

BOOK REVIEWS

The Chesapeake House: Architectural Investigations by Colonial Williamsburg. Edited by CARY CARSON and CARL R. LOUNSBURY. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press/Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2013. 488 pp, Illustrations, notes, index. \$60.)

In *The Chesapeake House*, editors Cary Carson and Carl R. Lounsbury have gathered decades of research on the early buildings, landscapes, and social history of the Chesapeake region into a smart and beautiful package. Focused on the period from initial settlement (1607) to the early nineteenth century (ca. 1830), when factory production and improvements in transportation forever altered the craft of hand building, the book's contributors provide a well-contextualized and amazingly detailed account of the evolution of building craft around the Chesapeake. The story begins with the most rudimentary post-in-ground houses of early settlement and ends with the refined and elegant townhouses and public buildings of the federal period. The four main sections and seventeen chapters that make up this encyclopedic volume organize and synthesize over three decades of research by architectural historians at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF) and several other organizations.

Beginning with the architects, archaeologists, and historians who arrived in Williamsburg in 1926, the research department at CWF has scoured the region for houses and landscapes that offer up critical evidence about the design, construction, use, and social meaning of the region's buildings. Traveling from Southside Virginia to Annapolis, Maryland, and from the Eastern Shore to the mountains of western Virginia, these scholars examined, measured, drew, and photographed thousands of houses, public buildings, agricultural structures, and landscapes in their quest to understand the built environment of the region. Emboldened by the new social history, Williamsburg researchers broadened their approach in the 1970s and 1980s to encompass the homes of not just wealthy and politically connected Virginians, but those at all social levels, including enslaved Africans, white laborers, mechanics, and middle-class craftsmen. Simultaneously, they sought to address questions of building use and social meaning in a society that was economically structured around tobacco and slave labor—an agricultural society with few urban places. Cary Carson reminds readers that the work was carried out in the context of an outdoor history museum renowned for its restored buildings and decorative arts; thus, the book is a product of a research and interpretive program

“that has explored one region, its buildings, and its records, relentlessly, for almost ninety years” (2).

In the first section, “Ends and Means,” the authors deftly lay out the setting and context for the story that follows. Cary Carson explores the importance of architecture as social history; Edward Chappell lays out the central place of fieldwork—the careful forensic study of building structure, material, and design—to the work of architectural historians in the Chesapeake; and Lorena Walsh provides the historical framework on migration, society, economy, and settlement. Both Carson and Chappell remind us of the importance of multidisciplinary approaches—history, archaeology, anthropology, and geography, to name a few—to this scholarly undertaking.

The second section, “Design and Use,” offers up excellent essays on the design process (Lounsbury), plantation housing in the seventeenth century (Carson), town houses and country houses in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (Mark Wenger), the housing of slavery (Chappell), and the many agricultural buildings that gave plantation landscapes the look of little villages (Orlando Ridout V). These chapters are the intellectual core of the book in terms of understanding the ways in which buildings were designed and used in the colonial and early national Chesapeake. Drawing on their own extensive research and the work of colleagues across the region, the authors clearly demonstrate the power of physical evidence of space and place for unraveling complex social conventions and behaviors.

In the sections “Materials” and “Finishes,” which comprise fully half the book, the authors closely examine and lay bare the abundant physical evidence left behind by skilled and semiskilled craftsman of the building trades. These chapters distill virtually all that is known about timber framing (Graham), brickwork (Lounsbury), hardware (Chappell), exterior finishes (Graham), interior finishes (Graham), paint (Susan Buck and Graham), and wallpaper (Margaret Pritchard and Graham) for the Chesapeake region. These essays provide “a richly illustrated guide to the regional forms, variations, and chronologies of building elements” (9). Every student of the built environment, from the dedicated historic-site visitor to the architectural scholar, will find value in this guide.

The Chesapeake House is a tour de force of fieldwork, analysis, and synthesis, providing the most thorough and nuanced understanding of Chesapeake buildings available. To some extent, the title masks the principal contribution of the book in helping the reader understand and appreciate the people who inhabited these spaces. As Carson notes, the “intrinsic connection between dwellings and dwellers guides our research and . . . provides the underlying rationale for this book” (2). “The objective,” notes Chappell, “is to read the physical evidence as a means of understanding past intentions and patterns of behavior” (32). In this regard, the book succeeds at every level and is in every way an instant classic.

This thick and richly illustrated volume is a must for researchers working on all aspects of Chesapeake history and culture and serves as a model for scholars in

other regions. The book is quite simply beautiful; from the stunning photography to the detailed drawings and illustrations, it exceeds production values associated with award-winning coffee-table volumes. The hundreds of color and black-and-white photographs and line drawings bring the subject matter to life. The editors have done a masterful job of creating consistency and readability without extinguishing the individual authors' voices. A minor critique is that the second half of the book, which focuses on the physical evidence, gets quite technical; a glossary would have been helpful for nonprofessional readers.

The editors and authors are to be congratulated on an exemplary piece of scholarship. They have crafted a significant volume on the Chesapeake's built environment that will serve scholars for years to come.

University of Maryland

DONALD W. LINEBAUGH

Crossroads of Empire: The Middle Colonies in British North America. By NED C. LANDSMAN. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010. 254 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essay, index. Cloth, \$45; paper, \$25.)

This concise overview of the middle colonies as a unified region of major importance to colonial British North America will be extremely useful to specialists and can also be effectively assigned in undergraduate courses. Ned Landsman, wielding a graceful pen, draws on a thorough understanding of the region's scholarship to offer balanced judgments throughout this persuasive work of synthesis. The three opening chapters explore the native and non-English origins of the middle colonies and the proprietary circumstances of the Duke of York and Penn's regimes; the four remaining chapters present the region at the crossroads of commerce, religious and ethnic diversity, philosophy and faith, and politics. The author repeatedly employs comparisons and contrasts between individuals, groups, and movements—e.g., James Stuart and William Penn, Dutch and Scots settlers, evangelicalism and the Enlightenment, Benjamin Franklin and George Whitefield—to adroitly balance specific details and broad generalizations.

Although the book is a short work on a subject that demands substantial geographic and chronological breadth, it gives serious attention to varied native nations, women, struggles over colonial colleges, and European influences. Landsman does not just address important seventeenth-century English political developments for the middle colonies but also provides rich insights about the Netherlands, Scotland, and Ulster. His careful writing, which eschews hyperbole, helps him to argue effectively for the significance of the region at the center of British North America and as a precursor for later major social developments. The book further makes an argument about the importance of chronology: "It was the emergence of the Middle Colonies as a commercial

crossroads at the center of the imperial contest, more than the specific activities of mid-Atlantic residents during the Revolutionary era, that gave Philadelphia the national importance for which it is celebrated" (2).

Landsman convincingly presents New York and Pennsylvania, each with its dominant city, as interconnected components of a single region that shared a common history. His core focus is on the territories that would become "English" New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In exploring this terrain, we learn a fair bit about the region's northern boundary and its conflict and overlap with New England (especially in East Jersey and Long Island) but little about its southern boundary, Delaware, or about how the middle colonies blended into—or confronted—regional norms in the Chesapeake. Pennsylvania Germans may also have merited more sustained attention. The chapters average just over eleven footnotes each, which is somewhat compensated for by a thoughtful ten-page historiographic essay.

While largely a work of synthesis, *Crossroads of Empire* makes a number of original contributions, especially regarding cultural diversity (chapter 5) and the Great Awakening and Enlightenment (chapter 6). A nuanced exploration of the varied meanings of pluralism and the related development of toleration as a matter of policy—which did not necessarily include tolerance—is especially valuable. While opening and closing with Crèvecoeur's classic "What is the American?" assertion of pluralism, Landsman's attention to "continual struggles over identities and power" excavates the region's charged encounter with diversity (143). While Crèvecoeur described a "settler pluralism" (emphasizing improved land and silently excluding Africans and Indians) that would come to dominance after the American Revolution, Landsman argues that in the colonial era, this was paralleled by "proprietary pluralism" that sought to enhance civil authority, "Protestant pluralism" that sought to avoid schisms and counter Catholicism, and "spiritual pluralism" that opposed legal religious establishments (113). Local circumstances yielded varied outcomes, with aggressive English authority in New York championing limited Protestant toleration; Pennsylvania advancing its famed spiritual liberty that stimulated dynamic growth; and in New Jersey, the most diverse and contested colony of all, "an aggressive coalition of dissenters" creating a sharp counterestablishment movement (140).

This stimulating book ends with a brief epilogue that explains how the middle colonies were no longer at the crossroads "of a contest for empire among diverse European powers and Indian nations" at the end of the Seven Years' War and outlining how the "conditions of toleration, peace, and prosperity" fostered in the region, with its "aggressive commercial enterprise," soon "spurred colonial expansion and westward movement" that would take the region and the nation out of the mid-Atlantic and into the American interior (214). Students new to the field and senior scholars alike can benefit from, and should enjoy, this excellent short volume.

University of Maine, Orono

LIAM RIORDAN

Speculators in Empire: Iroquoia and the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix. By WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012. 288 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

The past two decades have seen a tremendous interest among historians of the eighteenth-century northeastern American backcountry in defining the terms, both local and imperial, of British–Native American land transfers, diplomacy, and conflict. In this milieu, a concentrated study of the principal diplomatic initiative of the period—the territory-sundering 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix—is long overdue. William J. Campbell shows, through skillful elaboration of context and impressively deep research, that this treaty was as much about individual personalities and regional Iroquois and provincial apprehensions as it was about any overarching plan of empire. The specious treaty that ceded large portions of the Ohio Country for colonial settlement was the result of a tragic mixture of authoritarian anxiety and speculative acquisitiveness, orchestrated by groups of people who could detect clearly the changing winds of the 1760s and sought to bend them to their advantage.

Campbell presents his study of the Stanwix treaty as a story of both time and place. The time is the unsettled period following the Seven Years' War, when growing British provinces sent thousand of settlers into a trans-Appalachian backcountry occupied by displaced, resentful, and often belligerent Native Americans. The place is the upper Mohawk Valley in New York, a major locus of provincial-native trade, travel, and diplomacy, and the location of Fort Stanwix. One reason for the region's importance was the presence of the Oneida Carry, a land portage that connected the Great Lakes system with the Mohawk and Hudson River corridors. Another was the proximity of Sir William Johnson, the British northern superintendent of Indian affairs. Finally, the portage was located in Iroquoia, eastern home of a once-dominant, British-allied Indian confederacy that had been weakened in regional authority through decades of Euro-American conflict and pressure from land-hungry colonial settlers. But a larger problem for British provinces and their many speculators in western lands was the violent and contentious Ohio Country, populated by western Senecas, Shawnees, Miamis, and many other groups that the Iroquois viewed as subordinates but who were in fact powerful, autonomous peoples determined to defend their homes against encroaching settlers. The initial imperial solution to Ohio Country unrest, the 1763 Proclamation Line along the Appalachians, pleased the Ohio native groups but angered expansionist colonists and land speculators. Campbell shows that in the proclamation's aftermath, "converging interests" of both the Iroquois and northern colonial people and institutions made a new boundary line an attractive proposition (chapter 5).

Under the proposed plan, the Iroquois Confederacy would attain the security of their eastern homelands at the cost of large cessions of "Iroquois" territory in

western Pennsylvania, New York, and the Ohio Country. These negotiations were founded and led by British diplomats William Johnson, George Croghan, and other agents heavily invested in either land speculation or imperial responsibility (or, in Johnson's case, both). The new boundary line, suggested in treaty talks in 1764–65 and established at Stanwix in 1768, would establish a firm southern border of Iroquoia and protect additional Mohawk holdings south of the line but would open millions of acres for settlement in the West, where Iroquois authority was figurative at best. The agreement so angered Virginia and Connecticut colonists (with their own speculative ambitions), western Indian groups, and some British imperial officials that its outcome was dysfunctional. The results were decades of intercultural conflict in the Ohio Country, the rise and fall of various speculative land schemes, and ultimately, a second Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784 that helped begin a long process of Indian dispossession and relocation in the new republic.

Campbell's study is deeply researched and rich in nuance. Some may find the amount of detail concerning the doings of Johnson, Croghan, and others cumbersome, but part of Campbell's point seems to be that these converging regional—even personal—interests created imperial policy as much—or more—than the king, the Board of Trade, or the military commander-in-chief in America. It is hard to imagine a more thorough study of this important treaty, which has paled in popular understanding of the era compared to the 1763 proclamation that it supplanted. My only serious gripe is the near absence of good maps, which are absolutely necessary to help sort out the numerous (and often bewildering) geographic descriptions of treaty locations. That aside, the book will reward anyone interested in the dynamic and often tragic regional and local workings of empire, intercultural diplomacy, and colonial American expansion.

Ball State University

DANIEL INGRAM

The Heart of the Taufschein: Fraktur and the Pivotal Role of Berks County, Pennsylvania. By CORINNE EARNEST and RUSSELL EARNEST. (Kutztown, PA: Pennsylvania German Society, 2012. 304 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendices, index. \$69.95.)

Corinne and Russell Earnest's volume on fraktur in Berks County, Pennsylvania, is a fascinating look at the art form that not only served as decoration but also documentation of the lives of German settlers in Pennsylvania from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Each fraktur—from *taufscheine* (baptismal certificates), to *trauscheine* (marriage certificates), to watercolors—is unique.

The volume begins with a brief survey of Berks County's history, focusing on the county as the center for *taufscheine* production. Artists and recorders continued

to use German lettering on these certificates through the nineteenth century, even after most other counties switched to English. Furthermore, even printed *taufscheine* (in both English and German) included decorations, either hand drawn or colored.

Earnest and Earnest proceed to examine the work of prominent *taufscheine* artists. Common themes for *taufscheine* included birds (particularly distelfinks), tulips, eight-pointed stars, hearts, and beehives. The fraktur of Lutheran pastor Daniel Schumacher provided an illuminated record of the births and baptisms, confirmations, and marriages he performed. Henrich Otto and Johann Valentin Schuller focused on printed forms for their artwork. Friederich Krebs, a schoolmaster, recorded genealogical information in a heart surrounded by flowers and birds. During the eighteenth century, artists such as Schumacher drew *taufscheine* freehand and handwrote all information recorded on the document. By the nineteenth century, printed certificates appeared, often published by newspaper publishers. The production of original artwork did not stop with the advent of printed texts, as artists such as Krebs continued to illuminate their manuscripts in addition to painting and decorating freehand *taufscheine*. Printers such as Johann Ritter, publisher of *Der Readinger Adler*, used *taufscheine* to enhance their businesses and generate revenue. Angels, birds on branches, cornucopia, and Bibles appeared on Ritter's *taufscheine*, and scribes often painted the print art with watercolors. Over time, as German settlers in Berks County became more anglicized, *taufscheine* gradually began to include English text, yet they continued to incorporate traditional German religious images.

Earnest and Earnest have done a commendable job in compiling this exploration of the importance of Berks County to the development of the *taufscheine*. Lavishly illustrated with images from private collections, the Reading Public Museum, and museums in Lancaster County, the volume demonstrates the variety of designs used to decorate both printed and handwritten baptismal certificates. Four appendices that identify fraktur artists who made *taufscheine*, scribes who filled them in, printers who published *taufscheine*, and translations of the *taufscheine* enhance the value of this book. The main weakness of the volume is that it neglects to include any of the 583 examples of *taufscheine* found in the collections of the Historical Society of Berks County's Henry Janssen Library—which include the contributions of Berks County artists such as the I. T. W. Artist. Overall, *The Heart of the Taufschein* is a fine volume, but by not including a single example from perhaps the largest collection of *taufscheine* in Berks County, it fails to be comprehensive in its coverage of the topic.

Mansfield University

KAREN GUENTHER

Memories of War: Visiting Battlegrounds and Bonefields in the Early American Republic. By THOMAS A. CHAMBERS. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2012. 232 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95.)

The February 13, 2013, *New York Times* Arts section (C26) featured a family's account of their trip to Fort Ticonderoga, New York. In addition to experiencing lantern tours, fife and drum concerts, and spectacular vistas, they learned about the history of the fort as the site of a bloody battle between the French and English in 1758 (when it was known as Fort Carillon) and its place in America's Revolution. For the modern tourist, convenient travel, comfortable accommodations, and pristinely restored battle sites interpreted through informative education programs, often replete with reenactors, are the norm.

Thomas Chambers's engaging and illuminating book describes an era when Americans had little interest in either preserving or touring sites, such as Ticonderoga and Yorktown, that have become gems of America's heritage. In the early republic, few Americans even attempted to visit battlefields, in part because of difficult travel and poor accommodations, but primarily because most of them had nearly vanished. The Saratoga battle sites had reverted to farms. Ticonderoga was in ruins, and efforts to make it a tourist destination failed. Visitors to Braddock's field might view a few bones, but there was little else to see. Admirers of Washington who visited it celebrated the providential hand that had spared the general's life but did not see the site as sacred ground.

Chambers's thesis is that "while published memory reminded Americans of the Revolution's causes and ideals, enacted memory remained focused on landscape and melancholy. . . . In visiting and responding to battlefields, Americans constructed memory through personal, performative nationalism" (56). The research on which Chambers draws includes diaries, guidebooks, speeches, art, and his own visits to every battlefield from the Seven Years' War through the War of 1812 cited in his book. He argues that up to the antebellum period, people visited battle sites only if they boasted spectacular views or elicited romantic feelings. The Niagara region was an especially popular destination because tourists could view the falls from the ruins of the forts. Occasionally, tourists would encounter an old veteran as a guide to help them interpret what they were viewing. Otherwise, the average visitor's experience revolved around sightseeing, not education.

Chambers tantalizes by suggesting that this early nineteenth-century battlefield tourism "created a new form of memory dependent on interaction with place, romantic scenery, and sentiment" (35). It is possible that the sources he scoured are silent on this matter, but the account would have been richer had he been able to provide insights into what constituted that new form of memory and how it compared to the constructed memory found in histories and orators' speeches. Knowing more about why Americans neglected the battle sites and boneyards

that are now considered national treasures would also deepen our understanding of national identity in the early republic.

Chambers states that in the antebellum period, political utility led to increased efforts to preserve the relics of war. As fractures over issues of slavery deepened, and with no more living heroes to celebrate, sectional leaders turned to neglected sites such as the Waxhaws, Fort Moultrie, Yorktown, and Lexington as symbols to inspire devotion to their causes. Only in the wake of the trauma of the Civil War and the growth of tourism in the twentieth century would these sites become sacred and central to national history and identity. As the *Times* article suggests, they have evolved into businesses that blend public history, preservation, commerce, and entertainment—phenomena that the tourists found in Chambers's book could hardly have imagined.

University of New Hampshire–Manchester

JOHN RESCH

“Prigg v. Pennsylvania”: Slavery, the Supreme Court, and the Ambivalent Constitution. By H. ROBERT BAKER. (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2012. 216 pp. Chronology, bibliographic essay, index. Cloth, \$34.95; paper, \$16.95.)

Professor Baker's contribution to the University Press of Kansas's series on landmark American legal cases is the first book-length treatment of *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, an 1842 slavery case argued before the United States Supreme Court. The extent to which *Prigg* fanned the flames of secession, helped to provoke the Civil War, or doomed Dred Scott's later claims of freedom are hard questions that Baker, wisely, does not claim to resolve. Instead, he does a superb job of describing the factual underpinnings of the *Prigg* ruling and placing the court's decision in its correct historical context: a confusing and dangerous time when concurrent state and federal jurisdiction over shared territory collided with the plain language of the Constitution.

The facts of the case are simple. In 1832, Margaret and Jerry Johnson moved from Maryland to York County, Pennsylvania. Jerry was a free black man from Pennsylvania, and Margaret was the daughter of two married slaves who had been claimed as property by John Ashmore of Maryland. Ashmore had allowed Margaret's parents to live freely on his estate, although he had never complied with Maryland's complicated manumission laws. He never claimed Margaret as his property, and upon his death, the inventory of his estate made no mention of her.

Nonetheless, John's heir Margaret Ashmore claimed that Margaret Johnson and her children—including one child who had been born in the free state of Pennsylvania—were her slaves, and she hired Edward Prigg to recover them. In 1837, Prigg and three associates traveled to Pennsylvania and began to comply

with the commonwealth's recapture laws, which required slave claimants first to obtain a judicial warrant for the arrest of the fugitive, then to prove their ownership in court. Prigg got the initial warrant but was denied a removal certificate by a York County justice of the peace. Nonetheless, Prigg proceeded to (in the language of the Supreme Court) "take, remove and carry away" Margaret and her children "into the state of Maryland." Under Pennsylvania's law, this made Prigg a felon subject to commonwealth prosecution.

Prigg's actions engaged Pennsylvania and Maryland in a conflict over the meaning of the Constitution's fugitive slave clause, which appeared to grant slave owners the unfettered right to recapture slaves wherever they might be found. If that clause meant what it said, then free states were powerless to protect fugitives within their borders, and Pennsylvania's procedure unconstitutionally burdened the right of recapture. The Supreme Court's ultimate ruling—that "the right to seize and retake fugitive slaves . . . is, under the constitution . . . uncontrollable by state sovereignty"—freed Edward Prigg and doomed Margaret Johnson and her children. Like all constitutional rulings, *Prigg* had repercussions affecting many more people than the litigants alone, and Baker's book nicely frames those consequences.

Prigg v. Pennsylvania recalibrated the relationship between slave and free states by giving the former a mixed victory. Free states could not protect fugitive slaves, but neither were they required to cooperate with slave catchers. The court's decision, which offended abolitionists and slaveholders alike, was a failed ruling by 1850. No Supreme Court ruling could, as Baker's careful analysis confirms, "staunch the flow of refugees northward" (173). After *Prigg*, the northern states were emboldened to pass new and stricter personal liberty laws that took advantage of the Supreme Court's invitation to abstain from any involvement in slave catching. Before long, Pennsylvania passed a new personal liberty law. Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, and Indiana likewise legislated their noncooperation with slave catching.

Baker's book, in keeping with the requirements of the Landmark Law Cases series, omits formal citations in order to make it more "readable, inexpensive, and appealing to students and general readers" (181). Any difficulty caused by this omission is mitigated by a thorough and lucid bibliographic essay accompanying the text. Sadly, in spite of the extensive scholarship catalogued in Baker's essay, *Prigg* remains a little-known case. My own informal survey of lawyers and judges revealed that few had ever heard of it, even though its enforcement of federal supremacy remains good law.

Baker offers the legal and historical communities the most thorough treatment of *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* so far. His excellent book should provoke further discussion and an enhanced understanding of this important ruling.

Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

SPERO T. LAPPAS

Lincoln and McClellan at War. By CHESTER G. HEARN. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2012. 272 pp. Maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.)

Following in a tradition reaching back to T. H. Williams's *Lincoln and His Generals* (1952), prolific writer and historian Chester G. Hearn has produced a solid and insightful analysis of the flawed working relationship between Abraham Lincoln and his commanding general, Pennsylvania native George B. McClellan. The strength of this study lies in its superbly organized and well-crafted narrative, which should earn it a place on any Civil War historian's bookshelf. Its weakness lies in the fact that this work surveys a well-churned landscape and, in the end, does not add much by way of revelation to the growing corporate body of literature on command relationships during the Civil War.

Given that both Lincoln and McClellan came to their respective command positions as novices to mass warfare, most would have expected the latter to possess the requisite experience to transcend the prodigious challenges presented in 1861. A son of a prominent Philadelphia physician, McClellan had all the advantages of a superior education, concluding with a four-year appointment to West Point. As a junior officer, he participated in General Winfield Scott's triumphal campaign on Mexico City in 1847, earning a brevet promotion for gallantry. Thereafter, he secured challenging assignments in what otherwise was a stupendously dull peacetime army. Wooed by a railroad firm, the engineer McClellan left the army in 1857. However, when the Civil War broke out in 1861, his services were eagerly sought by the governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio. McClellan, who was living in Cincinnati at the time, accepted the position of major general of the Ohio Volunteers. After organizing a successful campaign liberating the western counties of Virginia from rebel forces, he was summoned to Washington to command the principal army in the eastern theater—the forces that had just been trounced at Manassas. By contrast, the president and commander-in-chief had virtually no military training or experience. Together, Lincoln and McClellan would both be compelled to learn the ropes and bring the rebellion to its knees.

Throughout this work, Hearn focuses on the nature of this relationship as it developed in the first year of the war. Appropriately, he eschews any detailed examination of the campaigns themselves except to assess how Lincoln or McClellan acted either collaboratively or confrontationally. He does so in a dispassionate manner, and particularly laudatory is his reticence to submit either of his subjects to intense and speculative psychological profiling.

In the end, Hearn finds that McClellan's hubris never permitted him to engage seriously with Lincoln's insights and concerns, despite the president's sincere overtures. Moreover, in the course of his tenure as commander, McClellan failed to evolve in his awareness of the political nature of the conflict and never developed the appropriate aggressiveness required to prevail over the rebels. By contrast, Lincoln, who clearly exhibited signs of stumbling—even making outright mis-

takes at the outset of the war—grew considerably in military acumen during this same period.

Whereas *Lincoln and McClellan at War* may not be hailed as an especially original story, it is worthy of being added to the corporate body of literature on the peculiar relationship between the president and the general. Both scholars and popular audiences can appreciate a well-told story and will be rewarded with this one.

University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

THOMAS J. ROWLAND

S. Weir Mitchell, 1829–1914: Philadelphia's Literary Physician. By NANCY CERVETTI. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2012. 312 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$79.95.)

When Silas Weir Mitchell reflected on his accomplished life, which ended shortly before the First World War, he probably took pride in seeing himself a controversial figure in American medicine and literature. As a pioneer in the new field of neurology, Mitchell advocated scientific experimentation when most of his colleagues were content being traditional practitioners. As a writer of fiction and poetry, Mitchell proudly clung to sentimental romanticism while the soul of the literary world moved toward modern realism. Nancy Cervetti of Avila University finds controversy in yet another aspect of Mitchell's life and career: his relationship with women.

Cervetti's book is the first comprehensive, postfeminist biography of Mitchell. Earlier biographies focused on Mitchell's reputation as a neurologist and a writer, and Cervetti incorporates much of this approach by discussing his seminal works of medicine and literature. She covers familiar territory as she maps out Mitchell's impressive network of family, friends, colleagues, and patrons. Where this work significantly breaks from previous biographies is its acknowledgment of how Mitchell's reputation has drastically changed since the 1970s, when American academia began recasting the physician as an emblematic figure of the late-nineteenth-century antifeminist movement. Indeed, as Cervetti documents through archival research and a close reading of published sources, Mitchell's opinions about women failed to transcend his time period; his stated views reflect a profoundly conservative man who befriended many intelligent, ambitious women and yet remained adamantly opposed to women's widespread participation in political and professional life.

It is when Cervetti teases out Mitchell's identity as an antifeminist that her study becomes most intriguing. In a chapter entitled "The Apple or the Rose," Cervetti uses Mitchell's private correspondence, his medical writings, and examples from his fiction to illustrate a man who exhibited "impatience and at times

hostility toward independent and assertive women" (137). She places the otherwise well-worn story of Mitchell's (mis)treatment of feminist writer and economist Charlotte Perkins Gilman in the larger context of his career, concluding, overall, that Mitchell's antifeminist beliefs undermined his "effectiveness as a physician" and "cast a shadow over his contributions in experimental medicine" (2).

If there is a central weakness in Cervetti's otherwise effective work, it is that present-day sensibilities sometimes seep in to influence her descriptions of Mitchell. The introduction, for instance, argues that Mitchell waged a "war against women" (2)—a phrase more reflective of the politically charged year 2012, when the book was published, than of Mitchell's late-nineteenth-century antifeminist behavior. Such instances of presentism are uncommon, however, and Cervetti's book is sure to become the biography of record for Dr. Mitchell.

Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne DAVID G. SCHUSTER

Anthracite Labor Wars: Tenancy, Italians, and Organized Crime in the Northern Coalfield of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1897–1959. By ROBERT P. WOLENSKY and WILLIAM A. HASTIE SR. (Easton, PA: Canal History and Technology Press, 2013. 447 pp. Illustrations, notes, references, glossary, short biographies, index. \$24.95.)

Anthracite Labor Wars makes a helpful contribution to the history of labor relations and corporate development in the anthracite industry. This extensively illustrated volume focuses on the impact of coal companies contracting out much of the operation of their mines, with particular attention paid to the companies that owned most of the mines in and around Pittston, between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. That area had the industry's largest concentration of Italian mine workers, and the Italian community included numerous contractors, many of whom had ties to organized crime, as well as some of the most vigorous opponents of contracting. Strikes against contracting proliferated during the 1920s, breeding labor insurgency and violence amid worsening underemployment and unemployment, both well underway before the Great Depression. Labor militancy dissipated through the 1930s, but corruption had become institutionalized, as reflected in the Knox Coal Company disaster of January 1959. That firm illegally mined so close to the Susquehanna that the river inundated the mines, killing twelve workers and effectively ending mining in the area. Investigations exposed the company's violations of federal law through its officers' connections both to the United Mine Workers (UMW) and organized crime.

Anthracite Labor Wars is at its best in offering a detailed local history of how contracting developed and how workers struggled against the contractors' power.

Contractors seemed to be able to get more production from their men than the coal companies could, and in a declining market, some companies eagerly leased ever-larger sections of mines to them. Freedom of contract held a hallowed status in capitalist America, and the UMW was responsible for its own labor agreements. Thus, the union could not do much to satisfy workers' demands to end contracting without moving toward the Galleanist anarcho-syndicalism that the authors find at the root of Italian immigrant militancy. In 1928, UMW president John L. Lewis responded to widespread worker insurgency by imposing control from above, sacrificing the union's democratic tradition to that year's unprecedented violence. The dual union movement that resulted would sputter on until the murderous Good Friday bombing of 1936, as organized crime's power in the industry continued to grow. *Anthracite Labor Wars* does not tell us much about how organized crime changed over these years, nor how workers went in and out of contracting as the industry's decline proceeded. The book's most prominent villains are corporate leaders who saw leasing their mines as a way to squeeze the last bit of profit from an industry that, despite the authors' protestations, looked more and more like a losing bet.

The last chapter of *Anthracite Labor Wars* asks, "Why have Italians been neglected in telling the story of anthracite labor?" It groups "Greene, Aurand, Blatz, Miller and Sharpless, and Dublin and Licht" into an "established canon" apparently responsible for such neglect (212). Even at the risk of losing my only chance to be part of any canon, I reject such a characterization of my work. It surely had limitations, but *Democratic Miners* (1994) did not neglect Italian mine workers and their militant resistance to contracting. I cannot speak for the other historians, one of whom, Professor Harold Aurand, is deceased. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that across the anthracite industry in 1914, mine workers of eastern European ethnicity outnumbered those of Italian ethnicity by a factor of more than five to one. This fact neither calls for nor precludes focus on any group, and Wolensky and Hastie deserve praise for careful research on a little-studied topic that raises many important issues. But study of the anthracite industry should sufficiently reveal the damage done by ethnic rivalry to discourage pursuing it through scholarship.

Pittsburgh

PERRY K. BLATZ

200 Years of Latino History in Philadelphia: A Photographic Record of the Community.

By THE STAFF OF *AL DÍA*. (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2012. 200 pp. Photographs. \$39.95.)

200 Years of Latino History is both a pictorial account of the development of the Latino presence in Philadelphia and a commemoration of the twentieth anni-

versary of *Al Día*, a newspaper founded and operated by Colombian-born Hernán Guaracao. While the introductory section correctly informs readers that Latin Americans have long lived in Philadelphia, the book does not provide a full history of this two-hundred-year presence in the city, making the title a bit of a misnomer. That limitation aside, the book is full of wonderful photos documenting the Latino community from as early as the 1940s. Many of these images were captured by award-winning Puerto Rican–Philadelphian photographer David Cruz; other photos, especially the ones from 1940–80, were gathered from personal collections. Taken together, these pictures provide a nice glimpse into what was then primarily a Puerto Rican community.

The book is divided into four sections that attempt to span two hundred years of history, from 1812–2012. While the first section, which covers the first 140 years, is short, it nonetheless represents a noble attempt to establish an early and rich history of Latinos in Philadelphia that is not yet well documented. The strongest contribution of the book is the photographic collection amassed by Cruz and other staff members of *Al Día* over the past twenty years: a treasure trove for anyone who hopes to become more familiar with Latino Philadelphia. A range of community events are captured in these snapshots, from cultural fiestas to political developments—including many of the community’s protest marches for recognition of their issues by the government and the city at large. The last two sections of the book, which comprise the bulk of its pages, contain a terrific panorama of the many Latinos who make up this important and growing sector of the City of Brotherly Love.

200 Years of Latino History in Philadelphia is more than a good coffee-table book; it is an excellent entryway into what one Latina resident once termed “an invisible community.” As this book’s astonishing photographs reveal, this community is invisible no more.

Miami Dade College

VÍCTOR VÁZQUEZ-HERNÁNDEZ

Nature’s Entrepôt: Philadelphia’s Urban Sphere and Its Environmental Thresholds.

Edited by BRIAN C. BLACK and MICHAEL J. CHIARAPPA. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012. 376 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$38.)

Anyone interested in environmental history, urban history and planning, or Philadelphia will want to read this book. According to editor Brian Black, “the indisputable fact that human culture is connected to and affected by the natural environment” provided the reason to gather this collection of essays, all of which explore the never-ceasing relationship of people (in this case, Philadelphians) with their natural environment, with particular attention paid to the utilitarian ways in which Philadelphians have altered their surroundings (11).

The “indisputable fact” of the close connection between the American city and environmental history is underscored by the variety of disciplines represented in this collection. Two contributors are primarily environmental historians, but twelve are from the fields of art history and museum work, sociology, geography and landscape studies, urban history, and the history of medicine. Each researches and addresses some aspect of the impact of Philadelphians on the physical landscape and Philadelphians’ perceptions of these environmental changes.

The variety of disciplines showcased in this volume provides a noteworthy lesson for academics. The use of visual images (maps, photographs, engravings, etc.) is surprisingly restrained in a book devoted to Philadelphia’s evolving topography. Informative images that effectively underscore the authors’ points are found in the essays by art museum curator Elizabeth Milroy; Adam Levine, an independent consultant who demonstrates a remarkably concrete sense of place in his website, *Philly H₂O* (www.phillyh2o.org); and Michael J. Chiarappa, an academic who has worked extensively with museums and public history institutions. Domenic Vitiello, a city consultant and urban studies professor, also includes a few well-chosen images. It is simply ineffective (and perhaps even wrong) to discuss the Wissahickon, deer, or “landscape literacy” programs without a few images. It’s too academic.

The thirteen articles are grouped into four sections, the titles of which imply a broad chronological progression. The first essay, by Craig Zabel, examines Philadelphia’s evolution during the Penn era, and all four essays in the final section focus on the last few decades. But within several sections the arrangement is confusing. In the first section, Zabel’s discussion of Penn’s Philadelphia is followed by Elizabeth Milroy’s article on the evolution of the Fairmount Park System from the early nineteenth century to the present, then by Thomas Apel’s explanation of the yellow fever epidemics from 1793 to 1805. Although editor Brian Black announces that section 2 covers the city before 1900, Carolyn T. Adams’s article on industrial suburbs focuses on contemporary urban planning challenges that result from pre-1900 industrial suburbs.

Inevitably, some essays will capture individual readers’ attention more than others, which is why this collection will be so useful to so many historians. Donna J. Rilling and Michal McMahon use court cases and legal statutes as evidence of the changing physical landscape of the city and contemporary perceptions of that change. Several authors, notably Apel, Levine, and Chiarappa, remind us that water has been the defining topographical feature of Philadelphia, a port city and a city of creeks. Several essays frame current programs as forward-thinking, green initiatives, but also powerfully (and perhaps unintentionally) describe the changing role of the postindustrial urban landscape and begin a new cycle of redefining “city.”

Overall, this collection of essays is more unified than many such volumes. Overlapping time periods and details that appear in several essays effectively link

topics together, so discussions of discrete topics combine to provide a bigger picture while remaining informative in their own right.

West Chester University

ANNE E. KRULIKOWSKI

As American as Shoofly Pie: The Foodlore and Fakelore of Pennsylvania Dutch Cuisine.

By WILLIAM WOYS WEAVER. (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013. 318 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

During a lull in a September 13, 2013, major league baseball game, MLB Network announcers chatted about the lengthy beards the Red Sox players had grown as good luck charms for the season. Catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia, one commentator joked, “looks like he belongs in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, churning butter.” “Yeah, and eating shoofly pie,” his coanchor concurred. These off-hand observations highlight both the immediacy of Amish stereotypes in American popular culture and the varied ways in which Amish culture and Pennsylvania Dutch food traditions intertwine in the popular imagination.

However, as noted Pennsylvania food historian William Woys Weaver reveals in this book, “shoofly pie” neither represents a genuine expression of Amish culture nor an authentic Pennsylvania Dutch recipe. The Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine experienced by Lancaster County tourists—boasting traditions such as the “seven sweets and seven sours,” which ensures that Amish tables are always laden with pickles and preserves—is a “fictional cuisine” that did not originate in the home kitchens of real Amish cooks and Pennsylvania Dutch families (3, 74–75). Instead, these recipes and traditions sprang to life from the imaginations of writers and journalists interested in capturing the quaint traditions of a charming community; from the machinations of restaurant owners and hotels who lured tourists with promises of delicious, “genuine” dishes and served them instead bland flavors (so as not to offend picky eaters) and large portions (to inspire open wallets); and from the practices of misguided cultural revivalists who promoted recipes based on the number of mouths they could feed rather than on their authenticity. These disparate, but often interwoven, factors have led to Pennsylvania Dutch food “fakelore,” and not the daily foods consumed across the region, becoming cemented as perceived reality.

In an effort to dispel the mistaken aura of legitimacy surrounding the foods branded as “Pennsylvania Dutch,” Weaver launched his own culinary expedition. Following a trail of restaurant menus, tourist merchandise, cookbooks, and even popular novels that purport to depict real Amish and Pennsylvania Dutch families, Weaver uncovers the tangled web of misconceptions, misrepresentations, and misplaced motivations contributing to the modern phenomenon of millions of visitors to Lancaster County leaving satisfied with their “real” Pennsylvania Dutch

eating experience, having consumed a cuisine consisting of nothing but a few recipes invented to suit the tourist palate, coupled with dozens of dishes indistinguishable from fare found across the United States—including, as Weaver discovered first-hand, canned green bean and mushroom soup casserole topped with crushed potato chips (142). By infiltrating national perceptions, these recipes have concealed the true food traditions that have been a part of Pennsylvania Dutch cooking for generations beneath layers of bland gravy and sugary shoofly pie.

Weaver's most important contribution in this work is not his powerful debunking of the food "fakelore" but his research that brings authentic Pennsylvania Dutch food traditions to light. From pit cabbage (*Grundrezept fer Gruwegraut*) to groundhog, from potato potpie with saffron to sauerkraut, and from funnel cake to chicken and waffles, Weaver uncovers the recipes that have sustained the community for generations. By providing the origins and lineages of these recipes and revealing the key roles they played in the day-to-day lives of community members, Weaver affirms the vibrancy and diversity of Pennsylvania Dutch foodways, which resist efforts to define or confine them within the limitations of the tourist industry.

For the curious reader anxious to experience the authentic dishes mentioned throughout the book, Weaver provides an added treat: a collection of genuine recipes assembled through his extensive fieldwork and tested on his own table. These recipes serve as a faithful tribute to the Pennsylvania Dutch.

York College, York, NE

JENNIFER RACHEL DUTCH