This is an interesting little book which will appear in most libraries concerned with the history of Western Pennsylvania. There it will be used for reference but the residents of Johnstown and many others will find it entertaining reading for pleasure alone.

_Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania_ Robert D. Christie

_Know Your Ancestors . . . A Guide to Genealogical Research._
By Ethel W. Williams, Ph.D. (Rutland, Vt.: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1960. Pp. 313. Bibliography, Dictionary of Terms and Abbreviations, Index. $4.50.)

Genealogists, amateur or professional, will welcome with profound gratitude _Know Your Ancestors_, by Dr. Ethel W. Williams. It is a comprehensive, authoritative text, well organized, compiled and indexed.

The collection of bibliography given throughout, shows exhaustive research and is most valuable to all students and those engaged in genealogical work.

The author, a teacher of Genealogical Research in Kalamazoo, Michigan, took her training courses at American University and National Archives in Washington, D. C.; she has therefore an excellent foundation. The instructors are actively engaged in the various fields of research on which they lecture. From this background the author has developed her own lectures and methods and has now given them to the public through this volume.

Dr. Williams presents an orderly arrangement from the introduction of the subject in her first chapter, step by step, in her instruction of assembling material, suggesting the student start with material gathered from relatives in documentary form or traditional. The information can be evaluated for the factual and for what can be proven.

She continues on through charting the record, library research, public records, vital statistics, land records and church records. Through twenty-six chapters, she explains in great detail the procedure of following ancestral trails.

As she covers the states, she gives much information on their repositories of records. The accuracy of her work is most commendable. Those who work with Pennsylvania records will greatly
appreciate Chapter 20, "Keys to the Keystone State," pages 206 through 221.

In her closing chapter, she asks, "What Is Research?" Her definition is well worth remembering, also her comments on the ethics of the profession of a Genealogist.

Genealogists do deal with the past. A neighbor of a Virginia genealogist inquired of the lady's maid as to the type of work her mistress did. The maid hesitated, then said, "I don't rightly know; all I know is, she deals with the dead."

This, of course, is true, but genealogists also deal with human relations, as the author points out, and they have a moral responsibility to posterity to leave accurate and correct records and to find the truth.

The volume, Know Your Ancestors, is a very valuable contribution to this field of research. In its many directives in method and in its voluminous bibliography, it is invaluable to amateurs as well as to those following the profession of genealogy.

Pittsburgh

Helen Dixon Bates


Here is a book that should have been written years ago. Too long, far too long, students of Frontier History have heard only of the lawless, illiterate, the renegade refugees, and the savage frontiersmen. Even some historians of the Frontier often like to have us believe that these were the kind of people who spearheaded the western migrations for two hundred years. And if this was not enough, the movies and television have topped it off with the most nauseating, malicious concoction of untruths entitled "Westerns" ever perpetrated upon a long suffering public. It is time to set the record straight; and that is what Professor Wade has done. By assembling an amazing array of documents, memoirs, court records, newspaper and magazine articles which he uses as convincing evidence, he has presented a picture of life in the early cities of