When trouble with the mother country was brewing, Burd espoused the patriot cause, becoming chairman of the Lancaster County Committee of Correspondence, and doing his part to forward military preparedness. He received but little recognition from headquarters in Philadelphia, however, and resigned his commission in the summer of 1775. Nevertheless, in September of that year, he was commissioned colonel of the Fourth Battalion of Lancaster County Associators. Yet he did not feel secure in his position because baseless rumors as to his loyalty began to be circulated, causing his popularity to decline. The enthusiasm of his troops waned, and his connection with the Shippens, the Allens, and other conservatives was held against him, while less capable and experienced officers were elevated over him. Furthermore, he was now fifty years old, suffered from rheumatism, and was in financial straits. For whatever reason, or combination of reasons, he resigned his commission a second time; his military career was at an end. In 1784 his wife died, leaving him inconsolable. His family rallied to him, and “every one tried to help, but he missed his Sally.” On October 5, 1793, the end came.

Miss Nixon has woven the details of Colonel Burd’s life into a sprightly narrative, displaying considerable literary skill. Her book, which is well worth reading, is a worthy contribution to the history of Pennsylvania. She is to be commended for succeeding in the none too easy task of writing a satisfactory biography. The format of the book is pleasing; it contains a bibliography and a satisfactory index, and appears to be free from typographical errors.

_Flood Tides along the Allegheny._ By FRANCIS R. HARBISON. (Pittsburgh, Francis R. Harbison, 1941. 205 p. End-paper map.)

Despite the bitter and pessimistic paragraph which closes Francis R. Harbison’s _Flood Tides along the Allegheny_, his book is a record and revelation of progress onward and upward. He tells how “the panther still roamed the wilderness, and its night cry, like the wail of a lost soul in purgatory, still made brave men shiver within the safety of cabin walls.” Those brave men survived the panther and the wolf, so Mr. Harbison need not shiver amid “the shadows of a threatened recurrence of the Dark Ages.” Our planet still rotates from west to east, and the sun also rises on time. Mr. Harbison’s book furnishes ample evidence in its 205 lively pages.

To the reader without imagination many of these records will appear to be indeed “a monotonous rotation of winters, springs, summers, and autumns, of clearing, planting, cultivating, and reaping, and the birth, care, and training of
"But so many of these children were the fathers and mothers of our first families that the record becomes a fascinating backward glance at the days when the first Negleys, Roeblings, Masseys, Boyds, Craigs, Guthries, Heckets, Harbisons, and others whose names are familiar, came here as pilgrims and strangers. Accounts of savage foray and fury, of land frauds and political chicanery, of church trials for the sin of getting drunk, of oil that spouted as liquid treasure richer than gold, fill the pages of the nostalgic historian who becomes volubly vituperative as he thinks of the sad decline since Bryan with his silver cross heralded the horrors of the New Deal. One feels that Mr. Harbison actually sees the shadow of the guillotine falling across his placid path.

The value of his book is in its review of time past, of days that should not be forgotten, when the Little Buffalo Creek flowed into the Big Buffalo, and that flowed into the Allegheny, and all flowed through or past the Depreciation Lands of an Old Deal that has now become part of a heroic past. Though the Allegheny Valley "had no Chaucer," Mr. Harbison has valiantly striven to make up for the deficiency.

Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny

George Seibel


This is the second of the six-volume History of the State of Ohio being produced under the editorship of Dr. Carl Wittke and the sponsorship of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. The author is associate professor of history at Ohio State University and is widely known for his published biographies of the Ohioans, Charles Hammond and John McLean, as well as for his coauthorship with Eugene H. Roseboom of A History of Ohio. The book is based on sound scholarship and is amply footnoted throughout. The period covered is rich in source material, including the magnificent newspaper collection at the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, dozens of travel books and memoirs, manuscript collections of such prominent Ohioans as Duncan McArthur, William Renick, Ethan A. Brown, John McLean, Joshua R. Giddings, Thomas Ewing, Charles Hammond, William Allen, and Edwin M. Stanton. Moreover the papers of such national figures as Henry Clay, Martin Van Buren, Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster, and James K. Polk have been included by the author in his search for Ohio material. The book is copiously illustrated. Notable are the selections from the photographs by Professor Frank J. Roos, Jr., of early Ohio architecture.