

BOOK REVIEWS

Craig W. Horle, Joseph S. Foster, and Laurie M. Wolfe, eds. *Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary, vol. 3, 1757–1775*. (Harrisburg: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 2005, Pp. xiv, 1635, maps, tables, sources, notes, appendices, indices. Cloth, \$60.00.)

This weighty two-book set marks the third volume of the Pennsylvania legislators series. It contains far more than just biographies, however. In addition to chronicling the lives of Pennsylvania lawmakers, Craig Horle and his associates wanted to create a central guide to the many scattered sources on the topic. They also sought to highlight the significance of Pennsylvania and the Middle Colonies, long overshadowed by New England and the Chesapeake, in the colonial era. Understanding such issues as paper currency, land speculation, Indian relations, and religious diversity in Pennsylvania helps illuminate them more broadly in the United States. The editors have achieved their goals, as the forty-eight pages of sources

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY: A JOURNAL OF MID-ATLANTIC STUDIES, VOL. 74, NO. 4, 2007.
Copyright © 2007 The Pennsylvania Historical Association

attest. Beyond this, readers will gain a wealth of insights into the Commonwealth's political, economic, and social foundations in the critical years from the French and Indian War to the outbreak of the American Revolution. Students, teachers, researchers, genealogists, and those generally interested in Pennsylvania history will benefit from this work.

The editors identify several major themes in this volume, including expansion and the establishment of new counties, border disputes with other colonies, and the growing imperial crisis. They then develop these ideas in eight introductory essays, which also place the individual biographies into a broader context. Selections on the assembly's rules, profiles of various governors, and the growth of the Quaker Party are obvious inclusions. Less expected, but equally welcome, are detailed overviews of the legislature's role in promoting the iron industry and civic improvements, such as schools, poor relief, and fire departments. "Prelude to Revolution" is an especially interesting look at Pennsylvania's complex response to Britain following 1763. The Quaker Party opposed Parliament's actions but did not want to appear overly defiant as it was also petitioning to remove the Penn's from power. Meanwhile, moderates attempted to maintain control of the resistance movement, but were eventually outnumbered and outmaneuvered by radicals. This led to the passage of the revolutionary 1776 state constitution and years of political divisions. Following these essays are over forty pages of detailed lists of who served by year and by county, assembly officers, and which representatives sat on standing committees. The most valuable pages are a series of color graphs that profile the assemblymen by religious affiliation, age at time of first election, and slave ownership, among other factors.

The biographical entries of 129 of the 160 men who sat in the assembly during this period rightly compose the largest section of the work. The editors explain that the remaining individuals were covered in a previous volume or will be included a future one. Every essay begins with a biographical summary that includes genealogical information, and the person's years of service in the assembly and in other offices. This is only part of it, however. Each entry contains a copiously documented narrative that runs from approximately two pages for individuals such as John Crosby, who "served four uneventful terms," to nearly fifty for proprietary leader William Allen (430). Others who receive extensive coverage include Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Galloway, Thomas Willing, David Rittenhouse, and Michael Hillegas. The entries allow readers to put a human face on broader themes and issues in Colonial and Revolutionary Pennsylvania. Henry Pawling, an

Anglican farmer from Philadelphia County, lost his position as justice of the peace for opposing the Penn's rule. Wealthy Quaker merchant Jonathan Mifflin did not seek reelection after his one term in 1762, hinting the Friends' religious dilemma of supporting military measures. Andrew and James Allen's fall from power illustrates the fate of those who failed to support the revolutionary movement. John Armstrong's experiences demonstrate Pennsylvania's dispute with Connecticut over the upper Susquehanna Valley, the growth of the Presbyterianism, and military campaigns against the Native Americans and the British.

The entries not only record the men's roles as lawmakers, but also provide full biographies beyond the years of this work. One cannot but be struck by the depth of research found in these essays. The articles examine the men's family lives, economic activities, military service, and civic and religious involvement. In Benjamin Bartholomew's case, the editors discovered that previous genealogists have mistakenly combined his identity with that of a nephew with the same name. The articles also expose the legislators' foibles and illustrate their times. Wealthy Berks County ironmaster John Leshner reveals something of the litigious nature of Colonial Americans by having brought 145 lawsuits between 1764 and 1788, while being sued 26 times. Furthermore, Leshner erected a five-foot fence across a nearby road to demonstrate his opposition to its construction (833, 836). William Masters, from the City of Philadelphia, supported bills to restrict lotteries and plays, respectively, because they encouraged "'vice, idleness and immorality'" and caused "'the weak, poor and necessitous . . . to neglect their labor and industry'" (853). These are just a few of the many interesting vignettes that can be gleaned from these biographies.

Horle and his fellow editors close volume three with eight appendices. These include an impressive level of detail, as does the work as a whole. Especially useful is a glossary of key terms, a Pennsylvania chronology from 1757 to 1775, and a complete list of the 299 laws enacted during this period. The latter includes such legislation as "An act for regulating chimney sweepers" (1521), "An act to prevent the destruction of small rock-fish" (1522), and "An act for punishing wicked and evil-disposed persons from going armed in disguise and doing injuries" (1524). Such enactments gives the reader an idea of the broad range of issues that the Pennsylvania assembly faced. They also provide a clue to the books' greatest strength. The Pennsylvania lawmakers series contains much more than just legislative history, although it has this in abundance. Anyone researching almost any aspect of Pennsylvania history can

find a useful reference here, whether the topic is social, political, military, economic, or even environmental. They can also relate these issues to broader themes in United States history. These volumes should sit on the shelves of every major public and college library in the state.

MICHAEL P. GABRIEL

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

Jack D. Marietta and G. S. Rowe. *Troubled Experiment: Crime and Justice in Pennsylvania, 1682–1800*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006. Pp. 368, tables, notes, bibliography index. Cloth \$59.55)

There never has been a book like this in the field of colonial/revolutionary American history, and unless a large team of researchers is gathered, there will never be one like it again. Professors Marietta and Rowe have looked at every surviving record of crime (and much more) in Pennsylvania at the colony/state, county, and local levels for a period of over a hundred years, some 75,000 cases. This is not a sample – this is everything that survives. And they have presented it in a manner that uses statistics and computer-generated data in an easy-to-understand manner as the base for a literate book that will forever change the way we think about early Pennsylvania. Yes, Pennsylvania avoided war for its first three-quarters of a century; but it did not avoid violence and crime, in fact it was riddled with them. The Quaker reluctance to use force meant a society where there was much more crime per capita than notorious London at the time, not to mention rigorous Massachusetts, the politically much more contentious colony of New York, and what we know of the South.

The great paradox at the heart of this book is that with crime, as with the outbreak of war on the Pennsylvania frontier after 1754, Pennsylvania was a victim of its own virtues and good intentions. William Penn and the founding Quakers hoped to prove that a diverse population of ordinary folk could be governed with a light hand, but by the 1720s disappointment with this system led to harsher penalties and enforcement that came to resemble the other colonies. With the American Revolution, idealism returned, and once again Pennsylvania led the world in new ways of dealing with crime – rehabilitation that focused on gaining the criminal's mental acceptance of