“Oily Daze at Cherry Grove” is the story of a typical early oil “boomtown” whose immense oil production jolted the oil market. Here is early oil town excitement—great oil fires, pipe line fights, oil exchanges, the world’s largest pumping station, plank toll roads, teamsters, and the world’s first “oil scout” organization. Cherry Grove has been obliterated by time and nature.

*Tintypes in Oil* is the work of a man interested in preserving the early tales of a region he knows well. He sprinkles his stories with a liberal dose of names of persons and places which will be of interest to readers from the region. Mr. Miller obviously enjoyed the task he set for himself. *Tintypes in Oil* will be enjoyed by all who are interested in regional history and in the oil industry.

*Butler, Pennsylvania*

William S. Lytle

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*John Adlum on the Allegheny.* Here we have a compilation of the remarkable reminiscences of an important but little known surveyor whose observations were made in the heart of the Seneca country (Northwestern Pennsylvania), at a time when the hostility and arrogance of Indians elsewhere as the result of the defeat of Harmar, then St. Clair, was only one of the serious problems threatening the young republic. The solution of that problem provided a key to the others.

Although ten years had passed since the Revolution had been won the British still held Niagara and other forts, constantly encouraged hostility of the Indians, and in the interest of fur traders sought to create a buffer area to separate British from American territory and at the same time sought to leave an avenue open for free intercourse to unite the Indians of New York or Pennsylvania with those farther west and south of the Great Lakes.

John Adlum was born in York, Pennsylvania, on April 29, 1750, of English and Irish parentage. His father’s business was the
preparation of deer skins for making breeches and clothing. The son was a striking, handsome young man of good schooling. He entered the army immediately after Lexington and was quick to pick up knowledge from veteran officers. His capture and terms of parole prevented further service and led him into surveying. While establishing the northern boundaries of the Commonwealth he became acquainted with Cornplanter and the Senecas with whom his narrative or diary chiefly deals.

This account is of absorbing interest, not alone because of the light it throws on the customs and reasoning of the Indians but because of Adlum's gamble with time on which he staked his life, and the value of his surveys.

Adlum, having been declared by the chief of the Senecas a dangerous man as an enemy, was ordered by Cornplanter to desist from surveying and leave the country immediately. He calmly continued gambling that he would receive word of the defeat of the Indians by Anthony Wayne in a great battle he knew was imminent in the distant country of the Miamis, before the Seneca warriors could overcome the opposition he had sown among the squaws and declare war on the U.S. The critical nature of his position and the cool courage of the man could not be better illustrated than in his word picture of being seated near a post by Chief Cornplanter and later as the chief made each oratorical point he added a little special emphasis by handing the post a wallop with his tomahawk right beside Adlum's head.

Adlum won his gamble as an Indian runner brought news of the complete rout of the Indians at Fallen Timbers. All thought of declaration of war against the United States vanished with the news.

This account is not only thrilling, it is timely. The lands Adlum was surveying are about to be inundated by the Kinzua Dam.

*Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania*  
Robert D. Christie

**Note:** Donald H. Kent is State Historian whose work in research has won wide acclaim. Merle H. Deardorff, one of the leading authorities on our Indians and their language, has collaborated with him in annotating and editing this interesting book.