
Within the last decade two fine publications by the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society have opened the Ephrata Cloister more intimately to the public: *Ephrata As Seen by Contemporaries* (Volume XVII, 1952, edited by Felix Reichmann and Eugene E. Doll), and *Ephrata, A History*. The 1961 *Yearbook* fills the long-existing need for "a connected and comprehensive narrative tracing the history of the Ephrata commune from its old-world roots to its full florescence and its final dissolution."

The work combines the efforts of two historians, Dr. James E. Ernst and Dr. John Joseph Stoudt. After extensive research Ernst, author of the "first satisfactory biography of Roger Williams" (1932), produced two typescripts with voluminous marginal notes in 1933 and 1934, drafts which came to the attention of Dr. Preston A. Barba, the society's editor-in-chief, several years ago. Stoudt not only completed the formidable task of welding the materials into a unified whole, but he also corrected errors and added important information throughout. His eleven-page Introduction put Pietism in general and the Ephrata Cloister in particular into true historical perspective.

Conrad Beissel, the founder and the Vater Friedsam of the Kloster, is still the controversial figure he has always been. One must remember, however, that *Ephrata, A History* is basically not the biography of a man but the history of a religious and cultural movement, and that Ernst's sources, like those of his predecessors (Seidensticker, Sachse, Klein), were Peter Miller's *Chronicon Ephratense*, which some call an exaltation of Beissel, and Ezechiel Sangmeister's *Leben und Wandel*, which is a defamation of Beissel. Perhaps Ernst would have altered the form and color of his narrative if he could have known Felix Reichmann's doubt in the reliability of Sangmeister, a doubt which he expressed in his article "Ezechiel Sangmeister's Diary" in 1944.

Ernst's lucid and scintillating account reads like a novel. It lifts Beissel "Out of the Shadows" of his European background as he becomes a baker, fiddles, dances, peddles wares, delights in moral lapses, and holds magical power over others. It brings him to Boston in September, 1720 and soon to Germantown and then to the Conestoga. It takes him to the Cocalico where he establishes a monastic society. And this is only the beginning;
the end does not come even in 1768, when "the Ephrata Magnus laid aside his mortal raiment."

Ephrata, A History is the story of real flesh-and-blood characters, though their vows and practices have made them lean, pale, and emaciated. The quest and battle for power; unrest and revolt; a triple tyranny or slavery in the spiritual, social, and economic spheres; distant contacts with the outside world; associations with Franklin, Conrad Weiser, Christopher Sauer, and others; celibacy, continence, suspicion, gossip, and Sabbatarianism; proselytizing among the sects, as well as among the Lutheran and Reformed faiths; these and sundry other elements lend motifs for a true story.

Reading the work gives one the realization that Ephrata had become the chief center in the province for intellectual, social, and religious activity before the Moravian Brethren founded and developed Bethlehem. Governor George Thomas visited the Solitaries; Zinzendorf made visits to Ephrata too, but without meeting Beissel for the latter said: "Zinzendorf is no marvel to me, but if I am to see him, he must come to see me." They never met.

This reviewer questions the accuracy of the assertion that the Moravians borrowed the Eckerlin economy and the splendid system of education from Ephrata. It is true that under the economic guidance of the Eckerlin brothers water power was harnessed and the flour mill, the sawmill, the paper mill, the linseed oil mill, weaving and fulling mills, the tannery, and the printery were established on the banks of the Cocalico.

The jealous leaders, Beissel and Israel Eckerlin, "differed in their aims. Beissel wanted the Zionitic Order to be a mystical celibate branch of the Sabbatarian church under full ritual; the Prior wanted it to be the priesthood of the church and master of an industrial commune. Both were domineering, so they quarreled." The seeds of disintegration were early sown for the ultimate dissolution of the Ephrata commune.

Susquehanna University


One's first impulse on opening this attractive volume is to examine the 184 illustrations (we had to count them so impressive were they) selected to depict the past of Old Lancaster—all arranged in chronological order and accompanied by brief and general historical narrative.

The volume is divided into five parts: Indians and Early Settlers, to 1740; Personalities and Patriots, 1740-1800; City and Country Life, 1800-1820; Trade and Transportation, 1820-1840; and The County in Mid-Century, 1840-1865. Each of these parts is more art than narrative—an editorial feature which reverses the usual historical work where a few appropriate illustrations are added to enhance the narrative. Both author and artist deserve the highest praise for their selection and combination of the most significant Lancaster history with the most appropriate art.
BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

Some fifty small vignettes are fitted into the pages to illustrate an ox yoke, cow bells, a stone church, a tobacco shop, and sundry other items. The 24 paintings reproduced in color alone are worth the price of the volume; to mention a few: "The Bake House at Ephrata Cloister," "The Cat Tavern," "Rear Porch at Wheatland," "East King Street about 1800." Page lay-outs for paintings and black and white line drawings are well executed. For historical accuracy the Preface notes that the artist, Charles X. Carlson, admits that in some cases he used his imagination in depicting certain historical scenes. Should the covered wagon appear in the illustration of the Pequea Trading Post? Was the covered wagon in American use in the early 1700's? It was in use earlier in Germany. We note this to illustrate the problem facing the artist in his well-executed composition.

The literary merit of Old Lancaster lies in its brevity and clarity. It is not merely a local history with annotations. It is designed to preserve in attractive format the culture and disappearing architecture of Lancaster. On page 60, where reference is made to the removal of the Congress from Philadelphia to Lancaster, some readers may infer that the Liberty Bell was to accompany the Congress to Lancaster but that because of an accident it was concealed in Allentown. "They took the Liberty Bell with them but a wagon break-down forced them to leave it on the way... [italics ours]." Allentown was its intended destination. The shingle-knife used to split wood (page 28) is spelled "frou," not "froe."

Would the cost of reprinting this fine volume at a price which would make it available in quantity for secondary school use allow for general use in home and school as a tool of instruction in Old Lancaster local history? With its colorful wrapper and at a popular price this book might also become a choice Christmas present.

Lancaster County Historical Society

Melville J. Boyer


Volumes of the Chicago History of American Civilization series are of two sorts—chronological and topical. Although this small treatise has chronological limits, it is topical in dealing with military history. Good military history, however, probably requires more detail and analysis than can be provided in this brief summary. The early colonial wars—King William's, Queen Anne's and King George's Wars as they are known to Americans—were largely raids and frontier expeditions by ill-equipped colonial forces, raised and officered by civilians and political leaders. Their recital is marked by repetitious enumeration of casualties—killed, scalped, prisoners and captives—which becomes monotonous. These events become meaningful only in the context of general history and of political, social and economic forces.

The French and Indian War was indeed a military exercise in which British and French regulars were commanded by experienced officers, and
in which country-wide campaigns were planned and more adequately supported. The dramatic volumes of Parkman have long set the tone for this phase of our history. There have been numerous revisions of his narratives and conclusions, but the present volume is in the main traditional.

It is a little painful to find here some hoary legends such as the claim that Champlain’s first clash with the Indians “colored the whole course of empire,” a French victory which “plagued them for a hundred and fifty years.” General Braddock has been somewhat better treated by recent studies, but he is here depicted as the incompetent scapegoat of the older histories. Lyman is wrongly credited with the command at the battle of Lake George, following the story of Parkman and his biased sources. And Shirley is the colonial hero, in spite of the revelations by Pargellis of his weakness and military failure.

The final chapter offers a good interpretation of the significance of the conflict and of the Peace of Paris of 1763. There is a brief critical essay on sources and the principal secondary works.

New York State Education Dept., Albany, N. Y. Milton W. Hamilton


This book is a compilation of excerpts from eye-witness accounts of the American Revolution, which the editor has worked into a suspenseful narrative of military events from 1775 to 1783. Tapping the rich lode of letters, diaries, memoirs, and records entombed in historical society publications and magazines over the past century and a half, Professor Rankin has endeavored to show how in the relatively small-scale operations of that war “personalities even from amongst the rank and file, seem...to dominate...” Every major campaign is represented: Boston, Canada, New York and the Jerseys, Saratoga, Monmouth, the Carolinas, Camden, Cowpens, and Yorktown. In addition the story delves briefly into the developing sentiment for independence in early 1776 and into some of the Congressional intrigues involving military figures. Otherwise the editor purposely avoids the political or diplomatic aspects of the struggle. The focus is upon the American fighting man, with occasional examples from the writings of loyalists and British personnel stationed on this side of the ocean. The point of view from the mother country appears only indirectly.

Professor Rankin has had previous experience with this form of history in Rebels and Redcoats, which he edited with George Scheer in 1957. Many of the selections in this work were also in the other. This time, however, the editor has drastically reduced the number of quotations while increasing the average length. The result is a shorter, less detailed, more rapidly moving narrative. His commentary is a barebones minimum, often not exceeding three or four lines at a time, so that contemporaries themselves tell most of the story. Modernization of spelling, punctuation, and grammar helps blend the many varied styles into a smoothly flowing whole. A glossary assists with the more archaic eighteenth-century military terms.
The strength of this book is in its presentation of the human side of the war. Participants could not help but record the blood and gore of battle. Along with the drama, excitement, and glory traditional in tales of soldiering, the atrocities that Americans as well as British could perpetrate also are there. On the other hand, this is not the "major new history" the dust jacket proclaims. The use of eyewitness accounts necessarily narrows a description of a campaign, even from the perspective of one side. Individuals unfortunately can be only in one place at a time—that is the advantage of the historian. The multiple interactions of so complex a social phenomenon as a battle fade into the background as individuals, especially those well down the military hierarchy, come to the center of the stage. But in fairness to Professor Rankin, he clearly states in his preface that a general history was not his intention. Rather it was to bring the soldier who fought the American Revolution to the fore. And in this he has succeeded.

Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

John E. Selby


Francisco de Miranda was one of the most colorful revolutionaries ever to stride across the stage of history. Not only is he celebrated as the "Precursor of Spanish-American Independence," but also as a figure of renown in two other efforts to broaden human liberty—the American Revolution and the French Revolution. Born into a prominent Venezuelan family in 1750, he was educated at the Academy of Santa Rosa and the University of Caracas. In 1772 he purchased a commission in the Spanish army and served with distinction in the European theater. Eight years later he was transferred to Cuba and participated thereafter in campaigns that contributed to England's defeat and the independence of the United States.

Very early in his career Miranda began to keep a diary. The volume under review is a portion of that narrative covering the years 1783 and 1784, during which he traveled extensively in the United States.

Diaries are often repositories of invaluable historical information. The intimate and personalized character of the entries can provide insights not vouchsafed by other media. Moreover, if the diarist is a personage of some prominence, if his mind is attuned to his environment, and if his talents for characterization are supported by wide knowledge, his comments are likely to be of signal importance. Such is the nature of the record here presented.

Miranda fled from Cuba and service in the Spanish army to the Carolinas in the summer of 1783. Falsely accused of malpractices and despairing of receiving justice, he made his way to the United States before sentence against him could be pronounced. Landing at New Bern, North Carolina, he began an eighteen months' tour that included ten of the thirteen states and most of the principal cities. He carried with him letters of introduction to
prominent people in all the areas he visited. Indeed, the list of these personages forms a veritable “Who’s Who” of the period.

Miranda was an instant social success wherever he went. His hosts were captivated by his manners and his learning and often went to extraordinary lengths to provide him with opportunities to acquaint himself with every aspect of life in the fledgling republic. That he took advantage of the graciousness of his new friends is vividly demonstrated in the notes he kept of what he did and what he saw. His curiosity was insatiable; nothing escaped his notice. Oftentimes he spent hours inspecting the grounds upon which battles had taken place in the recent war between England and the colonies. His comments on the strategy employed by both sides reveal his keen interest in military affairs and his knowledge of them. He was meticulous in his recordings. Such items as the distances he traveled, the available means of conveyance, and even temperature changes found a place in his journal. Shipping statistics and the economic bases of survival in the areas he visited were dutifully entered in his log. Educational institutions that the country afforded were the object of his scrutiny, and on Sundays he usually could be found in a nearby church gauging the piety and the dedication of the worshipers. Not the least enchanting of his observations were those about the people he met. Some of his character sketches are delightfully provocative. Altogether, his precise and sharply-drawn notes provide us with an instructive description of the new nation in its early formative years.

Miranda came to the United States prepared to like what he found and to be impressed. The new American society so recently emancipated held a fascination for him. He himself declared on a later occasion that while here he began to formulate plans for the liberation of his homeland. And he did spend the rest of his days in pursuit of this goal. It is a fair assumption, therefore, that his experience in the United States may have been crucial in determining the course of his future career.

Messrs. Judson P. Wood and John S. Ezell, translator and editor, respectively, have performed a valuable service in making this portion of Miranda’s journal available to us in English. The book deserves a wide audience. Those who peruse its pages will find here an informative account of events and personalities in the United States in the years of reconstruction immediately following the winning of independence.

Muhlenberg College

VICTOR L. JOHNSON


Clinton Rossiter is a political scientist who uses history to argue for his conception of the status quo. In Seedtime of the Republic (New York, 1953) he tried to establish that contemporary Americans are conservatives who support the same conservative “philosophy of ethical, ordered liberty” that the Revolutionary generation held. His argument in Conservatism in America (New York, 1955)—that the great liberal tradition of democratic ex-
Experimentation in America is endangered by 'liberals' who want to push it to the extremes—was a confusion in terminology leading to the impression that it is the 'liberal tradition' that conservatives ought to conserve. Now, Alexander Hamilton emerges from his latest study as an important historical figure because his conception of a unified national government anticipated the policies and actions of the President and Supreme Court during the last ten years. Use of the past to justify present politics is a device that ought to put any conscientious historian on his guard.

In this study of Hamilton, Rossiter uses the method of intellectual biography that he employed in *Seedtime of the Republic*. His interest is not so much in what Hamilton did, as in what he thought, and in how his actions revealed the reasons for his ideas. Attempting to rehabilitate Hamilton's reputation for our time, Rossiter identifies "four Hamiltons . . . firmly established as giants in the literature of the specialists": "the financier," "administrator," "diplomat," and "prophet of industrial America." These aspects of Hamilton have not won him favor with Americans, and hoping to do this, Rossiter devotes his study to three other aspects of Hamilton's thought and action that "have not yet been recognized properly": "the constitutionalist," "political scientist," and "the American."

Rossiter is at his best in the chapter "Hamilton and the Constitution: 1789-1788," which establishes Hamilton's role in bringing about the Convention, justifies his behavior at Philadelphia ("Any man can expound any political philosophy either tentatively or firmly or extravagantly, and all the political and personal circumstances of June, 1787 moved Hamilton to expound his own philosophy in extravagant terms"), and assays his service during the controversy over ratification, both as a writer of *The Federalist Papers*, and as a commander "of the forces favoring ratification in New York" at the Poughkeepsie Convention. The chapter "Hamilton and the Constitution: 1789-1804" is less successful because Rossiter strains to point out such things as, "History seems to have vindicated Hamilton's opinion of the power of Congress to provide for prosecution of seditious libelers . . .," and, "the line of march was so direct, and so quickly covered in the Federalist mind of John Marshall, that we must consider the decision of 1803 a stunning triumph for Alexander Hamilton." The tenuousness of this reasoning seems half-consciously recognized by Rossiter when he tries to cover himself by asserting that "It is informed conjecture rather than exact measurement that gives Hamilton clear title to first place among the men who shaped the Constitution of 1801."

In tracing the sources of Hamilton's political thought, Rossiter rightly credits David Hume with Hamilton's "single largest debt of an intellectual nature." The explications of Hamilton's theories of human nature and society show that he pictured "man a mixture of degrading vices, discouraging imperfections, and ennobling virtues," and that his thought was always oriented toward society rather than individuals, toward the public welfare rather than the private pursuit of happiness." Hamilton's conception that the primary aim of government was the public good produced his concern for "results and not forms, energy and not structure, effectiveness"
and not abstract principle." This general view of the aim and methods of
government meant that Hamilton, as a constitutional lawyer, believed "that
a constitution should be interpreted in such a way as to encourage rather
than to discourage action." Rossiter's explication of Hamilton's thought is,
for the most part, sound, as far as it goes, but he stops short of seeing
the implications of the theories he explicates.

An inability to draw implications from statements accounts for Rossiter's
failure to rehabilitate Hamilton as an American (whatever that could mean)
in his last chapter, "The Relevance of Hamilton." Past figures or events
can only be relevant to the present if living men use the implications of
past thought and action to guide their lives. Since Rossiter admits "one
searches to little purpose . . . for clear-cut recognition of [Hamilton's]
unique role as maker, manipulator, and interpreter of the Constitution of
his day and as prophet of the Constitution of ours," he is not showing that
Hamilton is relevant for today, but arguing that he ought to be. This
argument fails to convince because Rossiter fails to draw out the implica-
tions of Hamilton's thought to show what Hamiltonian thought and action
would be today. This study of Hamilton seems to be based on competent
research, but Rossiter has failed to analyze the evidence sufficiently.

Haverford College

WILLIAM RAYMOND SMITH

Abel Parker Upshur, Conservative Virginian, 1790-1844. By Claude H. Hall.
(Madison, Wis.: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin. 1963.
Pp. 271. $5.50.)

Contemporaries noted and later historians have expressed an awareness
of the political and economic decline of the Old Dominion in the period
after 1820, and made inquiry then and afterwards into the causes of this
melancholy condition. Through a careful biographical study of Abel P.
Upshur, Professor Hall of Texas A. & M. University has sought to pro-
vide understanding, if not answers, to unresolved problems of ante bellum
Virginia, as well as to throw light upon present-day attitudes of Vir-
giniains, "many of whom would be hard pressed even to identify Abel Parker
Upshur." The author has reconstructed the early life of his subject through
painstaking search in widely-scattered manuscripts. Born on Virginia's then
isolated Eastern Shore, Upshur briefly attended Yale and Princeton, being
expelled from the latter in 1807 through implication in contumacy and
"riotous proceedings," and then turned to law study in the office of the
eminent William Wirt.

In Richmond after the War of 1812, he was elected Commonwealth
Attorney, practiced law, and entered politics, but after a political reverse
the young attorney returned to his beloved Eastern Shore plantation,
"Vaucluse," where he resided with his bride, a beautiful young cousin. In
chapters, "Opponent of Reform" and "The Philosophical Judge," the author
unfolds the development of Upshur's conservative philosophy in the sectional
conflict which divided Old Virginia. He discusses his opposition to constitu-
tional changes and reforms affecting taxation and representation, issues in
the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830. Upshur and his sympathizers adhered to the Hamilton tradition, and espoused a limited or "guided" democracy. With Randolph of Roanoke they believed that statesmen should never disturb "sleeping dogs," unless for the most compelling reasons. This doctrine does not lack for support in modern-day Virginia and even in the "New" South.

As a state circuit judge, Upshur found time to probe the problems of Negro slavery, which he sought to reconcile with liberty and which he preferred to untried consequences, and of the United States Constitution. In reviewing Justice Story's Commentaries, Upshur elaborated his own constitutional theory succinctly and cogently in The Nature and Character of our Federal Government (1840). Hall finds his "analysis . . . penetrating, his fears not unfounded, and his predictions generally accurate." Only when Upshur assumed that democratic ideals led directly to anarchy or tyranny, but "never to progress," did he go astray in a work which has won the encomiums of modern scholars. Indeed, as an authentic exposition of the particularistic school of Jefferson, Roane, and Taylor of Caroline, it is placed beside Calhoun's Discourses. For a living, viable Constitution Upshur had no use. Whatever praise modern writers have given to this analysis, Upshur entertained no illusions regarding its appeal to his fellow Virginians, often apathetic to the protection of their own interests, who "read but little," and did "not think at all."

An intransigent believer in principles, Upshur found the opportunistic national parties not to his taste, yet in the Log Cabin campaign of 1840 he became a Whig partisan. In celebration of "Old Tippecanoe's" victory, Upshur, ordinarily dignified to the point of stuffiness, "got roaring drunk," a circumstance which caused him momentary embarrassment. Neither Whig nor Democrat, this exasperating man of lofty principle received no reward from the Whigs, but with the accession of his friend Tyler, Upshur became Secretary of the Navy, a post he occupied with distinction. At the Navy Department Upshur achieved long-overdue reforms, introduced experiments, and requested larger appropriations for an expansion of the Navy. He recommended that the American navy reach strength of one-half that of the British navy—a startling proposal. His program, including a naval academy, predictably encountered powerful Congressional opposition.

While directing the Navy Department Upshur became well informed concerning American foreign policy and assisted in its formulation. He prepared sealed orders for Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones in his famous, abortive seizure of Monterey in 1842, from which controversial incident Upshur managed to extricate himself skillfully. Thus his appointment as Secretary of State appeared to be logical. The Secretary threw himself headlong into plans for the annexation of Texas, and had prepared for the Senate a treaty of annexation which through dexterous management seemed to have a good chance of approval, when in 1844 an explosion aboard the Princeton killed him and several other prominent persons. This tragedy removed Abel P. Upshur at the height of his powers and at a time when he appeared to have reached fulfillment of his potential.

The author has accomplished his set goal in this scholarly volume, based

Occasionally a reviewer encounters a book which has obvious merit, but which because of obvious shortcomings he cannot wholeheartedly endorse. Mr. Edwards's Civil War Guns, is of this type. It should be understood at the outset that his book is a useful reference tool if the reader is aware of its salient shortcomings. The author's problems stem from the very grand nature of his undertaking and the basic prejudices which he brings to bear upon his task. He left himself open for difficulties when he attempted to relate "the complete story of Federal and Confederate small arms: design, manufacture, identification, procurement, issue, employment, effectiveness, and postwar disposal." The story of the weapons used in the Civil War is a complex one, the relation of which seems to be beyond Mr. Edwards's skills. This is not to say that he has not presented the facts. He has presented them, but he has failed to give them coherent form. Properly organized, his information could have been woven into a fascinating narrative.

Both of the belligerents in the Civil War relied upon weapons procured at home and abroad. At the outbreak of hostilities the North and South found themselves poorly supplied with infantry weapons. The weapons standardized by the Ordnance Department of the United States Army before the conflict were quickly replaced by a hodgepodge of guns because the large quantities needed could not be readily produced by domestic suppliers. Union and Confederate agents dispatched to Europe vied with one another to purchase weapons. Some of the imported guns were of the highest quality, but many were of the most inferior type. As the war wore on each side came to rely more upon firearms and ammunition produced within its own territory. In the North, Springfield Armory, Colt, Remington, and a host of other firms produced large quantities of rifles, muskets, carbines, and pistols for the Union cause. Many of the early entrants into the field of firearms manufacture were unable to fulfill the contracts which they had entered into in their first flush of enthusiasm. Likewise, in the South many factories were erected or converted to produce small arms and other materiel. The equipment used in these plants was both captured from Northern facilities (e.g., Harpers Ferry Armory), and purchased from the British.

Mr. Edwards has related a great deal of this story, but he has done it in a confused manner. The confusion is partly the result of the grand scope of his effort: it is also the result of the inclusion of extraneous materials. Several chapters could have been deleted. Given the scope out-
lined in his subtitle there was no need for the chapter which discussed the guns used by John Brown's raiders, the chapter on the decaying Civil War surplus goods stored on Bannerman's Island in New York, or the chapter relating to the recent manufacture of replicas of Civil War guns. Numerous digressive passages within chapters could also have been eliminated.

This reviewer would have preferred to have seen in their place a fuller analysis of Union and Confederate efforts. From the discussion presented by Mr. Edwards and the entries in his selected bibliography, it would seem that he neglected such basic works as Frank Vandiver's *Ploughshares into Swords: Josiah Gorgas and Confederate Ordnance* (Austin, 1952), and William Albaugh, III's *Tyler Texas, C. S. A.* (Harrisburg, 1958). The chapters relating to the Confederate small arms production are very weak. They add little that is new or that cannot be found elsewhere. The author also seems to have overlooked some important Government documents. For example, the chapter "Rifle Muskets: Civil War Scandals" was based almost entirely on *Correspondence on the Purchase of Arms, Proceedings of Commission on Ordnance and Ordnance Stores* (37th Cong., 2d Sess. Ex. Doc. No. 72). Mr. Edwards seems to have ignored Executive Document No. 67 published during the same session of Congress. This document, entitled *Purchase of Arms*, contains extensive statistical data and correspondence which would have shed additional light on the problems encountered by contractors during the Civil War. Such omissions raise doubts about the thoroughness of research.

Personal prejudices also get in the way and influence judgment. The result is that historical inaccuracies creep into the text. The author does not like the Ordnance Department, and he seems willing to accept testimony that will condemn that branch of the service even if his evidence is in error. In a chapter entitled "Ordnance-Industry: Mismatched Team," he concludes on the basis of incorrect and irrelevant evidence that there have always been "snafus and goof-ups in our ordnance program from small arms through to missiles." Without ample supporting evidence such sweeping denunciations create heat, but shed no light.

Yet, Mr. Edwards has brought together a great mass of material which is of interest to the firearms collector and to the historian, notably the data relating to the weapons purchased in Europe. In summary, however, the author does not tell "the complete story of Federal and Confederate small arms: design, manufacture, identification, procurement, issue, employment, effectiveness, and postwar disposal." If the complete story is ever told it is hoped that the narrative will be more coherent, the discussion less discursive, the research more thorough, and the author more objective.

CASE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

EDWARD C. EZELL


Washington is one of the most extraordinary cities in America, now a
world capital, with some of the sophistication and charm of cities like Paris, London, and Rome, and with some of the lingering atmosphere of a provincial country town. It is a city virtually without industries—except the industry generated by big government—and yet it has a dense proletariat characteristic of an industrial center, with the problems that go with a relatively unenlightened slum population. It is the center of a vast and growing complex of government, yet it has no municipal government of its own. The United States Congress is in effect its city council, with three commissioners serving as a kind of city management.

It contains some of the finest collections of art and some of the most significant libraries in the western hemisphere, yet it has critics who accuse it of neglecting the cultural aspects of life. Unlike other capital cities, it is not a publishing center (except for government printing-office publications), and its theatrical and musical offerings are insignificant when compared with those of New York. Washington grew from a quiet country town into a world capital so rapidly that it was unable to overtake the cultural lead that New York took early in the nineteenth century. The development of Washington after the Civil War with all its contrasts and conflicts is the theme of the second volume of Mrs. Green's history.

Like her first volume, which won for Mrs. Green the Pulitzer Prize, this second volume is packed with detail, a plethora of facts and statistics, with clues for the further investigation of many an entertaining episode, to which Mrs. Green can only point in passing, for it would take a history on the scale of Gibbon's to relate in extenso the curious and strange incidents that have been a part of Washington's growth.

Mrs. Green has the conscience and the concerns of a sociologist or a welfare worker, a fact that leads her to devote in this volume as in the first an inordinate amount of space to the racial problem in Washington: this repetitive emphasis results in a certain tediousness in the reading. One could wish that she had taken more inspiration from Voltaire and less from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life," but one must be grateful for the enormous amount of work that has gone into this volume, the careful references that she has given for future writers to follow up, and the basic facts which future books about Washington are destined to draw upon.

Washington's growth from sprawling country town to the reasonably sophisticated city of the present day follows the pattern of many other American cities, but Washington had the special stimulus of crises during the Civil War, the Spanish American War, and World Wars I and II. These periods of inflation in governmental activity resulted in much hasty building and a great influx of population, much of which remained. Indeed, Washington has grown by constant increments of population not only during crises but from each successive administration. A saying in the city asserts that "They never go back to Pocatello." Politicians, pundits, lobbyists, government workers, and a vast number of hangers-on of government agencies remain in Washington after their retirement. Relatively easy jobs in the government have also lured thousands of untrained workers from the South with their kith and kin. The effect of this latter migration has been
to give Washington a preponderance of indigents or semi-indigents who
soon find comfort in the city’s relatively easy-going relief agencies.

This condition, an old story in Washington, helps to explain the re-
peted refusal of the Congress to enfranchise the populace and turn over
the government of the city to it. Congressional leaders point to a period
of self-government in the 1870’s when after three years the District went
bankrupt and the federal government had to bail it out. With that ex-
perience behind it, Congress passed the Organic Act of June 1878 which,
as Mrs. Green shows, stripped the District of self-government but guaranteed
its financial solvency by underwriting the public debt and a portion of the
annual expenses. This arrangement has not been an altogether happy one,
for Congress has shown no eagerness to devote thought or money to the
District’s problems; opponents of home rule argue, however, that neither
past experience in Washington nor the experience of other cities with related
population problems suggest that conditions would have been better under
home rule. Mrs. Green indicates her own belief that Washington has suf-
f ered because of Congressional neglect and the disfranchisement of its
inhabitants.

Despite Mrs. Green’s preoccupation with sociological matters, she pro-
vides the reader with many entertaining and curious bits of lore in a
volume that cannot fail to fascinate its readers. For example, a desire of
the new “Citizens’ Association” of Washington to have some guidance in
the efficient operation of their meetings led Colonel Henry Robert in the
1870’s to draft Robert’s Rules of Order, that Bible of parliamentary pro-
cedure. John Philip Sousa, conductor of the Marine Band, sold his famous
architectural atrocity, a fourteen-story yellow brick apartment house named
“Cairo” on Scott Circle, resulted in a buildings act in 1899 limiting the
height of structures. Tucked away on practically every page is some bit
of information to excite one’s curiosity for more information about the
personalities and episodes that influenced the development of a city still
beset with the problems that Mrs. Green’s book so competently describes.

Folger Library

Crossroads: 1913. By Paul M. Angle. (New York: Rand McNally and
Company, 1963. Pp. 291. $5.95.)

The title suggests a unifying thesis. Suspicion is heightened by a flyleaf
quote from Woodrow Wilson published in 1913 (though, unfortunately
for the argument, uttered in 1912): “The roads diverge at the point where
we stand.” And in the Foreword the author comes out with it: whatever
people may think about 1914, “as far as the United States was concerned, I
believe that 1913 was the year of transition, the year when one era came
to an end, the year when a new era began. . . . Therefore this book.” In
inauguratory support of this view he points to Wilson’s New Freedom pro-
gram (especially the income tax), the “coming of age of the automobile,”
the “beginnings of automation,” the “acceleration of the suffrage and pro-
hibitation movements,” the “revolution in women’s dress and the increasing frankness in drama and fiction,” and the impact of “‘modern’ art and ‘modern’ music”—no more.

The designation of these things as crucial loses force from the very use of such words as “acceleration” and “increasing.” The validity of two or three items and the relative importance of others might be questioned. But that would be to take the thesis more seriously than does the author, who makes no conspicuous effort to establish it in the body of the book. Let us then accept the Wilson quotation as fit for any year, and the catchword of the title as a convenience for cataloguers. The emphasis of the book, like that of the jacket design, is not on “Crossroads” but on “1913.” It is simply the record of a year, chosen perhaps because it would be in the “Fifty Years Ago” columns at the time of publication, perhaps because, happily for the reader, Mr. Angle remembers it personally, vividly and with affection.

The Foreword which invites criticism on one score disarms it on others. The author freely and truthfully disavows having attempted a scholarly study. The Chicago Tribune is his mainstay, with support largely from contemporary magazines, two or three yearbooks, the published letters of Theodore Roosevelt and a half-dozen secondary sources, including the Baker and Link biographies of Wilson. There are no bibliographical footnotes, although the index is good. As he also states, he has “not probed deeply for causes nor . . . assessed results,” and he has “refrained from comparisons.” He takes the year as did those who lived through it: chronologically, with some flashbacks and a few (anachronistically precise) peepings into the future.

The seasons are his categories. “Winter: The Opening Round” brings in the New Year, automobiles, Jim Thorpe, Victoriano Huerta, Billy Sunday, the Armory Show, suffragettes, the New Freedom, and the Turkey Trot in moderately chronological order, chunk by chunk, sometimes with transitional devices, sometimes without. “Spring” follows with tornadoes, floods, the death of J. P. Morgan, the movies, the Underwood Tariff, grape juice diplomacy, baseball, labor troubles, and other diversions, grave and gay. “Summer” comes in, “Autumn” succeeds it, and “Winter” returns, all with variations on the same themes. There is a generous portfolio of illustrations—show people, athletes, politicians, cartoons, advertisements and other memorabilia—of which the liveliest are Duchamp’s “Nude Descending a Staircase” and a scene of wreckage left by the Omaha tornado.

These happenings are told in a lucid and temperate style, sparingly seasoned with dry humor—somewhat too sparingly. One misses the exuberant nostalgia of Mark Sullivan, the urbane wit of Frederick Lewis Allen, the circumstantial immediacy of Walter Lord, to name some other historical sightseers in that range of time. But to counterbalance the textbook lifelessness of certain political passages are a few footnote asides in which the author speaks firsthand and with feeling. Best of all is the epilogue “Purely Personal,” in which Mr. Angle recalls his everyday life as a boy of the middle class in Mansfield, Ohio, circa 1913.
The bulk of the book is a service to anyone wanting a glimpse and a taste of the times without the inconvenience of sampling the Chicago Tribune on microfilm; the epilogue gives him the look, smell, feel, heft and nourishment of 1913 with no artificial coloring or flavoring added. Though without documentation of his doings on the eve of the new year 1914, Mr. Angle assumes that he was home and “would have gone to the kitchen for the nightly snack: cheese—Herkimer, aged Wisconsin brick, or imported Swiss (none of your devitalized stuff in packages)—or a sauceful of raw oysters, supplemented with pie and coffee. And then I would have gone to bed, unaware that I had just passed through a pivotal year, ...” It is not only the last-mentioned state of mind that the reader finds himself sharing.

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