

representative from Indiana, expressed his disgust that the “universal feeling among radical men here [Washington, DC] is that his death is a godsend.” Former slaves truly mourned his death, but even some abolitionists did not.

Even for readers who know and have read a great deal about the Civil War, *Mourning Lincoln* will introduce a greater appreciation for the life and service of Abraham Lincoln. Whether he was loved or hated, the triumph of his presidency and the tragedy of his death were felt by all Americans. Historians should be grateful to Martha Hodes for that important reminder.

*The Abraham Lincoln Foundation
of the Union League of Philadelphia*

JAMES G. MUNDY JR.

Sisterly Love: Women of Note in Pennsylvania History. Edited by MARIE A. CONN and THÉRÈSE MCGUIRE. (Lanham, MD: Hamilton Books, 2014. 208 pp. Notes. Paper, \$32.99.)

The frameworks of place and time shape a biographical collection. So too does the disciplinary focus of each author. Edited by Marie A. Conn and Thérèse McGuire, *Sisterly Love* reflects the backgrounds of the authors, from history to religious studies, literature to mathematics. There are varied approaches to each subject; some are chronologically driven narratives, some reflect on the roots of the subject’s ideology, and others are oral histories of women still living.

One theme is religion. Anna Johanna Piesch Seidel led the Sisters Choir in the early settlement of Bethlehem. Sister Assisium McEvoy, SSJ authored the *Course of Christian Doctrine: A Handbook for Teachers*, used throughout the world. Anna Kugler bridged both the medical and religious worlds as a doctor and missionary in India. Kate Drexel founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1891 and was canonized in 2000. Joan Dawson McConnon, cofounder of Project H.O.M.E. with Sister Mary Scullion, created one of the most effective existing organizations for the homeless. Women who are already well studied make up another group. These include actress and abolitionist Fanny Kemble; artist and muralist Violet Oakley; environmentalist Rachel Carson; impressionist painter Cecelia Beaux; and Ida Tarbell, the original muckraker.

The volume also includes stimulating discussions of twentieth-century entrepreneurs and pioneers in fields where women were rarely found. Mary Brooks Picken wrote over ninety books, including the iconic *Singer Sewing Book*, which allowed generations of women to learn how to sew at home. Gertrude Hawk founded a chocolate empire in northeastern Pennsylvania. Kathleen McNulty Mauchly Antonelli was one of a handful of hitherto little-known women working on the famous ENIAC computer at the University of Pennsylvania.

This volume could be used in the classroom as a model for student biograph-

ical explorations. The writers model research on the lives of women both for whom primary sources are few and for whom sources are available on the Internet. Sources are delineated at the end of each essay, which will be helpful to readers who want to learn more.

Commenting on the collection as a whole is difficult, both because of the range of work in which the women were involved and the varied authorial focus. Even so, *Sisterly Love* adds to our understanding of “women of note” in Pennsylvania. It is a welcome addition to that small bookshelf of biographical collections on Pennsylvania women. The goal of this volume by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium of Higher Education (SEPCHE) was to increase readers’ interest in searching for other women whose lives had an impact on society. This it certainly does. To this end, two other good state models exist: *Virginia Women: Their Lives and Times*, in the Southern Women: Their Lives and Times collection by the University of Georgia Press (2015), and *North Carolina Women: Making History* (1999).

Readers will not want to complete this book in one sitting and will rather find that it is best read by delving into two or three essays at one time. The intent of the editors and the SEPCHE leaders is to provoke more investigations like this one. After reading the volume, many educators and historians may hope that it will do so.

Philadelphia University

MARION ROYDHOUSE

Engineering Philadelphia: The Sellers Family and the Industrial Metropolis. By DOMENIC VITIELLO. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013. 288 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$35.)

In the first edition of Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner’s novel *The Gilded Age*, respected Philadelphia engineer Escol Sellers appeared as a delusional speculator. Angered by this portrayal, Sellers eventually produced a firsthand version of his remarkable career. According to author Domenic Vitiello, Sellers’s own account, written in the 1880s, also depicted the process of industrialization “as a sincere pursuit of public import” (2). In *Engineering Philadelphia*, Vitiello makes the “public import” of the careers of several generations of the Sellers family into his central point. Other members were not only inventors, engineers, and machinists, but also educational, civic, and social activists in Philadelphia, Wilmington, Delaware, and Cincinnati.

Vitiello demonstrates that these two seemingly disparate realms of activity—activism and industry—were, in fact, interdependent. This is the double meaning of the book’s title. Vitiello examines the significant contributions Philadelphia engineers made to the regional, national, and international economy in the nine-