

and state politics to concern them, and only James Buchanan combines the two interests. Of party organization, as distinguished from the actions of individual leaders, the author of this study has little to say. His efforts have been primarily directed to "politicking" at the top level, and the reader will find that Pennsylvania politics remains personal even after the reduced powers of the governors placed a greater premium on organization than had been true before the constitution of 1838 was adopted. One catches a glimpse of the lobbying and bribery of the bank interests, but the jobbing of the legislative vote, which was far more general than is indicated, is considered secondary to the author's purpose. There are, of course, great difficulties in following the course of politics as personal as that of corporate interests and local improvements.

Readers who wish to delve into state actions or those of individuals will have to supplement their use of this book with further biographical materials and with other sources which supply economic and social data that give meaning to this political drama. The personal correspondence used has been taken at face value; such correspondence cannot be expected to reveal the whole story. The great merit of this volume lies in its reduction to an intelligible order the muddled and rocky stream of state politics during a period when issues begin to be recurrent. This has been done successfully, and the volume will find use both as a work of reference and as an exposition of the interplay of political factions and personalities at the height of the "middle period" of our state's history.

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Where Else But Pittsburgh! by GEORGE SWETNAM. Davis & Warde, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa., 1958, 194 pp. \$3.95.

News Item: Pixie from Dixie Discovers Pittsylvania

Back in the 1860's the South made some gallant attempts to invade the North and take Pittsburgh—leading to considerable bloodshed and ill-feeling all around. And then, when the North nodded, the real invaders from Dixie moved up and infiltrated the city. To-day every Pittsburgh newspaper has on its staff Texans who love Pittsburgh's climate, Georgians and Kentuckians and Carolinians

who have adopted us, and who even dislike to hear us criticizing ourselves! All sorts of thoroughly reconstructed and thoroughly delightful ex-Confederates now sing Pittsburgh's glories and tell her stories with a charming Southern accent, and with complete sincerity.

Most determined, most productive, most enthusiastic of these remarkable newsmen is, without doubt, Dr. George Swetnam. The Doctor (Ph.D. in Assyriology over a B.D. and a B.A.) is a Mississippi University, Hartford Seminary, and Columbia graduate who has not only *occupied* Western Pennsylvania; he has renamed it. "The Pittsylvania Country," he calls it in several of his books.

When he is not pouring out articles for the *Family Magazine* of *The Pittsburgh Press* (usually on local historical topics) he is mining new veins of long-forgotten local history, folklore, fable, scandal, and song.

How anyone can run so fast, write so much, and find so much time to poke through archives, attics, and skeleton-closets is hard to understand—unless you know Dr. George himself.

His newest Bicentennial book, *Where Else But Pittsburgh!* sings songs, tells tales, unearths some well-buried Pittsburgh bones, pronounces stern judgments, points with pride, prophesies, and makes exciting reading altogether.

The Editor asked this reviewer to read and report on *Where Else But Pittsburgh!*—not as a historian, which the reviewer certainly is not, but as a native of this "Pittsylvania Country."

I have read the book. It is now 1:45 a.m.; the Editor wants her report tomorrow morning; and it's much too late to write a long review. But I don't have to. The hour proves that this little book is hard to put aside unfinished. Few will be able to do so.

Some readers will close its covers chuckling; and some will vow to visit the Historical Society more often. Some will be annoyed, and some quite angry indeed.

Readers most amused will be new Pittsburghers, and old Pittsburghers whose careful forbears seldom made the news. The most annoyed and indignant will be found among those whose sires and grandsires played major roles in political and financial dramas that were celebrated in the press and in the legislative chambers of their day. With some of these readers the author may have to make his peace for garnering front-page history—and for raising tired ghosts, long quieted, to walk again.

But many Pittsburghers, I think, will feel indebted to George Swetnam for his contribution to Western Pennsylvania's awareness of its colorful past, its dramatic resurgence, its great potential, and its own unique place in the sun.

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"Don't shoot that little Rebel, Sergeant . . . he's a Pittsylvania Yankee now!"

Pittsburgh

C. V. S.