All things considered, this is a book which will be consulted by people from many walks of life with increasing frequency. Most writers of history in the older fields, such as politics or biography, find that seventy-five per cent of their work is already done, and they need only fill in the chinks. Here is a book that is just the opposite. It replaces a yawning void with a good solid edifice which will serve well for years to come.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
Hugh G. Cleland


A new and impressive history of Pennsylvania in two volumes has been added to the increasing number of books on various subjects devoted to this state. Pennsylvania has developed a keen interest in its own history, much aided and abetted in recent years by Pennsylvania Week and also by planned courses in schools and colleges.

No one perhaps is better qualified than Mr. Stevens to write this book which spans a period from 1682 to 1956. He was born in Centre County, educated in the state, except for a higher degree in history at Columbia. He then taught history and later became a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, where he is the Research Director. He has traveled to every corner of the state in his search for historical records, visited libraries and historical societies, collected manuscripts and microfilm records, consulted unpublished French documents in Canada and has lectured extensively on the importance and value of Pennsylvania history.

He has given much thought to the subject of history and to the Pennsylvania way of life. Within the covers of 710 pages is found more factual information, more over-all coverage of Pennsylvania than any publication ever printed. His task has been a large and difficult one, but it is easy to follow his plan and arrangement, consisting of short, well written chapters, followed by suggested readings in essay form.

Each chapter is on a state wide or a regional basis depending on the subject. The Indian question covers the entire state while labor is confined to the industrial and coal centers. The Pennsylvania Germans are a regional discussion while politics is on a state level. One could wish for more material on the interesting chapter on Indians with a
fuller treatment of the "walking purchase" story.

The author begins with the physical formation of the state, then the arrival of William Penn to a wilderness and to an Indian problem, followed by the coming of European settlers the founding of a government, life of the early colonists, the period of the Revolution and then an extensive number of events and developments as the state grew and changed into modern times.

Mr. Stevens had an ambitious task before him, in selecting the subjects of substantial value, in order to tell his story. This reviewer would have preferred the use of Commonwealth in the title of such a serious study rather than Keystone. The latter, so far, has no official recognition and is used only as a slogan or nickname, while Commonwealth is a part of the name of Pennsylvania and appears in the constitution as such.

Volume two, 458 pages. Mr. Stevens feels strongly on the need for publication of documents which have formed an important place in creating a government and a state of 67 counties. These documents or manuscripts are found in widely scattered places and some not located at all even after a careful search in large libraries. He has assembled a notable collection and has included in this volume a number of the significant ones which are of interest for their historical and educational value. Here will be found the charter of 1681, frame of government of Penn, records of Indian relations, Valley Forge diary and numerous others in chronological order up to the present Governor's message.

*Pennsylvania Room, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*

Rose Demorest, Librarian