
In this welcome and attractively printed little book, the author takes the reader in imagination to some of the many points of historical interest in western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia, all within about a hundred miles of Pittsburgh, and vividly calls back to life the events and personalities that have made these places memorable. It is ground over which the author, long a student of the history of the region, has traveled many times, and his sensitive appreciation of its earlier human associations, as well as of its more obvious scenic beauties, makes of him a delightful and instructive guide and companion.

It is an element of charm in the book that it attempts no systematic “covering” of sections or classes of interests, but is arranged as if to say, today we shall go and see a venerable church, and another day, a famous battlefield perhaps, in a quite different direction. Yet, having followed the author on all twenty-two visits here described, one may sort out his own impressions and note at least some of the types of events and personalities that have thus been recalled for him.

Naturally enough, and rightly, Dr. Macartney, long pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, takes the reader to the scenes of the labors of outstanding pioneer Presbyterian preachers and educators, men foremost among the builders of civilization beyond the Alleghenies, such as John McMillan at Chartiers and Canonsburg, Joseph Smith at Upper Buffalo, Eliasa McCurdy at Florence, John Anderson at Service Creek, Thomas Hughes at Darlington, and Thaddeus Dod at Amity and Washington. There are visits also to places associated with the early history of other religious denominations or sects, such as the site near Moravia reminiscent of the missionary la-
bors of David Zeisberger; Harmony and Economy, the scenes of the first and last sojournings in this country of the Harmony Society; Amity, the last residence and burial place of Solomon Spaulding, the author of “Manuscript Found,” the reputed source of the Book of Mormon; and Bethany, West Virginia, the shrine of the Campbellites or Disciples of Christ. The visit to Upper Buffalo recalls the Great Revival of 1802 and the occasion on which Elisha McCurdy addressed an audience of ten thousand with overpowering effect; and trips to New Richmond, Pennsylvania, and Salem, Ohio, bring reminders of the antislavery movement, the one as the residence, for ten years, of the famous John Brown, and the other as a leading center of abolitionist activity. About other places visited clinging memories of other national figures, such as Albert Gallatin, William Holmes McGuffey, James A. Garfield, and Mark Hanna; of the western campaigns of Washington, Braddock, and Wayne; of old times along the Cumberland Road; of the “Fighting McCooks” and Morgan’s raid in Civil War days; and, at the last place visited, in the Blue Ridge Mountains, of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

The book does not purport to take one to every point of historical interest within the hundred-mile radius or to exhaust the meaning of those visited, but it will be strange indeed if the reader is not tempted to push on, with eyes opened and interest kindled, and explore for himself the sites or remains of these and other historic churches, schools, highways, battlefields, and industrial enterprises, particularly in the large segment of the circle east and north of Pittsburgh scarcely entered in the course of these introductory journeys.

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania  FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK


Succinctly, yet with simplicity and charm, Major McCreight has completed his expressed task of assembling “the when, the why and how” of Pennsylvania’s acquisition of Cook Forest, a great stand of virgin timber, the mecca of thousands of nature-loving pilgrims. Although he might have dwelt lengthily and eulogistically, and perhaps with justification, upon the beauties of Cook Forest Park, he has impressed those beauties on the reader only by passing references such as those made in connection with the story of Anthony