Washington, D. C., he was until last summer president of the Pennsylvania Folklore Society, and undoubtedly kept it alive by his efforts after Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker had to give up the work.

The new rush of interest it will bring should impress historians, folklorists and patrons of the arts with one more thing: the urgency of our situation.

A glance at the list of authors will reveal that three of the 14 who took part have died since the first publication. These include Colonel Shoemaker, student of central and mountain lore; J. Herbert Walker, who wrote on the lore of lumberjacks and raftsmen; and William S. Troxell, the beloved "Pumpernickle Bill" who knew the Pennsylvania Dutch as few have known them. And almost half the rest are so old that it would be impossible for them to make such a contribution to the subject today.

Eleven years may seem so little a time to wait. But great works on other phases of Pennsylvania life and lore may be lost if we delay their writing and publication.

*Pittsburgh Press*  
George Swetnam


The history of this nation's settlement and the expansion of its frontiers is inseparable from the rifle. This is especially true of the surge of settlers who moved into Ohio and Kentucky in the early part of the 19th century. With these pioneers went one of the necessary tools of colonization of those days, a muzzle-loaded flintlock rifle. Evolved from German arms, which were brought to these shores by early settlers, and which for a time were copied by native gunsmiths, this New World weapon met the needs of the environment in which the American settler found himself. While this rifle found extensive use in many places other than Kentucky, it was here that its reputation was made. Researchers prior to Mr. Kauffman have used the familiar term, "Kentucky Rifle," and made little effort to establish its true lineage. It is the theme of this book that this weapon at least deserves a hyphenated name since it was born a Pennsylvania rifle and was later married to Kentucky. Exhaustive research has been done in this book to prove that this product of
Pennsylvania gunsmiths simply lost its identity when it became most closely allied with the then "new frontier," Kentucky. In documenting this belief Mr. Kauffman made detailed studies of the census records of 1850, deeds, wills, intestate inventories, and tax assessment lists of a large number of Pennsylvania counties and one Maryland county. Much information, never before known, has thus been compiled about the makers of these rifles.

The varied forms of the Pennsylvania-Kentucky rifle are interestingly traced from their German ancestors through many modifications made in the New World. The changes made by American gunsmiths were dictated by the needs and demands of those who used the rifle for big game hunting, protection from the Indians and for warfare when such a need arose. Proven the most outstanding weapon of its time, the Kentucky rifle had sharp influence upon European army rifles. In establishing the origins of the rifle and its lines of influence Mr. Kauffman devotes chapters to the European rifle and to the county characteristics of its Americanized offspring. The reader will find the book well illustrated throughout. He should have no difficulty in fixing the identification of a particular rifle to a certain region.

There is a fascinating chapter concerning accoutrements, i.e., powder, flints, powder horns and flasks, and bullet pouches. Another chapter concerns itself with contemporary arms made by Pennsylvania gunsmiths for other purposes. It includes muskets, pistols, shotguns and so-called "match" rifles. The book does not deal exclusively with certain makers nor is it based upon a certain large collection. Rather, it includes all makers of these arms, giving as much information about them as could be found. There are many pictures of typical rifles from a number of collections and the provocative comments appended to these illustrations make clear the finer points of craftsmanship and style thereby making identification of various rifles easier. The chapter on gunsmithing will interest many readers by its details and illustrations.

For some 36 years Dillin's book, The Kentucky Rifle, in four volumes, has been almost the only reference work on this most interesting and historic firearm. The publishing of The Pennsylvania-Kentucky Rifle comes at a time when the demand for muzzle-loading rifle barrels and other rifle components has risen sharply. Small manufacturing firms and individual gunsmiths are again making barrels in the muzzle-loading style, and it is now possible to buy
complete percussion lock rifles, shotguns and Civil War martial pistols of recent manufacture. Today there are many shooting clubs that occasionally feature shooting events for muzzle-loading weapons while other clubs hold regular shoots. It seems that the fires of interest in muzzle-loading weapons, mainly the old Kentucky rifle in percussion and flintlock form, die down but never go out completely. With such interest rampant this book should be popular and it certainly seems timely. The Pennsylvania-Kentucky Rifle has much to offer the researcher, the history buff or the modern rifleman who has a desire to burn "charcoal" pioneer style.

Washington, D. C.

Ellis Lea


The author of this volume is both literary and scholarly though his scholarship is not fully revealed. It seems apparent that his reading (or research, if you please) has been extensive, covering not only general and special histories but also original records, including not only regimental volumes but also many diaries, journals and reminiscences. As the author says in his "By way of Apologia and Acknowledgment" (an artistic title for an inadequate preface), too many writers on the Civil War have "followed the fortunes" of the Union army or "marched with" Lee's men. Great names such as James Ford Rhodes and Douglas Southall Freeman immediately come to the American historian's mind.

A purpose of the volume is much too briefly stated in the author's expressed aim of presenting "a picture in the round." His Southern birth and education and long residence in the North have well fitted him for such an attempt. Relative success in this respect has been achieved. A high degree of impartiality is revealed in the book. Psychologists might well complain of the author's emotional and intellectual neutrality, though the orthodox historical scholar will approve.

Historiography, whether orthodox or unorthodox, is of many types and qualities. Ferdinand Schevill, in the preface to a textbook, tartly said that there are as many definitions of history as