

“miscellaneous data” from historical societies rather than to specific sources. And she claims that British soldiers in the county foraged, looted, and pillaged despite orders to the contrary and furthermore tells us that Revolutionary War artillery units were “elite,” but never explains why. This collection also contains significant historical gaps. Why are there no stories of Chester County residents in wars other than the Revolution and World War II, for example, and no accounts of events during the Great Depression?

From a historical perspective, the book would be richer and more useful had the author been a bit more rigorous in her scholarship and comprehensive in her selection of stories. The work could have also been improved had the author offered a general conclusion. What, on the whole, do these tales tell us about Chester County and its people through the ages? That said, Brody’s entertaining collection of forgotten tidbits of local lore reminds us that history is made up of the stories of real people and should inspire inquisitive readers to do their own research and additional reading.

West Chester University

STEVEN G. GIMBER

A Brief History of Scranton, Pennsylvania. By CHERYL A. KASHUBA. (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2009. 144 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.99.)

Industrial Pioneers: Scranton, Pennsylvania, and the Transformation of America, 1840–1902. By PATRICK BROWN. (Archbald, PA: Tribute Books, 2010. 142 pp. Bibliography, index. \$19.95.)

A Brief History of Scranton, Pennsylvania, by freelance writer Cheryl A. Kashuba, is published by History Press, purveyor of local histories for popular consumption. This attractively designed book tells the story of the city from approximately 1700 to 2009—an ambitious task for such a short volume, as its author acknowledges. The work is not a narrative so much as a collection of vignettes. Seven chapters are subdivided into between four and ten short sections on various topics. The longest of those segments is four pages; most are less than a page. A chapter entitled “A City at Leisure,” for example, has a single leaf devoted to electric trolleys, followed by one on theaters, and then another on Luna Park. Between forty and fifty photographs supplement the text. Based on limited research and lacking an argument or thematic development, the book might not appeal to serious students of the area, but that is not its intention. Instead, Kashuba’s work offers a survey of Scranton’s industries, ethnic populations, buildings, educational institutions, and more. Readers may well find something within the volume’s covers that sparks a desire to learn more about the area.

A more satisfying book is Patrick Brown's *Industrial Pioneers: Scranton, Pennsylvania, and the Transformation of America, 1840–1902*. This study grew out of a senior paper the author, who is now a high school teacher, wrote as an undergraduate at Georgetown University. Focusing on the changing role of labor in industrializing America, Brown uses Scranton as a case study to illuminate how American society, once characterized by its “personal, egalitarian” nature, transformed in the early nineteenth century to become “the rigidly institutionalized society that endures today” (2). Scranton offers the perfect laboratory for such an examination because it grew from a sleepy, backwoods settlement into an industrial community of a hundred thousand residents in just sixty years.

In the first of four chapters, Brown briefly recounts the founding of Slocum Hollow and its eventual development into Scranton, named after the brothers who brought industry to the area in the form of an iron furnace. The development of iron manufacturing, the mining of anthracite coal, and the growth of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad contributed to the city's rapid growth, and immigrants flooded the area looking for work. With industrialization and immigration came labor disputes, the topic of the last three chapters. The riots of 1877 and the anthracite strike of 1902 loom large in Brown's narrative. He argues that the differing responses of capital and labor to those events demonstrate how the relationship between the two had deteriorated. By 1902, both had abandoned any sense of mutual support or cooperation. Workers strove for every advantage from capital; capitalists fought back, even moving their industries out of town in search of a better labor climate, as Walter Scranton did when he moved his steel company to Buffalo, New York.

Industrial Pioneers is grounded in substantial research and is generally well written, yet it suffers from its brevity and ambition. The topic requires, and deserves, more than a hundred pages. Nevertheless, many readers will find it a useful introduction to the labor movement in Scranton.

East Stroudsburg University

MARTIN W. WILSON

Snow Hill: In the Shadows of the Ephrata Cloister. By DENISE A. SEACHRIST. (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2010. 167 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.)

In the early 1990s, while Denise Seachrist studied the dwindling religious community of Seventh-Day German Baptists at Snow Hill, an offshoot of the better-known Ephrata Cloister, I trained under a series of scholars classified as ethnohistorians and historical anthropologists (labels meant to describe the use of anthropological methods in historical study). Seachrist's work—a combination of personal memoir and ethnography of the Snow Hill community—brought me