

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

who have allowed themselves to be exposed to it.

With such objectives it is important to record what the natives believe to be true, whether or not their beliefs are founded upon demonstrable historic feats. Dr. Swetnam is fair in labeling legends as such. He is honest in dismissing certain events as of doubtful historicity. And he is candid in admitting that documentation of his divergencies from "previous standard works" was "not practicable." If he is also seemingly unaware of the full implications of Pargellis' research in the Windsor Castle library, where it shed light on the facts of Braddock's Defeat, he can be excused; he is in distinguished company.

It would be a gracious gesture on the author's part, however, if he were to present his working bibliography (omitted from his book) to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. An account of the previously accepted inaccuracies which he has unearthed (to which he alludes in his prefatory note) would make an interesting talk or article. Such an article, fortified by the bibliography, might be of much assistance to others who share his enthusiasm for local history. It might well turn out to be a contribution to that history.

The title "Pittsylvania Country" is a particularly happy one. Dr. Swetnam did not coin it, as many persons seem to believe who have not read his book. "Pittsylvania" was first suggested as far back as he knows in 1759, as a suitable name for a British colony to be created west of the Alleghenies in the territory centering around what had just been named Fort Pitt. The idea of such a colony or state, with various other names put forward from time to time, was kept alive until 1782. The quietus came that year when an Act of the Pennsylvania Assembly declared agitation for such a new state was "treason."

Other areas west of the Appalachians which witnessed agitation for new states to be called "Transylvania," "Franklin," and "Vandalia" saw them eventually come into being as Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. That "Pittsylvania" never achieved independent existence is probably due, as Dr. Swetnam says, to the circumstance that Pittsburgh, the natural capital of the region then and now, preferred to retain its ties to Philadelphia and eastern Pennsylvania. It is interesting to speculate that under different circumstances Pittsburgh might have become the capital of "Pittsylvania," taking in most or all of what is now Ohio, and perhaps even Indiana.

Geographically, sociologically, even financially, the more limited

"Pittsylvania Country" of Dr. Swetnam's definition is today and always has been an entity. The state boundaries which divide it into Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland are largely arbitrary. They are lines first drawn on maps by men hundreds or thousands of miles distant who had never seen the country. The rivers which form other boundaries were in the beginning integrating and not divisive.

This regional integration, however, has not always been recognized. Even as acute an observer as the Rev. Clarence E. Macartney expressed surprise in his book entitled, *Right Here In Pittsburgh*, that Edwin M. Stanton, "although born and brought up in Ohio, seems to have regarded himself as a Pennsylvanian because of his residence for ten years in Pittsburgh." The key, of course, is that Stanton was really a "Pittsylvanian." He lived most of his life in Steubenville and practiced law as a matter of course in Pittsburgh and Wheeling as his reputation grew. Even when he became a legal resident of Pittsburgh he retained his Steubenville home.

Steubenville and Weirton, Wheeling and Youngstown, even Morgantown and Cumberland, look to Pittsburgh as their social and industrial capital city. Their citizens support the Pittsburgh Symphony and shop in Pittsburgh stores because they are "Pittsylvanians" even as they are also Ohioans, West Virginians, and Marylanders. The factors that bind the "Pittsylvania Country" together today, however, are not all tangible. Dr. Swetnam cites many such factors which can only be described as spiritual. Among these, of course, are common attitudes which may have been influenced by one or more of the tangible factors.

One error in the book, in the next to the last paragraph, is at once so minor and so typical of others elsewhere that its analysis may be worth while in the interest of accurate appraisal. The author is paying tribute to the vast programs for the new Pittsburgh and cites three Pittsburghers "whose fight has made the progress possible." They are Governor Duff, Mayor Lawrence, and "County Commission President John Kane." Governor Duff was still in Harrisburg and had not been seated as United States Senator when the paragraph was written so that is not the error. For a good fifteen years, however, the Hon. John J. Kane has been Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Allegheny County. To an outsider that title may seem equivalent to "County Commission President." The real point is that Dr. Swetnam was literally wrong, yet his reference to Mr. Kane will give an essentially accurate

impression to the casual reader. With the objectives Dr. Swetnam has chosen truth may be defined as that which creates an accurate impression. The overall impression of *Pittsylvania Country*, whatever its minor inaccuracies, is remarkably fine and true.

*Pittsburgh*

HARRISON GILMER

*Our Pennsylvania: Keys to the Keystone State.* By AMY OAKLEY, with illustrations by THORNTON OAKLEY. (Indianapolis and New York, Bobbs-Merrill Company, c1950. 467. p.)

The choice of the title of this handsome book is a felicitous one since it the fortunate outcome of the collaboration of members of two noted Pennsylvania families. Mrs. Oakley, a native of Philadelphia, may be said to represent the eastern Pennsylvania end of this team, with Thornton Oakley, born in Pittsburgh, as a representative of western Pennsylvania.

The family histories of both go back to Revolutionary days. They live in "Woodstock," built in 1776 by one ancestor, and a treasured heirloom is another ancestor's certificate of membership in the American Philosophical Society. It is not strange, therefore, that two of the seven "enthusiasms" listed by Mrs. Oakley are Independence Hall and Brandywine and Valley Forge. Three others, Cook Forest, the Poconos and the panorama from Tuscarora at sunset, together with many references to flora and fauna are no doubt reflections of Mrs. Oakley's interest in the varied scenic beauties of her beloved state.

Thornton Oakley's training in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, and in illustration as a favorite pupil of Howard Pyle, combines with his life and continued interest in Pittsburgh to bring about more than one hundred interesting and effective illustrations and stories of Pennsylvania manufacturing scenes and famous houses.

As the authors of many books covering their world-wide travels the Oakleys are well equipped for their labor of love. This is no mere hackneyed travel book but the distillation of many years of intense interest in Pennsylvania history plus painstaking travels to and fro over Pennsylvania to visit, and refresh their recollections of, the places and document the history they have set forth in such detail.

In spite of the coverage of Pennsylvania history from Devonian age geology to purchase by the Federal Government of the ninth capital of the United States, the Morris House in Philadelphia, one finds only