ers of satiric political verse, including—besides Brackenridge—Freneau and the “Hartford Wits.” The other chapters group the poems treated according to subject matter—foreign affairs, the Tories, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Constitution, and so forth. Many of the poems discussed are anonymous contributions to the news-press of the day. Few of the poems are printed in full, but probably few deserve to be. Material of interest for western Pennsylvania is to be found in chapter 6, “The Nation’s Purse,” and in chapter 8, “The Fabrick of Freedom.” In portions of these chapters the Brackenridge-Findley feud is discussed in connection with the Pennsylvania charter of the Bank of North America and with the ratification of the Constitution. Though this book will probably not be of great interest to the general reader, it represents much sound and solid research and contains new material copiously confirming and illuminating the historian’s interpretations of sectional reactions to the problems confronting the American people from 1783 to 1788. More careful editing of the manuscript might have avoided such inconsistencies as the spellings “defence” (pp. 160, 180, 196) and “defense” (pp. 213, 233); “Bladensburg” (pp. 121, 263) and “Bladensburgh” (pp. 201, 226, 249). An error, possibly typographical, is the spelling “Windam” County, Connecticut (p. 162).

Washington, D.C.  

Elizabeth Hawthorn Buck


Dr. Antoine-François Saugrain de Vigni was a French physician and scientist who settled at St. Louis in 1800 and spent most of his life in America. Henry Marie Brackenridge lived with the Saugrain family for a year at Gal-lipolis, and he has left an account of the doctor in his Recollections of Persons and Places in the West (Philadelphia, 1868). Dr. Saugrain was a methodical man, and some of his journals and notes survive and have been translated into English. Several decades after the translations were printed, this work, containing an introductory life of Dr. Saugrain and the original reading of the notes and journals, appears in attractive format.
The earliest journal begins in the spring of 1788 when Saugrain with two companions descended the Ohio River from Pittsburgh. It narrates an attack upon the party by Indians and the killing of his companions opposite the Big Miami, and recounts his escape to Louisville. Saugrain spent several months in the vicinity of Pittsburgh waiting for favorable weather to depart, but in none of his writings is a description of that place given, although mention is made of his activity in looking for iron, copper, and silver near by.

Another journal recounts his journey from Louisville to Philadelphia by way of Pittsburgh, Bedford, and Lancaster in the same year. The editor in his introduction observes that Saugrain "had only a rudimentary knowledge of orthography," and this the reader readily believes when he finds he must recognize the names Biver, Pisbour, Grinebourg, Stoni Criik, Belfort, Guniata, Chemerbourg, Chiperbourg, and Cignas as representing Beaver, Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Stony Creek, Bedford, Juniata, Chambersburg, Shippensburg, and Susquehanna. Footnotes provide translations of these names and give additional information, but for all but the most careful students the English translation of the journals which appeared in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society in 1898 and 1909 will still suffice.

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania


Late in 1846 Stephen Foster was shipped off to Cincinnati. The family wanted to make something practical of the young dreamer. By excellent, if oblique, fortune, he had just escaped being appointed to West Point; and the family's next thought was to put him at keeping books for brother Dunning's steamboat agency in the Queen City. Was "Oh! Susanna" in manuscript, in his carpetbag, when he left Pittsburgh? There is no telling. But certainly in his three years—the golden gleam of his early twenties—in Cincinnati, Foster wrote some of his most beloved songs; drank a Pierian bumper of success; found he could make a living by song-writing; and decided to make his art his profession.