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
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville, Lexington, and St. Louis that can be found in no other study.

Naturally, those who read this review will be most interested in our urban town of Pittsburgh. Observing the many natural advantages of The Gateway City, the author says, “Here were all the classic requirements for a great city: water power, coal and iron, ready access to farm lands, and a market area of almost limitless extent.”

By 1800 Pittsburgh’s population had increased fourfold, approaching 1600. The town was described as “A place of great manufacturing; indeed the greatest on the continent, or perhaps the greatest in the world.” Already Pittsburgh was being hailed as “The Birmingham of America.” Even the conservative Niles Register (Baltimore) predicted that Pittsburgh would become the greatest manufacturing town in the world. When a shift in power technology occurred—from water to steam—in the early 1800’s, industries began to specialize. The assembling of raw materials and human skills in one place followed. These developments led to urbanization. New ordinances had to be enacted; city officials had to be elected, and police and fire departments established.

But it was the social and cultural developments in Pittsburgh—and the same was true in other cities—that appealed to the author; and here he has blazed a new path in the Urban Frontier. Private schools, academies and libraries appeared early. Clubs and social organizations pioneered in adult education. Book stores stocked with Bibles, almanacs and primers helped to enlighten the townspeople. Pittsburgh, as other frontier towns, had its quota of lawyers, ministers, doctors and teachers (professors, as they were called). Next to these professional groups were shopkeepers, clerks, craftsmen and mechanics. Although there was a certain amount of class distinction noted among frontier urbanites, there were organizations that drew the people together, such as schools, churches, lodges, civic organizations and the local theatrical groups. Newspapers offered a strong unifying agency. Interest in painting and music brought people from different classes together.

The period following the close of the War of 1812 was marked by the inevitable boom and bust period in Pittsburgh as in other frontier towns. When the crash came in 1819 everyone had his own ideas as to its causes, and also the remedy for a speedy recovery. Pittsburghers demanded a high tariff, less speculation, and
"hard, patient industry that will bring prosperity to all men." Citizens in other frontier towns also had their own special remedies. In St. Louis, the Missouri Gazette advocated a "return to toil and thrift . . . Go back to work; live within your income—borrow less—banquet less—visit less—but work more."

The social, cultural, and economic developments in other urban communities—Cincinnati, Louisville, Lexington and St. Louis—followed somewhat the same pattern as in Pittsburgh. Each boasted of its own particular advantage. Cincinnati, astride the "Great highways of travel and exchange," and surrounded by the fertile farmlands of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, would become "the mercantile heart of that vast hinterland." Enterprising merchants and shipowners thrived. Cincinnati breweries processed 40,000 to 50,000 bushels of barley grown on nearby farms (1815). A giant steam mill, rising 110 feet above the river, designed to grind 700 bushels of flour a week, and built at a cost of $120,000, was the showplace of Cincinnati. St. Louis had become the fur emporium of the frontier by 1818. Agents from all the Eastern cities, and from England and France, flocked to this frontier town to purchase furs for foreign trade. Louisville, like Pittsburgh and St. Louis, was also a river town and owed its economic growth to the coming of the steamboat.

Social and cultural advances in all the frontier towns kept pace with the industrial and economic developments. They all boasted of their schools, churches, libraries, publishing houses, literary societies and lyceums. Lexington laid claim to being "The Athens of the West," while Cincinnati was hailed as "The Corinth of the West." Socially, the families of merchants and businessmen topped the list. Journalists in Pittsburgh had one field day after another in satirizing the new rich "who were unable or unwilling to trace their ancestors back beyond the second generation." If the records cited by the author give a representative picture, the upper classes lived in real luxury. In every frontier town there were elegant homes, staffed with a house full of servants, with gardeners and coachmen. The elite of Lexington rode in coaches valued at $10,000 and $15,000. Skilled laborers were well paid. In Pittsburgh workmen were pictured as returning home at the end of the day's work "loaded with turkeys, fowls, fat beef, and fresh butter for the family table." But side by side were also the destitute who found their way to the poorhouse.

By 1830 the population in all frontier towns had expanded be-
yond belief; commerce was thriving, and industries were flourishing. The social and cultural advances kept pace. Citizens in high society found their calendars filled. A leading socialite in Pittsburgh, finding it impossible to attend all the social functions to which she was invited, had carefully to choose the "more respectable ones." A grandame in that city threw a party to show Philadelphians "what a real party is." The daughters of the rich in Cincinnati and Lexington caused Mrs. Trollope and Timothy Flint to complain of the total uselessness of those "who never put their lilly hands to domestic drudgery."

As the frontier cities advanced toward maturity the City Fathers wrestled with the same problems, on a smaller scale, that exist in this mid-twentieth century. They insisted on more home rule, more power to levy taxes, more freedom in running their own affairs. All the while the urban communities were expanding their boundaries. In Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Bayardstown, Lawrenceville, Birmingham, and East Liberty had swelled the local population to 22,000 by 1830. Professional men were transferring their offices from their homes to downtown buildings. Similar changes were occurring in other frontier towns. By this date (1830) the urban frontier had taken the lead over the rural frontier in virtually everything. Cities had become the center of the West's economic, industrial, social and cultural advances. Virtually every political leader from the frontier came from an urban center. Pittsburgh sent such notables as Walter Forward and Henry Baldwin to Harrisburg and Washington. Cincinnati sent William Henry Harrison; Lexington sent Henry Clay to the United States Senate as early as 1806-07. At one time Missouri's two U.S. Senators, and her one congressman and Governor came from St. Louis. The role of The Urban Frontier was predominant. Professor Wade concludes with the significant statement, that any future study of The West that limits itself only to the wilderness "tells but part of the story."

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