BOOK REVIEWS


This Preliminary Guide to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's holdings will be welcomed by all serious students of Pennsylvania History, and it also will prove to be an invaluable guide to those who are interested in the genealogy of Pennsylvanians. It is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of the riches entrusted to the care of the Historical and Museum Commission, but is an attempt to describe, briefly, what it has acquired and preserved for the benefit of scholars and students interested in the history of this state.

The Guide is divided into three sections. The first enumerates the possessions of the Division of Public Records. Since this Division is the Archives of the State of Pennsylvania, it has extensive holdings of public records, some manuscripts and other collections of private origin. The second describes the resources that the Research and Publications Division has assembled as the results of its research and publication activities. The third is concerned with two of the properties administered by the Commission—the Drake Museum at Titusville and Old Economy at Ambridge.

After having gone through the Preliminary Guide, the reader will be impressed by the skill with which the Historical and Museum Commission has executed its mission of preserving and amassing the necessary materials for research into Pennsylvania history. The Commission has not only investigated all repositories within the state, but has carefully searched many in other states for sources of information which relate to the history of Pennsylvania, and the results of its labors are all contained in this volume. The nine page listing of Pennsylvania newspapers, which have been microfilmed, is worthy of particular mention, and it, alone, would be worth the price of this volume.

S. W. Higginbotham, the Director of the Bureau, and his associates who prepared this guide are to be commended for their diligence, thoroughness, and accuracy in preparing this important
aid for research in Pennsylvania history, and we are in their debt.

A final word of praise should be given to the index which enhances the value of the Preliminary Guide. It is accurate and extremely easy to use; all who have occasion to turn to this volume will be grateful to the editors for their thoroughness.

This Preliminary Guide will stand beside Norman B. Wilkinson's Bibliography of Pennsylvania History as an absolutely indispensable tool for all who have a serious, scholarly interest in Pennsylvania history. It will only be displaced from this position when the successor to this guide, which is implicit in the title, is published.

University of Pittsburgh

Harry R. Beck


It has been said, possibly without scientific verification, that the Civil War in North America, 1861-1865, was the most photographed war in history, not even excepting World War I and World War II. A towering name emerged, to become almost a household word in the field, that of Mathew B. Brady who led and directed the activities of a corps of photographers and reporters in the pictorial recording of multifarious scenes and activities of the War, especially in the northeastern areas. Brady, who already had become a famous photographer and portrayer of the lineaments of the great and the famous, worked indefatigably to improve the technics and art of photography. It must have been one of his best coups when he persuaded a Scot named Alexander Gardner to come from England and join the Brady organization in 1855. One Brady biographer says that Gardner's demonstration of the superiority of the "wet-plate process" resulted in the "discarding of the daguerreotype for the photograph." From 1858 to the War, Gardner had the important position of manager of Brady's Washington gallery, most accessible to the celebrities. After working in the Brady organization during the early years of the War, Gardner left in 1863 to form his own organization and continue picturing the War and notable post-war events.

In 1866 was issued the first published collection of Civil War