
According to the prefaces these volumes follow closely the Pennsylvania state course of study in social studies for grades five and six of the elementary schools. They are of interest therefore in several respects. They show the content of the course of study mentioned, they furnish light on the quality of textbooks, and they indicate what can be done with local history in a larger synthesis. The criteria of such writing are many. They involve chronological perspective of the whole and of its topical parts, atmosphere, selection and omission, organization, and accuracy, as well as adaptation of the material to the grades for which it is written. It is not easy to meet all these criteria at one and the same time.

In these volumes will be found some political history and much social, economic, and cultural history. Considerable attention is given to civics as preparation for citizenship and some to international relations, and there is in addition an elaboration of the place of Pennsylvania in the nation’s history. Even nine hundred pages are none too many for the inclusion of all these approaches.

In this review it is possible to mention only a few of the features of the text. The first of these must be the matter of chronological perspective. This is unavoidably injured by the very organization of the course of study and of this book on the unit or topical basis. As a result no clear picture of the evolution of the country as a unitary whole stands out from the volumes. In the next place organization and study forms are emphasized at the expense of accuracy and the inclusion of the results of the most recent historical scholarship. Even in the matter of Pennsylvania history such a shortcoming is noted. To this Pennsylvania material our attention will be confined.

The very first Pennsylvania item is a map in the first volume opposite page 59 presenting the exploded idea that La Salle navigated the upper Ohio River in 1669. In the otherwise satisfactory treatment of the settlement of Pennsylvania (p. 138–176), chronological perspective is violated in treating other Germans before mentioning Daniel Pastorius and Germantown. There are also a number of inaccuracies in the section on the French and Indian War (p. 240–
in which western Pennsylvania is naturally given much consideration. On a map of 1750 (p. 244) the location of Fort Duquesne is indicated, although the fort was not established until 1754. On page 246 there is mention of Fort Venango as having been built by the English before 1753, but John Fraser's trading house was the only English-built structure there before 1760. Other errors in this section of the text are the statements that a Virginia land company bought land in the Ohio Valley (p. 246), that the Great Meadows are not far from Pittsburgh (p. 249), that Washington's advice about scouts and other matters was ignored by General Braddock (p. 251), that Forbes (whose campaign is given inadequate emphasis) was in 1758 only a colonel, and that he renamed Fort Duquesne Fort Pitt.

In the treatment of the American Revolution, apart from the usual emphasis on George Rogers Clark, the upper Ohio Valley is virtually ignored. Considering the importance of western Pennsylvania in the war such neglect is unfortunate. Had more attention been given to Pennsylvania the author would have avoided the error that Redstone is now known as Bedford (p. 311), which will amuse the children of Brownsville. Even in the special section on "Pennsylvania's Part in the Revolution" (p. 337-354), western Pennsylvania is ignored, although much attention is given to incidental matters connected with the region around Philadelphia.

Western Pennsylvanians are much interested in the history of the Old Northwest. It is a disappointment, therefore, to find no mention of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and to note that its provision that a certain part of the land should be set aside for the support of public schools is improperly ascribed to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which in reality contained only a significant statement of sentiment in favor of public education.

In the second volume the treatment of the Whiskey Insurrection is very brief and orthodox (p. 15); the rôle of western Pennsylvania in the War of 1812 is given no consideration; brief notice is given to westward travel by the Pennsylvania roads and the Ohio River (p. 119, 122); in the section on travel some attention is given to Pennsylvania highways, canals, and railroads. (p. 150-190); Pennsylvania in the Civil War receives consideration both in the general account (p. 216-254) and in the last special unit on Pennsylvania (p. 382-432). In this last unit western Pennsylvania receives particular attention in the section on the "Industrial Development of Pennsylvania." Places of historic interest in the state, arranged by counties in the appendixes of both volumes, furnish excellent suggestions for local guidance on historical trips.
A careful examination of these volumes reveals that in the organization of a modern pedagogical textbook in history two very likely shortcomings are a lack of good chronological perspective and a lack of accurate up-to-date historical scholarship.

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The subtitle is the definitive part of the title of this work. It is not a history of the presidential campaign of 1868, but almost entirely a study of the complexities of Democratic reorganization and party tactics in the first presidential election after the war. Almost one-half of the space is devoted to the candidates for the Democratic nomination, the convention, and the reaction of the country to the nominees. The author evidently believed that the selection of candidates was the most important task of the party. The reader is left quite uncertain as to why and how things happened as they did in the convention. If anything more than chance and the vagaries of human emotions determined the choice of Seymour it seems to be found in a combination of particular hostilities to other candidates, the needs of the New York Democracy, and the prestige of the war governor of the Empire State, whose reluctance was almost forcibly overcome by his friends. The author apparently accepts as genuine the unwillingness of Horatio Seymour to be a candidate. The nomination of Francis P. Blair, Jr., for the vice presidency was also somewhat mysterious and apparently regarded by the author as unwise. The discussion of the platform is purely narrative with emphasis on the sections dealing with money and southern reconstruction. Disagreement within the party with regard to both the candidates and the platform receives major emphasis; within two weeks of the election there were considerable demands for a new ticket.

The author concludes that “the victory of the Republicans was to have been expected, and that their victory was more pronounced because of the errors of their opponents.” The Republican advantages consisted in the prestige of victory in war, superior organization, established control, larger financial resources, and the popularity of General Grant. According to the author the Democratic