BOOK REVIEWS


For this scholarly book those interested are largely indebted to the indefatigable research and zeal of M. Jackson Crispin, an active life member of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and president of The First National Bank of Berwick, Pennsylvania. It represents in condensed form the results of years of study and more than a decade of tireless investigation conducted in France.

The 900th anniversary of the birth of William, duke of Normandy, later king of England was the occasion for the celebrations at Hastings, Falaise, Bayeux and Caen in June and July, 1927. Many notables from America, England and France there assembled to honor the memory of that valiant warrior and to commemorate the momentous event of the year 1066 which so greatly influenced the history of the English-speaking peoples. In the course of these official ceremonies, to be exact in July, 1927, an international committee known as the Comité Guillaume le Conquérant was formed and the presidents d'honneur were M. Henry Chéron, sénateur, ancien ministre; Honourable M. Jackson Crispin, Right Honourable Lord Eustace Percy, M.P.; M. le général Gouraud, gouverneur militaire de Paris, and M. A. Bussière, préfet du Calvados. The secrétaire général named was M. Macary, professeur au collège de Falaise, who with sixteen other members completed the committee.

The purpose of this committee has been to give a new impetus to the historical study of the period of the conquest of England and to enroll the names of those companions of William for whose presence at Senlac strong presumption existed although not absolutely substantiated by documentary evidence. Notwithstanding the tremendous difficulties necessarily involved and the immense amount of research required it was confidently believed that a credible selection could be made by a careful study of those historians and antiquarians who had given the subject their best efforts and thought. Meager information is offered by such contemporary writers as William of Jumièges, William of Poitiers, Guy of Amiens and Orderic Vital as they mention but a few of the greatest nobles who accompanied the duke. Nevertheless the Researches of the Abbé de La Rue, the poem of Robert Wace; acts charters and other documents attesting presence in England in 1066 or a few years later; the works of Eadmer, Robert de Torigny, Camden, Hearne, Fox, Dugdale, Anselme, Edgar Taylor, Stapleton, Fuller, Burke, Thierry, Dupont, Freeman, Planché, Cleveland; and the various rolls later mentioned are used in the volume with care and discrimination.
At the dedication of the bronze tablet inscribed with the names of 315 of the companions of William the Conqueror, erected in the chapel of the chateau at Falaise in 1931, Mr. Crispin was decorated as an Officier d'Academie by the French government. Brief biographies of these companions (pp. 1-112) are supplied by Mr. Crispin, and he adds at the foot of each biography the authorities used in its compilation. The Introduction which happily embraces a critical examination of the sources consulted in determining the names entitled to representation on the tablet concludes with this definite statement: "The 315 names . . . were compiled by taking 18 from Vital, among which are included 13 recorded by William of Poitiers. All but 3 of these are chronicled by Wace from whose poem were acquired 114 occurring or implied therein. To this 117 the Bayeux tapestry itself offers 3 not elsewhere referred to and the Researches of La Rue 24. While Professors Macary and Prentout procured 88. The remaining 83 were obtained by Jackson Crispin, as well as the 92 additional names accepted, making a total of 407."

The 92 additional names were accepted too late for inscription upon the tablet; the names (p. 114) of 45 are listed and biographical sketches (pp. 116-124) of the others appear. And the Appendix (pp. 127-161) furnishes supplementary biographical data respecting certain of the companions of the Duke William whose biographies are recorded in the volume. Following which (pp. 165-186) and excellent for reference are the rolls of Guy, Bishop of Amiens, William of Poitiers, Bayeux tapestry (the names woven in it), Oderic Vital, Robert Wace (including names omitted on the Falaise tablet), Benoît de Sainte More, John of Bromton, William of Worcester, Guillaume le Tailleur, Leland, Battle Abbey (with the names listed by Holinshed and Duchesne in parallel columns), Scriven alias Fox, Leopold Delisle (Dives Roll), and De Magny (additions to the Dives Roll).

A number of charters not to be found in American libraries are of importance. These (pp. 189-204) include the charter dated 1035 of Duke Robert of Normandy in favor of the monastery of Montivilliers; the charter (c. 1070) of William the Conqueror to the abbey of Bec; the charter (c. 1070) of Philippe I of France concerning the abbey of Chartres, and the confirmation charter (1155) of Goscelin Crispin and his son William to the abbey of Bec. Pedigree charts of which there are 14 will be found useful. They begin with one of the kings of England and another of the kings of France. Others are devoted to the ancestors of the dukes of Normandy, the dukes of Normandy, the children of Richard I of Normandy, the Crispin family of Normandy and France, and the family of Percy.

An index is provided, and in a book of its conciseness the wealth of illustration is unusual. The splendid reproduction of the only seal extant of William the Conqueror, his chateau at Falaise, and the handsome tablet recording the names of his companions deservedly occupy the place which has been accorded to them at the beginning of the volume. Nevertheless the reader will be impressed by the number of illustrations, facsimiles of selected portions of charters and other
documents of the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries bearing the seals of various members of the Crispin family.

Falaise, the birthplace of William the Conqueror, which played the most prominent part in the celebrations on 1927 and 1931 has been chosen as the seat of the new order of Les Chevaliers de Hastings. There documentary material and everything of interest will be preserved in a special building under the care of Professor Leonce Macary of the college of Falaise, Mr. Crispin's collaborator in the publication of the "Falaise Roll"; he also is general secretary of the Comité Guillaume le Conquérant, Rue Gambette, Falaise, Calvados, France.

*The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

**Quaker Education in Baltimore and Virginia Yearly Meetings, with an Account of Certain Meetings of Delaware and the Eastern Shore Affiliated with Philadelphia.** By WILLIAM C. DUNLAP. (Philadelphia: Distributed by The Science Press Printing Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1936. xi, 574 p. Illustrated. $4.00.)

To the four monographs on Quaker education in the American colonies which Mr. Thomas Woody of the University of Pennsylvania has either written or inspired, is now added a fifth. Two volumes by Mr. Woody on Pennsylvania and New Jersey appeared in 1920 and 1923, respectively, and were followed by studies by Zora Klain on Quaker educational activities in North Carolina (1925) and New England (1928). With the publication of the present volume on Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and sections of southern Pennsylvania, New York alone remains to be surveyed.

The chief value of these monographs, particularly of the latter ones, lies in their character as collections of scattered and perishable source materials. For the history of American Quaker education is brief and simple, and can be told in brief and simple fashion. Nor does it vary greatly from colony to colony and state to state. In his study of Pennsylvania Quakers Mr. Woody disclosed the philosophy and practice of Quaker education. This done, the task remaining has been to add detail to the basic outline.

That the present volume does this is attested not only by the promise on the title page that it is "based on the manuscript sources," but by the text itself, which is largely made up of extracts on schools and schoolmasters from the numerous records of Maryland and Virginia Quakerism now preserved in Baltimore. From these extracts may be constructed the following story of Quaker education in the region from Delaware Bay to Virginia: George Fox and his followers desired for their children an education which would not only train them for their work in life, but which would at the same time protect them from influences which might weaken their adherence to the peculiar testimonies of the Society of Friends. Education, but "guarded education," has been the concern of Friends from earliest times. Among colonial Quakers of Maryland and Virginia the children were educated in ways common to the central and southern colonies, that is, by private instruction at home, by apprenticeship in Friends'
families, or by the occasional private schoolmaster of Quaker faith. Toward the end of the eighteenth century, however, it was recognized that such a system or lack of system was inadequate to an increasingly complex existence. And here, in point of time, the Quakers were unique. For while others were neglecting education for the more pressing and exciting subjects of politics and revolution, Friends turned to education as a bulwark against the waves of suspicion and secularism that were beating upon them. Especially in urban areas were they conscious of the need for better education. Members in Philadelphia, Providence, New York, and Baltimore, encouraged by their English brethren, supplied an impetus which was felt throughout the whole Society, and almost simultaneously the various Yearly Meetings began to devote more attention to education. Beginning with the Revolution, and increasingly after the War of 1812, Friends organized schools and encouraged teachers. In Maryland a "Yearly Meeting School" for advanced work and teacher-training was established.

The significance of this story to the history of education in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia is that in education as in many other fields the Quakers were pioneers. In a day when schools were few and tutors were as untrustworthy as they were transient, the Friends provided schools of elementary and secondary grade, opening them to children of all faiths, to girls as well as boys. Their elementary schools taught the rudiments of an education that was both sound and sober, and their upper schools displayed an interest in mathematics and the natural sciences which was unusual for the times. Quaker philanthropy showed itself here as well as elsewhere, for the Friends educated children of the poor, particularly their own poor, free of charge, and they attempted to educate the Negroes freed by them and others in the late 18th century. Even their missionaries to the Indians—and Baltimore Quakers had much to do with pacifying and civilizing the Indians of northern Ohio and Western New York, and with the "Quaker Indian Administration" of President Grant—even these missionaries thought it their first duty to educate the Indians to the white man's ways rather than to convert them to the white man's faith.

The details of the above story are carefully gathered together in the present monograph. It is to be regretted that the author did not facilitate the use of this large body of data by organizing it more fully in topical form, and, in the period after 1828, by distinguishing more clearly between the activities of the two branches of the Society. The raw materials for a history of Quaker education in Baltimore and Virginia Yearly Meetings are here collected and preserved. The history remains to be written.

University of Minnesota

THOMAS E. DRAKE

(From the American Historical Review, July, 1936.)


It is passing strange that a comprehensive life of Oliver Evans, American millwright, inventor, author, and manufacturer, active in the first three decades of our Republic, should not have been attempted earlier. The lives of his British
contemporaries, Watt and Trevithick in particular, have been adequately treated, not once but several times. And in America we have had more or less satisfactory biographies of John Stevens, of John Fitch, and even of lesser men like James Rumsey and Nathan Read. The only noteworthy sketches of Oliver Evans's life have been those by Henry Howe, fourteen pages in his *Eminent American Mechanics* (1840) and of Coleman Sellers, Jr., sixteen pages in the *Journal* of the Franklin Institute (1886).

To many persons the name Oliver Evans suggests a clumsy scow on wheels, the "Orukter Amphibolos," and not much more. Thus do spectacular achievements capture the public mind to the exclusion of accomplishments perhaps more valuable. But this is not the place to evaluate Evans's contributions to the early American manufacturer, to enumerate his eighty varied inventions, or still less to review his technical publications or quote his uncannily accurate prophecies. The authors have drawn a true picture of his accomplishments, from which anyone versed in these techniques should be able to draw his own conclusions. Mr. and Mrs. Bathe have avoided making extravagant claims for Evans, such as were made by some of those who wrote briefly of him in the nineteenth century; one could wish that all biographers were equally detached in their points of view. Specifically they emphasize the incontrovertible fact that Evans's two outstanding contributions to American life were his many improvements in the manufacture of flour by ingeniously devised machinery and the introduction of the high-pressure steam engine into commercial manufacturing.

As one turns the attractive quarto pages one easily visualizes Evans as a prolific, picturesque, and vigorous letter writer. Some fifty letters by him and more than thirty to him are quoted in full. Among his correspondents were Washington and Jefferson (both of whom used his mills and paid him royalties), Madison, Fulton, Stevens, and Livingston. The letters cover the latter half of his life (1786–1818), and nearly all relate to his flour mills, steam engines, or other patents.

One cannot but speculate, while reading of Evans's early struggles to keep financially afloat, as to what might have happened if he had cultivated the friendship and secured the backing of Chancellor Livingston, as Fulton did; or if he could have commanded resources comparable to those of Colonel John Stevens; or had found a financial partner such as James Watt prized in Matthew Boulton. If Evans's birthplace had been Devon instead of Delaware, or if he, instead of his agent Sampson, had gone to England in 1795, might he not even have anticipated George Stephenson in locomotive development? Of course such speculations are of little worth. But a book like this stimulates thinking along these lines. Perhaps indeed this is one measure of the value of a historical or biographical work. Another test of a biography is whether or not it seduces one to read further of the period and milieu which it covers; the Bathe biography with its wealth of incidental references assuredly does.

Between the lines one learns much of American life of post-Revolution days—much which is neither of engineering nor of technology. For example, Evans became involved in protracted litigation as he endeavored to bring infringers of his patent rights to terms. Watt, a few years earlier in England, was able to have
even a Hornblower ignominiously thrown into jail for a similar offense. And ex-President Jefferson was not too busy at seventy to write Evans a long letter full of sympathy and kindly advice, commenting judiciously on a governmental ruling which affected Evans vitally. The authors quote from an interleaved edition of Evans's *Abortion of the Young Steam Engineer's Guide* in which he penned interesting comments and a little philosophy. On one page for example, Evans wrote (Mar. 8, 1812): "Robert Fulton has bet with me a beaver Hatt that my Boat building for the Mississippi will not run 10 miles per hour and a suit of clothes that my Boat will not run nine miles per hour. I take him up." Fulton was more than right, it never ran at all.

The Bathes have aimed at thoroughness, and have by every standard succeeded. They seem to have exhausted all possible original sources of information, both here and abroad. Their work is the most painstaking and scholarly study yet made of the life work of any American engineer. And it is typographically attractive. There are fifty-nine full-page plates, including some of original drawings, and maps, mostly contemporaneous, also a few illustrations in the text. The arrangement is that of a journal, almost rigidly chronological throughout, with no division into chapters. The sixty-four page appendix quotes much documentary material.

The reviewer has only three or four minor criticisms. The code of footnote abbreviations seems to him unnecessarily intricate, requiring as it does two pages of explanation. And he prefers a division into chapters to the chronological arrangement adopted by the authors, for such a large work cannot be absorbed at a single sitting. The authors lean backward in thoroughness when they quote in full the deed description covering lands associated with Evans's childhood. And Evans's Harvard-bred contemporary, Nathan Read, deserves at least a footnote.

Yale University

Richard Shelton Kirby


These two monumental volumes, originated by members of The Virginia Historical Society but not an official publication of that organization, comprise an exhaustive index to the contents of the 120 volumes of the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vols. 1–38, 1893–1930; the *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine* (First Series), 27 vols., 1893–1919, and Second Series, vols. 1–10, 1921–1930; *Tyler's Historical and Genealogical Quarterly*, 10 vols., 1919–1929; the *Virginia Historical Register*, 6 vols., 1848–1853; *Lower Norfolk County Antiquary*, 5 vols., 1895–1906; the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, II vols., 1875–1893 (covering 1652–1869); and Hening's *Statutes at Large of Virginia*, 13 vols., 1809–1823 (covering 1619–1792). Full bibliographical descriptions and collations of every volume
indexed are given by Mr. Swem after the Preface to each volume. Citations are made by page and volume and the abbreviations used are found not only at the beginning of each volume of the *Index* but at the foot of each pair of pages as well.

Philologists will be interested in the inclusion in the *Index* of old words and phrases to be found in wills and official documents. Social historians, students of American Letters, and bibliophiles will appreciate the lists of books in the old Virginia libraries as they appeared in the inventories thereof. Another item to be noticed is the detailed information contained under such broad general headings as: land, Indians, tobacco. For example, under "tobacco," subheading "trade," the references are of this nature: *act concerning, 1732; at Smithfield; attempts to improve, 1682; John Bland refers to effect of navigation act upon.* Furthermore, the attempt has been made to assign correctly the references to different men of the same name. There can be no doubt that the *Virginia Historical Index* fulfills the desire of its editor, for it is in very truth "a key to certain fundamental source volumes that would open the manifold riches of Virginia history," and it does offer a fairly "complete analysis and synthesis of the life of a group of Englishmen who established and maintained a new social and political entity in a wilderness."

Obviously, the compilation and editing of the material contained in the *Virginia Historical Index* was a stupendous task. But the result is so thoroughly admirable that it constitutes a challenge to other States: a work such as this covering the many valuable files of Pennsylvania historical journals would be of incalculable value to historians and genealogists. The *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* alone runs through 60 volumes—precisely half the total number covered by the *Virginia Index*—and has no comprehensive index. A wealth of material lies buried within the pages of this periodical and of other publications devoted to the exposition of Pennsylvania history. Something should be done to make the contents of these volumes more accessible to scholars.

*The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

**Margaret Bailey**

*Poor John Fitch: Inventor of the Steamboat.* By **Thomas Boyd.** (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1935. Illustrated. [12], 315 p. $3.00.)

In the character of John Fitch there are combined all the elements of romance and adventure, and both of these features have been brought out to the fullest by his present biographer, as Fitch's turbulent life unfolds to its tragic end. The book contains a reproduction of Fitch's map of the north-west parts of the United States, and several illustrations taken from Thompson Westcott's *Life of John Fitch,* published in 1857. There is, however, a lack of chronological sequence in the book which makes it difficult to follow the narrative at times and a more plentiful interspersion of dates would have been a distinct advantage, even to the general reader who does not like too much statistical detail. This lack renders the book useless for reference purposes by the student of the history
of engineering, and as Fitch's greatest contribution was to this side of inventive science, the omission will be all the more keenly felt because of the lack of footnotes, which the author states might be considered an impediment to the story.

The greatness of the subject encompassed by this biography was worthy of a finer setting and a more dignified title, for how can we, in all fairness, call a pioneer of the wilderness, an Indian fighter, and the constructor of the first practical steamboat, "poor"? No man who had the genius and stubborn courage of John Fitch should be so designated. When, at the end of his tether, Fitch referred to himself in this manner, he was but expressing the keenness of his disappointment at the apathy of the world. Now, with a better understanding of his life and the conditions under which he labored, let us relieve him of that mantle, for he has surely out-grown it by now. Thomas Boyd's biography of John Fitch will, no doubt, do much towards perpetuating the memory of a man who so ably represented the arts and sciences of the eighteenth century.

Philadelphia

Greville Bathe


This interesting item consists of hitherto unpublished notes written by Jay in Paris in 1783–84 and, among other things, contains anecdotes about such Philadelphians as the Morris family, Elias Boudinot, and Andrew Hamilton. In a robust introduction Mr. Monaghan disproves the accepted view that Jay and Franklin were not good friends. Indeed, Jay was one of Franklin's admirers.

Most important is a paragraph which reveals how Benjamin Franklin became printer to the colony of New Jersey. In the course of a conversation on July 19, 1783, Franklin told Jay that "not long after the elder Lewis Morris (who was once chief Justice of N York) came to the Government of N Jersey, he involved himself in a dispute with the Assembly of that Province. The Doctor (who was then a printer at Philadelphia) went to Burlington while the Assembly was sitting there, & were engaged in the dispute with their Governor —The House referred his message to a committee, consisting of some of their principal members, Jos. Cooper was one of them—but tho they were men of good understanding & respectable, yet there was not one among them capable of writing a proper answer to the message—and Cooper who was acquainted with the Doctor prevailed upon him to undertake it—he did and went thro the business much to their satisfaction—in consideration of his aid he gave them in that way then & afterwards, they made him their printer."

Philadelphia

Nathan G. Goodman

In the foreword to this volume, Owen Wister gives an account of the inception and growth of this, "the oldest [club] of its kind in the United States," from the first meetings in 1830 at Mrs. Rubicam's Coffee House to 1934. A variety of houses accommodated the Club in its earlier years: Mrs. Rubicam's, Fifth and Minor Streets; the Adelphi Building, 212 South Fifth Street; Bonaparte House, 260 South Ninth Street; Hemphill House, 919 Walnut Street; and Butler House, 1301 Walnut Street. During the same years the name of The Philadelphia Club underwent temporary modification. In 1846 it was called "The Circle" and in 1850 the name was changed to "The Philadelphia Association and Reading Room." "Is it possible," asks Mr. Wister, "that the term Club was objectionable to that sentiment in the town which compelled our first Theatre to be built in South Street, at that time outside the City Limits, and also caused our first and famous Opera House to be entitled the Academy of Music?" In any case the name, The Philadelphia Club, was restored in 1859. Mr. Wister has interspersed the narrative of the history of the Club with extracts from the regulations, from the stewards' books, and from other Club records, extracts which give substance and reality to the recital of the early activities of this organization. In this connection, the Visitors' Book is of particular interest not only because it preserves the names of those distinguished persons who were the guests of the Club, but also because it reflects indirectly the social and economic changes which were affecting the life of the nation and coloring the existence of nineteenth century Philadelphia.

Interesting as the foreword is, this history of The Philadelphia Club is of especial importance because of the lists of the names of former Presidents, secretaries, treasurers, members and of the present members which are included. These lists have been compiled with the greatest care and accuracy. The lists of the names of presidents, secretaries and treasurers are arranged chronologically according to the dates of their tenures of office; the lists of members and former members are arranged alphabetically with the appropriate date or dates opposite each name. Another excellent feature of this history is the gallery of portraits of the former presidents exhibited within its pages. These portraits have been gathered from scattered and obscure places and reproduced painstakingly. All in all, The Philadelphia Club 1834–1934 contains much of interest to the historian of Philadelphia as well as to the members of the Club.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

MARGARET BAILEY