
What arouses enthusiasm about this volume is its spirited influences. Possibly it is because it is just short of a hundred years old as a manuscript that it has so much — and such delightful — effect upon a receptive modern American reader.

The immediate reviewer has amused himself reading against the background of his own philosophic speculations. It has pleased him to set Master Bardsley against Otto Jasperson of the University of Copenhagen and the Encyclopedia Britannica in his observation: "No human race, not even the most primitive and backward tribe, lacks language, and the language of each nation or tribe must have behind it a history of a great many thousand years."

Such a fact, of course, is obvious, but its impact is terrific. Nevertheless, Bardsley undertook to govern the dynamic force involved. The result of his patient labors — and of his equally devoted motives of proven revelation — is a book which marvelously clears the meaning of innumerable appellations.

Yes, it is plain that names are necessary. Likewise, they must be specific. We human creatures of the last eight years of the first two centuries of free American life need to know who we are, what we are and how we are related and to what purpose. If we are to continue the experiment of 1776 into, say, 2026 A.D., it will be required of us that we comprehend each other, understand our associations, be constructively aware of our relations to life, liberty and the quest for happiness.

Bardsley shows that there is a law in all this: The human principle of intelligence and good will at work. People, we learn, are the living materials of history. Indirectly, we discover that George Washington cared enough about genealogy to correspond with Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King of Arms at the College of Heraldry in London, about his family. He had realized the importance of such knowledge in his own life and gone forward into the American Revolution and the framing of the Constitution of the United States with that knowledge to aid him in judgment. It follows that we, the heirs of his decisions, are advantaged by a proven source.

English Surnames, generally speaking, are American surnames.
Bardsley assembled, specifically, data regarding such families as Adams, Bayard, Clay, Dawson, Evans, Franklin, Grant, Harrison, Irish, Jefferson, Kent, Lawrence, Madison, Neville, Oldman, Porter, Quilter, Russell, Sharp, Tyler, Usher, Venner, Webster, Young and hundreds of other notable lines symptomatic of the American story. The compiler had access to Domesday (1086), the Hundred Rolls (1275?), Parliament records, Camden, Surtees and Chetham publications and a long list of supplementary sources. One of his finds was the discovery that William Shakespeare was the veritable Wizard of Names. He cites the Bard constantly for his management of the nominative designations of people and things, ideas and activities. A “rose by any other name” still would be beautiful. So, too, a “good name in man and woman . . . is the immediate jewel of our souls” — as witness pp. 1045-1054 of Burton Stevenson’s Home Book of Shakespeare Quotations.

But Bardsley is a guide to many other commentators. He mentions Charlotte Mary Yonge (1823-1901), author of approximately 120 books, including History of Christian Names, which modern scholars understand can be used effectively with the Complete Analysis of the Holy Bible by Roswell Dwight Hitchcock (1817-1887). Another helpful compendium of the same qualities is Joseph Thomas’ Universal Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography and Mythology, published in 1870.

Perhaps the most significant value of all works of this classification is the elemental magic involved. Bardsley was a clergyman at Ulverston and Manchester, England, having “the spiritual supervision of 7000 people and four places of worship to superintend.” His way of writing shows his love for life itself and for the conscious art of living. The number of surnames he researched has been estimated at more than thirty thousand. He divided his material into chapters headed: “Patronymic Surnames,” “Local Surnames,” “Surnames of Office,” “Surnames of Occupation — Country,” “Surnames of Occupation — Town” and “Nicknames.” Then follows an “Index of Instances” replete with fascinating details of historical, philosophic, poetical and occasional humorous quality.

Any sensitive American reader of 1968, it seems to the present appraiser, would be grateful to Bardsley for such a paragraph as that which ensues:

I trust that I have already shown that there is something, after all, in a name; at any rate in a surname, for that in it is supplied a link between the past and the present, for that in the utterance of one of these may be recalled not
merely the lineaments of some face of today, but the dimmer outline of an age which is past recall for ever. Viewed in a light so broad as this, the country churchyard, with each mossy stone, is, apart from the drier lessons it teaches, a living page of history; and even the parish register, instead of being a mere record of dry and uninteresting facts, becomes instinct with the lives and surroundings of our English forefathers.

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

JAMES WALDO FAWCETT

Book Notes

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has received from the Department of the Interior two volumes in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings series, *Founders and Frontiersmen* (1967) and *Explorers and Settlers* (1968), and wishes to call them and their companion books to the attention of members.

*Founders and Frontiersmen* furnishes information in Part I on the formative years of the United States, the War of 1812, Nationalism, and the Westward Movement. Part II is a survey of historical sites and buildings associated with these formative years, with excellent pictures and maps, a kind of hardbacked travel guide to "seeing America First." The 410-page book is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing office, Washington, D. C. 20402, price $3.00.

The newly published *Explorers and Settlers*, a cooperative research, writing, and editorial project of National Park Service personnel, according to Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, "...commemorates our rich European heritage and traces the extension of the Old World into the New, covering the era of discovery, exploration and settlement. In this period a colorful procession of explorers, conquistadors, missionaries, and other settlers, came to these shores. They sought gold, furs, and land; religious, political, and economic freedom; and the conversion of the Indians to Christianity. In the course of time, they amalgamated their diverse cultures and nationalities into a distinctive American civilization.”

Part I of *Explorers and Settlers* outlines the imperial struggles of Spain, France, Holland, Sweden, and England to dominate North America.

As in *Founders and Frontiersmen*, Part II of *Explorers and Settlers* is of greatest value to the average reader. It describes "256 sites in 38 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, incorporating