
In this volume Dr. Lokken has produced what might be termed a political biography of David Lloyd, who played a significant role in the life of colonial Pennsylvania for more than four decades, a shaper of its political institutions and laws. A Welshman by birth, a lawyer by training, Lloyd was sent to Pennsylvania by William Penn to serve as Attorney-General of the colony. Soon, however, he not only embraced the Quaker faith of his neighbors, but also the political thinking of those Quaker colonists who challenged the prerogatives of the proprietor and the leadership of the aristocratic Philadelphia merchants. As the story unfolds, the reader sees the transformation of a proprietary agent into a colonial, who becomes the leader of the Antiproprietary party, and as such serves as assemblyman, Speaker and finally as Chief Justice. If in the long and often bitter struggle portrayed in these pages the colonists, and foremost among them David Lloyd, seem unappreciative and indeed at times callous toward the plight of their Great Proprietor in England, beset by ever-present intrigues to deprive him of his colony and by the financial ruin designed by the cunning of the treacherous Ford, it must be remembered that Penn likewise failed to understand his colonists. Forced to spend most of his time in England, he never grasped the basic incompatibility between his feudal land system and the climate of the frontier, or understood colonial grievances that lay at the basis of Lloyd's demands for his Charter of Property. Whig though he was, Penn likewise failed to sense the growing spirit of political autonomy which was the very essence of Lloyd's claims of inherent legislative rights of the Assembly pressed against the Proprietor, his deputy governors and the aristocratic council.

The author portrays the varying political fortunes of Lloyd as he rose to a position of power as Speaker of the Assembly, his humiliation when he was stripped of his colonial posts and defeated in the election of assemblymen, and his subsequent rise to a position of power and influence, crowned by appointment as Chief Justice. The contributions of Lloyd to the laws of the colony and more particularly to the structure of the judicial system, his part in pressing a reluctant Penn to grant the famous Charter of Privileges in 1701, his adamant defense of the Assembly as the repository of the free-
men's inherent legislative powers to the exclusion of the council, his skillful use of the power of the purse in control of the governor, are set forth in detail. Possessed of an undeniable skill in draftsmanship of laws, endowed with a fertile imagination that produced the design of a well developed and defined judicial system and new legal concepts of land law that were ahead of his time, he contributed creatively to the development of colonial institutions and laws. He combined with his steadfast convictions on colonial rights and Quaker objections to oath-taking and military defense, the arts of a political strategist which seem incompatible with Quaker doctrines of harmony and charity. His bitter invective in argument, the spirit of personal vengeance with which he schemed against his political enemies and his willingness to take advantage of any weakness of his opponents laid him open to criticism by his enemies and tended to obscure at times the basic sincerity of the man in his espousal of the autonomy of the colonists.

As said in the beginning this is primarily a political biography. The personality of Lloyd save in his political role fails to emerge. This is not the result merely of an unimaginative treatment on the part of the author, but rather of the lack of personal papers and letters which would make possible a probing of Lloyd's personal life and motives. The author has made a thorough search of public documents and personal writings of contemporaries. Unfortunately for Lloyd the extant personal papers are primarily those of his enemies. Nevertheless, the reader who persists beyond the opening chapters, somewhat weighted down with details, will find in the unfolding drama much that is significant in an understanding of the growth of Pennsylvania political institutions.

University of Pittsburgh

Rosalind L. Branning


If there is any single result which this work demonstrates, it is that the line is thin between the proficient folklorist and the capable historian. Folklore, detached from its historical, social and cultural setting, may be interesting and entertaining. But alone, it must be evaluated within the limits of ordinary literary criticism. It is the