

land County was the sole county formed in 1776. Westmoreland's delegates were heartily in accord with the new constitution, however, and added their weight to the democratic tide. Any student of early constitutional development in the United States will find this scholarly treatise well worth a careful examination.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*

RUSSELL J. FERGUSON

*Life and Work of Rev. John McMillan, D.D., Pioneer—Preacher—Educator—Patriot of Western Pennsylvania.* Collected, compiled, and published by DANIEL M. BENNETT. (Bridgeville, Pa., privately printed, 1935. xvi, 525 p. Illustrations.)

THE compiler of this work, a druggist long resident in Bridgeville, is a charter member of the Chartiers Historical Society, whose secretary he has been from its organization, and a connection of the McMillan family through his marriage to the late Rebecca Caldwell Bennett, a great-great-granddaughter of the famous western Pennsylvania pioneer preacher and educator. The book is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Bennett, who, until shortly before her death in 1935, shared the labors and satisfactions of its preparation. Special acknowledgment is also made of help and inspiration received from Joseph Ferree, another resident of Bridgeville and a teacher in the high school there.

"The idea of compiling this record," explains Mr. Bennett in his preface, "first occurred to the writer as he attended the reunions of the McMillan Family. As he listened to verbal reports he noticed that there was nothing of a permanent nature and felt that what there was of McMillan Family history was likely to perish with the persons making the verbal reports." Moreover it had long been recognized that nowhere was there to be found in any one work an adequate account of the life of the distinguished founder of the family. Accordingly Mr. Bennett, equipped with a quiet enthusiasm born of strong family feeling and great admiration for the minister, undertook to supply both lacks. For a number of years he and his wife spent much of their spare time collecting materials—devotedly searching through published histories, delving into county archives, locating personal papers of Dr. McMillan, interviewing and corresponding with his descendants, visiting the scenes of his labors, and following the course of his travels.

The result is a compilation of wide scope and variety of form. Narratives, contributed articles, biographical sketches, documents, commemorative speeches

and songs, inscriptions, tabulated summaries, and lineages are presented in a single series in which certain broad groupings of subject matter not typographically evident can nevertheless be distinguished. These cover successively the historical backgrounds; the history of Jefferson College and of the organization of the Redstone Presbytery; Dr. McMillan's parents and their family; his career; brief histories of the churches he served or helped to "collect"; genealogies and biographical sketches of his descendants; and McMillan anniversaries and family reunions.

Of the narratives in the sections devoted to Dr. McMillan and his times, some are drawn from or based upon such indispensable sources as Veech's *Monongahela of Old*, Doddridge's *Notes*, Joseph Smith's *History of Jefferson College and Old Redstone*, and histories of Washington and Allegheny counties; others are contributed; and a few bear the name or initials of the compiler. Two of the many documents and papers included are transcriptions of original papers of Dr. McMillan that are still preserved by one of his descendants: one is a journal recording the places where he preached from August, 1776, to July, 1791, and the other is one of his many sermons. A facsimile of a page of the latter manuscript, two portraits of Dr. McMillan, and other illustrations add greatly to the interest and value of the work.

This is not a book to be measured with an historiographic yardstick, and it would be graceless not to welcome it as an expression of the active lay interest in local history that historical and patriotic societies seek to arouse; as a work of reference to be used as a guide to or in conjunction with sources upon which it is based; as a mine of detailed information for those specially interested in various ramifications of the subject; and most of all, perhaps, as a comprehensive and presumably authentic McMillan genealogy.

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FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

*Oliver Evans: A Chronicle of Early American Engineering.* By GREVILLE BATHE and DOROTHY BATHE. (Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1935. xviii, 362 p. Illustrations, map.)

WHEN the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, after a lapse of forty years, considers a work of sufficient importance to warrant its publication, then one's curiosity is aroused. Although the officers and council of the historical society have waited a long time, it seems to this reviewer that they have chosen wisely in deciding to reënter the publication field. This is no ordinary volume. It is