labor.” He has, indeed, done well. It is fair to say that, with the exception of the chapter on the Indians, the work is exhaustive—at least from the orthodox historian’s point of view. Every kind of social source material is drawn upon, and good indexing, classifying, interpreting, and digesting makes the book very usable. It is mercifully free from long quotations.

Dr. Bond has shown what can be done with the political, social, and economic beginnings of a given region. His book should be most useful as a model or pattern to workers in the field of western Pennsylvania history. For instance chapter fifteen on “Religion and Order” first treats of the coming of the different denominations and of their locations. It then develops the following subjects: the tactics and characteristics of the ministers, the nature and dissemination of religious literature, the circuit rider, the camp meeting, schismatic tendencies, moralistic legislation and control, and the problem of crime and punishment. The analysis of other subjects, such as the eastern backgrounds of western civilization, the distribution of the land, pioneer agriculture, transportation, and cultural and social foundations, would be similarly profitable.

It must be confessed that the problem of writing the corresponding story for western Pennsylvania is not so simple. The region has no political identity of its own, no separate legislative, judiciary, and executive departments; consequently the problem of public source material is highly complicated. Furthermore practically all the Old Northwest belonged to and, for the larger part of the period, was governed by, the federal government, whose archives are thus rich in material relating to its local history. Moreover western Pennsylvania does not possess numerous societies of merit such as those that have so well preserved the historical treasures of each state of the Old Northwest. It is probable that the lack of public spirit in things historical in western Pennsylvania accounts in some measure for the paucity of records. A history of the beginnings of the civilization of this region must and will be written. The difficulties are not insurmountable.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  Randolph C. Downes


The lover of history will enjoy reading this book. Written for the undergraduate college student and for the general reader, it is eloquent testimony
that historical writing on the so-called popular level can also be of profound value to the so-called scholar. It is not, of course, highly polished literature embellished with the trappings of artistic expression. It combines simple, almost childlike, construction with lucid and scholarly thinking. From the chronological point of view the treatment is a balanced one. There is not too much overemphasis upon beginnings as is often the case in works of this kind. The pre-settlement period covers 85 pages, the first half of the period from 1788 to 1933, 204 pages, and the latter half of that period, 232 pages. The text moves easily through its course and the humility and level-headedness of the authors makes the reader's burden not only light but pleasant and satisfying.

The treatment is both chronological and topical. Four of the twenty chapters deal entirely with economic and cultural development. This means that the book is mainly a political one. If this is to be lamented it is only fair to say that the authors do not claim to have treated of a civilization or of a development complete in all its phases. The book is far superior to any history of Ohio that has yet been written. One may regret that economic origins, institutional growth, and industrial development are not treated in the right proportions, but one may rest assured that the incorporation of such material in the historical output of Ohio scholars has been brought nearer by the mere writing of this book. The table of contents contains helpful outlines of each chapter. Selective bibliographies are also to be found at the end of each chapter. The volume is well indexed and contains at the end a list of the governors of Ohio. There are nine maps but no other illustrations.

An important factor in making this book possible has been the indefatigable work of the authors in building up at Ohio State University their own course on the history of Ohio. They themselves have made exhaustive studies of certain periods of the history of the state. Fortunately they have been able to use the definitive studies of other periods made by competent scholars. The reviewer feels not only that the authors were able to use these other works (many of them are unpublished) but that they actually did use them. Ohio is thus much more fortunate than western Pennsylvania, where the exhaustive and scholarly spade work has yet to be done. But more than that is needed. The reviewer knows, through direct participation, of the loyalty and zeal, the single-hearted devotion, the vision, and the fine spirit of comradeship that have characterized the renaissance of historical scholarship in Ohio in recent years. The deadening effect of overemphasis on the discipline and the mechanics of history writing has been happily avoided. It is to be hoped that the renaissance in western Pennsylvania will be similarly fortunate. The invigorating effect of several strong history departments in universities supported by the state as well as in
privately supported institutions has also been of tremendous value in this movement. In this respect it is to be hoped that conditions in western Pennsylvania will continue to improve.

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The modern concept of history as embracing the whole of human activity has laid a heavy burden upon those who would essay to write the history of even a single one of the American states. It has made possible, however, the production of state histories far transcending in interest and significance those that were written when history was past politics. Professor Ambler belongs to the modern school of historians and in his case the immediate burden has been lightened by the fact that he has been engaged for years in collecting materials, editing documents, and writing monographs that bear upon the history of his state. This book, however, is no mere working over of old materials, no collection of essays; it is an integrated history of the occupation of a region and of the development therein of a human society with its multiform institutions. Despite the author’s long residence in and evident fondness for the state, he has written with detachment and has not hesitated to portray the unflattering aspects of his subject.

The first half of the book, which carries the story to the Civil War, is regional rather than state history and includes considerable western Pennsylvania as well as eastern Virginia history. It presents a vivid picture of the expansion of Virginia across the mountains and treats of such topics as the advance of explorers and traders, the French and Indian War, the plans for a new colony, the Revolution in the West, and pioneer life. The remainder of the book tells the story of the founding of the state and its development, social, economic, and political, to the present time—a story that has much in common with stories of adjacent regions. The bibliography of about eight hundred items, including rare books and pamphlets and articles in obscure periodicals, although curiously arranged, should be of great use to every student of the history of the Appalachian Plateau. Especially valuable are the lists of manuscript collections and of newspaper files with indication of their locations.