

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIANS IN WORLD BIOGRAPHY

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THE FIELDS of human activity are many and the factors of distinction in any one or more of them are varied. A reasonable estimate is that the important fields of human activity run into many hundreds and the criteria seem to vary from the loftiest to the lowest and sometimes to the meanest. Probably no other material brings out such an impression so well as the contents of a comprehensive biographical dictionary. In 1943, G. & C. Merriam Co. published Webster's *Biographical Dictionary*, which according to their statement contains "40,000 concise biographies of noted men and women of all countries—historical and contemporary—from every field of human activity." It is a veritable storehouse of valuable and interesting information.

Numerous important studies could be made in the data furnished in this publication. One study of these concise biographies revealed those of thirteen Rhodes Scholars. Another study found thirty-three individuals connected at some time with the University of Pittsburgh.

A careful examination of Webster's *Biographical Dictionary* shows that it contains about one hundred and fifty concise biographies of persons identified in some way with Pittsburgh and the twenty-seven counties of western Pennsylvania included in Buck and Buck's *Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania*. And interestingly enough about one hundred of these one hundred and fifty biographies are those of individuals related to the city of Pittsburgh, forceful testimony to the metropolitan significance of Pittsburgh throughout the entire region. The statistics would differ somewhat, if to these counties of western Pennsylvania, were added the counties of West Virginia and Ohio which also lie in the outer Pittsburgh metropolitan area.

A survey of the names and activities of these one hundred and fifty individuals may be of value and interest, but it is complicated by the problem of the determination of who is entitled to be classified as a Pittsburgher or a western Pennsylvanian. Most certainly there is little likelihood of complete agreement on this matter. If the analyst of such data is pushed to the wall by captious critics he can, as a last resort, set forth the technical item of established legal residence as often applied in

governmental administration and judicial process. But no one truly historically minded will accept such a narrow technical basis of identification. While it is in accordance with common practice, however unsound sociologically, to include as western Pennsylvanians all persons born in the twenty-seven counties, it would be absurd not to include many born elsewhere, for western Pennsylvania was in the path of frontier advance first from the standpoint of land occupation and later from the point of view of industrial development. Anyone whoever, who has played a significant role in the history of western Pennsylvania, wherever born and reared, is as much entitled to recognition as one who was born and reared and spent his or her life in the region. But since in all such reflection and argument there is no particular profit, it may well be ignored and attention more wisely given to the analysis of the considerable data available for us.

The nomenclature of the one hundred and fifty persons from western Pennsylvania, whose biographies are found in Webster's *Biographical Dictionary* reveals six whose names begin with "A", Acheson, Alexander, Allen, Alter, Arbuckle, and Asbury; twelve with "B", Baldwin, Beahan, Berkman, Bissell, Black, Blaine, Bouquet, Bowman, Braddock, Brant, Brashear, and Burr; twenty-one with "C", Cadman, Calhoun, Campbell, Campbell, Carnegie, Carroll, Cassatt, Cassatt, Cather, Céloron, Chapman, Clapp, Clark, Connelly, Corey, Corse, Culbertson, Cummins, and Curtis; eight with "D", Davenport, Davis, Deland, Dix, Dixon, Drake, Duncan, and Dunmore; none at all with "E"; eight with "F", Farrell, Fessenden, Fetterman, Foerster, Forbes, Forward, Foster, and Frick; eleven with "G", Gallatin, Gallitzin, Gaul, Gayley, Gibson, Giddings, Gilmore, Girty, Gist, Goddard, and Graham; nine with "H", Hamor, Hand, Harkins, Hart, Heinz, Holland, Hopkins, Husband, and Hutten; one with "I", Ickes; three with "J", Jackson, Jeffers, and Johnson; six with "K", Kaufman, Keeler, Kelly, King, Kintner, and Knox; six with "L", Langley, Lazear, Leishman, Letterman, Levant, and Lindsay; thirteen with "M", McCormick, MacCracken, McGuffey, McIlwain, McIntosh, McLean, Marshall, Mason, Mayo, Mellon, Monckton, Morse, and Murphy; three with "N", Nevin, Nevin, and Nevin; three with "O", Oliver, Oliver, and Orme; three with "P", Peary, Phillips, and Phipps; one only with "Q", Quay; nine with "R", Rapp, Rea, Reiner, Riddle, Rinehart,

Rinehart, Rinehart, Roosevelt, and Russell; twelve with "S", St. Clair, Schlesinger, Schwab, Seaman, Selznick, Selznick, Shiras, Singer, Stanton, Statler, Stein, and Stobo; four with "T", Tanner, Tarbell, Thornburn, and Thompson; none with "U" or "V"; nine with "W", Wagner, Walker, Washington, Wayne, Weidlein, Westinghouse, Wilkins, Willet, Williams, and Wilmot; none with "X"; and one with "Z", Zeigler.

A nice little test for any reader of this magazine who fancies himself or herself well acquainted with the history of western Pennsylvania would be that of trying to identify freely the above-mentioned persons, without other aid than that of the family name. It would be an extremely well informed individual who could quickly identify more than a hundred of them. A further nice task, if one wished to undertake it, would be the determination of the racial group origins of these one hundred and fifty notables of western Pennsylvania. A hurried survey indicates that Scotch, Scotch-Irish, English, and German stocks predominate, but other group stocks are represented and the ancestry of not a few is decidedly mixed and evidence of the American "melting pot" in operation.

As the subtitle, or rather the advertisement on the paper cover of our volume implies, the individuals on our list represent many different fields of human activity. Very roughly, they may be classified under twenty-five fields, as follows: (1) army, (2) art, (3) church, (4) education, (5) engineering, (6) exploration, (7) finance, (8) frontier radicalism, (9) government, (10) horticulture, (11) hostelry, (12) industry, (13) journalism, (14) law, (15) literature, (16) medicine, (17) music, (18) politics, (19) publishing, (20) reform, (21) science, including astronomy, chemistry, physics and zoölogy, (22) sports, (23) surveying, (24) the theater; and (25) transportation.

The activities of many of the individuals here under consideration overlap two or three or even more of the above fields, notably in field groupings such as (a) church, education and science and (b) law, politics and government. While under such circumstances it is difficult to determine the particular in which a person has attained world-wide distinction, it is not a matter of fundamental importance, and the general facts of such a person's occupation or occupations and activity or activities of distinction are usually clear and widely known.

The alphabetical organization of activities into twenty-five fields, as in the matter of names, does not correspond to the order of numerical quantity nor to any conceivable order of their relative importance if anyone conceived of any such an order. When the persons on our list are somewhat arbitrarily classified as active in the above twenty-five fields the results are in the following perspective:

Eighteen of the one hundred and fifty concise biographies of western Pennsylvanians, are those of men noted in a military capacity in connection with the army. These include, in alphabetical order, Clayton L. Bissell, contemporary military figure; Henry Bouquet, of French and Indian War fame; Edward Braddock, commander-in-chief of British forces in 1755; Joseph Brant, famous Mohawk Indian chief and warrior; Céloron de Blainville, leader of the expedition of 1749; George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary hero of the Ohio Valley; John Murray Corse, defender of Allatoona Pass in 1864; William Judd Fetterman, tragic figure of the later Indian wars in the west; John Forbes, captor of Fort Duquesne; John Gibson, warrior and statesman; Simon Girty, famous as the "Great Renegade"; Edward Hand, commander at Pittsburgh in 1777; Lachlan McIntosh, commander at Pittsburgh in 1778; George Catlett Marshall, chief of staff, general of the armies, and diplomat; Robert Monckton, successor of General Forbes in 1759; Robert Orme, journalist of Braddock's expedition; Arthur St. Clair, Revolutionary soldier, frontier politician, and territorial governor; Robert Stobo, hostage to the French from Washington and figure in fiction; George Washington, soldier and landowner in western Pennsylvania; and Anthony Wayne, hero of the suppression of the Northwest Indians.

Nine of the biographies under consideration are those of individuals distinguished in one or another field of art. In alphabetical order, they include John White Alexander, painter of portraits and murals; Mary Cossatt, member of the impressionistic group of modern painters; Frederick Mortimer Clapp, art connoisseur and director, but also well known as a poet; Thomas Shields Clarke, sculptor and painter; Ralph Bartlett Goddard, sculptor well known for portrait busts; Martha Graham, exponent of the terpsichorean art; William Singer, landscape painter; Henry Ossawa Farmer, famous negro painter; and William Willet, noted stained glass artist and art glass manufacturer.

The clergy are represented by twelve concise biographies of people related to western Pennsylvania, including those of Francis Asbury, Methodist bishop active in western Pennsylvania, founder of a school at Uniontown; Alexander Campbell, founder of the denomination, Disciples of Christ; his father, Thomas Campbell, who assisted his son; Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, romantic figure in Catholicism in Cambria County; William Jacob Holland, Presbyterian clergyman, educator, and scientist; John Henry Hopkins, prominent Episcopalian bishop; Samuel Black McCormick, Presbyterian divine, more distinguished as educational administrator; Henry Mitchell MacCracken, similarly a Presbyterian divine and distinguished educational administrator; John Williamson Nevin, Presbyterian divine, theologian, and teacher; George Rapp, founder of the Harmonists; Matthew Brown Riddle, noted Presbyterian scholar and editor; Charles Taze Russell, the "Pastor Russell" of the Millennialists; and James Mills Thoburn, Methodist Episcopal missionary bishop of India, a graduate of Allegheny College and in late life a resident of Meadville, Pennsylvania.

In the field of education, especially educational administration, five, at least, of the clergymen mentioned immediately above, might be included, in spite of repetition. Alexander Campbell, Holland, McCormick, MacCracken, Nevin, and Riddle were great educators. Aside from these five, six other persons related in some way to western Pennsylvania are those who owe their inclusion in a world biography to distinction in some aspect of education, as follows: John Gabbert Bowman, Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh; Norman Forester, Professor of English and author; Albert Bushnell Hart, distinguished Harvard professor, editor, and author; Samuel McCune Lindsay, Columbia University authority on social legislation; William Holmes McGuffey, author of nationally used textbook readers; and Charles Howard McIlwain, distinguished professor of Harvard and author.

The sole representative of engineering as such, apart from other fields, is Samuel Montgomery Kintner, famous for radio research for the Westinghouse Company. Possibly Jeremiah Dixon, one of the surveyors of the Mason and Dixon line might be so included. Three others, Cassatt, Rea, and Weidlein might also be placed in this field, but their distinction seems to lie elsewhere.

The field of geographical exploration is represented by two biographies, those of Christopher Gist, whose explorations for the Ohio Company of Virginia, 1750-1754, were world famous; and Robert Edwin Peary, the great arctic explorer of the nineteenth century.

Finance is represented by one distinguished figure, that of Andrew William Mellon, who, however, might be classified under other fields such as government, industry, and politics.

Frontier radicalism, rebellion, and revolution are represented in the concise biography of Herman Husband, the North Carolina "Regulator" and western Pennsylvania "Whiskey Rebel."

Government, as the most significant single activity of the individual is represented by John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore; horticulture by John Chapman, better known, almost universally, as "Johnny Appleseed"; and hotel ownership and management by Ellsworth Milton Statler, founder of the Statler chain.

As anyone at all acquainted with the history of western Pennsylvania would expect, by far the largest number of concise biographies of individuals related to western Pennsylvania concern those directly or indirectly connected with business and industry of many different kinds. Twenty-one or fourteen percent of the names fall within this general field. On an alphabetical basis with no classification into sub-categories these twenty-one individuals were, Edward Goodrich Acheson, associate of Edison and inventor or discoverer of valuable industrial processes or materials; John Arbuckle, the great coffee merchant, sugar refiner, and merchant shipper; William Andrews Clark, merchant, mining king, capitalist, and politician; Andrew Carnegie, famous steelmaster and philanthropist; William Ellis Corey, president of the U. S. Steel Corporation; William Davis, inventor of improved refrigerator freight cars; Edwin Laurentine Drake, world famous oil driller; James Augustine Farrell, resident of the U. S. Steel Corporation; Henry Clay Frick, coke king and steel magnate; James Gayley, metallurgist, inventor, and steel official; Henry John Heinz, world famous pickle king and food packer; William Kelly, steelman and inventor, rival of Bessemer for the distinction of the converter process of purifying molten iron; John G. A. Leishman, steel manufacturer and high ranking diplomat; George Tener Oliver, lawyer, steelman, and politician; Henry William Oliver,

steelman and developer of iron-ore deposits; Thomas Wharton Phillips, oil producer and influential politician and legislator; Henry Phipps, steel industrialist and philanthropist; Charles Schwab, steel industrialist and shipbuilder; Nicholas Roosevelt, inventor and ship-builder; George Westinghouse, famous inventor and manufacturer; and William Zeigler, baking-powder manufacturer and promoter of polar exploration. These twenty-one names may be described as those of commercial and industrial titans. They would figure largely in any satisfactory history of modern technology and industry.

Journalism is represented by three individuals, William Lippard McLean, publisher of the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin*, and director of the Associated Press; Alexander Pollock Moore, newspaper owner, diplomat, and husband of Lillian Russell; and Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman, better known by her pseudonym, Nellie Bly, a dramatic figure of the Jules Verne type.

The profession of law commonly leads to activity and distinction in other fields such as diplomacy, education, government, industry, judiciary and politics. Individuals already mentioned, such, for example, as George Tener Oliver, were lawyers by profession. But regardless of this confusion which would not be decreased by repetition of names in different categories, fifteen additional men of the legal profession are included in the list of western Pennsylvanians in Webster's *Biographical Dictionary*. Arranged in alphabetical order but with indication of other significant activities these fifteen are: Henry Baldwin, early Pittsburgh lawyer, politician and Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court; Jeremiah Sullivan Black, U. S. Attorney General and Secretary of State; Aaron Burr, politician, soldier, Vice President of the United States, and conspirator active in western Pennsylvania and elsewhere; William James Calhoun, governmental administrator and diplomat; William Smith Culbertson, tariff commissioner and diplomat; Albert Baird Cummins, politician and statesman; Walter Forward, political leader and federal cabinet member; Eugene Allen Gilmore, educator and colonial administrator; Harold L. Ickes, crafty politician, great "Curmudgeon," and recent columnist; Philander C. Knox, corporation attorney, politician, and federal cabinet member; George Shiras, eminent judge, Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court; Edwin McMasters Stanton, earlier "Curmudgeon," politician, and federal cabinet member;

Robert John Walker, politician, legislator, and cabinet member, as well as foreign agent of the United States; William Wilkins, politician, diplomat, and federal cabinet member; and David Wilmot, politician, federal legislator, and introducer of a most significant proviso.

These fifteen members of the bar are not the greatest American representatives of the profession, but they would figure in any good treatise on the subject.

A considerable number of those already mentioned published writings of one sort or another, but twelve additional persons can be placed in the field of literature. These literary notables include: Hervey Allen, author of *Israfel*, *Anthony Adverse*, *Action at Aquila*, etc.; Willa Sibert Cather, authoress and journalist; Marcia Davenport, author of *Valley of Decision*, whose mother, Alma Gluck, had legal residence at Pittsburgh after her retirement from the operatic stage; Margaret Deland, author of tales of "Old Chester"; Bettina Riddle, Baroness von Hutten zum Stolzenberg, a prolific writer of fiction; John Robinson Jeffers, the poet; William Andrew Johnston, author as well as journalist, and creator of "Limpy"; Katherine Mayo, most famous for her *Mother India*; Mary Roberts Rinehart, author of more than a score of novels and plays; Gertrude Stein, prolific writer and unique stylist; Ida Tarbell, journalist, historian, and reformer as well as authoress; and Will Lamertine Thompson, poet and song writer. These twelve are not the greatest figures in world literature by any means, but their writings have made their names known in many parts of the world.

The great field of medicine is represented in these concise biographies by four persons related to western Pennsylvania: Chevalier Jackson, very famous bronchoscopist; Jesse William Lazear, former pupil of Trinity Hall, Washington, Pa., and victim of medical research on yellow fever; Jonathan Letterman, army surgeon and medical director, organizer of ambulance service; and Daniel Hale Williams, famous Negro surgeon and founder of Provident Hospital, Chicago.

A complete history of Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania music has not yet been published, but concise biographies of seven musicians related to western Pennsylvania are included in Webster's *Biographical Dictionary*. These seven musicians are: Charles Wakefield Cadman, music critic, organist, song writer and composer; Stephen Collins Foster,



song writer and peculiarly American musician; Harvey Bartlett Gaul, organist, musical director, and composer of note; Oscar Levant, pianist, composer, and scholar in music; Ethelbert Woodbridge Nevin, pianist, composer, and song writer; his brother Arthur Finley Nevin, also a composer of distinction; and Fritz Reiner, world famous musical director. There are many musicians of greater world fame, but few other American regions of similar size can boast seven musical figures of equal importance with these seven.

The field of politics is represented by many individuals considered above under finance, government, industry, journalism and law, but four men are plainly identified with politics as a career in which they attained distinction. These four are James Gillespie Blaine, journalist and statesman, but above all a man of party politics; Albert Gallatin, financier and the statesman, but also a prominent politician; Joshua Reed Giddings, legislator and reformer; and Matthew Stanley Quay, politician par excellence of the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Newspaper owners and editors, though publishers of a type, are included in the field of journalism, as seems legitimate. The field of book publication is represented in concise biographies of western Pennsylvanians, by Stanley M. Rinehart, and his brother Frederick R. Rinehart, two of the three founders of Farrar and Rinehart.

Very many of the men already considered, such as Gallatin, Giddings, Ickes, and Stanton, might be classified as reformers, but the one person connected with western Pennsylvania who occupies the niche of reform as a profession was Dorothea Lynde Dix, who did missionary work for the insane and for whom Dixmont Hospital is named.

Science and industry are so closely related that it is not surprising that a great center of industry should also be the home of science and scientists. Within the general field of science with its many subdivisions may be considered fourteen scientists related to western Pennsylvania. In astronomy there are six: John Alfred Brashear, famous maker of lenses for telescopes; Heber Doust Curtis, director of the Allegheny Observatory (1920-1930); James Edward Keeler, director of Allegheny Observatory and Lick Observatory; Samuel Pierpont Langley, astronomer, airplane pioneer, physicist, and inventor; Charles Mason, English astronomer, who surveyed the southern boundary of western

Pennsylvania; and Frank Schlesinger, observatory director and initiator of many types of astronomical study. In chemistry and chemical engineering there are five: Robert Kennedy Dunnean, founder of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research; William Hamor, industrial chemist of great importance; William Draper Harkins, isotopic and atomic chemist; Charles Glen King, famous nutrition chemical expert; and Edward Ray Weidlein, chemical engineer and director of industrial chemical research. In physics are found David Alter, a physician turned physicist and the pioneer in the spectroscopy of gases; and Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, radio technician and engineer. Zoölogy, and especially paleontology as a subdivision thereof, is ably represented by William Jacob Holland, versatile genius in many fields of learning.

In the field of sports, western Pennsylvania is represented by Honus Wagner, familiarly known as Hans Wagner but often called in his prime, "the Flying Dutchman", certainly one of the most famous of professional baseball players.

The theater and the stage or the screen as a field of human enterprise and activity are represented by five people related to western Pennsylvania; Charles Beahan, writer of many theatrical productions; Earl Carroll, theatrical producer, writer of lyrics, and music, and famous for his "Vanities"; Marc Connelly, playwright and short story writer; George S. Kaufman, playwright; David Olmer Selznick, motion picture producer; and his father, Lewis J. Selznick, pioneer in the motion picture business.

And last but not least of the fields of human activity, transportation, is represented in concise biographies of three individuals related to western Pennsylvania: Alexander Johnson Cassatt, great American railway executive; Walter Patton Murphy, handler of railway supplies and noted contributor to the endowment of technological education; and Samuel Rea, railway president and outstanding civil engineer.

Under the caption of philanthropy would have to be repeated the names of many already dealt with under other categories. The "concise biographies" specifically mention philanthropy in many cases. To list only the more prominent ones would be an injustice to others who may have given in the same spirit but in smaller amounts.

One famous individual, long a resident (unwilling) of western

Pennsylvania, is commonly classified as an anarchist, Alexander Berkman, who shot Henry Clay Frick during the Homestead Steel strike riots of 1892.

Webster's *Biographical Dictionary* uses the phrase, "historical and contemporary." By historical is meant people not living in 1943, at the time of the publication of the volume. By contemporary is meant people yet alive at the time this dictionary was compiled and ready for publication. Virtually all of those characterized as historical, who died before 1930 are included in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, which was limited to historical personages who had passed on. Those who died before 1900-1901, the first year of *Who's Who in America* are not mentioned in *Who's Who*, or *Who Was Who*, the volume of biographies of those who once were in *Who's Who in America*, but were no longer living; for as is well known, *Who's Who* contains information only about living contemporaries. Again virtually all of the one hundred and fifty persons who lived after 1901 have biographies in the annual *Who's Who in America* or, if no longer living, in the volume *Who Was Who*. There are some exceptions to all this but they do not call for explanation.

The education of these persons can be determined by a study of the *Dictionary of American Biography*, *Who Was Who*, and *Who's Who in America*. A quick review of this material shows that more than sixty of the one hundred and fifty, or more than forty percent, had the benefits of the collegiate education, a natural thing where so many of them were clergymen, lawyers, and scientists. Thirty-six different collegiate institutions are represented by former students. Twenty-two of the sixty come from five colleges, the University of Pittsburgh with six—Hamor, Hopkins, Johnston, Mellon, E. Nevin, and Stanton; Washington and Jefferson College with five—Blaine, Letterman, McCormick, Quay, and Riddle; Harvard with four—Allen, Foerster, Hart, and McIlwain; Mt. Union College with three—Knox, Thompson, and Westinghouse; and Duffs Mercantile College with three—Brashers, Corey, and Heinz. The remaining thirty-eight individuals are scattered among thirty-one different institutions.

Thirteen of the sixty college men on our list were members of Phi Beta Kappa, more than one in every five. These thirteen were Allen,

Baldwin, Culbertson, Curtis, Gilmore, Hart, Holland, Jackson, King, McIlwain, Schlesinger, Shiras, and Thoburn. Seven of the sixty are on the list of Sigma Xi, including Hamor, Harkins, Holland, Jackson, King, Schlesinger, and Weidlein. Thus one in every three of the sixty college men were or became members of these two honorary societies.

The birthplace of an individual, particularly if he were moved therefrom in infancy is of little importance in accounting for the career which followed. It is the place rather than the person which is commonly honored by such an association. But eighty-five of the one hundred and fifty persons listed above were born in western Pennsylvania, forty-six of the eighty-five, in Pittsburgh and its environs. Sixty-five were born elsewhere, but are vitally related to the history of western Pennsylvania and especially of Pittsburgh. In fact some of the figures conspicuously identified with western Pennsylvania and particularly with Pittsburgh are persons born elsewhere, such as Henry Baldwin, John G. Bowman, Alexander Campbell, Andrew Carnegie, Walter Forward, Albert Gallatin, Demetrius Gallitzin, Harvey Gaul, William J. Holland, Samuel P. Langley, Henry W. Oliver, Edward R. Weidlein, and George Westinghouse. It is possibly even more certain and more significant that only about a third of the eighty-five persons born in western Pennsylvania have found their distinction in the region of their birth, while the other two-thirds have moved hither and thither on the stage of national and international affairs.

In a matter of concise biographies of noted men and women, omissions are as interesting as selections. Anyone very familiar with the history of western Pennsylvania could furnish a short list of others with claims of some validity. As the writer of this résumé pored over the forty thousand names included he noted the omission of others connected with western Pennsylvania, such as, Hugh Henry Breckenridge and possibly Henry Marie Breckenridge, Dr. John Connolly, Neville Craig, Zadok Cramer, Thomas Cresap, George Croghan, Charles Martin Hall, John Paul Harris, Alexander McKee, George Morgan, John Neville, James O'Hara, John J. Pershing, Thomas Scott, William Thaw, and Edgar Thomson. Other names, probably more important, will present themselves to the well informed reader of this article.