which are most readily available, and that may account for the fact that the Middle West seems to occupy an unduly prominent place in this book. The Appalachian Plateau, which was rapidly becoming the industrial center of the nation, receives little consideration. Apparently no files of Pittsburgh newspapers were used, and the name of the city does not appear in the index. The writer of general works must rely, however, to a considerable extent on monographic studies, and few such studies are available on the social history of the Appalachian Plateau. Those interested in western Pennsylvania history will pick up occasional items of regional interest in the book. There are references to the railroad construction of the fifties (p. 14), the Erie War (p. 17), industrial development (p. 24), a German revolutionary congress in Wheeling in 1852 (p. 142), a western Pennsylvania petition of 1860 to restrict the immigration of free negroes (p. 265), and the beginnings of the petroleum industry (p. 351). The important part that the industries of the region played in the Civil War is not developed.

Any work that deals with such a mass of miscellaneous data as this one does is sure to contain slips and doubtful statements. "Monongahela County, Virginia," should be Monongalia (p. 125); lager beer was certainly well known in Pennsylvania long before 1850 (p. 163); it was the bituminous rather than the anthracite coal of Pennsylvania that was extensively used "in locomotives and manufacturing establishments" (p. 351); and the implication that Jane Grey Swisshelm was not one of the "bolder spirits" who "mounted the lecture platform" is unfortunate (p. 176). The book is written with considerable literary skill. The layman will find it interesting to read and the scholar will find in it important contributions to his understanding of the period. The critical essay on authorities will be invaluable to anyone interested in research or reading on this period.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  
*Solon J. Buck*


This journal of a young Presbyterian clergyman who "rode circuit" in western Virginia and central Pennsylvania during the opening months of the American Revolution presents a valuable picture of life in the Shenandoah and Susquehanna valleys and throws light on the activities of the Presbyterian
church on the frontier at that time. The author, but three years out of Princeton and possessing an insatiable curiosity about his surroundings, a sense of humor, an eye for beauty, an ear for scandal and gossip, a tendency toward snobbishness and conceit, and an apparently uncontrollable desire to philosophize for the benefit of posterity—but, in the reviewer's opinion, having no great zeal for theology—recounts in detail his experiences on his circuit, which included the populous communities of Winchester and Staunton, Virginia, the "New Purchase" in Pennsylvania, which had been acquired from the Indians in the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768 and had been but recently opened to settlement, and the sparsely settled area between Staunton, Natural Bridge, and Warm Springs in western Virginia.

The diary contains remarks on the country traversed, on the constant movement of settlers to new lands, on the reception of the news of Bunker Hill on the frontier, and on the manners and customs of the people encountered, more particularly those of the Scotch-Irish element among whom Fithian lived and preached. He comments on their houses and housekeeping, clothes, occupations and diversions, books and newspapers, domestic morals, patriotic zeal, and military activities, as well as on their antagonism toward the "Yankees" who were settling on the lands in dispute between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, their manner of psalm singing, and their attitudes toward "read" sermons and towards regularly licensed and "irregular" clergy. He also describes his contacts with other Presbyterian divines active in the back country and refers occasionally to clergymen of other denominations encountered within his territory.

Those who are interested in the history of western Pennsylvania will take delight in comparing the society in which Fithian traveled with that which was developing west of the Alleghenies. They may well regret that the young diarist merely daydreamed of "Pittsburgh & the Ohio to the Westward" when he should have been preparing his sermons; for, had he been assigned to the more westerly circuit, he doubtless would have left a similarly interesting chronicle of his activities and surroundings in that region. After returning from his missionary tour he served as a chaplain in the Revolutionary army in New York until his death in October, 1776.

This journal affords entertainment for the general reader and provides a rich source of information for the social and economic historian. It is competently edited and annotated, well indexed, and contains an itinerary giving both the contemporary and modern names of the localities Fithian visited and charts illustrative of the routes of his travels in the West and in New York.

Providence, Rhode Island

Hope Frances Kane