

*The Delaware Valley in the Early Republic: Architecture, Landscape, and Regional Identity.* By GABRIELLE M. LANIER. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005. xvii, 250 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendix, list of primary sources, index. \$46.95.)

With *The Delaware Valley in the Early Republic*, Gabrielle Lanier brings a fresh perspective to the thorny question of what makes “the motly middle” of the mid-Atlantic distinctive. Her carefully written and insightful work will be of interest not only to enthusiasts of Delaware Valley history, but to anyone intrigued by the processes of regional identity formation, especially as these are mapped to the physical landscape. For Lanier’s careful reading of cultural landscape by way of everyday architecture introduces an important new perspective to the ongoing conversation about mid-Atlantic regionalism among historians of early America, including Michael Zuckerman, Wayne Bodle, Jack P. Greene, and David Hackett Fischer. Her introduction of this expanded approach to a historically vexing yet crucial early American region may well be the best gift of this study.

The book is organized into five chapters. In a thoughtfully organized background chapter, Lanier outlines the scholarship to date on “the idea of” the Delaware Valley, uniting historical studies with less familiar lessons learned from vernacular architecture and geography. Three case study chapters explore distinctive subregions in each of the area’s three states: Warwick Township, Lancaster County in Pennsylvania; North West Fork Hundred, Sussex County in Delaware; and Mannington Township, Salem County in New Jersey. Each subregion was chosen for a variety of cultural and historical reasons, but especially, notes Lanier, to foreground the distinctive issues surrounding ethnicity, marginality, and religion, respectively. A short conclusion follows. Maps, photographs, and architectural floor plans are tightly integrated with, yet enhance, the relevant text. (The strange clumping of some illustrations near the end of chapter 4 appears to be a mistake of the printer’s rather than a choice of Lanier’s.) Appendices provide statistical material, which backs up textual findings while reducing the need for cluttered, numbers-laden prose.

Missing from the mix is extended attention to a primarily urban environment, though to theorize the region at this period with such a seriously understated Philadelphia is to leave a hole at the center of its fabric. While Lanier’s omission may well have been made for sound methodological reasons—most likely, because Philadelphia tends to dominate any discussion when it can—some exploration of this choice, and the effect of its largest city on the idea of the region, would certainly benefit the reader, and likely the study as well. Still, this book is more than the sum of its parts. In making a trade-off between overall coverage and building a “deep historical map” of distinctive cultural landscapes within the region (p. xiii), Lanier has given us a thought-provoking framework backed up by careful research into primary sources to reach her very firm con-

clusion: "The local character of these places, individually as well as collectively, argues against the notion of a monolithic regional commonality. . . . In the early national period the Delaware Valley was not a cohesive region" (pp. 178–79).

Some of the best strengths of the book are also its best-kept secrets. The chapter on Warwick Township, Pennsylvania, is not only a survey of Pennsylvania German house forms, but also a thought-provoking exploration of difference, in its comparison of how non-German contemporaries described the visibility of Germanness with what we now can discern in surviving records and environments. The chapter on lower Delaware provides unexpected humanity in the figure of slave-poaching tavern keeper Patty Cannon, whose story is used to effectively explore the cultural, physical, and economic liminality of an entire section of the state. While the study of Mannington Township, New Jersey, offers an intriguing exploration of a community's self-conscious landscape preservation, with surprising temporal depth, it also contains an unexpected history of tidewater meadow reclamation in the eighteenth century—which serves as more than a footnote to the pressing environmental concerns of our own time.

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SUSAN GARFINKEL

*Money Pitcher: Chief Bender and the Tragedy of Indian Assimilation.* By WILLIAM C. KASHATUS. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006. xv, 216 pp. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$35.)

William C. Kashatus's *Money Pitcher: Chief Bender and the Tragedy of Indian Assimilation* is a fascinating account of the life and career of Charles Albert Bender, star pitcher of the Philadelphia Athletics during the early twentieth century. Mandowescence (Bender's Indian nickname) grew up on White Earth reservation in Minnesota. However, Bender spent more of his youth in Pennsylvania than in Minnesota, as he attended the Educational Home in Philadelphia and Carlisle Indian Training School. At Carlisle, baseball became a way for the U.S. government to indoctrinate the Native Americans in teamwork and sportsmanship, and Bender excelled as an athlete. Following graduation, Bender remained in Carlisle and briefly attended Dickinson College before Connie Mack offered him a contract to pitch for the Athletics. Soon, Bender became Mack's "money pitcher"—the one Mack wanted on the mound to start a key game—and set World Series records that still stand today.

Even though Mack respected Bender as a pitcher and a player, Bender's compensation paled in comparison with other top players of the era. This inequity, according to Kashatus, demonstrated that Bender, despite his talent, was a second-class citizen in Mack's eyes and led Bender to consider other options. When Mack waived Bender following his disastrous performance in the 1914