

Throughout the study Otter moves fluidly back and forth across time, showing a knowledge of the city's history (literary, social, cultural, and political) that is both deep and wide. With *Philadelphia Stories* Otter challenges us to rethink both the inner life of the city and its place in the larger narrative of the cultural and social development of the United States over its first one hundred years. *Philadelphia Stories* is indispensable reading for anyone interested in the history of Philadelphia. But that would be faint praise indeed for a book that merits the attention of all students of the early United States and, more broadly, of those attentive to the deep and intricate ways in which literature and social life are intertwined with one another.

University of Delaware

EDWARD LARKIN

Women of Industry and Reform: Shaping the History of Pennsylvania, 1865–1940. By MARION W. ROYDHOUSE. (Mansfield: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2008. 104 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. \$12.95.)

Frequently Pennsylvania history is a tale of two cities: Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. In contrast with this limited perspective, in *Women of Industry and Reform* Marion Roydhouse presents a statewide analysis of the recent literature on Pennsylvania women. Examining the public and private lives of Pennsylvania women from 1865 to 1940, she includes the voices of women from rural and urban areas, women who worked in heavy industry and light manufacturing, as well as working-class labor organizers and middle-class reformers. The words and thoughts of individual women illuminate and humanize this study.

Roydhouse argues that between the Civil War and World War II, women actively contributed to the transformation of Pennsylvania's economy from an agricultural to industrial base. Acting as workers and reformers, women helped Pennsylvania develop into an industrial powerhouse. Roydhouse begins with an examination of rural communities in the aftermath of the Civil War, when increased demands for coal radically altered rural life by creating new employment opportunities. Using examples from Carbon, Dauphin, and Lebanon counties, she documents how working-class women facilitated employment of male family members in the mines. In mining towns where women carefully managed family resources, cared for children, cooked, cleaned, and frequently kept boarders, they also supported male workers in their pursuit of better wages and safer working conditions.

Moving from rural coal mines to the industrializing cities of Pennsylvania, Roydhouse turns her attention to the impact of industrialization on women in urban areas. She argues that race, gender, and ethnicity influenced the choices

available to women for employment outside the home. While Philadelphia offered white working-class women a variety of industrial opportunities, familial values and ethnic networks determined which types of employment families deemed to be appropriate for their daughters and wives. Race also limited employment opportunities for women. Although black women worked in greater numbers than native-born or immigrant women, black women had fewer industrial opportunities. As late as 1920, over 80 percent of Pennsylvania's black women worked as either private or public domestics (43). In addition to racial discrimination and ethnic preferences, the composition of local industries also defined female employment opportunities. In Pittsburgh, where heavy industries such as iron, steel, aluminum, glass, and railroads dominated, white women found employment in light industries that manufactured food, stogies, electrical equipment, and textiles. However, due to Pittsburgh's focus on heavy industry, married working-class women worked in lower percentages than women in other comparable cities.

Pennsylvania's middle-class women had a long history of political and social reform. Reacting to industrialization and urbanization middle-class women mounted efforts to increase political rights, reform urban government, and improve industrial working conditions. From the 1860s, Pennsylvania's female reformers pursued equal rights and the vote for African Americans and women. Through the promotion of suffrage, the formation of female reform associations, and the creation of cross-class alliances, women sought to mitigate the effects of urbanization and industrialization. Roydhouse's analysis, which examines the contributions of organizations such as the Woman Suffrage Association, YWCA, Women's Trade Union League, and Bryn Mawr Summer School, demonstrates how women's political activism influenced public actions.

Roydhouse's concise review of women in Pennsylvania is useful for teaching Pennsylvania history, undergraduate course adoption, and the general reader. In addition, this volume includes a bibliography from which to explore a wealth of historical resources on Pennsylvania's women.

University of Pittsburgh

LORETTA SULLIVAN LOBES

Second Suburb: Levittown, Pennsylvania. Edited by DIANNE HARRIS. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010. 448 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$45.95.)

The word "Levittown" conjures up distinctively strong associations in the minds of scholars and the general public. The image that often emerges first is that of modest, single-family suburban houses clustered together by the thousands on an expanse of flat former farmland, followed by some combination of