BOOK REVIEWS


Ten years ago the chairman of the Committee on Social Thought and professor of Economic History in the University of Chicago began to compose essays dealing with the historical interrelations between war and industry, civilization and modern culture. Then came World War II and his researches took on renewed significance. They are now presented in a major opus which is possibly the most thoughtful general discussion of war to be published in this century in America.

John U. Nef has divided his studies into three parts: The New Warfare and the Genesis of Industrialism, circa 1494 to circa 1640; Limited Warfare and Humane Civilization, circa 1640 to circa 1740; and Industrialism and Total War, circa 1740 to circa 1950.

Some years ago the editor of a well-known historical journal in England, when offered an occasional review on the official military histories of the First World War, answered, "Oh, that's a type of special history which we don't review." Yet today in the University of Oxford there is a Chichele professorship on the History of War. More recently Edward Mead Earle of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton edited Makers of Modern Strategy: Military Thought from Machiavelli to Hitler (Princeton University Press, 1944). War is like sin. We are against it, but some of us are too fatalistic as we approach any study of it.

With commanding erudition the conclusions are crystal clear. Far from evoking and stimulating industrial, economic, cultural and social progress, no matter what may have been the score in the past, modern warfare has had a retarding and stultifying influence. It is peacetime and not war that has been the great impetus in scientific, intellectual, industrial and aesthetic progress. In all the literature on the place of war in history, this new volume is well-nigh unique and original in showing just what does happen to mankind and society when men and women turn to war.

For five centuries of the modern era we have been following a material and intellectual road to total war. With emphasis the author quotes: "Incapable of emptying its gigantic storehouses, gorged with riches of which its avarice refuses to let go of the least particle except for a profit, prisoner of an economic system which increases production without limit and at the same time closes one by one the outlets for production, the modern world prefers to destroy its stocks with cannon balls than to confess its error and again become human." And: "Conquest has glory only for the warrior; it
has never taught the conquered or the conquerors much that matters. What made Greek civilization immortal was not its arms but its ideas, its beauty, its truth."

Contrasted with earlier times, war has now become a part of the total problem of human civilization. With an increase of the intellectual and material development of man has come a weakening of moral and aesthetic values. Responsibility has been sacrificed to efficiency. Like Amaziah we have given ourselves over to the false gods which have not been able to save those who oppose us.

The reader of War and Human Progress will delight in the vigor and lucidity with which John Nef defends his thesis and answers imponderable questions. This book reveals the heritage of all of us of many wars. It should place war in its proper perspective historically, and that is quite different from what is usually written and thought about the relation of war and the progress of man over the centuries.

Overbrook, Philadelphia

RICHMOND P. MILLER


This is military history in the strict sense of the word: only the barest mention is made of diplomacy, the home front, morale, etc. To a generation that has known total war, this kind of historical writing, particularly when addressed to the layman rather than to the specialist, gives a one-dimensional picture of the War of Independence.

Yet, within these limitations, military history can be engrossing, depending largely upon the literary skill the author brings to his work. Although Appeal to Arms contains good, reliable, and factually correct accounts of the battles of the war, it will not displace Sir George Otto Trevelyan's work for those who value literary craftsmanship.

In several respects, Mr. Wallace's book could have been improved. Character sketches of the chief participants would have lent interest and contributed toward an understanding of their actions and motives. Too often, characters are introduced only by name without any effort either at identification or characterization. For one who is not familiar with these figures from other sources, Appeal to Arms must present a confusing array of bit players who appear momentarily in the narrative and then drop from sight.

It is perhaps because of this neglect of characterization that Mr. Wallace makes too much mystery of General Sir William Howe. Despite the careful research and elucidation of Howe's motives made by the late Troyer Anderson, Mr. Wallace seems to regard the conduct of the British general as inexplicable; or, when he offers an explanation, it does not accord with
the conclusions of those who have deeply studied Howe. For example, on
several occasions Mr. Wallace resorts to the hypothesis that Howe did not
actually wish to inflict a decisive defeat upon Washington. The facts seem
to be that Howe’s chief concern was to win the war without risking a
crippling loss of man power: his celebrated caution sprang from his recogni-
tion of the difficulties of reinforcing his troops and replacing casualties. At
the Battle of Long Island, Mr. Wallace explains Howe’s failure to attack the
American positions on Brooklyn Heights on the ground that perhaps Howe
“remembered Bunker Hill, and, like a burnt child dreading fire, refused to
be drawn into another ghastly frontal attack,” or that he was reluctant to
crush the American army. Mr. Wallace is content to leave the matter there;
the reader is left to choose between the theory that Howe checked his
army’s advance because he feared that it would be annihilated or because
he feared to annihilate the enemy. From Howe’s own account of the battle,
it is clear that he refrained from attacking the American positions because
he believed that the Americans were securely in his grasp and could be
forced to surrender by siege tactics without risk of serious loss to the
British army.

Stanford University

JOHN C. MILLER

Journals and Journeymen: A Contribution to the History of Early American
Newspapers. By Clarence S. Brigham. (Philadelphia: University of
Pennsylvania Press, 1950. xiv, 114 p. Illustrations. $2.50.)

This little book is a somewhat expanded version of the author’s A. S. W.
Rosenbach Lectures in Bibliography. It is an album of brief sketches and
reflections upon early newspapers drawn from Mr. Brigham’s extensive
researches in preparation for his great History and Bibliography of American
Newspapers.

Because no one is more familiar than Mr. Brigham with the nature and
eccentricities of newspaper publishing in early America, his series of more
or less unrelated topical discussions carefully reproduces the flavor of the
early papers. It is a pleasant little treat rather than an orderly treatise, but
even readers who have spent countless hours turning through files of the
papers will find facts and twists which are quite new. They will discover
leads and conclusions of real value.

The bulk of the material included pertains to the externals of the news-
papers—to the things with which any bibliographer would have to concern
himself. There are discussions of the general history of newspaper publish-
ing, of the outstanding early collections of papers, of the incidence of par-
ticular names used by publishers, and of the problem of when a newspaper
can be considered a newspaper. Even comments upon women publishers,
circulation, subscription problems and illustration are closely related to
bibliographical interests. Indeed, the author admits that he could not per-
mit himself the pleasure of reading the files he so diligently examined. However, his comments upon editorial scurrility, time lag in news publication, and marriage and death records reveal that he could not restrain himself entirely.

Occasionally it is surprising to find the obvious comment lacking. This is rather noticeable in the section on marriage records in which their usefulness in genealogy is suggested, the method of inserting them is described, and a few quaint notices in verse are reproduced. Their character is not clearly delineated, however. To this reviewer, the most remarkable thing about marriage notices in the colonial press is the very frequent practice of estimating the bride in terms of her wealth: "the charming Miss Peters who is said to possess a fortune of £1,500..." This crude materialism (or was it an uninhibited honesty?) is not recorded. Manifestly, this is not the book to judge by material not included. Nevertheless, it does appear that the author asks questions and records impressions of a different sort from those which might occur to a social or political historian.

This collection of essays demonstrates much of the charm of the old files and affords new proof of their vast importance. The paucity of sources outside the newspaper files even for a history of early publishing in America is striking. Except for the almost solitary contemporary History of Printing by Isaiah Thomas, there is very little. Here much could still be gained from the early papers, and this is but one tiny corner of the past which can hope for further illumination from study of the files. Our understanding of early America should be greatly improved by the careful study of newspapers which has just begun.

New York University

Brooke Hindle


The author of this valuable work and Allan Nevins, who has written the foreword, note the lack of attention received by John Quincy Adams from historians. Indeed, its failure to produce an adequate biography of Adams leads Mr. Lipsky, a political scientist, to question "the vigor and perspicacity of American historical scholarship." That there is some justification in this criticism cannot be gainsaid, for it is high time that we stop dismissing young John as John ap John or, more picturesquely and popularly, as the son of Abigail, the only woman to be the wife of one president and the mother of another.

With this omission so patent, it is regrettable that the author did not try to bridge the gap himself. Instead, he has allotted only one chapter out of nineteen to a strictly biographical chronicle. In so doing, he of necessity can give only fleeting attention to the high points of his subject's life. There
are comments on his precocious entry into European diplomatic circles, mention of his career as United States Senator, ambassador, Secretary of State, President and Congressman. His term as President of the United States is dismissed in a few paragraphs, for nothing much occurred during those years to warrant attention. Elsewhere in the book he is referred to as a weak national executive and his administration categorized as "the least effective" of all administrations. By far, the "most glorious" period of his life was spent in the House of Representatives.

After this brief summary the author approaches his real task—an attempt to analyze the mind and character of Adams by examining his opinions on a great variety of subjects. These opinions are drawn from his letters, addresses, diaries and the voluminous Memoirs.

It is quite evident that Lipsky encountered a difficult organizational problem, one that he has not solved satisfactorily. He had, perforce, to examine a myriad of thoughts and musings set down by Adams with tenacious zeal over a long and reflective life, and to present them in some kind of order. He has done this by sorting out the ideas and placing them under general headings dealing with Adams’s views on man and his place in the universe (a rehash of eighteenth-century rationalist thought), on social origins and change, domestic politics and government, the Constitution and the nature of the Union, and on international politics and diplomacy. Of course, the organization of a book is a purely subjective thing, and while it is likely that Lipsky has handled it in about the only way he could—without writing a complete biography—he has not avoided repetition. Identical qualities of Adams’s mind and character are repeated over and over again in relation to various subjects. For instance, after one or two references we can take it for granted that he had an unyielding integrity and an elevated sense of morality.

The Adams who emerges from his writings and Lipsky’s interpretation of them is certainly not the most attractive personality in American history. He was dour, severe, harsh, irritable, self-righteous and smug. Liking public office, he refused to seek it, to solicit votes, or to cultivate popularity, and he condemned and scorned all those who did. As a representative of the people, he insisted on absolute freedom of action and adherence to his own "true body of principles." An in-dwelling Zeus, he observed a "higher law" and was, therefore, constitutionally unable to be a politician. In an age of violent partisanship he was never a Federalist, Republican, Jeffersonian, Jacksonian, Freemason, Antimason or Whig. Above parties and the deals of the market place, he "was to himself the singular example of all that was good . . . always the associate, never the obliging ally."

Within the scope of his intention Lipsky has performed a much-needed service with considerable skill, but until an adequate biography appears it is feared that John Quincy Adams will remain what Brooks Adams hoped he would not—"a martyr to his belief in God, education, and science."

Temple University

Harry M. Tinkcom

Thanks to Mr. Klees, there is now at hand a detailed, well-balanced, accurate and inclusive study of the Pennsylvania Dutch (some prefer to say Pennsylvania German) in a single volume. With due appreciation of many other fine works on this subject, none before has combined such a wealth of illustrative detail, has preserved so true a balance, and has been so generally accurate in understanding. The author has built upon his own intimate knowledge and a long-continued study a work of discrimination and validity. And more, he has exercised his gift of fine literary expression, reaching, indeed, poetlhc heights in his Epilogue (pp. 436–444): "Round the Year: A Pennsylvania Dutch Calendar." An added feature is the thirty-three charming pen-and-ink drawings by the author himself. The selected bibliography contains a sufficiently extensive list of works, both general and special, but it is regrettable that there is no index or, lacking that, a topical table of contents. The book is well manufactured, and is notably free from typographical errors.

The Pennsylvania Dutch is not solely for the general reading public. Because of its quality, the serious student and even the specialist in the subject will find it not only stimulating, but informing and suggestive. It covers the subject in all of its various important ramifications. Considering this last characteristic it is remarkably free from errors of fact, at least so far as this reviewer is competent to judge the accuracy of so many details. One error he did note on page 92: "Except for the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church is the only Protestant church with an apostolic succession." The fact is that all the Lutheran Churches of Northern Europe have apostolic successes of the same kind as the Moravian succession, and those of the Church of Sweden and the Church of Finland have been formally acknowledged by the Church of England.

An important point of unfavorable criticism of the work is the wrong impression conveyed by the author’s overgenerous inclusion of both territory and people in Pennsylvania “Dutchdom.” When he says (p. 2): “Broadly speaking, the Dutch country was an island of Rhenish civilization in an English sea,” and then proceeds to include Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry and Juniata Counties in the “Dutch” country, he is indeed speaking broadly. Unquestionably, in every one of these counties, and in several other counties which he includes—Dauphin, for example—there were and are evident distinctive Dutch influences, but these have not set the tone of the major parts of these counties; in fact, in some of the counties they have been of very minor importance. To a resident of long standing in this area it comes with something of a shock to read (p. 182): "... but the names of two Pennsylvania Dutch towns, Chambersburg and Gettysburg, became known throughout the world." Shades of all the “Falling Springers” now dead and gone, and shades of Hance Hamilton, Samuel Gettys, and all
the McPhersons, the McConaugheys, and the McCleans! A native of Harrisburg is shocked and also amused to read (p. 411): “Both James Boyd’s *Roll River* (1935) and John O’Hara’s *A Rage to Live* (1949) have a Dutch city, Harrisburg, as their setting.”

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, be sure to read this book, and be informed, enlightened, and pleasantly entertained.

*Gettysburg College*

ROBERT FORTENBAUGH

*James Harrod of Kentucky.* By Kathryn Harrod Mason. (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1951. xxii, 266 p. Illustrations, maps, appendix, bibliographical essay, index. $4.00.)

Books are usually designated by fields, such as history, philosophy, literature, science, etc. But within any one field each book is somewhat unique, especially in the matter of varied influences affecting authorship.

Mrs. Kathryn Harrod Mason, a descendant of Levi Harrod, probably became interested in genealogy, which is not a bad introduction to historical study and research. Genealogy may develop, and here has developed, into both history and sociology. A college graduate, Mrs. Mason studied at Stanford University and has done graduate work at Claremont College. Her publication therefore shows, in its format, the critical training needed, but not always evident, in historical composition. The combination of genealogical inspiration and training in historical research has resulted in rather unusual consideration of materials, both primary and secondary. That Mrs. Mason “has done newspaper work” is seen in a trace of journalism in the content of this volume. Incidental and episodical data, sometimes approaching irrelevance, are injected. Only historical training saved some of the volume from being almost antiquarian. Relevance, however, is at times disregarded by greatly famous historiographers.

The literary style of the volume, as one would expect from the experience of the author, is praiseworthy. Rhetorical historiography is often condemned, but certainly good rhetoric is essential.

The story of James Harrod and of his relatives and friends in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Illinois, as set forth by Mrs. Mason, is an important component part of American frontier history. The particular contribution of this study is additional understanding of the settlement of early Kentucky. In a degree, this contribution is made at the expense of integral biography. And, as was inevitable, in a short work of this kind, the exact place of James Harrod in transmontane history is not established. The history of early Kentucky involves also men such as Christopher Gist, Daniel Boone, Thomas Bullit, Hancock Taylor, John Floyd, Hancock Lee, Richard Henderson, George Rogers Clark and others, many of whom played roles comparable to that of James Harrod.
Regrettably, students of eastern frontier history have become skeptical of its treatment by the Pacific Coast workers in the field. It is believed that this volume shows relatively few of the discrepancies widely found in many of such publications of the last decade.

While the reviewer did not check spellings, dates, and references, no egregious blunders were apparent on first reading. Minor shortcomings can, however, be found. Mount Braddock is not a mountain (p. 3), but merely a slight elevation. The phrase "kill a few men into the bargain" (p. 4) is distracting. There is inadequate date fixation of much of the content, while the use of the topical treatment results, probably unavoidably, in instances of chronological reversion in the narrative. Several items of bad general geography were found (e.g., p. 41).

Despite a few general shortcomings and a somewhat larger number of minor discrepancies, *James Harrod of Kentucky* is a contribution to historical scholarship and understanding. Similar activity and production by others should be encouraged by historians and book reviewers. In this time of inflation, this treatise should be worth its inflated price to specialists in early frontier history and to well-to-do general readers.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
*ALFRED P. JAMES*


In *Mr. Lincoln's Army* Bruce Catton has written three books in one, and all of them are good. First, he has presented the most sane and revealing analysis of McClellan the man and the general that this reviewer has ever read; second, he has given us a vivid description of the living conditions of the men in the Army of the Potomac; and last, but certainly not least, he has written a superb description of the battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg to our southern readers) that ranks with Bigelow's *Chancellorsville* or Haskell's description of the repulse of Pickett's Charge. One does not have to be a Civil War expert to enjoy this book, but, on the other hand, the more one has read, the more he will appreciate the research and skill that have gone into its creation.

What of this man McClellan, perhaps the most controversial military figure of the entire war? Why is it that after ninety years the battle still rages as to whether he was a "young Napoleon," or a traitor trying to save the institution of slavery and make the war a stalemate? Mr. Catton's thesis, and I think he is on firm ground, is based on three factors: first, the premise that McClellan was a dual personality; secondly, politics; and lastly, the fact that McClellan was on the scene at a time when the national government, from Lincoln downward, was an amateur in the art of war and how it should be waged.
In McClellan, Mr. Catton sees two entirely different men. He was a well-educated general, who knew how to organize and whose strategy was usually sound, who knew how to win and hold the affection and regard of his officers and men, whose confidence in his own ability was supreme, and who felt that he, and only he, was to be the savior of his country. The other McClellan was a man who at his most exalted moments had a secret misgiving as to whether his project was quite “safe” or was entirely “sound,” who was concerned that nothing in his plan had been overlooked, who underestimated the fighting ability of his own men and always overestimated the numbers and ability of his opponents. If he ever heard Stonewall Jackson’s motto, “Never take council of your fears,” he certainly never applied it to himself. McClellan was a man who had no idea whatever of how to get along with politicians, particularly the President; a man who would put his army into battle and then remove himself completely from the scene and let his subordinates fight it out as best they could—usually with poor success. This latter characteristic was not personal cowardice, Mr. Catton thinks, but an aversion to the sights and sounds of a battlefield and a fatalistic quality of “now I have done my best; let them work it out.”

From the political standpoint, the author admits that Stanton and his group of Republican Abolitionists did all they could to wreck McClellan, but doubts that he could have been successful even if they had given him their most earnest support. The failure was in the man, not in his military resources—Lee and Jackson had little in the way of equipment and supplies, but each had the fighting heart which McClellan completely lacked. This, in brief, is Mr. Catton’s thesis, and by frequent quotations from McClellan’s Own Story he lets McClellan prove his points for him. No admirer of McClellan has ever been able to explain away the devastating remarks found in his own book, written not in the heat of bitterness at his removal, but years after when he could edit and amend his opinions as he saw fit.

From close reading and judicious selections from many regimental histories, the author has collected a wealth of anecdote and has presented a faithful description of the camp and field life of the men of the Army of the Potomac—how they lived, the humor and pathos of army life, how these country and city boys, always being beaten, not so much by the Confederates as by the incapacity of their own leaders, would come up again and again, willing to go into another battle which would probably turn out as badly as the one before. Their incredible courage and willingness to bear any hardship to win the war and save the Union is a bright page in the unending disasters of the unfortunate Army of the Potomac.

When he comes to the battle of Antietam, Mr. Catton makes a very confused battle so clear that the most unmilitary reader can understand what happened and why. Antietam was the bloodiest single day’s fighting in the entire war, and that war itself might have ended on the banks of
Antietam Creek had McClellan in 1862 had the bull-dog fighting qualities of Grant in 1864–1865.

Mr. Lincoln's Army is not a book to pass by, and this reviewer gives it a hearty commendation.

_Paoli, Pa._

KENT PACKARD

_The Works of Colonel John Trumbull, Artist of the American Revolution._ By Theodore Sizer. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1950. xviii, 117 p. illustrations, bibliography. $5.00.)

No one is more qualified to write on John Trumbull than Theodore Sizer. Not only has he discussed various aspects of Trumbull's career in numerous periodicals, but for many years he was Director of the Yale University Art Gallery which houses the largest and finest collection of the artist's work. Mr. Sizer's latest, and most significant, contribution to the study of Trumbull's career is a catalogue or check list of the work of this documentary artist of the American Revolution.

Mr. Sizer's self-appointed task was a prodigious one: with few exceptions, he examined personally all of Trumbull's paintings, authentic and attributed; from knowledge and critical judgment he has distinguished between the real and the false, and has compiled his list of some thousand authentic items; he has surrounded his catalogue with brief but pertinent information on the artist himself—ranging from a chronology of Trumbull's life to commentaries on his prices, painting procedure, and the curious variations in his painting of the American flag. Thus, taken as a whole, this handsome volume is more than a mere listing; it is a compact study of Trumbull the artist.

The short-title list itself includes not only the portraits and historical scenes which are the most familiar of Trumbull's work, but includes as well his paintings on mythical, allegorical, literary and religious subjects, his landscapes, maps, and architectural drawings. Mr. Sizer has performed an additional service by reidentifying, in the plates at the end of the volume, the figures to be found in the great historical paintings. A detailed _catalogue raisonné_ of all Trumbull and Trumbull-attributed works is maintained at the Yale Art Gallery.

Mr. Sizer's appraisal of John Trumbull is a frank one. His admiration for the artist has not produced a blind eulogy of the painter and his work, but rather an understanding criticism of the discernible periods of his style and technique. Trumbull was a documentary artist, and as such left not only a superb record of the American Revolution and those who steered its course, but left as well a record of the painting traditions of his day and a record of himself.

_The Works of Colonel John Trumbull_ is a volume which will be a highly useful reference tool for years to come. It will also stimulate interest in Mr. Sizer's forthcoming edition of Trumbull's _Autobiography._

L. V. G.

This new edition of Miss Murray’s work, first published in 1933, incorporates new facts about the Pennsylvania colony of French exiles. Ever a fascinating and heroic story, the Azilum tale brings into juxtaposition the monarchical fugitives of the raging French Revolution and the republican builders of the nation established by the American Revolution. Brief though its existence was, Azilum was and is one of the true, romantic episodes in history. The many illustrations enhance the text; the appendix supplies both bibliographical material and supplementary information. A facsimile of the original survey of the Azilum town plot, 1794, is appended to the study.

Centre County in Pictures, 1800–1950. The Centre County Sesquicentennial Committee. (Bellefonte, Pa.: The Centre County Historical Society, 1950. $1.00.)

Compiled in honor of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Centre County, Pennsylvania, on February 13, 1800, this pictorial record provides a useful guide to its principal landmarks, past and present. The book has no running text, but the descriptions accompanying the illustrations adequately amplify the points of interest selected by the Sesquicentennial Committee. The pictures are presented in geographical sequence—west to east—and the road map at the end of the book serves, with the route numbers given in the descriptions, to locate the landmarks in the county.

QUERY

The diary of John P. Crozer was used by J. Wheaton Smith in his biography of Crozer in which an account is given of his trip to Indiana in 1820. Information concerning the location of the original diary would be much appreciated by the Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, Caroline Dunn, Librarian.