BOOK REVIEWS


This report is of real value to the student of western Pennsylvania history. It is an invitation to historical and archaeological scholars in this region to include in their activities the survey and analysis of the available prehistoric remains of humans who once lived here. Such work, if carried on by as competent scholars as are responsible for this study of prehistoric Indian life in part of the Susquehanna Valley, will force upon the public consciousness recognition of the fact that much more material is available than is commonly believed. At any rate, well organized work of this type is indispensable to the preparation of the basic and authentic archaeological chronology of prehistoric life in Pennsylvania that Dr. Cadzow points out is deplorably lacking at present.

The author found that carvings on Big Indian and Little Indian rocks near Safe Harbor in Lancaster County were made by Indians of the Algonquian stock, who were the first of the so-called red race hitherto believed to have lived in Pennsylvania. He believes them to have been members of the Unami division of the Lenape or Delaware Indians, who lived on the Susquehanna before the Iroquois invasion. The nearest petroglyphs comparable to these are in Ohio. The known Algonquian remains in western Pennsylvania do not tie up with either the Ohio or the Big Indian and Little Indian rocks carvings. Inasmuch as the Lenape migrated eastward across what is now western Pennsylvania in prehistoric times and returned, as Delawares, in historic times, it is obvious that a fascinating problem confronts archaeologists in this region.

Even more interesting are the findings on Walnut Island. Here Dr. Cadzow discovered carvings of a so-called superior people who resided on the Susquehanna even before the Algonquins. Their petroglyphs are not, as the Algonquian ones are, actual representations of objects and abstract ideas, but highly conventionalized carvings somewhat similar to Chinese characters. They indicate that a culture rose and fell in Pennsylvania previous to its occupation by Indians known to modern scholars. Who the protagonists of this culture were is unknown, but it is to be hoped that future work in western as
well as in eastern Pennsylvania will uncover more evidence.

The report is profusely illustrated with charts, drawings, and photographs. These include representations of petroglyphs on the Monongahela River near New Geneva, at Sugar Grove in Greene County, on the Francis farm in Fayette County, and on "Indian God Rock" in the Allegheny River below Franklin. It also has a bibliography remarkable for its scope. Indeed, it is a matter of congratulation that archaeological work of such a local and technical nature should be placed so clearly in its relation to the field of continental and even world anthropology of which it is a part.

Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey

Washington et Jumonville, étude critique. By the Abbé Georges Robitaille. (Montreal, Le Devoir, 1933. 67 p. Illustrations.)

The purpose of this book, as stated in the first chapter, is to present a just account of the defeat and death of Jumonville at the Great Meadows on May 28, 1754. The facts are largely drawn from Bernard Fay's recent biography of Washington and are briefly set forth: Jumonville, with thirty-two men, was sent out from Fort Duquesne with a message to the English to evacuate the Ohio Valley. While the French were encamped for the night, Washington, in command of a detachment of Virginians and reënforced by a number of Indians, surrounded and attacked them; when Jumonville made an effort to read his message he was shot down and killed. The author of this volume quarrels with Fay's interpretation of the event and laments the fact that many accounts of the affair, especially in American works, slur over this incident in Washington's career or attempt to condone his conduct. He points out the fact that Washington, when sent on a similar mission to the French posts of Venango and Le Beuf the year before, had been courteously treated, and he holds invalid the argument that Washington and his interpreter, Van Braam, did not sufficiently understand the French language to realize that Jumonville was an envoy. He concludes that not only was the attack inexcusable in that it was made on sleeping men, but it was also without cause, as there had been no declaration of war.

It is highly desirable that interest in history should be widespread, that people everywhere should make historical investigations, and particularly that interpretations of the significance of events should be made known to the public. This little publication, therefore, may be welcomed as evidence of something accomplished along these desirable lines. Workers are needed in the