American Historical Societies, 1790–1860. By Leslie W. Dunlop (Madison, Wis.: Privately Printed, 1944. x, 238 p. $3.50.)

One of the early signs of the crystallization of an American culture was the appearance of an interest in its past. Hardly had the guns of the Revolution been silenced when some historically-minded people began to think of the record. Within a few months of the inauguration of Washington the first historical society was founded in Massachusetts and between 1790 and 1860, sixty-five such societies were organized. This book is a history of the growth of these institutions.

The first period of founding prior to the War of 1812 produced only three, those in Boston and New York and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. After the war, the other New England States, save Vermont, and Ohio and Tennessee founded societies. Then in 1824 Pennsylvania joined the list to become the eleventh society. The founders of these organizations were moved by interest in history, national and state pride, curiosity and collecting zeal, to delve into the past, to preserve its records and to pass on the story to those to come. Generally those interested were professional men. Quite usually they were young, none of the founders of the Pennsylvania society was more than thirty-eight. Usually there were a few who did all the work and upon occasion such an institution would be only the "lengthened shadow of a man."

This book describes the problems and personalities involved, discusses the questions of membership, finances, collecting, relations with the state, with the public and sister societies, and describes the publication programs. In the first part of the book the exposition is topical. The second section gives a series of sketches of the sixty-five societies. That of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is drawn almost exclusively from Hampton Carson’s History though in some other instances the author has consulted the records and correspondence of such societies, as for example, those of New York and Wisconsin. The footnotes contain a scattered bibliography though there is none conveniently located at the end of the volume.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania appears in these pages in relationship to the growth and activities of its opposite numbers elsewhere. The years before 1860 were not the years of its greatest prosperity so it does not assume so important a place as it was later to occupy, but even in those years it was among the foremost in activity and influence. American historiography owes an immeasurable debt to these pioneer societies which preserved so much of value to the historically minded of succeeding generations.

University of Pennsylvania

Roy F. Nichols
Local History; How to Gather It, Write It, and Publish It. By Donald Dean Parker. Revised and edited by Bertha E. Josephson. (New York: Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Avenue, 1944. xiv, 186 p. $1.00.)

Frequently a local historian comes to a historical society director to talk over the history of his community which he plans to write. Usually the would-be author is long on enthusiasm and local pride and short on historical training and writing experience. In too many cases, he may even appear for the first time with a bulky manuscript, which he unwraps with tenderness and whose excellences he points out with eagerness. Thereupon the historical executive is faced with a difficult problem of combined operations—to uphold scholarly standards and to retain useful enthusiasm. This calls for an approach which may be described as both firm and humane.

This much-needed manual is designed to help the amateur local historian. It first of all assures him of the value of the work he plans to do, points out that “good national history cannot be written without sufficient reference to local history” and that “the effective study of local history is an essential of social science.” The writing of local history “is an entirely high-class love affair” between author and community, and the local historian “a public benefactor” who is usually also “a small scale philanthropist” so far as financial return from his work is concerned.

The manual then gets down to practical suggestions. It first lists and comments upon the sources of information which the local historian uses—those found in libraries; in old people’s memories; in manuscripts, newspapers, periodicals; in public records; in business records (Dr. Rodney Loehr of the University of Minnesota wrote this chapter); in church records and cemetery inscriptions. The reader is then let into the mysteries of note taking; an ingenious model outline for a community history (the work chiefly of Dr. Richard H. Shryock of the University of Pennsylvania) is carefully explained; and there is the inevitable discussion of historical style with tips on making bibliography, addenda, and index (all prepared by Miss Josephson of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, as are some of the other chapters). This is followed by a section on publication problems and the possible help in financing publication which an author may receive from community organizations including the local historical society. There is an appendix on writing the war history of communities (by Dr. Lester J. Cappon of the University of Virginia) and an eight-page carefully chosen bibliography.

To examine the complex process of writing a history of a community and reduce it to clear and simple instructions which can be followed by “the individual of intelligence, with more than average educational advantages, ... a serious-minded graduate of a high school or college” is a most difficult task but one well worth doing. The Social Science Research Council is to be congratulated for having worked so hard to obtain a useful handbook
and for having priced it low enough that every local historian may own it. The author, assisted by many excellent people familiar with the local-history field, seems to have achieved a forthright and, on the whole, convincing presentation. But the real test of the manual will come when the local historians begin to use it. For a final judgment, we must wait until we can see some of those bulky manuscripts unwrapped with tenderness.

Wisconsin Historical Society

Edward P. Alexander


Mr. Hamlin's compendium is, as stated in the subtitle, "an account of important trends in American architecture and American life prior to the War Between the States." For the first time we have an up-to-date, full and comparative survey of this great field of American architecture—a survey which is more inclusive than earlier works on the same subject by Howard Major and Fiske Kimball.

Mr. Hamlin notes that the term "Revival" in "Greek Revival Architecture" is an "unfortunate misnomer"; nevertheless it is used in his main title. Perhaps here was an opportunity to rename the style. He declares that the New Classicism after the American Revolution was due to hatred of England and to idealization of the world of Greece and Rome, and that the ending of the British hegemony was marked by the rising in New York of Major L'Enfant's City Hall. At this point, he continues, there were two distinct styles prevalent in the United States: post-Colonial, which persisted in the more conservative regions, like Boston, and the Classic Revival, which "appears spasmodically at first in Philadelphia and Virginia." This latter style, he states, was the contribution of Jefferson, whose architecture is best represented by Monticello.

Reading of the chapter on the "Birth of American Architecture" gives rise to the speculation as to when American architecture actually began. Hamlin believes that one should look for this birth to the city of Washington, where the "vision" of our first president, and of Jefferson, first took architectural form. Literally, of course, the real birth of our architecture took place in 1607 in Jamestown, or even earlier. The appointment of that colorful figure, Latrobe, as architect of the United States Capitol in 1803 was "evidence of the victory of the classic ideal." His earliest work in this country, the Bank of Pennsylvania (1798), has the "first use of Greek forms," but was "unlike any known classic structure."

The chapter on the "Greek Revival in Philadelphia" had already appeared in this magazine. "Philadelphia," Hamlin declares, "saw alike the birth and death of Greek Revival architecture in America." It was the home of Latrobe, Mills, Strickland, Haviland and Walter. Traveller Nicholas Biddle, the author notes, was responsible for the competition program for
the Customs House in Philadelphia. The competition was won by Strickland, "that extraordinary man," whose plan of the Customs House was "magnificently conceived." Hamlin rightfully deplores the "callous" treatment and neglect which this city has meted out to two of its masterpieces of Greek style, the Exchange and Girard College.

From state to state and from coast to coast we read of the spread of this style, our enjoyment enhanced by hundreds of photographs and floor plans. Of course it was impossible to include all important examples, yet from Maryland alone have been omitted distinguished examples: both Riversdale (1811) and Harper Country House (1812) by Latrobe, and likewise the Athenaeum Club and its existing portico at Olney by Mills. Left out, as well, is reference to the John Davis Collection of Latrobe's drawings in the Maryland Historical Society. No word or picture describes architect Alexander's famous colonnaded Wesleyan Conservatory (1836) in Macon, first liberal arts college to grant degrees to women. Yet as he writes at the beginning of the work, "this book is but an introduction to a great subject—the architecture of the entire country." If this handsomely bound volume is any criterion, the story of our architecture will be well written.

Wesleyan College in Macon

Henry Chandlee Forman


The collecting of antiques is a prevailing fashion, and the author of this book makes the captivating statement that collecting breeds an "inevitable fervor." Naturally this fervor has become epidemic even among publishers, and readers, confronted with no end of publications running through the presses, will do well to heed the caution in an old-fashioned book by Donald G. Mitchell, who observes that "every book should have a better reason for being wrought than its chances of catching the popular tide and floating upon its success."

To begin with, a comment about the title of this book cannot be repressed. In fact, there are two interchangeable titles and they appear in reversed order of priority on the title page and the dust jacket. As for the first title, the text shows that the author has not adopted for himself the ordinary meaning of the word "stuff"—as being something inferior and having no value. For he says: "Pennsylvania Dutch stuff may not be exactly cheap. . . . Many excellent things may have already joined the ranks of the inaccessible." But the reader cannot but wish for a definition of the term "country antiques," as used in the subtitle, indeed the word "country" calls for it. In any case both titles are obvious invitations to buy. Indeed, the book might well have had a third title relating to the furnishing and decorating of a house "in the Pennsylvania Dutch manner." Many
portions of the text deal with that subject. Thus, the chapter on books has a bibliography of more than one hundred items to assist in the building up of a library, not by the way of antiques, but "as a finishing touch to the by-now Dutch furnished stone house."

The book has twenty-six chapters and a helpful index. The text which is written with a pleasing style, deals with all sorts of antiques including chairs, cupboards, desks, tables, beds, coverlets, chests, lamps, clocks, china, glass, pottery, tinware, carved wood, toys, kitchen stuff and "other articles too numerous to mention." Indecision will accompany so large an array of attractions. No one can reasonably expect to find a comprehensive or definitive guide to all these things within the limits of 158 pages and so the author formulates a general principle as an aid, albeit one that is a bit difficult for the layman to follow: "You will not need to be afraid to adapt your acquisitions to your own circumstances, because the rules of the game are very simple: Pennsylvania Dutch artistry is a matter of analogy or homogeneity in tone and style rather than of hard and fast periodization in feet, finials, or the like."

The specialist, who will never admit that he needs any guiding, will, nevertheless, read this book with pleasure. Likewise, the book will assist the beginner to the Wicket-gate. It will not keep him out of the Slough of Despond, however. Neither will it safely guide him to the Delectable Mountains of the Collectors' art.

One of the charms of an antique shop lies in the hope of discovering a treasure among thousands of objects—some valuable and most of them mere stuff—all cunningly placed in disarray to beguile the beholder. In like manner the author has succeeded in quickening the fervor of the hunt.

Overbrook, Philadelphia

Henry S. Borneman

New Viewpoints in Georgia History. By Albert B. Saye. (Athens, Ga.: The University of Georgia Press, 1943. vii, 256 p. $2.50.)

If there are those who believe that Georgia was founded as a haven of refuge for imprisoned debtors, Dr. Saye's categorical denial and the presentation of evidence sustaining his thesis should offer a real challenge. After what appears to be a thorough examination of the printed and manuscript sources, it is concluded that there was no direct connection between the movement for prison reform, in which Oglethorpe was the leader, and the establishment of the Georgia colony; "that having been imprisoned for debt was not a determining factor in the selection of a single colonist for Georgia, and that not more than a dozen imprisoned debtors ever came to the Colony"; and that in "neither diaries nor letters, official records nor press, sermons or any other contemporary source is there any evidence in support of the traditional debtor story." The point is well made, if not entirely new. The emphasis on the debtor problem is curious, for we are
told (p. 43) that "the treatment of the debtor legend is only incidental to the present study."

It is stated in the preface that the debtor thesis "is one of several . . . presented here in the hope of establishing new points of view in Georgia's early history." It would have been helpful to this reviewer if the other "new viewpoints" had been mentioned specifically. In the chapter broadly titled "The Revolution," for example, we are not aware of the new viewpoints presented. The reason for the selection of some topics and the omission of others is not entirely clear. The author remarks in the preface, however, that the book "is primarily a study of the colonial and early state government." This broad phraseology may cause some to expect an analysis of subjects not here included: questions of finance and taxation, the reasons for antagonism between the Board of Trade and the Georgia Trustees, the withdrawal of Parliamentary support before the surrender of the Charter, the place of the "adventurers" as distinguished from the charity settlers, the influence of a debtor class on the origins of the Revolution (the debtor-creditor relationship of the Southern planters to the English merchants is discussed in such a way as to imply that what was true in Virginia may have been true in Georgia on a lesser scale), the position of the loyalists, etc.

The reviewer hastens to add, in justice to the author, that the criticism implied would have been avoided by a clearer definition of the scope and limitations of the study. As suggested above, the emphasis is on the governmental structure: the powers of the Trustees; the absence of a legislature until the Trustees were on the verge of surrendering the charter; the weaknesses of the government under the Trustees; the transfer from the Trustees to the Crown, bringing about changes which were of "the broadest and most sweeping nature, far surpassing the changes of any other date, the Revolution not excepted"; the Royal government; the early dependence of the Revolutionary government of Georgia upon the Continental Congress, suggesting, in the case of Georgia at least, that Lincoln was right in his notion that the Union was older than the states; the eagerness with which Georgia ratified the Articles of Confederation and the Federal Constitution; and the reorganization of the government of Georgia in 1789 on the basis of a state constitution modeled after the Federal Constitution, involving a real as well as a verbal separation of powers between the departments, and doing away with the plural executive and the unicameral legislature. The structure of the judiciary, while strengthened, left much to be desired until its reorganization in 1845.

This is a scholarly and workmanlike study and may be read with profit by any one interested in colonial history. We hope that Dr. Saye will continue to delve into this fruitful period of Georgia history.

Duke University

R. H. Woody
University of America Press, 1944. x, 116 p.)

Sister Mary Chrysostom states in the preface to this Catholic University of America dissertation that her purpose is two-fold: "to show that as a writer of drama, prose fiction, and verse in the formative period of American literature, Markoe, both in literary merit and historical significance, does not deserve the neglect that has long been his"; and "to show that he reflects so copiously the political and literary theories of his time that an analysis of his work illuminates a significant period in the history of early American literature." The detailed analyses of Markoe's two plays, The Patriot Chief and Reconciliation, of his prose satire, The Algerine Spy in Pennsylvania, and of four of his twenty-five published poems, "The Blackbird's Nest," "Epistle to Mr. Oswald," The Times, and The Storm are exhaustive and go far to accomplish the double purpose of the dissertation.

Perhaps of more interest to the general reader will be the clearly-proved fact that Markoe's chief works had a political motivation and that they show the state of Anti-Federalist views between 1784 and 1788. It was in the first of these years that Markoe wrote The Patriot Chief, on the surface a neo-classical tragedy laid in ancient Sardis, the capital of Lydia. When one considers, however, that the play concerns the period immediately following Lydia's establishment of her freedom from Persia and that Lydia had won her freedom from Persia under Dorus, a patriot chief who had left the comforts of private life to lead his country's cause, one can see the distinct parallel to a United States only recently freed of English domination with Washington as one of its principal leaders. The theme of the play is pointedly directed against the possible tyranny of aristocratic factions. Sister Mary Chrysostom seems well justified in calling attention to the obvious analogy to the mercantile group and the proponents of a strong central government, especially since Markoe's preface urges Americans to preserve their new-won liberty from a "tyrannical aristocracy."

Three of Markoe's other works were written in the years 1787 and 1788 and reveal the changing attitudes of the author and his party toward the new constitution. The Algerine Spy of 1787, a series of epistolary essays devoted largely to describing conditions in Pennsylvania in 1787, was written before the Constitutional Conventional began its sessions; in it the troubles of the times are discussed without heat, for Markoe, like most other Americans, had as yet no idea that the old Articles of Confederation were to be completely discarded. But in November, 1787, with the publication of the first part of The Times, the new constitution was up for ratification. Pennsylvania had not ratified and Markoe was at great and violent pains to show good reasons why it should not, as he thought, turn the government over to corrupt aristocrats. After the Constitution had been ratified, an anonymous poem The Storm (the attribution of this to Markoe seems almost
unexceptionable) somewhat less than gracefully acknowledged the inevita-
able, while warning the Federalists that other storms might come if they
should become too proud and haughty.

It is to be regretted that the plan of the dissertation and the war-time
inaccessibility of certain materials prevented a more complete biographical
account of Markoe. Even in a work designed, as this one is, to place "a
primary emphasis on the works of Markoe and only a secondary emphasis
on his life," it would be interesting and valuable to know more about the
man and his background. In particular, the reader would like to know what
there was in Markoe's life and surroundings which inclined him to the
Anti-Federalist point of view which he expressed in The Times and The
Storm. At the same time it must be admitted that the external life of
Markoe, much as we might like to know more about it, is distinctly sec-
ondary to the life of his mind, as expressed in his writings. With this life Sister
Mary Chrysostom deals always in a lucid, scholarly, and well-documented
manner.

Sister Mary Chrysostom has made an important and worth-while con-
tribution to that detailed and monographic examination of individual
authors which must be undertaken before we can hope for any definitive
treatment of our literature in the early years of the Republic.

Camp Ellis

Albert Frank Gegenheimer

$3.75.)

There is just a shade of doubt as to whether this book is appropriately
named. It is easy to understand the temptation which resulted in the title.
George Wharton Pepper is a Philadelphia lawyer, and a great one. But
admitting his supremacy in his profession, a supremacy accepted far beyond
the boundaries of his city, or even of his State, this book reveals him as
something much more interesting. An autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
—printer, would have been worth reading. But it would have been a pale
ghost as compared with the publication of the autobiography of Benjamin
Franklin, scientist, philosopher, patriot, diplomat, world citizen—and
printer. So as one goes through the pages of this volume, it is the many-
sided Pepper who commands and holds attention—the brilliant student, the
ardent athlete, the teacher, the churchman, the orator, the analyst of cur-
rent problems, the leader in civic affairs, the lover of verse and good prose,
the man with the genius for friendship. He himself recognizes this, for he
subtitles the one chapter dealing solely with his law practice—"A Treatise
for Lawyers Only."

The central figure in this book is neither lawyer nor statesman. That
figure is a man—a man of ten talents, who has employed them all to the
uttermost. Few there are who are afforded the heritage of ten talents. Fewer still invest them all at the highest rate of return. This man has done that extraordinary thing. And therein lies the fascination of the story of his life.

Steeped from childhood in the traditions of old Philadelphia, connected by family ties with some of the leaders in the educational and social life of the city, reared by an understanding mother, educated in a friendly university, he stepped upon the stage of his profession endowed with every attribute of success. Diligence, enthusiasm and making the most of opportunities did the rest. He early attained recognition, in due time distinction, finally leadership. Yet the practice of the law, while it engaged his primary attention, did not engage it all. For a time he was more interested in teaching the law as a science than in practicing it as an art. A keen student of the problems of government, he never dove into the political stream. "At the outset," he says, "I merely waded in—when the water was still. Later, when I went off the deep end, it was as the result of a friendly push." That push landed him, for four years, in the United States Senate, where he should be today, and where he doubtless would be had it not been for an unfriendly trip. The chapters on his life in Washington, the appraisements of the men with whom he associated—Presidents, Cabinet Officers, Senators, Congressmen, diplomats—give to the book particular interest. His analysis of world events and of currents of opinion, during and between the two World Wars, is always provocative and often convincing. Here he reveals his attainment of national stature.

But it is the other chapters—those on his mountain climbing days, on his summers on Mt. Desert Island, on his histrionic efforts, on his simple Christian faith leading to active churchmanship and inspiration for the building of a great cathedral, above all on his life in his home, with family and friends, reading, painting, working at a carpenter's bench in odd hours—these are the pages that disclose the vivid, vital, personality of the man. Here the colors are primary—the drawing firm and sure. Indeed, if one were to seek a characterizing word for this autobiography, it might well be the word "simplicity." It partakes almost of the nature of a revised diary, with the dates left out. It is an intimate work, composed as if meant to be read by the author's grandchildren and a few close friends—then on second thought sent to the publisher. Much of its charm lies in this quality. That all of this fun, and excitement, and accomplishment, could be had, even in seventy-seven years, by a private lawyer living in a quiet city is a thing worthy of contemplation. It was certainly worth recording. And one glimpses here and there condensations and ellipses which are indicative that much has been left unsaid in the interest of wartime economy.

It is a book for a discriminating, and hence a limited, public. Writing for such a public affords the highest satisfaction—a satisfaction equalled only by the confidence, on the part of the reader, that he is of the select group to whom the writing is addressed.

Philadelphia

Robert T. McCracken

This is an account of the Harmony Society by the last surviving Trustee of that organization, by one who not only knows the detailed history of the group but, having been a trustee, shared its inner secrets from 1890 to 1903, the period of the Society's bitter legal struggle.

On a plateau high above the Ohio River, stand the surviving buildings of one of Pennsylvania's communal societies. George Rapp, the founder of Harmony, was one of a group of Württemberg Pietists who organized themselves to resist the rational philosophy which it was thought was undermining German faith and religion. By 1800 Rapp and his followers, having been attacked by the magistrates, decided to migrate to America. In 1803 Rapp sold his properties at Iptingen and sailed for the New World. After considerable search he decided to buy approximately 5000 acres in the southwestern part of Butler County, twenty-five miles northwest of Pittsburgh. In 1804 three hundred colonists arrived in the Aurora, then two hundred and fifty more, and finally the last party arrived under Dr. Haller. February 15, 1805, a communal society was formed in which the work was shared and the debts were pooled, a formal agreement having been made.

Mr. Duss's book traces the history of the experiment from Harmony in Pennsylvania (1804–1815) to Harmony along the Wabash (1815–1825), to the golden age of Economy (1825–1868). Then, as his subtitle foretells, having become connected with the group, he continued the story through his own eyes, describing the years of growth, the passing of the old order, the Society's many financial troubles, and the end of the noble experiment.

This book is then simply the personal record of Mr. Duss's association with the Society. It is not a spiritual record of what must have been a remarkable group. There is little enough said of the underlying ideas, little of Rapp's goal. We shall have to await another's pen to tell the full story of a religious communal society.

Allentown

John Joseph Stoudt


Henry Dellicker, or Henry Frey, or Henry Free, was a remarkable individualist, a non-conformist who came to Pennsylvania with the main stream of German migration. Indentured as a servant in the house of a rich and self-willed Philadelphia woman, he ran away to the northern frontier of the Pennsylvania wilderness, to emerge at the time of the Revolution as an officer in charge of a company of militia, and finally to marry the self-willed city lady after a stormy courtship. This is a common-place plot but good enough to bear one of the best integrated pieces of fiction about the
Pennsylvania Dutch which has appeared recently. This novelette portrays its "Dutchness" well, though some of the background is applied with the broad brush of a barn painter. Mr. Richter has a sense of unity and he has subordinated his background, however exact, to the main story. But sometimes his hero's individualism is a bit too crass—no one person could be that opinionated—yet this, too, is probably fairly characteristic of the stubborn, freedom-loving people who came to live in Pennsylvania.

*Allentown*  
*John Joseph Stoudt*