

original writings. Besides an adequate index, there is a "Selective Bibliography of Travel and Description in Western Pennsylvania" comprising some 170 items most of which are available in the libraries of Pittsburgh. There are a few slips in editing and typography of which such a volume without careful work may have had many more.

WILLIAM D. OVERMAN

*The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society*

*Guidebook to Historic Places in Western Pennsylvania.* Compiled by the WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SURVEY. (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1938. ix, 186 p. Map.)

THIS guidebook is an interesting contribution to the literature dealing with the history of western Pennsylvania. The book is one of a series written under the direction of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey and sponsored by the Buhl Foundation, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh.

The plan is to name and give the location of the more important historical sites, and the principal facts associated with them, of the twenty-seven counties of western Pennsylvania. For example, under Allegheny County there are listed such places as the site of the Bates-Stewart duel, the Allegheny Arsenal, the First Presbyterian Church, the Civil War fortifications, Lafayette Hall, the Monongahela House, and, of course, Fort Duquesne, Fort Pitt, the Block House, and Fort Fayette.

There is also a very clear and distinct map, with the old roads and highways well marked, together with a bibliography and a complete index. The book will be very useful to the historian, and also to the traveler who has an interest in the country over which he travels.

The list of interesting and historical places is fairly complete, and no important place seems to have been omitted. One of the best features of this book is the chapter on "The Travelways." Braddock's Road, the Catawaba Trail, the Forbes Road, the Frankstown Path, the Glade Road, the National, or Cumberland, Road, and Nemacolin's Trail are all listed and their routes described, together with brief sketches. There is also an account of the different canals, such as the Beaver and Lake Erie Canal and the Pennsylvania Canal.

The civilization of western Pennsylvania, in its best and most enduring features, grew up around the frontier churches. Perhaps more of these were in Washington County than in any other county, and the list of these churches given in the chapter on that county forms a useful guide.

Here indeed is *multum in parvo*. The book is a distinct contribution to the literature of our early history in the country west of the mountains.

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

CLARENCE EDWARD MACARTNEY

*Meadville: Its Past and Present*. Sesqui-Centennial Edition of the *Tribune-Republican*. (Meadville, Pennsylvania, Tribune Publishing Company, May 12, 1938. 280 p. Illustrations.)

*In French Creek Valley*. By JOHN EARLE REYNOLDS. (Meadville, Crawford County Historical Society, 1938. 352 p. Illustrations, maps.)

MEADVILLE, "a cultural oasis in northernwestern Pennsylvania," is the subject of two recent additions to library shelves fast filling, these days, with works of western Pennsylvania history and lore—political, social, economic, and cultural.

The anniversary edition of the *Tribune-Republican*, marking Meadville's one hundred fiftieth year, leaves little to be desired in variety of subject material. Historical background, industry, transportation, trade, politics, labor, religion, professional and business life, and "miscellaneous" information are offered for the benefit of the historian or casual reader. The untutored genealogical research worker, seeking a great-grandfather of Revolutionary or War-of-1812 fame, will delight in the detailed chronicles of Crawford County pioneers and their descendants. The casual reader, leafing through this folio-size volume will find innumerable well-written items to catch and hold his attention. He may, for instance, have speculated as to the origin of the Hookless Fastener, commonly known as the "zipper," on his tobacco pouch, golf bag, clothing, or countless other articles in daily use. In an article as interesting as it is instructive he will find an account of "its development as Meadville's no. 1 industry, leader in world trade," a "saga of determination." And the historian, be he dilettante or scholar, will find material of merit and value. To the reference librarian, however, the work is of greatest value. A single source such as this relieves much of the pressure of "hurry-up" calls, and a detailed index still further enhances its usefulness.

Treating of the same subject and drawing on some of the same material, but in a different vein, is *In French Creek Valley*, by John Earle Reynolds, a descendant of a pioneer Meadville family and president of the Crawford County Historical Society. The author had at his command the Reynolds Collection, a wealth of manuscript material that John Reynolds the pioneer, and his de-