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.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  
**Randolph C. Downes**


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.
The author has a good literary style but unfortunately occasional condensed statements have crept into the work that are likely to convey wrong impressions. Examples of such statements are: that the Delawares "successfully withstood their traditional enemies, the Iroquois," after their removal to the upper Ohio (p. 27); that an English settlement was made upon the Ohio about 1725 (p. 78); that John Frazier "made a settlement on the Monongahela" in 1753 (p. 81); and that chief Shingiss lived at the forks of the Ohio (p. 83). If the Iroquois ceded the lands between the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio in 1744 (p. 78), why were they asked to cede them again in 1768 (p. 103)?

There are also a number of definite errors: the Monongahela and the Little Kanawha were not the boundaries of the tract in which the lands of the Ohio Company were to have been located (p. 80); Gist did not go to the interior by way of the Monongahela in 1750 (p. 80); and General Gage was not "stationed on the frontier" in 1767 (p. 98). The interpretation of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and of the Indiana and Vandalia projects seems to the reviewer to be distorted and also to ignore the fact that Virginia had lost her charter (p. 99-106).

Minor imperfections should not obscure the fact that Professor Ambler has produced an exceptionally good one-volume state history. It is readable, well-organized and well-proportioned, modern in its approach, and objective. It will be very useful in connection with the teaching of state history in the schools, it will enable the citizens of West Virginia to know their state, and it will contribute to an understanding of the history of the nation.

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Too often histories of agriculture have been written from the viewpoint either of farming technique or of an economic phase of national development. Seldom does one meet with a narrative that chiefly stresses the growth of agriculture as a human activity shaped and determined by a particular physical and social environment. Usually anecdote or abstract biographical data serve for what should be the human and social elements in history.

The author of this book has in a large measure escaped the narrow antiquari-