

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

an occasional lapsus linguae, such as calling the Pickett attack at Gettysburg a cavalry charge.

All facets of Pennsylvania life, spiritual, as well as material, are treated by the authors with charm and personality. Artistic end papers showing their travels furnish a fine map for readers who wish to see for themselves the shrines, shops, forests, parks, colleges, and other interesting Pennsylvania features so enthusiastically portrayed. All Pennsylvanians as well as others who wish an attractive, informative travel-historical book should welcome this volume to their libraries.

Pittsburgh

HENRY OLIVER EVANS

*The Rivers of America: The Ohio.* By R. E. BANTA, with illustrations by EDWARD SHENTON. (New York and Toronto, Rinehart & Company, c1949. 592 p.)

The *Rivers of America* series, inspired and at first edited by the late Constance Lindsay Skinner, was designed to tell not only the story of the rivers but of the valley regions influenced by the rivers. In the case of the Ohio there must have been something of a problem of delimitation, for the Allegheny, Monongahela, Wabash, Kentucky, Cumberland, and Tennessee all have histories of their own yet are tributaries of the Ohio. The problem has not always been successfully solved—nor could it be—for we find the author following the fortunes of George Rogers Clark on the Wabash, the New Harmony settlement on the Wabash, and the Civil War on the Cumberland and Tennessee.

*The Ohio* covers such an enormous mass of detail that one may well marvel at the successful organization and flow of narrative. Its interest may well depend upon the reader, for it is necessarily a rehash of the material long familiar to students of the river. Those to whom it is a new story will find it entrancing. Here, incidentally, is the Achilles heel of the entire *Rivers of America* series, and its publisher must have counted confidently on a large and uninitiated reading public.

More serious are questions of proportion. The Indians and their prehistoric antecedents occupy about 200 pages, the pioneers and the Civil War 300 more, which leaves less than 100 for the tremendously significant developments of the last eighty-some years. No one knows better than this reviewer that certain exigencies can dictate proportion, but it does seem shameful that the amazing industrial development on the banks of the Ohio receives so little attention. Here indeed is one of