched across Pennsylvania. In 1758, when Washington set out to capture Fort Duquesne, he ordered supplies from Franks, including such personal items as two English pack saddles, a pair of light shoe-boots, a trunk, and half a dozen china cups and saucers.

Jews were making their place, too, in other occupations than trading, and in social and community life. A Jewish craftsman who came to Philadelphia was Lazarus Isaac, a glasscutter and engraver, who was hired by the famous William Stiegel in Lancaster County as a cutter and finisher. Participation in social life is indicated by the fact that when the Assembly Ball was inaugurated in 1748, Sampson Levy and David Franks took part in the festivities. Consciousness of community responsibility was felt, too. A few years after Franklin founded the Pennsylvania Hospital, Mathias Bush made a sizable contribution.

The core of the book, however, concerns the development of the Mikveh Israel Congregation from a handful of Jews who worshipped together in-
formally to the flourishing congregation which, in 1825, proudly dedicated a beautiful new synagogue. According to tradition, the first Jewish religious services were held in the mid-1740's in a house on Sterling Alley. It was not until after the Revolution that definite organization of the congregation was begun and plans for a building were made. In 1782, the joyful dedication of the first synagogue took place.

As Mikveh Israel grew stronger and increased in numbers, a synagogue worthy of its status was needed. After a successful fund-raising campaign of international scope, the design proposed by William Strickland was approved, the old synagogue was torn down, and a new one begun. It was finally completed in the autumn of 1824, and dedication services were set for January 21, 1825. The elaborate Egyptian-style architecture and the beauty of the service received due comment in the local papers. There was special significance in the account that "Among the audience and in conspicuous stations on the floor of the building, we observed the venerable and excellent Bishop White, with several other of the Christian clergy, the Chief Justice and the Associate Judges of the Supreme Court and many other distinguished citizens, all manifesting by their presence and demeanour, that however we may differ upon certain points, the great truth is recognized and acted upon, that we are all children of a common and eternal Father."

Of special interest to a librarian are accounts of early private libraries. The authors point out that in colonial days the Hebrew language was studied by the intelligent Christian layman as well as by the Jew. James Logan's library reflected such a strong, serious intent. He "gathered together in Philadelphia in the first half of the eighteenth century one of the largest collections of Hebraica which existed in frontier America." Included were the Hebrew dictionaries, grammars, and syntaxes by which he learned the language, Hebrew Bibles and prayer books, and a six-volume edition of the Mishna with the Maimonides and Bertinoro commentaries. His son-in-law, Isaac Norris, Jr., also owned a sixteenth-century Hebrew printing of Isaiah and a handsome Hebrew Bible.

Nathan Levy possessed a sizable private library, typical of a cultured gentleman. An inventory of his books included John Locke's On Human Understanding, Plutarch's Lives, Wollaston's Religion Delineated, a popular encyclopedia, Dutch, Latin, Spanish and French dictionaries, and a collection of 32 Hebrew works. The collections of Simon and Hyman Gratz, Aaron Levy, Jr., and Jacob I. Cohen, among others, are also noted. Jacob Gratz is particularly mentioned as an outstanding promoter of new libraries. He belonged to the Library Company, and was one of the first directors of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

Throughout the book, the reader makes the acquaintance of many colorful personalities. Among the Jews who came to Philadelphia during the Revolution, the most distinguished was Haym Salomon. He arrived penniless in 1778, but it was not long before he had built up a thriving brokerage business. He was a devoted patriot, and Robert Morris turned to him constantly for help in financial crises.

Rebecca Gratz devoted her driving energy to the work of philanthropic
societies. She was an enthusiastic letter-writer, and her letters are quoted as sources of detailed accounts of many important events and people of her time. It has long been a legend that she was the model for the Rebecca of *Ivanhoe*. However, the authors point out that in her own frequent references to the book, she never identified herself with the heroine.

In commerce, politics, science, medicine, and the arts, the Jews made their contributions and became an integral part of the busy life of the city. The authors have succeeded well in their efforts to show that from the earliest days the Jews "were like the other men and women who built our nation: some rich, more poor; some enterprising, many satisfied with little; some pious, others without religious feeling; most of them patriotic, a few indifferent. And even more important, they were what they were: individuals—in this case Jews—clothed in the dignity of citizenship and enjoying the satisfaction of worshipping freely" (foreword, vii).

The copious notes brought together at the end of the book add much of value to the text. It is a profitable exercise to check through the notes and see how many of the references are to materials held by the Library Company of Philadelphia. One is made to realize what a valuable source of early Americana is available there, and one is easily persuaded to read again Mr. Wolf's article "The First Books and Printed Catalogues of the Library Company of Philadelphia" in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (January, 1954, 45-70), and Austin K. Gray's *The First American Library* (Library Company of Philadelphia, 1936).

This scholarly, well-written history of the Jews of Philadelphia is a most rewarding reading experience. It can be heartily recommended to anyone interested in early American history, the development of Philadelphia, or American religious history.

*Free Library of Philadelphia*  
*EMERSON GREENAWAY*

*Ill-Starred General: Braddock of the Coldstream Guards.* By Lee McCardell.  
(Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1958. Pp. 335. $6.00.)

Edward Braddock, III (1695-1755), led an undistinguished and for the most part an uneventful life. He was literally born into a military career. When he was sixteen his father, a major general in the Coldstream Guards, purchased an ensign's commission for him. During much of his time in the army his life was a monotonous routine, but he rose rapidly in rank to lieutenant colonel of the regiment in 1745. As was customary, most of his commissions were bought and sold in the process. In 1753 Braddock became colonel of the Fourteenth Foot Regiment and the following year he became a major general.

The Coldstream Guards attended the King, guarded the royal family, attended at executions, and paraded in full dress on state occasions. They sometimes helped quell riots and put down invasions. For Braddock, however, there was little opportunity for military glory. The expected invasion of England in 1744 by the Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie," which Braddock was supposed to help put down, never took place. A later campaign against
the same opponent ended without an engagement. His mission to Ostend for the purpose of reporting on the possibilities of defending that city involved no enemy action. He participated in a secret expedition against the French but never set foot on enemy soil. Most of his time in Flanders during the War of the Austrian Succession was spent as part of an army of occupation. His stint of duty on Gibraltar was "a tour of frustration." After all this, his appointment as commander of the British forces in North America looked like a golden opportunity to make heroic use of all the knowledge and experience of his more than forty years of military service.

Braddock was sixty years old when he landed at Hampton, Virginia, in 1755. He had been specifically ordered to attack and capture Fort Duquesne as a prelude to taking the other French forts in America. The innumerable problems which confronted him were partly of his own making. His contempt for American volunteers made it even more difficult than usual to recruit men for his army. Ignorance of the American terrain and distances led him to make unrealistic plans. He did not fully comprehend the importance of having Indian allies. In addition, promised wagons and supplies never reached him, and dishonest army contractors sent him moldy flour and spoiled meat. It was difficult to enforce British discipline among men who feared a strange and different enemy and whose spirits lagged after long days of marching in chigger-infested country. Braddock also faced problems of desertion, drunkenness, stealing, and dissipation with Indian women and various camp followers.

Nevertheless, after an unprecedented conference with five colonial governors, Braddock determined to press on to his goal, cutting a road through the wilderness from Fort Cumberland to Fort Duquesne, and taking his provisions and supplies with him. Within a few miles of the French fort a contingent of French and Indians pounced upon his advance guard and a few minutes later upon Braddock and the main force. Only after more than half of his officers and men had been killed or wounded did he order a retreat. Braddock himself received a mortal wound in the encounter.

Despite the sympathetic viewpoint of his biographer, Braddock does not gain in stature in this study. He remains a mediocre military figure who lacked the insight and imagination necessary to meet the task which confronted him. It would not have required a military genius to realize that Old World methods of warfare would not apply to eighteenth-century America. A number of well informed colonials, including Franklin and Washington, had specifically warned him of the danger from possible Indian ambushes. Even after the shooting started, Braddock haughtily refused Washington's request to station three hundred men behind trees and use the methods of the French. Braddock had serious limitations. Most serious of all was his inability to deviate from the rule of military procedure set forth in Humphrey Bland's standard text, *A Treatise on Military Discipline*.

Mr. McCardell has written a useful book. His style is good though repeated use of punch-line quotations becomes annoying. He has included considerable material on life in the British army and on court intrigue. Vivid descriptions of the cutting of Braddock's road and the long march provide
an excellent human interest story. But while the book is full of good narrative description, the larger setting of the European struggle for empire is hardly mentioned. Events are described without any inkling as to their significance apart from the immediate human drama. And even there the background material obtrudes into the foreground and the main character becomes lost in the setting. The book's major weakness is its failure to present the protagonist in sharp perspective. The picture of Braddock is fuzzy and unclear; his personality, thoughts and motives are missing. Although this is a lively and interesting narrative, Braddock himself does not come to life.

Grove City College

Grove City College


No state has a more colorful, varied or important history than Pennsylvania, but until now there has been no adequate bibliographical guide to its historical writings. In 1946 a bibliography of Writings on Pennsylvania History, which included over 6,000 titles published through the year 1942, was issued by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. In planning this work it had the cooperation of bibliographers, librarians, historians, and historical agencies throughout the state.

It was hoped from the beginning that it might be possible to publish a new and enlarged edition every ten years, and the present volume is the second edition to appear under this plan. It includes not only all worthwhile secondary books, pamphlets, and serial articles published through 1952, but adds many primary and secondary titles inadvertently omitted from the first edition, bringing the total to 9,198 entries, many of them with explanatory notes by the best historical students of the state. For example, it is a satisfaction to find a note for No. 1905, the Horn Papers, pointing out the unreliability of their first two volumes.

The volume is arranged under four main sections, each with many subdivisions, Section I being devoted to the listing of 160 bibliographical aids. Among them is a brief analysis of each volume of the Pennsylvania Archives. Section II is the main part of the work, covering the titles from 161 to 6936, and is divided into two parts: The Colony and The Commonwealth. Each half is divided chronologically and each such division is followed by topical subdivisions with adequate attention paid to social, economic, and religious history as well as to political and military achievements. At the end of each period is a list of biographies of its outstanding figures, a particularly useful arrangement since it ties the historical events of each period to the people who brought them about.

In Section III Nos. 6937-8249 record the state, county, and town histories of Pennsylvania; 8250-8351 are titles devoted to description, travel and place names; 8352-9001 histories of the various religious denominations and individual churches; and 9002-9121 histories of the state's military organizations.
Section IV completes the volume with a listing, Nos. 9122-9198, of folklore tales, legends, poetry, and plays. Though the folk literature is recorded, no effort is made to list the output of Pennsylvania's more distinguished authors, though the lives of a few individual writers are recorded. Historical fiction, included in the first edition, has been omitted here, perhaps to save space. This is unfortunate since many a layman is first attracted to his state's history through the reading of a spirited and accurate historical novel.

A more serious defect, however, is the omission of all state and county atlases, with only nine entries in the index under maps. This is the more surprising since the record of county and town histories is so complete, and one would expect to find the local atlases there to supplement them. Surely maps are history.

The addition of subject entries to the author index of the first edition is, perhaps, the greatest improvement in this edition. This excellent index now fills 115 double-column pages, making the bibliography a really important tool for the scholar. An occasional omission (no author entry in the index for No. 8262, the *Voyages* of Colbert Maulevrier) is hardly noticed, however. The use of bold-faced type for the authors' names, the principal subject entries, and the individual numbers makes the volume easy to use, but it is unfortunate that such a fat volume could not have been better bound.

Though an occasional important title like George S. Conover's *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan* is omitted, this bibliography is remarkably complete for the secondary books, pamphlets, and serial articles on the state's history through 1952, in addition to the more important primary histories and biographies. Every school, college, and public library in the state, every historian and student of Pennsylvania history should have a copy of this excellent guide. It should also be in the historical societies, colleges, and larger public libraries throughout the country, for the history of Pennsylvania is an important part of the history of the nation.

The *New-York Historical Society*  

R. W. G. Vail


Like his distinguished colleague Lawrence Henry Gipson—also an emeritus professor—Dr. Schlesinger is still very much an active scholar as witness his latest excellent production, *Prelude to Independence*. In fact this book is a most handsome testimonial to both the persistent historical curiosity of the author and his friendship with publisher Alfred A. Knopf. Few men have been such staunch supporters of the historical profession as Mr. Knopf, and no commercial publisher has more amply demonstrated his public spirit in issuing books of high historical merit but low financial return. *Prelude to Independence* will be a source of pleasure and satisfaction to both historians and admirers of well-produced books: it enjoys fine scholarship (with both a useful bibliography and index) along with some of Mr. Knopf's more handsome packaging.
In *Prelude to Independence* we have a thorough review of the part played by the young colonial press in developing opinion favoring American independence. In part the book admittedly overlaps Philip Davidson's *Propaganda and the American Revolution*, published seventeen years ago. To this reviewer's taste, both books are to be read with profit, since Dr. Schlesinger offers better and more recent historical perspective, while Dr. Davidson supplies more color and detail in some areas. It might be noted that Dr. Schlesinger feels obliged to explain that he means no criticism of American revolutionaries in using the word "propaganda," which today has achieved a certain political notoriety. Yet the evidence adduced bolsters such modern overtones, since colonial editors on both sides of the political fence were given to tampering with the facts to better present their case.

Those newspapers which sought impartiality were found distasteful to both sides, and were usually forced into bankruptcy or into one of the very camps they wished to avoid. The famous John Mein, publisher of the Boston *Chronicle*, was thus eventually forced into the Tory ranks by the fierce attacks made by those patriots outraged at Mein's listing them as self-seeking breakers of the non-importation measures they expounded. The attacks he suffered at the hands of enraged Whigs led Mein to accept effective subsidies from the Customs Board, but mob violence forced him to flee to England, where George III rewarded him with a paltry £200.

John Mein was probably the most outstanding of the journalists who supported the royal cause, and it is clear that the Whigs had a remarkably clear field for their propaganda operations. To sell newspapers there must be a purchasing public, and that public is inclined to buy papers favoring its own viewpoint. Subsidized Tory newspapers had little chance of success when so few people cared to buy their offerings, and when public indifference was not fatal, physical violence often was. "Freedom of the press" was to be a useful catch phrase only when the patriot press was in danger, and several decades passed before freedom and tolerance approached reality. In this connection, Dr. Schlesinger offers a rather strange conclusion to his book: while observing the restrictive impact of the Sedition Act of 1798 upon the Bill of Rights' guarantee of press freedom, he yet seems to identify Alexander Hamilton with an interest in the security of the American press. This is the more curious when one of Dr. Schlesinger's footnotes indicates an awareness of James Morton Smith's discovery of Hamilton's persistent support for such repressive legislation. (See Smith's *Freedom's Fetters*.)

However, few will question the author's claims for the propaganda importance of the colonial press or its vital role in preparing American opinion for the final decision for independence. But particularly interesting to this reviewer was the character of some of the propaganda involved. As early as 1765 there was published in the *Pennsylvania Packet* a poem appropriately titled "Oppression," which had such stanzas as:

Let Britons, now sunk into tyrants and slaves!
Submit to be governed by fools and by knaves;
Not so will their kindred on this side of the sea:
*American Britons* will ever be FREE.
The rhyme may be good, but more revealing is the frequently expressed colonial opinion that England had forgotten her ancient glories and heritage of freedom, and now, corrupted and debt-ridden, was a sinking vessel from which the uncorrupted freedom-loving Englishman in America should dissociate himself as soon as possible. And equally curious is the character of the pseudonyms employed by newspaper writers of the time: "Sydney," "E. Ludlow" (the regicide author of the famed Memoirs), "Marchamont Nedham" (the English republican), "Hampden" (who also had ideas about taxation), "An American Cato," and "Independent Whig" (which probably came from the names used by Trenchard and Gordon, radical pamphleteers of early eighteenth-century England). The cue is constantly taken from the heroes of the English struggle against Stuart tyranny in the preceding century, and there is evidence of a pervasive historical consciousness of English history that substantially illuminates colonial revolutionary thinking.

As John Adams commented, as late as 1818, "I have no hesitation or scruple to say, that the commencement of the reign of George III was the commencement of another Stuart's reign. . . ." (Works, X, 327.) Most of the Whig newspapers operated with a similar lack of hesitation or scruple.

Biographers of Alexander Hamilton must take into careful consideration the various and contrasting estimates and appraisals that have been made of this truly great American. In a foreword to this, the first book of a projected two-volume study, Dr. Mitchell softens the paeans of idolatry that have been offered to Hamilton and his brilliant accomplishments. The man was human after all: he had certain undesirable traits and characteristics that should not be ignored. But, on the other hand, sharp exception is taken to those who contend, under the guise of "revisionist realism," that Hamilton was a narrow, aristocratic champion of the privileged few. He "was not a special pleader for the rich. . . . His only client was the whole country." His object was the creation of a stable republic, and to effect this he used the propertied, a compact group "at once influential and manageable." They never used him. This conviction informs the entire book, and we can anticipate its pervasiveness in the next volume.

For a long time the irregular and puzzling circumstances of Hamilton's birth have inspired writers, with more imagination than facts, to offer bizarre and fanciful explanations. Mitchell discounts these merely by mentioning them and then establishes, in conformity with recent scholarly findings, that Hamilton was the illegitimate son of an adulterous relationship between improvident James Hamilton and the aberrant Rachael Fawcett Lavien. This conclusion follows a clinically sober examination of the available documents, accompanied by a reminder that such irregularities were common in the West Indies in the eighteenth century. The year given for Hamilton's birth is 1755. This is two years earlier than the date often
accepted, and if it is conceded, as the evidence seems to warrant, it makes his early precocity less startling, but still unusual. It should also qualify the awe ordinarily accorded his rapid rise after he arrived here in 1772. He was then seventeen years old, not fifteen. At that tender age two years would make quite a difference. Nonetheless, the alacrity with which a lad without family or fortune was accepted into genteel American society and speeded to recognition was astonishing. His brilliance, early maturity of mind, and great energy all contributed to success, but without the assistance of patrons and friends his path would have been much more difficult. In this connection Mitchell has served understanding by carefully listing and describing the men who early recognized Hamilton's promise and furthered his advancement.

Within two years of Hamilton's arrival here, while at King's College, he began to speak and write in promotion of the colonial cause against Britain. Although Mitchell follows his war career in detail, the chapters devoted to it are probably the least satisfactory portions of the book. To begin with, an attempt is made to classify Hamilton as a "radical conservative, not a revolutionary." Since no effort is made to define the component terms etymologically or historically, let alone their curious combination, the expression remains obscure, if not meaningless. A rapid aside—"Perhaps the radical is courageous where the revolutionary is venturesome"—clouds rather than clarifies. It would seem that a familiarity with the studies of Charles Beard, Merrill Jensen, and John C. Miller—which Mitchell undoubtedly possesses—would either preclude such usage or demand a lengthy definition to justify it.

In addition, one wishes that the Revolutionary scene had been set more elaborately. Hamilton was a busy actor in that conflict, particularly during his years as aide-de-camp to Washington, and although his activities are rightly detailed at length, surely space could have been found to say more about the events of the Revolution itself. An occasional description of events and identification of names that are casually dropped would have gratified the general reader and made the Revolution less shadowy. His treatment of the "Conway Cabal," however, is not sketchy. His eventual conclusion, that "probably there was no formulated plot against Washington," is in line with the views of Bernhard Knollenberg (Washington and the Revolution) and more recent writers. But having read this, one is puzzled to find in the topic sentence of the next paragraph that "the older writings commend themselves." The older books, or at least some of them, depicted a solid diabolical plot, which Knollenbeg demolished in 1940.

The most stimulating and provocative section of the book deals with the post-war years, when Hamilton devoted himself to plans for a strong national union. About this general era, 1783-1789—its significance, tendencies, interpretation and central issues—the author has strong convictions. The period apparently was as "critical" as John Fiske said it was. Strangled trade, domestic insurrection, border clashes, threatening foreign powers, all beset an anemic government that was fast staggering to complete collapse. The journals of the Old Congresses bear witness to this, and those his-
The secret of getting local history written is to have a C. A. Weslager in every corner of every county. Having produced books on the Indians, the mixed bloods, the rivers, the place-names, and the spas of Delaware, Mr. Weslager has turned to the history of the Wilmington suburb in which he lives for the eighth book he has written in the last fifteen years. The Richardsoms of Delaware is the history of a Quaker family and of the lands they held on the north bank of the Christina River, southwest of Wilmington. The author goes back beyond the Richardsoms to earlier Finnish, Swedish, and Dutch settlers, and forward past the Richardsoms to suburban realtors.

To Pennsylvanians the interest of this book is that it portrays a segment of society in an area which, though politically severed from Pennsylvania...
since the seventeenth century, is socially and economically part of the neighborhood of Philadelphia. The progress from Finnish miller to Quaker merchant to German butcher to modern realtor is a tale that could be retold at many places within the periphery of Philadelphia's influence. The Richardsons intermarried with families bearing such distinctly "Phila-delawarean" names as Morris, Shipley, Bayard, Finney, Armstrong, Peters, Reeve, Latimer, Tatnall, Ashton, Walm, Spackman, Wood, Hodgson, Warner, Bringhurst, Bellah, and Bancroft.

Besides carefully searching wills and deeds, the author has uncovered correspondence, examined buildings, and recorded reminiscences of the Richardson Park area, including the old Dupont Landing for shipping gun-powder, nearby. His book is profusely illustrated with photographs, drawings, and maps.

*University of Delaware*  John A. Munroe


For those who like their history straight this documentary portrayal will be reassuring. It presents definitively the American view of the first effort to extend the authority of the United States to the area that was to become Indiana. That the effort was ineffectual is appallingly evident.

The collection opens and closes with evidences of American desperation. In June, 1787, Lieutenant Colonel Harmar was at the rapids of the Ohio (Louisville) preparing to execute the Congressional mandate ordering the "dispossessing a body of men who have in a lawless and unauthorized manner taken possession of post St. Vincents in defiance of the . . . authority of the United States." In June, 1791, Major Hamtramck reported that the Indians of the upper Wabash and Maumee valleys were, with English support from Detroit, "determined to make a stand" against the pending invasion by General Arthur St. Clair. In other words, in 1787, there was near anarchy at Vincennes resulting from the landgrabbing filibuster of George Rogers Clark, and four years later the American army in the Old Northwest was recoiling from one defeat (Harmar's in 1790) and was on the threshold of another (St. Clair's in 1791).

American impotence was evidenced by the building of Hamtramck's feeble Fort Knox (140 troops in August, 1790), and further by Indian raids on supply details, troop desertions, pay-roll chiseling among the officers, migration of the French to Spanish territory, and the failure of army contractors to abide by their commitments. At Kaskaskia the citizens reported, "The name of an American among them [the Indians] is a disgrace. . . ."

The editor has prepared an adequate introduction. It is heartening to be able to check the many locations which are referred to on the map prepared by Pierre H. Boulle. There is a reproduction of a drawing showing the plan of Fort Knox in 1788, taken from the original in the Indiana Historical Society Library. The index is satisfactory.

*University of Toledo*  Randolph C. Downes

We have had The Day Lincoln Was Shot, A Night to Remember about the sinking of the Titanic, and A Day of Infamy about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Johnstown: The Day the Dam Broke is the latest but undoubtedly not the last of these recapitulations in book form of great disasters which were highly newsworthy at the time. The elements which made them newsworthy still fascinate; hence the books.

Mr. O’Connor, a journalist turned author, has recounted the history of the dam on the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River, and what happened when it gave way during a season of heavy rain in the late spring of 1889. The dam, near the summit of the Alleghenies, had originally been built by the state to supply water for one of the canals of the Pennsylvania Portage and Canal System. The system was sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad which in turn sold the dam and the lake, the largest artificial lake in the country at that time, to the South Fork Hunting and Fishing Club, a summer resort of Pittsburgh millionaires.

The state, then the railroad, and finally the clubmen neglected the earthen dam poised above Johnstown. There was no discharge pipe or overflow because the club members did not want fish to escape. The townspeople of bustling Johnstown and surrounding boroughs often speculated about the dam’s breaking, but assumed that local industrial interests with property in the way of a potential flood would keep an eye on the ancient dam. Their misplaced confidence cost many lives.

The lower part of the city was already flooded from the rains which filled the reservoir and eventually burst the dam on May 31, 1889. There had been warnings of a sort, but such alarms had been heard before and most residents of Johnstown turned deaf ears to presumed false alarms. The came the awesome, paralyzing terror which the loosed forces of nature can command—in this case, millions of tons of water and debris crashing down a narrow valley, sweeping away an entire yard of railroad trains as if they were playthings. The author has recaptured the impressions and emotions of the disaster: the twenty-year-old girl remembering with dismay how the dirty waters spoiled her new white kid shoes; the lone occupant of the jail vainly trying to save himself by throwing his coat around the bars of a high window in order to pull himself above the rising water; the tragedy, heroism, shock, cowardice, and awful caprice during the fifty minutes that the wall of water roared down the valley.

To the horror of flood was added fire. A great stone railroad bridge acted as a kind of second dam, permitting the water to flow on, but piling up a mountain of debris which could not get under the bridge: houses, barns, trees, railroad cars, rails, barbed wire, and machinery, a tangled mass which caught fire and burned for three days, killing many victims trapped in the wreckage. All told, the flood claimed 2,500 lives with 900 more missing.

Within a few hours, newspapermen and relief officials began to arrive,
and on their heels amateur photographers, religious crackpots, and morbid thrill seekers and souvenir hunters. The railroads organized excursion trains of sightseers to the disaster scenes until requested not to do so by harried city officials.

What is the value of a book like this to the historian or serious student? More important than the chronicle of the event itself is the slice of social history that it affords. As a by-product of the main account we see the tensions engendered by immigration and industrialization. In the days after the flood, wild stories circulated and were played up in the nation’s press to the effect that “foreigners” were looting bodies and had to be restrained by lynch mobs of outraged citizens. The lurid stories, which slandered entire ethnic groups, were quite groundless.

One gets a vivid picture of the importance of the railroads in this period. There is also an interesting look at the colorful working press, from Richard Harding Davis on down. And the virtually unassailable position of the millionaire club members is made clear. Although their neglect of the dam had been a major contributing factor to the disaster, Henry Clay Frick, Andrew W. Mellon, and other club members were never sued, although the New York Times suggested that they might be tried for manslaughter. There was considerable public outcry when it was learned that the two above-named men between them contributed less than $7,000 of the three million dollars in relief funds raised.

The book is short and could have been shorter; there is material on the Homestead strike (p. 36) and on Dickens’ tour of America (p. 32) which is extraneous. Bohemians and Czechs are listed as two different nationalities (p. 21), which of course they are not. In discussing the ethnic make-up of Johnstown, census figures might profitably have been consulted. We are told almost nothing of the organization and financing of relief work by volunteers in cities like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. There is no mention of the relationship between Johnstown’s recurrent floods and nineteenth century farming practices. But these are not glaring faults; the book was not written for historians.

There are some highly dramatic photos in the book and a useful map. The type is large and easy to read. There are no footnotes and only a skimpy bibliography which does include, however, the authoritative study of the flood by the engineer-historian John Bach McMaster. If the author was aware of the possible parallel between Johnstown, which dismissed the possibility that the dam would ever burst, and our own world living under the bomb, he gives no indication. He does not need to.

University of Pittsburgh

HUGH G. CLELAND


While many persons have studied particular colleges and phases of liberal arts education in America, few have attempted an inclusive, comprehensive
history of the whole subject. With decided success Dr. George Schmidt, professor of history at Douglass College, New Brunswick, has undertaken such a study, and both the scholar and layman are indebted to him.

Since it was impossible to examine in detail eight hundred liberal arts colleges, the author carefully selected institutions whose histories illuminate the progress of higher education. While the University of Pennsylvania is mentioned a number of times, other Pennsylvania colleges receive only casual reference.

With wit, charm, and discrimination, he has surveyed developments since the founding of Harvard. His approach is mainly topical. Interesting chapters describe the founding of the first colleges in the wilderness, the influence of religion, and the transformation of female seminaries into women's colleges. Tribute is paid to such giants as Eliphalet Nott, president of Union College, Timothy Dwight of Yale, and Charles W. Eliot of Harvard. Sensible chapters discuss Dewey versus Hutchins, and academic freedom. Social issues, such as chapel, fraternities, and dancing are not overlooked. Probably the first "panty raid" in American history was an invasion of a woman's dormitory at the University of Wisconsin in 1899 by a group of male paraders in night shirts.

The volume is very quotable. President Andrew D. White of Cornell remarked in 1873 in response to a challenge for a football game, "I will not permit thirty men to travel four hundred miles merely to agitate a bag of wind." The author compares American college architecture to the rings of the giant redwood trees, with the "fat and lean years" being recorded in colonial Georgian through Greek revival to the red-brown arches and slit windows of Henry Hobson Richardson, to the Tudor Gothic of Ralph Adams Cram, the second round of pink-and-white Georgian, and finally the severe "functional" glass-and-concrete structures of the present. Just as the early college was similar to the old-time general store, with its wares few and its president the storekeeper, the modern university is like a department store in variety of offerings, and like the federal Department of Defense in complexity of organization.

The footnotes are as fruitful reading as the text and contain interesting tables on the ratio of faculty to students, enrollment, and degrees. In addition, they reveal research in primary sources and much reading in the literature on liberal arts colleges. Dr. Schmidt's volume will be pleasing both to the professional educator and to the general reader. It will be useful as a textbook or as supplementary reading in education courses. His work is scholarly, and presented in an extremely readable manner. Writers of doctoral theses and educational monographs could profit by studying his style.

Otterbein College

Harold B. Hancock


Labor and the New Deal is a series of essays by twelve distinguished economists of the University of Wisconsin and the Institute of Labor and
Industrial Relations of the University of Illinois. As justification for the book, the editors begin their foreword with the statement: "Almost a quarter of a century has elapsed since the dramatic '100 days' which launched Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'New Deal.' Although the depression decade left a permanent impress on the segment of our population now over the age of thirty-five, for the younger millions who are pouring through our colleges and into our factories and offices the New Deal is little more than a historical name. Yet there is hardly an aspect of current economic life which has not been profoundly influenced by the events of the 1930's, and none perhaps as profoundly as the labor movement and labor relations."

The first essay concerns the expansion and growth of the labor movement during the New Deal, and few readers will disagree with Mr. Derber's assertion that that was the most significant fact in labor's history during the decade of the nineteen thirties. There are other essays on the split in the labor movement (Edwin Young), the impact of the political left (Bernard Karsh and Phillips L. Garman), the significance of the Wagner Act (R. W. Fleming), the New Deal's sensitivity to labor interests (Murray Edelman), the protective labor legislation that was enacted (Elizabeth Brandeis), labor and social security (Edwin E. Witte), management's policies toward unionism (Richard C. Wilcock), collective bargaining developments (Doris E. Pullman and L. Reed Tripp), and a final summation by Selig Perlman.

The essays are not all of equal literary merit, but all are valuable sources of information. The book, in fact, speaks with the voice of authority, for most of the essayists played major parts in labor's history during the years of the New Deal. That does not mean that there will be universal agreement with what the writers say. The burning controversies that blazed during the thirties will be stirred in the minds of some again, but a unique contribution of the volume is that here, after the New Deal has become "little more than a historical name," are the views of outstanding individuals who in some instances helped shape the profoundly influential events of the thirties.

Both the editors and the University of Wisconsin Press are to be commended for compiling and publishing such a helpful book. It will prove to be exceedingly useful to teachers and to students, and it deserves a larger reading than it will probably receive from Americans in general.

Temple University

James A. Barnes