The volume appropriately ends with a chapter devoted to the struggle of Wilkinsburg for borough incorporation which was finally attained after much litigation late in 1887, and the first election for borough offices was held in February, 1888.

In reviewing this volume the purpose of the book must be kept in mind: to compile from various sources legends as well as facts about the early settlement of Wilkinsburg; to record family genealogies; to recount the activities of such characters as James Graham, Dunning McNair, and Jane Grey Swiss- helm; to picture such old landmarks as Rippey's Tavern and the Wilkinsburg Academy, as well as to portray numerous old residences and early settlers. With such a purpose in mind the defects of the book may easily be forgiven, such as the absence of an index, the failure to more than mention Judge Wilkins and his place in local history, the unavoidable overlapping of descriptive matter caused by the peculiar arrangement of material and by the numerous contributors. These defects should be corrected in future editions. A few errors, such as the location of Allegheny College on Sandusky Street (p. 273) and of Logstown at Sewickley (p. 3), are noted, but with so many and varied types of writers one should not expect more. It is very readable, in good print, and neatly bound in green cloth with gold lettering. The editors and their associates deserve much commendation for work quite creditably performed.

Pittsburgh

C. W. W. ELKIN


This biography is the first of a series of contemplated volumes to be published under the designation, Pennsylvania Lives. Apparently these works are to have the very laudable purpose of portraying simply the lives of various Pennsylvanians who have contributed in some way to the development and progress of their state and country. Among such men were many who were very significant in local and even national affairs, but who failed to achieve the stature or to fit the pattern ordinarily demanded by the usual biographers. The author of this first volume of the series has revealed simply and interestingly the life of one such man, Geary, a western Pennsylvanian, whose career spanned the years from 1819 to 1873.

Geary was born near Mount Pleasant in Westmoreland County in 1819, of good, industrious, but not affluent, parentage. From that beginning he entered
into a life that was filled with dynamic and interesting events. In a sense, he may be called an "Empire Builder." After leaving the cloistered halls of Jefferson College he studied both law and engineering and speculated upon a volunteer system for soldiers. He also acquired a practical knowledge of railroads, first in Kentucky, and later in Pennsylvania. As a result, in 1846, he was especially fitted for a command among the Pennsylvania troops that enrolled for service in the Mexican War. Fortunately for the author, Geary kept a diary from December 31, 1846, when he led his company known as the "American Highlanders" from Cresson Summit to Pittsburgh, down the Mississippi, to Mexico, through the engagements of the Mexican War, and back to Pittsburgh in 1848. The Pennsylvania troops under Colonel W. B. Roberts until his death and their lieutenant-colonel, Geary, played a conspicuous part in the campaigns that led to the reduction of Mexico City. After the death of Colonel Roberts, Geary was made colonel, on November 3, 1847. Even prior to his predecessor's death, Geary commanded the regiment because of his superior's illness, and in that capacity, he led the Pennsylvanians into Mexico City, the first United States troops to enter the city. After the treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo was ratified, he returned with his valiant Pennsylvanians to Pittsburgh where they were disbanded.

The following year, on January 22, 1849, President Polk appointed him postmaster of San Francisco. Thus began the second exciting episode in Geary's life. Taking his family by boat to the Isthmus of Panama, crossing with great inconvenience and hardship, and securing passage on the Oregon, he and his family arrived at their destination on April 13, 1850. Thereupon he plunged into the task of organizing the post office, a task that he performed so successfully and popularly that he was chosen Alcalde of that roaring mining town. In 1850 San Francisco divested itself of the Mexican form of government and immediately elected Geary to the office of mayor. In that office he fought vigorously to bring law and order to the city and to put its financial affairs on a sound basis. He found time, however, to make some real estate investments which are commonly reputed to have netted him a half million dollars. Late in the year of 1850 he took a six months leave of absence to visit his wife who had returned to Pennsylvania because of illness.

He decided not to return to California and the next five years he spent in the quiet pursuit of agriculture until he was again drawn into public life by President Pierce, who late in July, 1856, appointed him territorial governor of "Bleeding Kansas." From his arrival in Kansas to his resignation on March 4, 1857, he struggled valiantly, but futilely, to bring order out of chaos. The failure of Pierce to support him, however, and the virulence of the pro-slavery
and the anti-slavery factions nullified his efforts. And again, he returned to his farm in Pennsylvania.

Naturally the War between the States drew him into its vortex. On June 28, 1861, Governor Andrew G. Curtin appointed Geary colonel of the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment. His service lasted from that time until July of 1865, taking him through many of the important engagements of the war—Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Chattanooga campaign, Lookout Mountain, and with Sherman to the sea. He rose successively from colonel to brigadier general and to brevet major general.

He had scarcely returned home when the Republicans of Pennsylvania sought him as a candidate for the office of governor in 1866, despite the fact that he had been a staunch Democrat in his earlier life. He was elected and at the end of his first term was re-elected, serving in all six years in that office. Those were prosperous years in Pennsylvania, years of industrial expansion and railroad development, in which Geary although he had been a farmer, was deeply interested. He was a staunch advocate of a protective tariff, but a stubborn opponent of railroad monopolies. Consequently, he fought vigorously the Credit Mobilier Company which was organized in Pennsylvania and exposed during his gubernatorial career. Near the close of his administration he joined in the demand for a constitutional convention to revise the state constitution in 1873. His life ended almost with the termination of his services as governor. On February 8, 1873, the six-foot-two giant, who had seen and done so much, died in his fifty-fourth year.

The author in this short work, 144 pages of text, presents the life of Geary simply and with a minimum of interpretation. At all times the man stands out as he battles his way through the significant episodes of the middle decades of the nineteenth century. The book is interestingly written, based on documentary evidence, is unencumbered by footnotes, and has an adequate index. The bibliography contains critical essays on the more significant works used in the preparation of the material. This work and subsequent volumes of the series will be valuable in acquainting Pennsylvanians with Pennsylvanians thus far neglected by biographers.

University of Pittsburgh

Russell J. Ferguson

The Civil War Career of Thomas A. Scott. A dissertation in history presented to the faculty of the graduate school [of the University of Pennsylvania] in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree