This collection of articles in honor of anthropologist William N. Fenton, dean of Iroquoian studies, is an impressive one. Its methodological and theoretical scope is wide, yet its focus on Iroquoian studies brings the diversity of approaches together in a fitting tribute to Fenton who, as Anthony F. C. Wallace notes in an overview at the beginning of the volume, has functioned in certain ways very much like the "ideal Iroquois sachem . . . able to elicit concensus without discouraging diversity." Wallace's "Overview" at the opening and the two papers in the section entitled "The Fenton Tradition" and "Fenton As Applied Anthropologist" at the closing of the volume serve as book-ends pointing directly to Fenton's intellectual and personal contributions to Iroquoian studies and the development of professional and personal ties with Iroquois people. The rest of the articles in the book represent contemporary scholarly work influenced or stimulated (sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly) by Fenton's scholarship. A bibliography of Fenton's nearly three hundred publications from his first in 1931, to 1982, is provided at the end of the volume after the bibliography of references cited.

Any collection of articles by a number of scholars from different disciplines is difficult to compile and organize. The editors of Extending the Rafters have done a remarkably good job, especially given the diversity of perspectives represented. Their editorial introductions—at the beginning of the volume and at the beginning of each section into which the book is divided—are crucial in outlining the rationale for their organization, in providing insight into links between the articles, and in offering starting points for understanding and interpreting material that follows, especially for persons not specializing in some of the more technical fields such as linguistics and archaeology forming the basis of several of the papers.

In addition to the "Overview" and the last section of the volume, which have already been mentioned, the book is divided into three other parts: "Changing Perspectives in the Writing of Iroquoian History;" "Aspects of Iroquoian World View;" and "Iroquoian Origins: Problems in Reconstruction." The papers in the first section, as the title indicates, focus primarily on the history of Iroquoians. True to the interdisciplinary nature both of the volume and of Iroquoian studies in general, however, the methodologies involved integrate historical and anthropological (particularly ethnographic) data. Bruce G. Trigger's article "Indian and White History: Two-Worlds or One?" should prove particularly important to historians—even those not concentrating on Indian history or contact between Indians and Euro-Americans—for it points out ways in which Indian history can illuminate non-Indian history. As a composite, the articles in this section, span Iroquoian history chronologically,
from earliest contact with Euro-Americans from which historical data first comes to the present. They provide a good sample of approaches to historical work—a sample that is indispensible to those studying Iroquoian history.

The articles in the next section deal mainly with cultural phenomena—Iroquoian ritual, political and social structure, language and culture, and cosmology. This section is the most slippery in terms of organizational unity and the one for which the section introduction is most crucial for suggesting common threads that do unite the articles. Two of the papers illustrate well ways in which the interdisciplinary approaches in the volume make it one of special interest to historians and anthropologists in general for the methodological perspectives that it offers. In one, using the technique called “upstreaming” introduced by William N. Fenton, Michael K. Foster employs ethnographic data to broaden analysis of historical information in order to discover patterns of behavior that obviously existed but are far from explicit in historical data. In the other, Hanni Woodbury shows ways in which analysis of linguistic data from bilinguals can offer additional insights into culture and in so doing she suggests a method for approaching ethnographic data from persons who are capable of functioning fairly facilely in two cultures—Indian and Euro-American—as well. Although Woodbury’s article is quite technical in part, introductory, explanatory, and concluding remarks are very clearly stated and should be easily comprehensible to nonspecialists as they are also in other technical articles in the volume.

The final section focuses on Iroquoian prehistory. Like the previous ones, but somewhat more explicitly, the papers in this section acknowledge the limitations of strictly disciplinary approaches to data and the need to draw upon data, methodology, and theory from other fields to throw light on the body of information that one has gathered from one’s perspective. Archaeology and linguistics are the main perspectives employed here but are complemented by each other and by ethnographic and historical data and methodology. This section may be of special interest to professional and amateur archaeologists studying Pennsylvania’s prehistory because of the methodological suggestions made.

Although the articles throughout the book vary somewhat in terms of the scope of insights that they offer, and cover a broad range of disciplinary work, the collection makes an important contribution to historical and cultural studies. In line with William N. Fenton’s scholarship, it provides valuable analysis of particulars of Iroquoian culture and history—which it should be pointed out were intimatly tied to the early history of Pennsylvania—while at the same time offering broader methodological and theoretical perspectives that should be of interest to invesigators of Indian history and culture and Indian and Euro-American contact in general.

Yager Museum, Hartwick College

Mary A. Druke


Historians of Indian-white relations in the colonial period have traditionally struggled to understand the relationship between the written and the archeological record, in part because of the differences in the various cultures involved, but
in no small part because much of the archeological data is so difficult to locate and then analyze. Far too often I have consulted with archeologists on a topic only to be told that the answer to my query was well-known among the experts, but that the data was either still in field notes, or published in some obscure proceedings. Historians of Pennsylvania and New York Iroquois-white relations will be deeply indebted to Barry Kent for successfully making available so much valuable material on these Iroquoian-speaking people.

*Susquehanna's Indians* is divided into five general categories, with the subjects of increasing interest to experts coming last. First, comes a general chronology of Susquehanna prehistory, protohistory and history from its Owasco origins through its extinction at Conestoga at the hands of the so-called Paxton Boys. The next three sections discuss the "Evidence from History," the "Evidence from Artifacts-Native Objects," and the "Evidence from Artifacts-European Objects" thus providing a survey of a surprising array of artifacts that have been uncovered from Susquehanna sites. The final portion of the text is clearly devoted to scholars who wish to have a clear understanding of how each of the major excavations have contributed to Kent’s assessment of the Susquehanna.

For historians, the second section will probably draw their immediate attention, although the other chapters should not be overlooked. Most obvious will be Kent’s disagreement with Francis Jennings over the fate of the Susquehanna in their confrontation with the Iroquois between 1674 and 1676. According to Kent, the archeological record suggests that the Iroquois had, in fact, done enough damage to the Susquehanna to force them to abandon their settlement. More subtle, is Kent’s suggestive discussion of the close relationship between the Susquehannas and the Senecas and Cayugas of New York, which seems to counter much of what Jennings and others have argued for the Iroquois League’s involvement in the lower Susquehanna after 1730. (See Francis Jennings, *The Ambiguous Empire* [1984]; for a similar analysis, see also Richard Aquila, *The Iroquois Restoration* [1983].) Drawing on a wide range of documentation, both historic and archeological, Kent seems to show that any treatment of the lower Susquehanna, should seriously consider that the Iroquois involved in the area came from particular villages or clans with long-standing relationships in the region and were not representative of the Iroquois League proper. The other chapters also offer some very suggestive material regarding cultural adaptations to white contact, especially on the subjects of technological change and mortuary practices.

As with any volume, especially one that draws together so much data, there will be some weaknesses. In what is otherwise an admirable effort to delineate where the data supports his position and where there is much still not known, Kent’s effort at population estimates will probably raise professional eyebrows the most. According to Kent, a rough estimation of village size can be reached by correlating the square footage of a village to the number of longhouses and an assumed five members per family. Two difficulties come immediately to mind. First, the equation offered provides no adjustment for assessing village expansions and contractions over time, even though Kent is well aware that village size altered, sometimes dramatically. Second, Kent relies on a five-to-one ratio for his discussion of village populations, but elsewhere he relies on a 3.3 to 1 ratio of warriors to other members of a village to judge population. The apparent
contradiction is not discussed, so which are we to follow? But this is a relatively minor caveat, considering the wealth of material that Kent has delivered to scholars and the general public alike. Now if only a comparable volume would appear on the complex worlds of the Susquehanna's neighbors.

Hartwick College

RICHARD L. HAAN


Students of early western Pennsylvania history will welcome this latest volume of The Papers of Henry Bouquet. The previous four volumes covered Bouquet's career from his appointment to the Royal American Regiment in 1756 through efforts by British forces to move into the upper Ohio Valley in 1759 and 1760. Volume 5 covers a critical fourteen-month period in British-American affairs and Bouquet's career, from September 1760 through October 1761. Having conquered New France, British and provincial forces were now faced with the challenges of transforming battlefield conquests into manageable parts of an enlarged empire. Nowhere were the challenges and risks greater than in the Great Lakes basin and Ohio Country.

It fell to Bouquet, as field commander of the handful of regulars assigned to the west, to occupy French forts, conduct negotiations with local Indians, and generally maintain order over a still little-known territory. The documents reveal many of the problems Bouquet encountered in carrying out these tasks. That he and his men accomplished as much as they did is a tribute both to Bouquet's managerial skills and the doggedness of his troops. Occupying abandoned forts, building several new ones from Pittsburgh to Sandusky, and keeping them supplied would have taxed the energies of a larger, better equipped force. Bouquet, no stranger to frontier campaigning, was often barely able to keep his meager garrisons minimally supplied. The dozens of letters dealing with logistics and discipline—important topics generally overlooked by military historians of the period—speak of the constant struggle to move supplies and men over mountain roads and swollen rivers.

Soldiers, held beyond their enlistments, deserted in increasing numbers. Those who remained turned sullen or criminal. Bouquet's quarters at Fort Pitt were burglarized and over £950 in personal and public funds stolen. Junior officers were no less a problem. At one point virtually all the subalterns at Fort Niagara were either facing or were threatened with courts-martial. This, an unruly civilian population at Fort Pitt, and Bouquet's own acute sense of isolation from friends and business affairs prompted him on at least one occasion to ask permission to leave the service.

Bouquet's responsibility for Indian affairs was shared with crown-appointed Indian agents. Cooperation proved to be a sometime thing and Bouquet expressed growing dissatisfaction with those he called "our managers." Yet the army alone had limited success enforcing the 1758 Easton Treaty and subsequent agreements designed to meet growing Indian concern about colonial expansion. By mid-1761 continued fort-building and the army's failure to curb squatters and rum traders led Senecas to promote a pan-tribal effort to drive the
British from the west. The plan failed but added to growing suspicion on both sides of the cultural frontier. Nonetheless, Bouquet's correspondence provides ample evidence of an often overlooked fact: Indians and soldiers did find grounds for cooperation due to the army's constant need of food and intelligence. The fighting that broke out in 1763 was not the inevitable result of Indian-British contact.

The more than seven hundred documents reproduced in this hefty volume represents a rich and still under-utilized source on military and Indian affairs in the trans-Appalachian west. The editorial quality is superb and the endnotes accompanying each document are themselves a rich store of information. One case in point is the biographical data accompanying the "List of Houses and Inhabitants at Fort Pitt" (pp. 407-21). The availability of the Bouquet Papers in such a fine series will hopefully stimulate further research toward sorting out and setting down the complex, turbulent history of the Ohio Country.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham   Michael N. McConnell


This book is a carefully studied and documented evaluation of the possible continental European antecedents of American log buildings. The argument, as Terry Jordan presents it, is compelling evidence to award the Fenno-Scandian influence in the pioneer culture of Midland America a much more important role than Germanists have thought. Long the subject of considerable academic controversy, three potential agents of the diffusion of log construction have been proposed: (1) northern Europeans, mainly Swedes and Finns colonizing the Delaware Valley beginning in the 1630s; (2) Moravians and Schwenkfelders in Pennsylvania and several other colonies, coming from the Czech-Polish-East German borderland in the mid 1750s; and (3) Lutherans, Swiss Reformed, and Mennonites migrating from Alpine and Alemannic regions of southern central Europe beginning about 1710. The data Jordan gathered in considerable field research, supplemented with an analysis of pertinent primary and secondary sources, are presented in this book in an effort to resolve the question of European origins.

In presenting the resolution, Jordan also evaluates the four basic concepts of first effective settlement, overseas simplification, syncretism, and cultural preadaptation. In the evaluation process, we see that the American log cabin should no longer be looked upon as a humble dwelling, but rather envisioned as an icon and index to culture. Although regional and temporal variations in log carpentry and architecture are evident within the Midland Culture area, Jordan graphically demonstrates with beautiful photographs and carefully drawn maps and charts, how log construction retained a basic unity that renders it recognizable wherever it occurs. Not one of forty features of architecture and carpentry which he identifies lacks a possible European prototype. In fact, the features that did survive very often had been known to more than one immigrant group. Whether it be full-dovetail, half-dovetail, saddle, similunate, diamond, square, or half-notch, the Europeans did it first, which, Jordan points out, raises some grave doubts about the inventiveness of early American culture.
Mapping a path of the distribution of Midland American log construction, Jordan places the source in the Delaware River corridor where Finn and Swede first met. There they mixed with Briton, Teuton and Hollander who adapted and carried westward their pioneer architecture. Jordan's evidence, he contends, strongly supports Wilbur Zelinsky's 1973 theory that "the first group able to establish a viable, self-perpetuating society in an empty land are of crucial significance for the later social and cultural geography of the area," regardless of how small the initial group of settlers may have been. Jordan wishes to carry this theory a step further by saying that his study of log construction suggests that the later a group arrives in successive waves of immigration, the less cultural impact it has. He uses the Moravians and Schwenkfelders as examples by clearly demonstrating that they exerted the least influence on log construction. Whether this latter theory can be extended beyond log construction should be tested by an ethnic historian, but everyone who proposes to write a textbook of American history should familiarize himself with this clearly developed and precisely photographed study of log construction. This reviewer, for one, would like to see many more issues of similar historical importance developed and presented using a comparable scientific approach.

*Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

DONNA BINGHAM MUNGER


In this solid contribution to Pennsylvania Quaker history the author draws on data never thoroughly researched before, and he depicts the complexity of eighteenth-century politics with unprecedented attention to detail. By first observing that the Society of Friends did not maintain a steady social conscience from its inception, he shows how complacency beset American Quakers by 1750. The new reform impulse that emerged thereafter succeeded in winning the Society back to more idealistic principles. Institutionally speaking, Marietta makes it clear that Pennsylvania Quakers reversed (for a while at least) the flow from sect to denomination. Instead of approximating neighbors and their religions more closely over time, the Society deliberately embraced a policy of withdrawal that preserved their cohesiveness as a separate people. Wider social circumstances abetted this tendency, but the motivating factors lay in a generation of reformers who sustained appeals to purity and consistency that also entailed ostracism and suffering. The consequent loss of external influence left Quakers free to utilize a newfound inner strength to express concern for social ills philanthropically.

Dividing material for the book roughly into halves, Marietta looked first at social questions that most concerned Society members. He canvassed ten thousand disciplinary cases recorded between 1682 and 1776, most of them pertaining to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, with its subsidiary four quarterly meetings and nineteen monthly meetings. These records are extremely valuable because they point up Quaker ethics as practiced, not a stated code that leaves open questions about actual conduct. The author shows that there was a marked increase in administering discipline after 1755. Offenses spread over a
great variety of actions, but most frequent misdeeds were fornication, drunkenness, indebtedness, and irregular marriage. Discipline that ranged from accusation to disownment took place more for the Society's sake than for offending members. It is readily apparent that officials wished most of all to clear the Society of any scandal that might accrue to the church. Since the group was not growing through births or conversions, disownment due to increased reform sentiment caused membership to shrink. Between 1763 and 1776 the Society in Pennsylvania disowned 2521 members, a figure totaling 271 more people than the entire Quaker population of Philadelphia in 1760. This intentional retrenchment clearly valued quality over quantity and allowed the Society to occupy a peripheral place in American life where it "did not need to compromise with people whose values it disparaged and whose membership it did not court" (p. 125).

As in personal behavior, so in politics, but in a more factionalized and agonizing way. Quakers controlled the Pennsylvania Assembly up until 1756, and yet events conspired with clerical reformers to remove all Friends from office during the next two decades. War was the catalyst. Questions of raising a militia, taxes for defense, paying for conscriptory substitutes, and even cooperating with tax enforcement—all these forced Quakers to contemplate possible complicity with warfare and to define what actually constituted bellicose behavior. Several Quaker groups followed different counsels on the merits of private convictions and public action. In the end all of them recognized that it was futile to rely on political power or to maneuver for temporal security. By 1776 the Yearly Meeting decreed that all Quakers holding public office must resign or be disowned. Moreover no Quaker could vote to place anyone, Friend or otherwise, in office. This imposed no new code but emphasized rather one side of the seventeenth-century heritage while weaning adherents from their almost equally venerable Holy Experiment. Whigs and quietists alike came to affirm that it was better to reduce numerical strength and political influence through practices which outsiders might interpret as unpatriotic and sectarian. As noncooperation with war (against France, Indians, and then Britain) led to charges of Tory loyalism, all Quakers came to see wisdom in the reformers' urgings. Loss of mastery over public affairs led believers to more dependence on Providence. Material and psychological suffering was a boon to reform because it gave Quakers a stable position from which they could speak their conscience regarding such issues as capitalistic exploitation, alcohol abuse, and slavery.

Marietta's comprehensive spadework and analytic synthesis afford readers a thoughtful consideration of crucial developments in Quaker history. He carefully traces the roots of major reform impulses that moved beyond Society boundaries in the early national period to affect general American patterns. There is no gainsaying the fundamental quality of work contained in this volume, but a few demurrers suggest themselves. The author is not as thorough in probing the origins of reform as he is in depicting results. He inquires into the ideas articulated by such prophets as John Churchman, Samuel Fothergill, Israel Pemberton, Jr., John Woolman, and Anthony Benezet, but he comes to no ultimate analysis of what motivated them. This deficiency is all the more glaring in light of Marietta's announcement that he intends to accomplish the task. Further, he is not convincing in explaining the reformers' success. His suggestions about their ubiquity, hard work, cooperation from church officials
who shared their sentiments, and the general press of events help to a degree. But the fact that historical forces aided the movement leaves readers wondering why this reform kindled and spread while other such attempts in other circumstances fizzled. The narrative is also marred, in this reviewer's opinion, by occasional gratuitous observations about contradictions in Quaker ethics and practice, as if this were something remarkable in the history of any religious group. Still, this book's pluses far outweigh its minuses. Quakers faced the nineteenth century with critical attitudes regarding wealth itself, not its possible misuse. They regarded alcohol with increased wariness that moved beyond temperance to abstinence and prohibition. And most importantly they achieved by 1776 distinctive resolves about slavery that laid the basis for abolition work later on. Marietta's major point is secure: Quakers succeeded by eighteenth-century reforms in drawing members into a self-conscious, highly disciplined group where asceticism severed attachments to this world. From a position of sectarian coherence Friends could then address social ills as a philanthropic objective where independence from the more overt categories of sin gave them freedom to act. Thus roots were planted, and the twig was bent.

Rutgers University

HENRY WARNER BOWDEN


The six essays presented as Volume 24 of the Proceedings and Collections of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society all pertain to some aspect of the history of anthracite mining in Luzerne County. The essays were written between 1961 and 1982 and were under the general editorship of Monica Reynolds.

The first essay by H. Benjamin Powell, discusses an early coal company, the Smith Company, from 1814 to 1839. The author explores the structure of the coal trade during this time, detailing the importance of the various trading links with others in financing the business. The difficulty with this essay is the limited primary sources available to the author. As a result, the author was forced into making numerous observations and conclusions based on a few account books and ledgers.

The second essay deals with another company, Sharpe, Weiss and Company, and concerns the Lehigh coal trade from 1867 to 1874. The author, Richard G. Healey, a geographer, details how this company coped with the complexity of the coal trade, the unscrupulous behavior of competitors, and frequent labor unrest. Mr. Healey shows how a problem such as the shortage of a supply of coal cars caused major disruptions in the production of coal. Interestingly enough, this lack of cars more adversely affected the economic well-being of the company than did strikes by the miners. The author has made good use of quantitative data, illustrated by numerous charts, tables, and graphs.

The third and fourth essays pertain to the building of canals to transport the coal to market. Thomas Dinkelacker discusses the construction of the Lehigh Canal between 1818 and 1838, while Leroy Bugbee details the building of the North Branch Canal in 1828 and discusses its operation until its closing in 1901.
It should be noted that Bugbee's article was originally prepared in 1961. After his death, the article was revised and expanded by F. Charles Petrillo. The fifth essay moves to the labor scene. Perry K. Blatz discusses the role played by young boys who worked in the mines from 1898 to 1902. Blatz provides a good view of the various stations which the youths normally occupied: breaker boys, door boys, patches, mule drivers, and runners. The author states that the boys who worked in the mines proved their militance by marching out of the mines to help enforce the United Mine Workers union rules. But one has to question whether these lads really played a major role in the matter since one would assume that their fathers, and other male relatives, were most likely employed by the mines and therefore on strike as well. However, the topic itself is worthy of merit, and it is unfortunate that the author was unable to expand upon it, limited by the framework of the essays' structure. As a supplement to this essay, there are reproduced four photographs of boys in the mines taken from Lewis Wickes Hine's collection in the National Archives.

The final essay recapitulates the Knox Mine disaster of January 22, 1959. It was on that date that the Susquehanna River broke through the rock strata in the floor of the bed and flooded the Knox mine. As a result, twelve miners lost their lives and the mine has never been reopened. The author, George A. Spohrer, an attorney by profession, has in effect, presented an effective brief on the disaster. The introduction to the essays states that Spohrer used government reports, court records, and newspaper accounts in his essay, but the essay fails to footnote any of these sources. In spite of this criticism, the essay does a fine job in describing how this tragedy could have been avoided had proper safety procedures been followed.

In conclusion, this collection of essays will be useful to students of local history of the Wyoming Valley as well as those interested in the history of anthracite mining in Pennsylvania.

National Archives, Philadelphia Branch

Robert J. Plowman


In his preface, Norman B. Wilkinson writes, "As biographer I have aimed at the 'reincarnation' of my subject, to have Lammot du Pont take on blood, flesh, and bone and become a tangible living person..." In this he has not succeeded. Wilkinson is not a stylist; he is a very cautious historian. His painstaking, thorough account so completely rests on du Pont family and company papers at the Hagley Museum and Library (where he was once Director of Research) as to resemble an authorized biography. Titillating domestic scandals, quirky personalities, and tales of corruption that enliven recent less judicious "popular histories" of the du Ponts are not refuted—with rare exceptions they are ignored. Wilkinson jumps to no hasty conclusions. When conclusive evidence is lacking, he lists the plausible explanations that occur to him and leaves final judgment to the reader. While honest, this approach produces no literary sparks.

Wilkinson's book, however, should not be judged as biography. It is business history—an account of Lammot du Pont's role in the explosives industry—as
the subtitle indicates. As such, the book has many strengths. It spells out what others have only asserted—that Lammot du Pont was the innovative technologist and organizer behind much of his Uncle Henry du Pont's successful headship of the Du Pont Company between 1850 and 1879. Chafing under his uncle's autocratic and high-handed rule, Lammot remained with the firm for nearly thirty years. To name only his more important contributions, it was Lammot who discovered a way to use Peruvian nitrate rather than more costly Indian saltpeter in making gunpowder, who persuaded his uncle to manufacture powder for anthracite mining in the region where it was used, who diversified Du Pont holdings by investing in coal mining, a railroad company, and sulphur and soda deposits, who established a company research and development laboratory, and who led the Du Pont Company into chemicals.

Probably Lammot du Pont's greatest organizing feat was conceiving, establishing, and heading the Gunpower Trade Association. With the stated goal of ending "cut-throat" competition among powdermakers, the GTA served to reduce the industry to a Du Pont monopoly. The contention that Lammot's goal was to use the GTA to somehow improve competition in the industry seems naive or confused. It is clear from the evidence that Wilkinson presents that the objective of the organization from the first was to reduce competition until such time as it could be eliminated.

Throughout, Lammot found himself constrained by his conservative, narrow-visioned uncle. Eventually Lammot confronted "the boss," demanding a more equitable share of power and income within the firm. When Henry refused, Lammot withdrew and formed the Repauno Chemical Company which specialized in high explosives rather than gunpowder. However, Lammot never completely broke with the family firm and after his death Repauno rejoined the Du Pont empire. Lammot died in an explosion at Repauno in 1884 when he was but fifty-three years old, leaving a pregnant widow and nine children.

Wilkinson concludes that Lammot was the "life" of the company between 1850 and 1884, and "opened the door" to opportunities that his sons and nephews used to create the Du Pont Company of the twentieth century. Because he sometimes raises questions for which he does not find conclusive answers, Wilkinson leaves some lesser issues unresolved. His concluding thesis, however, is convincingly established in this useful addition to our knowledge of the Du Pont Company.

The Pennsylvania State University

GERALD G. EGGERT


In Women and the Trades, Elizabeth Beardsley Butler provides an analytical inventory of working class women and their employment in industrial Pittsburgh. No historian, Butler represented a new breed of Progressive social scientists who trod the nation's urban slums and industrial neighborhoods at the turn of the century. Butler's work is data based, and the volume of statistics on wages and working hours is prodigious by any measure. However, her reliance upon quantification is both a strength and a weakness.

Butler gathered her data shop by shop, industry by industry, neighborhood by
BOOK REVIEWS

neighborhood. She surveyed more than twenty thousand women and their occupations, both on and off the job. She focused almost exclusively upon aggregates and categories; American-born, Jews, Italians, Slavs, laundry workers, stogy makers, garment workers, and the like. In her zeal to document meager wages and long hours, she periodically buries her audience in actuarial exercises. She does, however, prove her point. Women’s wages were often half that paid to men; and working hours often exceeded the standard established by Pennsylvania law.

The author provides the reader with little more than brief glimpses of individual working women and their ideas. Butler’s women appear to be leaderless, and resigned to their fate. Yet in less than six years after the completion of her study, militant women fought corporate power in Pittsburgh. In 1914, women employed at Westinghouse defied gender segregation and ethnic differences and helped to found the first egalitarian industrial union in western Pennsylvania. Butler apparently failed to detect that kind of militance in 1908, if indeed it existed. Like her subjects, Butler was clearly ambivalent about the role of unions. That, of course, is understandable, for much of the activity of AFL affiliates was inimical to the interests of working women.

The book’s great strength may well be found in the author’s discussion of women on the job. Butler’s painstaking descriptions of stogy making, pickle packing and coil winding convey her theme of unending monotony and hopelessness. Her detailed analyses of shops, factories and hovels proclaim the dangers with which working women had to deal on a daily basis. The work depicted by Butler was of the mindless, “stupefying” variety, characterized by speed, piecework, premium systems, and increasing mechanization. No direct reference is made to the Taylorite revolution, but women were clearly among the first to be subjected to it.

Butler acknowledges that some categories of working women were omitted from her study. Of interest is the virtual absence of black women. Perhaps they were employed in occupations not surveyed, or were not present in significant numbers. However that may be, depth and quality make this fine work a welcome addition to a small but growing list of paperback books that deal with the industrial history of Pennsylvania.

New Kensington Campus, The Pennsylvania State University

CARL I. MEYERHUBER, JR.


This small volume is in many ways the story of a Boswell-Johnson relationship on a local level. The General, Harry Clay Trexler, has been described by the editor Dick Cowen as “undoubtedly the single most influential individual in Lehigh County in the last century.” The Captain, Nolan P. Benner, was General Trexler’s personal secretary from 1916 until the General’s death in 1933. In the years following Trexler’s death Benner was the “power of the Trexler Foundation” that supervised the holdings and distributed the monies to the various charities throughout the Lehigh Valley. Since the book is
subtitled *The Memoirs of Nolan P. Benner*, it deals primarily with facets of Trexler’s life that directly concerned Benner, i.e., the development of the various aspects of agribusiness, the parks and preserves, and the numerous charities in the Lehigh Valley area. The operations of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company is given little attention since Benner seems not to have played an important role in the company.

The Trexler-Benner relationship began in 1916 when Benner as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard joined Col. Trexler at Mt. Gretna where the Colonel was busy mobilizing the Guard for service on the Mexican Border. Col. Trexler had attained his position in the Quartermaster Corps largely because of his ability as a business executive. When he was called into active service in 1916, he was the president of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company which he had helped to organize in 1897. Trexler was attracted to young Benner because of the latter’s clerical ability and had Benner transferred to his office. This was the beginning of a close relationship that was to continue for seventeen years.

The title *The General and His Captain* seems, upon reflection, to have been an unfortunate choice. These titles may have been the ones by which the two gentlemen were known to the people of the Lehigh Valley but they have very little to do with the contents of the book. Although Benner received his commission as captain while in active service, Trexler did not become a brigadier general until his retirement from the service on April 22, 1918. The title is also an unfortunate choice because the military association covered a very short period of time. It serves merely as an introduction. The book deals primarily with Trexler’s acquisition of property; the development of his interests in agriculture—the growing of vegetables and alfalfa, the raising of poultry and cattle, and the planting of orchards; his creation of parks, game preserves, golf courses, etc.; and his contributions to the civic life of the community. Finally the title implies an equality or at least a 60-40 relationship. Such, however, is not the case. After reading the book one is reminded of Gertrude Stein’s *Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*. It is more than 90 percent General and less than 10 percent Captain.

The book is in reality a remembrance of General Trexler by his close friend and life-long associate Captain Benner. As such it is an interesting book and an important source document on one of the leading industrial and civic leaders in the Lehigh Valley. The value of the book is further enhanced by a sizeable number of important photographs. Although the book is a reprint of a forty-eight-piece serial which ran in the Allentown *Morning Call*, it is important enough to deserve the more permanent format which it has attained by being published as volume 36 of the *Proceedings of the Lehigh Valley Historical Society*.

*Albright College*  
*William W. Hummel*