knowledge of the period to which the author has devoted life-long study.

Chatham College  J. Cutler Andrews


This work is the result of approximately 15 years of what must have been painstaking research into all the obvious and many unobvious bibliographies. The list reflects great care in compilation and is remarkably extensive (6,377 citations). The entries are as full as one could want, and coverage includes material written to 1945.

When possible each entry includes all the usual bibliographical data: the author's full name and his dates, title, place, publisher, date of publication, number of pages, a brief annotation, and a letter key to a library which owns the book. This last is quite valuable in that about 25 per cent of the books fall in the rare to almost unobtainable category.

A second section of the book is a subject index of some 60 pages. Citation is not by page but by entry number. The main breakdown is by profession, but the index includes groupings by broad geographic areas (those areas determined by the U. S. Census Bureau — New England, East North Central, etc.) and by historical involvements (Civil War, Pioneers, Suffragists, etc.). The index also includes autobiographies which do not fall under a specific occupation, such as Childhood reminiscences, Mentally ill, Foreigners in U. S. (arranged, of course, by country), and the like. Under a given subject, entries are listed by a broad period classification (1800-1850, 1850-1900). Workmanlike and logical, the index saves the compilation from the realm of the well-intended and interesting, but largely useless bibliography.

If one were to quarrel with any part of this work it would be with the annotations. The intention was to show only the author's vocation and the state or states he lived in. Quite often the annotations are good; many times they are miserable. One has a right, I think, to expect something more than “Kentucky felon,” or “Naturalist,” or “Travelling salesman in the South.” However, the criticism
is not more than an idle quibble, for to add one ten word sentence to each entry would increase the volume by some 60,000 words, almost the equivalent of a novel of average length. Such an addition would probably preclude publication, and in any case it is likely that a researcher will find any annotation, even an excellent one, to be the least valuable information in a given entry.

All in all this is a fine piece of work. Fifteen years is a long time to sustain interest in a project, even a part-time one. Whether use will justify the time spent in compilation is not really a pertinent question, however. Bibliographers are perhaps the strangest breed of the strange profession of librarianship, and to them the work itself is sufficient justification.

_Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh_  
David Kaufman

*Father and His Town: A Story of Life at the Turn of the Century in a Small Ohio River Town.* By Wilma Sinclair LeVan Baker. (Pittsburgh: Published by Three Rivers Press of the University of Pittsburgh Press, 1961. 143 pp. Illustrations, appendix. $5.00.)

Wilma Baker's book entitled _Father and His Town_ is a charming and delightful story of a successful businessman in a substantial Ohio town during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

It is a privilege for me to review briefly this book, since I belong to the same era as the author and have had the privilege of her friendship since she was a girl at Ogontz School, near Philadelphia, in which she was the recognized leader in practically all activities.

Many of her father's qualities as depicted in the book are inherent in his daughter Wilma, evidenced in many ways throughout her unusual and colorful life.

Dohrman Sinclair's story in many respects is quite similar to that of Andrew Carnegie and Henry Clay Frick: — A poor boy gifted with an active mind and a consuming ambition, he early developed a dominating personality which led him not only to success in various business enterprises but to become the recognized leader of all civic activities in his community.

A substantial part of the book is given to Mrs. Baker's own childhood, a delightfully told story of the life and the "bringing up"