

BOOK REVIEWS

Captain Sam Brady, Indian Fighter. Compiled by WILLIAM YOUNG BRADY. (Washington, D. C., Brady Publishing Co., c1950. viii, 184 p.)

Theodore Roosevelt in his *Winning of the West* says of Captain Sam Brady that "the tale of his wanderings, his captivities, his hair-breadth escapes and deeds of individual prowess would fill a book." One of Brady's descendants, long a member of our society, has unpretentiously but intelligently given us in this book an account of thirty-nine crowded, exciting years of this Pennsylvania frontiersman.

Born in 1756 on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River opposite Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, he had been one of the volunteer riflemen who marched to Boston, almost ahead of Washington, to become a private in the First Regiment in the Continental Army. After fighting under Washington at Boston, Trenton, and Princeton, and under Mad Anthony Wayne at Brandywine and Germantown, Brady came to Pittsburgh in 1778 as a captain lieutenant and under Colonel Daniel Brodhead, sent to defend the western frontier against the bloody invasions of the Six Nations.

Here, painted and dressed after the Indian style, in linen-wool hunting shirt with leggings and cap, long hunting rifle and blanket, he led the pick of two regiments organized as sharpshooters and scouts. In the King's Orchard, along the bank of the Allegheny River, adjoining the recently abandoned Fort Pitt, he trained what we now call "commandos."

From then until 1783 Brady and his men ranged through most of western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio hunting marauding Indians. After his marriage in 1781 his home was near Wellsburg, West Virginia. From 1783 until his death in 1795, he was in loose command of Virginia militia and local volunteers known as "Rangers," when not in active service under Arthur St. Clair, Josiah Harmar, or Anthony Wayne.

The name of Brady is familiar to us in Brady's Bend in Pennsylvania and Brady's Lake in Ohio. He was defended in 1793 by James Ross in a famous case before Chief Justice Thomas McKean at Pittsburgh in which he was acquitted. After well-nigh unbelievable feats and escapes well told by the author, Brady died in his bed near West Liberty, West Virginia, on Christmas Day, 1795. "A bolder or braver

man never drew a sword or fired a rifle" is the verdict of Wills De Hass in his history of Indian wars. Brady's connection with western Pennsylvania's early days should give this short account of pioneer conditions interest to all of our members.

Pittsburgh

HENRY OLIVER EVANS

Pittsylvania Country. (*American Folkways Series.*) By GEORGE SWETNAM. (New York, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc., c1951. xiii, 315 p. Maps.)

This account of factual and legendary persons and episodes will give both outlanders and many natives a better understanding of a region which has its center in Pittsburgh, but includes portions of four states within its loosely defined limits. The author, George Swetnam of the *Pittsburgh Press*, has brought to his task the perceptiveness of one who matured elsewhere, fortified by a solid background of research, and by first-hand insights acquired during fifteen years as a newspaper editor and writer in the area.

Pittsylvania Country is the twenty-second in the series of books on *American Folkways*, edited by Erskine Caldwell, since it was launched in 1941. Nine others are currently in preparation. All the titles end in the word "country." Such eminent regionalists as the late Gertrude Atherton and Homer Croy, for examples, have contributed the titles *Golden Gate Country* and *Corn Country*. The entire series is planned as regional literature rather than history.

Dr. Swetnam himself in his "Author's Note" disclaims any intention of writing a history of the "Pittsylvania Country. Rather, the book "is intended to give enough of the area's history to explain its reputation and some of its more important peculiarities." He adds: "The result is a sampling, rather than a definitive treatment. With a few exceptions, however, the contents are strictly in accordance with history."

To be subject to review in this magazine a book need be neither formal history nor historic in itself. It need be historical only in the sense that this book and others in its series are historical. Dr. Swetnam specifically eschewed both the task and the discipline of the historian. Instead he has produced a series of glimpses of the past and present of this region designed to affect his readers much as the impact of the regional culture stream has affected the natives and long-time residents