BOOK REVIEW


This beautifully printed and beautifully illustrated volume of 793 pages will be welcomed by every lover of the history of Pennsylvania. Since its appearance, Pennsylvania is the first and only state in the Union to have an exclusive history of its Indian wars and uprisings. The book discloses an immense amount of scholarly research, and is charmingly written. No library, public or private, will be long without it.

It opens with a sketch of "The Pennsylvania Indians --Their Religion and Character", and then goes on through an enumeration and description of the Pennsylvania Indian tribes, a discussion of the just Indian policy of the Swedes on the Delaware and of William Penn, and the "Principal Indian Events from 1701 to 1754". Then the pages thicken up with the campaigns, battles, atrocities and tragedies of the French and Indian War, Pontiac's War, Lord Dunmore's War and the Indians' part in the Revolutionary War, and finally through the "Post-Revolutionary Uprising", ending with the defeat of the Western tribes at Fallen Timbers by General Anthony Wayne, in August, 1794, and the consequent signing of the Treaty of Greenville, in August, 1795. One fine feature of the book is that it specifically locates the battles, atrocities and tragedies. The reader is never left to guess where the important and tragic events took place. Another valuable feature is the setting forth of the real causes of these Indian wars in Pennsylvania. As one reads the account of Pontiac's War, for instance, he clearly sees that the great historian, Parkman, never found the real cause of this bloody uprising.
The author of this masterly work has already indebted Pennsylvanians to him by his former volume on *The Indian Chiefs of Pennsylvania*, and now he has greatly increased this debt by this much larger volume. While the New England States, as a group, have a history of their Indian wars, Pennsylvania is the first and only state in the Union to have an exclusive history of the forty years of conflict between the Indian and the white man within its borders. For completing this monumental work, the author deserves the thanks of every lover of the early history of the Keystone State.

Mr. Sipe bases this work primarily on the *Pennsylvania Archives* and *Colonial Records*. It is therefore not a collection of frontier tales of doubtful historical basis, but an accurate and scientific history of the most romantic, the most thrilling, the most tragic, and, in many respects, the most important period in Pennsylvania’s mighty past. One realizes as he peruses the pages of this volume that, if the Pennsylvania frontiersmen had not had the discipline and hardships of these Indian wars, the Revolutionary War would likely have been doomed to failure. The Pennsylvania frontier was, as Dr. Donehoo says in the introduction, the “West Point” of many of the distinguished Generals of Washington’s army. One realizes, too, when perusing Mr. Sipe’s volume that, if the Indian policy of the Swedes on the Delaware, and of William Penn, had been followed by Penn’s successors, the Indian problem in Pennsylvania would very likely have worked itself out without literally drenching the soil of the Keystone State with the blood of the Indian and the pioneer. The Indian policy of the Swedes, it is seen, lay at the foundation of the success of William Penn. Furthermore, as pointed out in this history, the Swedes on the Delaware established religious liberty in Pennsylvania at a time when it was a mockery or a myth in New England and other places in the Western World.

The author has been careful to maintain a just balance between the Indian and the white man. Hence, there is no whitewashing in this book of either individual actions or general policies of the settlers when, to our later and unprejudiced eyes, they seem reprehensible.
In a word, this book is an accurate, detailed and splendidly written history of the forty years of conflict between the Indian and the white man in Pennsylvania. Not the least of its value and charm is the setting forth of the tragedies, even the smaller ones, in the cabin homes of the pioneers. In this book, the pioneer who laid down his life has a place in history along with the noted military leaders.

In no other volume can be found half as much of the early history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. For this reason, alone, it should be in every school and library, public or private, in Western Pennsylvania. The volume will be the authority on the Indian wars and uprisings in Pennsylvania for all time to come.

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