

*Index — The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine.* Vols. 1-43, 1918-1960. Compiled by ALFRED PROCTER JAMES. (Richmond, Virginia : Cavalier Press, 1963. Distributed by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. 557 pp. \$20.00.)

One need not be a professional scholar in order to appreciate a good index. But certainly it helps in the appraisal of such a work as this if one does realize that special training and experience were required for it. Even the planning for the analysis of the contents of the first 43 volumes of THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE demanded a particular talent of perceptivity and patience.

Several lifetimes of literary toil went into the writing and printing of the 11,058 pages of these publications, and back of them there were centuries of recording of human endeavors, disappointments, achievements. The net result of all the chronicling may be said to be ourselves, whatever we are, whatever our progenitors were. As visualized by its sponsors, Robert D. Christie, director ; Charles A. McClintock, past president of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the Society's trustees and staff, the Index was to be nothing less than a thoughtful survey of antiquity right down to now.

Dr. Alfred Procter James and his assistants, Miss Prudence B. Trimble, editor of the magazine, librarian and director of research, Mrs. Ruth K. Salisbury, Mrs. Viola L. Altenburger and Howard W. Callahan, may not have understood at the start that their task would be so demanding. If they had estimated the monumental proportions of their obligation, they well might have declined the responsibility. What was expected of them, in the very nature of the enterprise, was more than an encyclopedic performance. They were asked, in effect, to compass the cosmos. It was a jigsaw puzzle of astronomical dimensions that they had to solve.

To judge of their problem properly it is necessary to be aware that each line of type in the average page of the magazine contains 69 chances of error. The opportunities to be mistaken, then, are approximately 4,500 in each and every page of the 557 pages of this book, a total of about 2,500,000 for the entire Index.

But such staggering hazards obviously did not disturb the compiler and his colleagues beyond their capacity for tolerance. Possibly they were encouraged by the challenge. Open the published fruit of their labors at any random place, say midway through the contents : Page 277 and notice the marvelous variety of the subjects represented :

Leever, Sam, baseball  
 Leffingwell, Samuel, labor unionist (1881)  
 Legacy of Pittsburgh, spirit of energy  
 Legare, Hugh S. (1797-1843) attorney general  
 Legionville, bought by Harmony Society  
 Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co.  
 Lehman, F., civil engineer, military school at  
     Evergreen Manor  
 Leigh, Mrs. C. G., Baltimore, donor of old  
     booklet  
 Lemercier, Chevalier Francois  
 Lemont coke plant  
 Lenni-Lenape (Delaware Indians)  
 Leonard, McClelland, "Laurel Hill"  
 Lerida, and the Cathedral of Lerida in Spain

The Index commences with "A. B., 1792, pseudonym, 29, 151" and concludes with "Zwinglian church, Switzerland, 5, 260." Entries under the letter S fill 49 pages, letter B 45, letter W 35, letter H 30. As might be imagined, X is the smallest or briefest of alphabetical divisions — 9 entries only, 20 lines: "Mr. and Mrs. X, wealthy collectors of auction items" to "Xerxes, surfaced bridge's floor at Hellespont." Letter Q, parenthetically, is larger and longer than might be supposed: Rather more than a page and a half: "Q. M. G. John Wilkins (1798)" to "Quoowahaune, Delaware Indian chief, on the Allegheny River (1730)."

Our Western Pennsylvania industries are recorded here in copious cataloguing under: Aluminum, Banks, Books, Brass (and Brass Bands), Brewing, Canals, Coal, Coke, Distilling, Electricity, Farming, Furniture, Furs, Gas, Glass, Houses, Iron, Lumber, Markets, Mills, Mines, Newspapers, Oil, Paper, Pianos, Real Estate, Railroads, Roads, Steamboats, Steel, Stores, Textiles, Warehouses, etc., etc.

Great personalities pass in parade through the Index. Edwin Austin Abbey, painter; Emma Abbott, actress; Gen. James Abercromby (1706-1781), commander, lead hundreds of equally notable men and women of times past, the procession terminating with Rev. David Zeisberger, Moravian missionary; Count Nicolaus Zinzendorf; Fidelius Zitterbart, composer, and Christopher Zug, rolling mill owner. There are two solid pages of references to George Washington, at least 600 mentions. Abraham Lincoln has about one-fourth as many; Thomas Jefferson approximately the same as Lincoln; Andrew Jackson a similar showing; U. S. Grant about twice the number of citations of Robert E. Lee. The importance of local celebrities is demonstrated in the case of Gen. James O'Hara (1754-1819) and his

relatives, a complete page of mentions. Roughly a like amount of space is devoted to the Carnegie saga.

Among other families included at length in the Index are those of: Bakewell, Craig, Denny, Frick, Gormly, Lambing, Magee, Neville, Passavant, Scaife, Way and literally hundreds more.

Churches, schools, hospitals, art galleries, libraries, museums, science laboratories, theaters, concert halls, civic centers, parks, camps, playgrounds — all are accorded place and position in this historiographic directory. So, too, are the wars, revolts, strikes, depressions (once called panics), political conflicts, mass and class movements, and the phenomena of individualism as a “frontier characteristic” and “in recent times.” Under “democratic societies” it is reported that “Pennsylvania emphasizes the Fourth of July as the common man’s day,” while under “Republican” it is remembered that “a declaration of principles” was adopted by the new-party convention which met in Pittsburgh in 1856.

These, of course, are only so many mirrors of the growth of “the American dream” and, no less, the American reality through the better part of 30 decades. They may be broken or blurred, but Dr. James and his aides have put them in order — conceivably in the manner of the fallen stones of Elgin Cathedral — so that they will be useful to those modern students who understand the need for a working knowledge of the past as an imperative for hope and confidence for the future. It could be said that this Index renders historical evolution intelligible. Without it much, if not all, of *THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE* from 1918 to 1960, in effect, would be lost.

Let it be established in passing that this book to supplement 43 books is worthwhile for itself. Quite aside from being the accredited lexicon for the whole series of garnered annals, it is readable as a well-done novel is. There is a sense of being agreeably provocative about it. Anyone who has lived through a quarter or a third of the period of composition represented in the Index will find in it more than a few golden memories. The references to G. W. G. Ferris and his wonderwheel at the Chicago world’s fair of 1893, Jenny Lind and her trip on the Portage railroad, “Little Johnny” Alexander and his murals of “Pittsburgh’s Rise to the Height of Fame,” Edwin Booth playing *King Lear*, Luke Loomis and Jacob Henrici and their respective bookstores, Dr. William Jacob Holland and his beautiful butterflies; Hans Wagner (1874-1956), pioneer “baseball great,”

Andrew Carnegie finding a diplodocus for Edward VII and employment for Mrs. Stephen Collins Foster, Charles Heinroth quietly "talking with" the organ in the Music Hall, John A. Brashear and his beloved Phoebe grinding lenses, Ethelbert Nevin playing "The Rosary," the McKinley funeral train passing through Homewood — each of these samples of the drama of human life is important. Brought together, they constitute new proof of the social and cultural value of history in the world at large and in Western Pennsylvania especially.

It is impossible to write about *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine Index* moderately. The more one knows of it, the more enthusiastic one is bound to become.

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

JAMES WALDO FAWCETT

#### BOOK NOTES

Our friend, William A. Hunter, Chief of the Division of Research and Publications of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has sent three interesting new pamphlets to our library.

*Archaeologists at Work* is a letter-sized booklet of some 32 pages by W. Fred Kinsey III, with photographs by Karl Rath. It is largely a photographic portrayal of steps followed by scientists in excavating burial sites. It is easily conceivable that this exposition may save many relics and records which might otherwise be destroyed by eager, well-intentioned amateurs.

*Pennsylvania and the Federal Constitution*. This is a 16-page pamphlet, 6" x 9", of which Donald H. Kent, Director of the Bureau of Research, Publications, and Records, and Irwin Richman, Assistant Historian, are co-authors. It is issued in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the Constitution of the United States. This pamphlet is illustrated and shows, among other pictures, eight of the delegates to this distinguished convention. Particular attention is paid to the role played by Pennsylvania.

*Pennsylvania and the War of 1812*. This is a 22-page illustrated pamphlet, 6" x 9", by Harold L. Myers. Not many writers have dealt with this war and in the last analysis it re-won only a concession from the British which had already been won from them. This little pamphlet deals with the irritant factors which led to the war and tells of the important part taken by Pennsylvanians in the construction of the fleet