

A GUIDE TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA PETROLEUM:

Being an Annotated Bibliography on the History of Petroleum in Pennsylvania, designed chiefly for the use of Scholars, Historians, Teachers, Researchers, and Lazy Students, both Undergraduates and Graduates

ERNEST C. MILLER

As Pennsylvania was the home of the world's first commercial oil well and the birthplace of the petroleum industry, it is only natural that more has been written about Pennsylvania's oil industry than that of any other region. Unfortunately, the source material has never before been gone over with a sharp-toothed comb and the most important items described (in an attempt to save time and effort on the part of interested parties) and presented in print for the benefit of all. This is the initial attempt to do exactly that.

The earliest known oil bibliography was prepared by Benjamin S. Lyman in 1875 while he was in the East Indies and engaged in the oil surveys of Japan, although he never published his list.

Early in 1879, Professor Paul Schweitzer of the University of Missouri appeared before the House of Representatives of that state and presented an extensive paper on petroleum. The Legislature later passed a coal-oil bill and Schweitzer's remarks were printed in a pamphlet titled *Lectures on Petroleum* with a bibliography included.

Samuel F. Peckham, a special agent for the Federal government, was engaged to determine mining and petroleum figures and he finished his comprehensive report May 31, 1880; the government published it in 1882 under the title of *Report on the Production, Technology, and Uses of Petroleum and Its Products*. This work included an extensive bibliography which incorporated the 175 items previously prepared by Lyman.

Not until 1937 was another effort made in this field. In that year, Robert F. Hardwicke, an oil attorney of Fort Worth, Texas, presented his oil bibliography which contained 1397 items. It was published

Mr. Miller was the official historian to Oil Centennial, Inc., during 1958-1959 when the industry celebrated its Centennial. He is the author of *Pennsylvania's Oil Industry*, *Tintypes in Oil*, and just recently, *This Was Early Oil*. This is his seventh article to appear in this magazine.—Editor

by the University of Texas under the resounding title of *Petroleum and Natural Gas Bibliography: A Reasonably Complete Guide to the Literature in English Dealing with Petroleum and Natural Gas*. At the time it was issued it was the definitive listing on the subject.

While these various bibliographies were all efforts in the right direction, each being an improvement upon the previous lists, none attempted to describe what might be found in any of the books or sources, and one reason for this was that they were wide-ranging lists, too wide in scope to permit such an examination.

Twenty-three years elapsed before a notable improvement appeared. In 1960 E. B. Swanson's compilation titled *A Century of Oil & Gas in Books* was issued and its thousands of entries were as complete as the careful compiler could make it up to August of 1959. Most of the entries have a brief sentence or two delineating the contents but not in enough detail to be of much help to researchers.

Items on the list included here have been included only after lengthy discussions as to contents and importance with Mr. Alan W. Perkins, Curator of the Drake Well Museum, Titusville, Pennsylvania; with Mr. James B. Stevenson, Chairman of Pennsylvania's Historical and Museum Commission; and with Dr. Gene M. Gressley, Director of the Petroleum History and Research Center at the University of Wyoming. All entry items have been read in entirety by this author.

Entries are numbered and have been listed alphabetically. It is hoped that the list will save much time and trouble for all who might be interested.

The following terms have been used:

Very rare — indicates only one or two copies known.

Rare — seldom found in libraries or encountered on the market.

Scarce — often difficult to locate for reference use.

Unless stated otherwise, all books are stiffly bound in conventional binding boards.

1., *A History of the Rise and Fall of the South Improvement Company; Report of the Executive Committee of the Petroleum Producers' Union*.

Lancaster, Pa., Wylie & Griest, Printers. (No date but issued in 1872.)

126 pages. Paper wrappers, purple.

A complete report by the producers on their victory over the rail-

roads and the Standard Oil interests who had conspired to raise freight rates and secure drawbacks to the detriment of the independent refiners and producers.

VERY RARE; only one copy has been located at the Drake Well Museum, Titusville, Pa.

2., *Address to Producers of Petroleum issued by the General Council of the Petroleum Producers' Union.*

(No place or date. From format of volume and contents this was doubtless issued at Titusville, Pa., in 1878.)

24 pages. Stiff paper wrappers, brown.

B. B. Campbell, President of the Petroleum Producers' Union, explains in detail the troubles of the oil industry: over-production, manipulation of oil prices by buyers and speculators, the monopoly on storage and transportation facilities, and the lack of reliable information. The remedy is restricted production, limited drilling, and contracts signed by the producers making the Union the sales agent for their crude oil.

RARE.

3., *An Appeal to the Executive of Pennsylvania — An Address to Governor John F. Hartranft, invoking the Aid of the State against the Unlawful Acts of Corporations.*

Titusville, Pa., Graham & Lake, 1878.

24 pages. Stiff paper wrappers, brown.

The Petroleum Producers' Union presents a strongly worded protest against the control of transportation by Standard Oil and its connected companies. The Union maintains the railroads refuse cars to the independent producers for the movement of their crude oil.

RARE.

4. Antisell, Thomas, *The Manufacture of Photogenic or Hydro-Carbon Oils, from Coal and Other Bituminous Substances, Capable of Supplying Burning Fluids.*

New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1859.

144 pages. Diagrams.

This is the first published monograph on the art of distilling oils from minerals containing bitumen. An excellent résumé of American and European patents on distilling is provided. This volume had wide influence among coal-oil refiners and after Drake's successful well in 1859, early crude oil refiners referred to it.

The author was the chemical process examiner for the U.S. Patent Office.

5. Asbury, Herbert, *The Golden Flood — An Informal History of America's First Oil Field*.
New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1941.
324 pages. Illustrated. Map.
An easy-to-read presentation of early Pennsylvania oil history. The most exciting episodes and unusual characters have been selected. Some details are not altogether accurate from the historical viewpoint.
6. Ashburner, Charles A., *The Product and Exhaustion of the Oil Regions of Pennsylvania and New York*.
No place, no publisher. September 1885.
10 pages. Paper wrappers, olive. Map.
An excellent general survey of the oil supply situation to this date with predictions for the future. The paper was originally read before the American Institute of Mining Engineers at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was later printed in *Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers*, Volume XIV.
7. Beers, F. W., *Atlas of the Oil Region of Pennsylvania*.
New York, Beers, Ellis & Soule, 1865.
42 pages. Illustrated. Maps.
An excellent research tool; the 36 colored maps show a wealth of details including most property owners. A table of airline distances is provided. Ivan C. Michels, editor of the *Philadelphia Coal Oil and Petroleum Circular*, contributed a comprehensive article on "Petroleum" covering the subject to 1865.
The advertisements are revealing too; included are refiners, producers, geologists, merchants, lawyers, equipment suppliers, surveyors, bankers, tank makers, machine works, real estate agents, printers, and commission merchants. Among the famous names included in the advertisements: A. H. Angell, father of the famed "oil belt theory"; A. D. Deming, an early oil region photographer of Oil City; Joseph H. Simonds of Franklin who had earlier been in the oil business with John Wilkes Booth as one of his partners; and S. S. Christy, the Oil City druggist who witnessed Henry Rouse's will in the first great oil fire disaster. S. C. T. Dodd, the Franklin attorney who later joined Standard Oil and was the father of the Standard Oil Trust, has his legal notice among the advertisements.

8. Boatright, Mody C., *Gib Morgan; Minstrel of the Oil Fields*. El Paso, Texas, Texas Folk-Lore Society, 1945.

104 pages. Illustrated.

Morgan, a Pennsylvania driller and oil field worker, became well known as the great story teller of petroliia. While a few of his tales are set in Pennsylvania, most of them stemmed from his experiences in Pennsylvania but he moved the location to foreign climes. This volume contains all of his known stories.

9. Bone, J. H. A., *Petroleum and Petroleum Wells*.

New York, American News Co.; Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1865.

94 pages. Paper wrappers, blue.

The first edition carries the advertisement of the Weikel Run and McElhinny Oil Company, Venango County, Pennsylvania, with J. D. Rockefeller listed as a director. As far as is known, this is the first appearance of his name in active participation in the petroleum industry.

The author spent three weeks in the oil country gathering material for this book. His description of a trip down Oil Creek, and the oil business between Titusville and Oil City, is very good.

VERY RARE.

Second edition, 1866. 153 pages.

Enlarged and includes a report on petroleum in Kentucky. This edition is not scarce and easily located.

10. Boyle, Patrick C., Editor, *The Derrick's Handbook of Petroleum, A Complete Chronological and Statistical Review of Petroleum Developments from 1859 to 1898*.

Volume I. Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1898.

1062 pages. Illustrated.

Extremely important source book giving a day-to-day record of oil history, complete developments on production and oil farms and wells, the entry of Standard Oil and conflict with the independent refiners and producers, important statistics, and biographical information on oil pioneers. The comprehensive index is most helpful.

The Derrick's Handbook . . . during 1898 and 1899.

Volume II. Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1900.

553 pages. Illustrated.

Brings the figures through 1899 and includes a special chronology

of the Bradford oil field. An important article is "The Evolution of the Oil Lease," pages 190-219. Biographical information on 71 pioneers is given, none duplicating those in the previous volume.

Volumes III and IV, issued 1916 and 1920 respectively, cover the period from 1900 through 1919, are paper bound, and have little information of importance.

Starting in 1920, the Derrick Publishing Company issued paper pamphlets containing an annual review of oil fields and these were issued from 1920 through 1926.

This run of eleven volumes and pamphlets is commonly referred to as the *Derrick's Handbooks*.

11. Bristow, Arch, *Old Time Tales of Warren County (Pennsylvania)*.

Meadville, Pa., Tribune Publishing Co., December 1932.

389 pages. Vignettes.

Includes chapters on Drake, hauling oil, mining for oil at Tidioute, the Grandin Well, and the infamous Ben Hogan. The story of Edwin L. Drake's journey to Warren to have his drilling tools sharpened has been proved incorrect.

12. Brown, George W., *Old Times in Oildom*.

Youngsville, Pa., The Author, 1909.

72 pages. Paper wrappers, green.

This first edition reproduces a series of newspaper articles written by Brown and published at various times; the articles were written in 1896 and 1897.

Youngsville, Pa., The Author, 1910.

172 pages. Illustrated.

This second edition, which is not so marked, has been greatly enlarged and contains fifteen biographical sketches.

Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1910. Third edition.

196 pages. Illustrated.

Enlarged again and includes twenty-seven biographical sketches.

Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1912. Fourth edition.

Enlarged to 251 pages and is the easiest source to find the complete will of Henry R. Rouse, pioneer oil man and philanthropist. This is the best edition for reference use.

13. *By-Laws and Charter of the Oil Creek and Allegheny River*

Railway Company (with the original charters and supplements thereto of the several companies consolidated to form the same, together with the Proceedings for the Consolidation).

Philadelphia, E. C. Markley & Son, 1868.

56 pages. Paper wrappers, yellow.

Gives the basic facts about the Warren and Tidioute Railroad, the Warren and Franklin Railway, The Farmers' Railroad, and the Kersey Oil and Mineral Company's Railroad, and the advantages of the consolidation, an important move in early oil transportation.

VERY RARE; the only copy located is in the DeGolyer Foundation Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

14. Carll, John F., *Report of Progress in the Venango County District*.

Harrisburg, Published by the Board of Commissioners for the Second Geological Survey, 1875.

127 pages. Illustrated. Three folded geological maps accompany this volume and are in the pocket attached to the inside of the back cover.

Presents the geology of the Venango oil field region, also observations on the geology around Warren, and the comparative geology of northeastern Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania and western New York.

15. Carll, John F., *The Geology of the Oil Regions of Warren, Venango, Clarion and Butler Counties, etc., etc.*

Harrisburg, Published by the Board of Commissioners for the Second Geological Survey, 1880.

482 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

This is a virtual geological history of the oil fields in the four counties mentioned in the title and as such is invaluable. The description of oil well rigs and tools is especially good as is also the description of drilling and pumping. (Pages 285-325)

16. Carll, John F., *Seventh Report on the Oil and Gas Fields of Western Pennsylvania for 1887, 1888*.

Harrisburg, Published by the Board of Commissioners for the Second Geological Survey, 1880.

356 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

A review of drilling, newly discovered fields, and unpublished well records. Six folded maps and charts comprise part of this

volume and are in the pockets attached inside the front and back covers. The chart of production, shipments, and stocks, is detailed and excellent.

17. Carll, John F., *Geological Report on Warren County and the Neighboring Oil Regions, with additional Oil Well Records*. Harrisburg, Published by the Board of Commissioners for the Second Geological Survey, 1883.

439 pages. Maps.

A very detailed report on Warren County wells, fields, production, and geology. A colored geological map, two sheets of well sections, and a map of the Warren oil regions are in the pockets attached inside the front and back covers.

18. Cone, Andrew and Walter R. Johns, *Petrolia: A Brief History of the Pennsylvania Petroleum Region, the Development, Growth, Resources, etc., from 1859 to 1869*.

New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1870.

652 pages. Illustrated.

Accurate details of the earliest oil activities. Especially valuable because of the reports on all major oil farms and oil tracts; gives ownership, wells, drilling information, production, and often other information.

Walter Johns came to the oil country in 1861 and early in 1862 started the *Oil City Weekly Register*, the first paper specially devoted to petroleum. Later the same year he joined Andrew Cone, who was part owner of the *Venango Republican* and the *Oil City Times*, and they started collecting data for a book on the oil regions. The material was constantly revised and kept up to date until the book was published.

19. Crew, Benjamin J., *A Practical Treatise on Petroleum: Comprising Its Origin, Geology, Geographical Distribution, History, Chemistry, Mining, Technology, Uses and Transportation*.

Philadelphia, Henry Carey Baird & Co., 1887.

508 pages. 70 engravings and 2 plates.

This is a valuable source for early technical information most of which is difficult to find. The following chapters are complete and accurate through 1885:

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| Chapter VI | The Chemistry of Petroleum |
| Chapter VII | American Method of Drilling for Oil |
| Chapter IX | Technology of Petroleum |
| Chapter X | Oil Tests |

20. Crum, A. R. and A. S. Dungan, Editors, *Romance of American Petroleum and Gas*.

Volume I. New York, *Romance of American Petroleum and Gas*, 1911.

363 pages. Illustrated.

A general history of early oil by newspapermen. The last half of the volume consists of 81 biographical sketches of prominent oil men and seven sketches of companies. Of the men, most pertain to pioneers connected with major companies such as the Standard Oil Company, Atlantic Refining Company, Crew Levick Company, Tidewater Oil Company, and the National Supply Company. Worthy of special mention is the write-up on Thomas W. Phillips. (Pages 329-330)

Mr. Crum died before the second volume was commenced and Mr. Dungan carried on the work.

Volume II. New York, *Romance of American Petroleum and Gas*, 1921.

423 pages. Illustrated.

Chiefly the oil history of Canada, Kentucky, the Mid-Continent fields, and much on the Tulsa, Ranger, Burkburnett and Central West Texas producing areas. Includes an extensive biographical section.

VERY RARE; this volume is not in the Library of Congress and is not listed in the National Union Catalog.

Volume III. This volume was planned but never issued.

21. Destler, Chester McArthur, *Roger Sherman and the Independent Oil Men*.

Ithaca, N. Y., Cornell University Press, 1967.

305 pages. 1 map.

The complete story of Sherman's many years as the attorney representing the independent oil producers and refiners; the chief source of the book was the Sherman Papers in the Yale University Library. Although of very poor format and full of typographical errors, the volume is packed with essential information concerning the difficult struggle of the independents against the monopolists.

22. Dolson, Hildegard, *The Great Oildorado; The Gaudy and Turbulent Years of the First Oil Rush: Pennsylvania 1859-1880*.

New York, Random House, 1959.

300 pages.

A light-hearted but carefully accurate story of oildom's first twenty years related by an author who was born and raised in one of the pioneer oil towns, Franklin, Pennsylvania. This book was selected and used by Oil Centennial, Inc., the organization that celebrated the first century of the petroleum industry, as a presentation item to newspaper editors, journalists, and a selected list of public libraries.

23. Dow, Fayette B., *The National Petroleum Association, 1902-1927*.

Washington, D. C., The National Petroleum Association, 1927.

98 pages. Illustrated. Paper wrappers, dark brown.

History of the first twenty-five years of this Association. Initially interested in maintaining fair and profitable prices, the Association formed its own insurance organization, exchanged manufacturing information, standardized test methods, and established a fire and safety program. While the name of the author does not appear on the title page, it does show on page 80.

24. Dow, Fayette B. and Donald C. O'Hara, *The National Petroleum Association, 1902-1952*.

Washington, D. C., The National Petroleum Association, 1952.

174 pages. Illustrated. Paper wrappers, maroon.

The history of the first twenty-five years of this Association was prepared by Fayette B. Dow and originally appeared in 1927. It is reprinted here as the first section of this volume and Donald C. O'Hara has written the history of the second twenty-five year period.

This is the story of the first successful cooperation within the industry by the independent refiners.

25. Eaton, S. J. M., *Petroleum: A History of the Oil Region of Venango County, Pennsylvania*.

Philadelphia, J. P. Skelly & Co., 1866.

299 pages. Folded in front is "Map of the Oil Region of Venango County."

This is the best source for Venango County oil material and excellent regarding modes of boring wells (pages 99-128), various means of transportation (pages 159-172), and joint stock companies (pages 236-248).

26. Flynn, John T., *God's Gold: The Story of Rockefeller and His Times*.

New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1932.

520 pages. Illustrated. 1 map.

The author claims this to be a fair and impartial history of the rise of Rockefeller and Standard Oil. Unfortunately he uses no documentation and this compiler feels the book must be used with considerable care. The specific pages dealing with early Pennsylvania oil history are 75-110, 179-230, 248-287, and 320-325. A random sampling found five errors on pages 82-87.

Other editions appeared at later dates but the text was unchanged.

27. Gale, Thomas A., *The Wonder of the Nineteenth Century — Rock Oil in Pennsylvania and Elsewhere*.

Erie, Pa., Sloan & Griffeth, Publishers, 1860.

80 pages. Paper wrappers, brown.

Gale was a resident of Riceville, Pa., a village only thirteen miles northwest of Titusville, and his little book appeared June 1, 1860, only nine months after Drake struck oil.

It is especially valuable because of the eyewitness accounts it contains. He gives the geological picture, methods used in production, uses for crude oil, sketches of wells, and a history of the oil interest to the date of issuance. Historians who have checked other records have found Gale very accurate.

VERY RARE; up to 1952 only three copies could be located. The Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery at San Marino, California, has a copy as does Columbia University Library in New York City. The Ethyl Corporation of that same city owns the third copy. The poor wearing quality of the paper used for the book helps to explain why more copies did not survive. The book sold for twenty-five cents when issued.

In 1952 the Ethyl Corporation produced a facsimile edition of the book but added at the bottom of the last page the phrase "Reprinted in 1952 by Ethyl Corporation, New York." The reproduction was placed in a presentation book-box and a twenty-page pamphlet titled "Explanatory Notes to the First Book Written About Petroleum" was prepared and inserted in an envelope flap on the inside cover of the book-box.

28. Gesner, Abraham, *A Practical Treatise on Coal, Petroleum, and Other Distilled Oils*.

New York, Baillière Brothers, 1861.

134 pages. Illustrated.

This is the first practical book on the distillation of oils from coal and other bituminous materials. A list of refineries is provided and a brief discussion of Pennsylvania crude oil is given.

Gesner was a Canadian physician and geologist who provided the name *kerosene* and aided in the formation of the New York Kerosene Company in 1854, the first U.S. plant to produce illuminants from coal.

Gesner, Abraham and George W. Gesner.

New York, Baillière Brothers, 1865. Second edition.

181 pages. Illustrated.

This second edition was produced by Dr. George W. Gesner following the death of his father. Enlarged to include information about the new oil industry in Pennsylvania, it reports on the sinking of wells and the early methods of purification of crude oil.

29. Giddens, Paul H., *The Birth of the Oil Industry*.

New York, The Macmillan Company, 1938.

216 pages. Illustrated. 2 maps.

Dr. Paul H. Giddens was Curator of the Drake Well Museum at Titusville, Pa., and also Professor of History and Political Science at Allegheny College, when he prepared this work. It has long been considered the definitive history of the earliest days of the Pennsylvania petroleum industry.

Ida Tarbell contributed a twenty-seven page Introduction that in itself is a capsule history of the first few years of oil activity.

30. Giddens, Paul H., *The Beginnings of the Petroleum Industry; Sources and Bibliography*.

Harrisburg, Pa., Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1941.

195 pages. Illustrated.

The first part of this book consists of fifty-three letters written by Dr. Francis B. Brewer in 1854 and 1855 mainly concerned with the formation of the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company of New York, the first oil company. Nineteen other letters, written by George H. Bissell to people involved with this company, are also included.

31. Giddens, Paul H., *Pennsylvania Petroleum 1750-1872; A Documentary History*.

Harrisburg, Pa., Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commis-

sion, 1947.

420 pages. Illustrated.

This volume is important because it supplies in a single source the complete story of Edwin L. Drake including contemporary accounts of the man and his work.

Seventy-four other contemporary accounts of early petroliia have also been reprinted.

32. Gillelen, F. M. L., *The Oil Region of Pennsylvania: with Maps and Charts of Oil Creek, Allegheny River, etc.*

Pittsburgh, Pa., John P. Hunt, Publisher, 1864.

64 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

The first twenty-four pages give information about the main oil region towns. There are excellent illustrations of the Standard Refinery near Pittsburgh, Pa., and of the Kerr & McCormack Refinery at Franklin, Pa.

Sixteen maps plot the course of the Allegheny River and give detailed instructions for pilots. These maps were boldly "borrowed" from an earlier work, namely, E. L. Babbitt's *The Allegheny Pilot* which was published at Freeport, Pa., in 1855. Babbitt's original handdrawn maps are owned by the Petroleum & History Research Center at the University of Wyoming.

33. Hardwicke, Robert E., *The Oilman's Barrel.*

Norman, Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1958.

122 pages. Illustrated.

A Texas oil attorney probes history to discover how the 42-gallon barrel came into use. Contains considerable material on oil measurements in the early Pennsylvania field.

34. Harris, Charles H., *History of the Venango Oil Regions (Etc., Etc.).*

Titusville, Pa., Titusville Morning Herald Office, 1866.

108 pages. Paper wrappers, yellow.

Contains a good account of oil properties, description of regional towns, mention of industry leaders, and detailed facts on many leases.

RARE.

35. Henry, J. D., *History and Romance of the Petroleum Industry.* London and Tonbridge (England), Bradbury, Agnew & Co., Ltd., 1914.

320 pages. Illustrated. 1 map.

Volume I title page states "In Three or More Volumes" but this was the only volume ever issued.

This book was to have been issued August 5, 1914, but that was the morning Great Britain announced she had declared war on Germany. Publication was held up until the author prepared a twelve-page pamphlet titled *The Relationship of Continental Oil Sources to the War* and this was inserted loose in each copy. The pamphlet is rarely found today; it provided a statement on the geographical position and extent of the oil fields and resources of Germany and the other nations engaged in the war.

An excellent survey of petroleum before the Drake Well is provided; especially good on the career of Dr. James Young, pioneer in the Scotch paraffin industry.

36. Henry, J. T., *The Early and Later History of Petroleum with Authentic Facts in Regard to its Development in Western Pennsylvania*.

Philadelphia, Jas. B. Rodgers Co., 1873.

607 pages. Illustrated.

A valuable historical work prepared by a Titusville newspaperman. Henry interviewed many of the early oil pioneers and provides excellent historical coverage of most phases of the industry. Statistics on production, refining, and exports are given. Biographical sketches and Woodburytype pictures of thirty famous pioneers complete the volume.

The hard-to-locate lecture of S. Dana Hayes, State Assayer and Chemist for Massachusetts, titled "Manufacture of Petroleum Products," is reproduced in full. It was originally presented March 14, 1872, before the Society of the Arts of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

37. Hubbard, Silas, *John D. Rockefeller: His Career*.

New York, Published by the author, 1904.

192 pages. Illustrated.

The author states his purpose is "to awaken the people from their lethargy to a consciousness of the evils and the dangers besetting the nation from trusts and trust-builders." He proclaims Rockefeller as "the unnecessary middleman" and castigates him and his followers with a heavy stick.

38. Irvin, Samuel P., *The Oil Bubble*.

Franklin, Pa., Samuel P. Irvin and Media, Pa., John J. Rowland

and Wm. Cooper Talley, 1868.

70 pages. Illustration. Paper wrappers, buff.

Irvin made a fortune in oil and then lost most of it. His reflections are in this pamphlet. He explains his greed and his loss. The fall of the banking house of Charles V. Culver and his Venango National Bank is also covered.

RARE.

39. Lawrence, Albert A., *Petroleum Comes of Age*.

Tulsa, Oklahoma, Scott-Rice Co., 1938.

227 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

A complete discussion of the Seneca oil spring at Cuba, New York, made famous by the French Franciscan missionary Joseph de la Roche D'Allion is provided. He concludes that D'Allion probably referred to another oil spring in his letter and map.

Chapter IX gives interesting comments about some of the early books on petroleum appearing up to 1866.

Chapter XV on refining advances is excellent.

40. Leet, Allen Norton, *Petroleum Distillation and Modes of Testing Hydro-Carbons*.

New York, Oil Paint & Drug Publishing Co., 1884.

114 pages.

Doubtless the most comprehensive summary of information on refining processes, novel devices, stills, and adulteration to date of publication. Important data on the earliest sales of oil are found in Chapter IV.

Leet was Superintendent of the famous Humbolt Refinery at Plumer, Pa.

41. Leonard, Charles C., *The History of Pithole*.

Pithole City, Pa., Morton, Longwell & Co., 1867.

106 pages. Sketches.

A serio-comic work. The first fifty-six pages give descriptions of oil farms, wells, roads, hotels, churches, and the organization of the town. The rest of the book is a "burlesque" history of various aspects of life in Pithole. A thoroughly delightful peregrination through the most famous of Pennsylvania oil towns.

42. McLaurin, John J., *Sketches in Crude Oil*.

Harrisburg, Pa., The Author, 1896. First edition.

406 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

Harrisburg, Pa., The Author, 1898. Second edition, Revised and Enlarged.

452 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

Franklin, Pa., The Author, 1902. Third edition, Revised and Enlarged.

Only the third edition need be consulted as it is the most complete with additional information and an appendix not in the first two editions.

McLaurin was oildom's first roving newspaper reporter and he covered the oil fields as no one before or after him has done. On a first-name basis with a majority of the producers, refiners, speculators, and publishers in the oil country, his work is packed with first-hand information covering chiefly the first thirty-six years of the petroleum industry.

Although often written in a somewhat flamboyant style, his facts are generally accurate and often can provide leads to connecting facts and personages.

43. Maybee, Rolland Harper, *Railroad Competition and the Oil Trade 1855-1873*.

Mount Pleasant, Michigan, The Extension Press, Central State Teachers College, 1940.

429 pages. Illustrated. Maps. Paper wrappers, brown.

An outstanding presentation on the early railroads entering the Pennsylvania oil region, how each came about, the growing trunk line competition, and the infamous oil war of 1872.

While prepared as a thesis towards the Doctor of Philosophy degree, it is most readable and definitive on the subject.

44. Miller, Ernest C., *Tintypes in Oil*.

Rutland, Vermont, Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1961.

186 pages. Illustrated.

The story of eight famous oil pioneers and also the Cherry Grove oil excitement of 1882. This is the only source for the complete story of the Rev. Darius Steadman and of Charles Vernon Culver, banker to oildom.

45. Miller, Ernest C., *An Investigation of North America's First Oil Well: Who Drilled It?*

Rutland, Vermont, Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1964.

66 pages. Illustrated.

Proving that Edwin L. Drake drilled the world's first commercial oil well and refuting the Canadian claims made for James M. Williams.

46. Montague, Gilbert Holland, *The Rise and Progress of the Standard Oil Company*.
New York, Harper & Bros., 1904.
143 pages.
Montague was Ricardo Scholar in Economics at Harvard University when he wrote this book which was favorable to Standard Oil. He claimed the superior efficiency of the Standard Oil Trust was the secret of its great success. Standard Oil aided in the wide distribution of this study.
47. Morris, Edmond, *Derrick and Drill, or How to Get Rich. Showing How Large Fortunes Have Been Made in Petroleum*.
New York, James Miller, 1865.
277 pages. Folded map in front titled "Map of the Oil Region."
Many prominent men in the oil region are described. Much interesting history is given but sources are rarely indicated.
A second edition was issued in 1872 but it is an exact duplication of the first edition.
48. Moss, James E., *The First Appearance of Petroleum in Congress and Its First Taxation* (A Near Tragedy of 1865).
New York, American Petroleum Institute, 1956.
40 pages. Paper wrappers, cream.
This is a complete examination of the taxes placed on refined (kerosene) and crude oil during our Civil War. Passed to supply internal revenue for the government, and to pay the interest on the public debt, these taxes nearly wrecked the petroleum industry in its infancy. This is a fascinating study available in no other printed source.
49. Munn, S. W., *Useful Information for Oil Men*.
Mannington, W. Va., Press of the Enterprise, 1900.
190 pages. Illustrated.
Technical information on drilling tools with good illustrations of most of them.
50. Nevins, Allan, *Study in Power: John D. Rockefeller, Industrialist and Philanthropist*.
New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953.

Volume I. 441 pages. Illustrated.

Volume II. 501 pages. Illustrated.

An extensive survey of Rockefeller's rise to the most powerful figure in the petroleum industry, plus the development of Standard Oil and the Standard Oil Trust. Probably the most complete study of Rockefeller and his business from the Standard Oil point of view. Nevins had available a large body of Standard documents recently found and which were unknown when he prepared his earlier work, *John D. Rockefeller: The Heroic Age of American Enterprise*, written thirteen years before this study. This is a "must" source for any researcher interested in Standard Oil.

51. Newton, J. H., Editor, *History of Venango County, Pennsylvania, and Incidentally of Petroleum.*

Columbus, Ohio, Published by J. A. Caldwell, 1879.

651 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

Hundreds of references and important early information on oil. This is the best of any Pennsylvania county history as relating to petroleum and its development.

52., *Oil's First Century.*

Cambridge, Mass., Published by the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, 1960.

147 pages. Illustrated.

Eleven papers by experts presented at the Centennial Seminar on the History of the Petroleum Industry conducted by the Harvard Business School, November 13-14, 1959. This seminar was sponsored by eleven major oil concerns.

The papers of value on early oil history are: Kendall Beaton's "Founders' Incentives; The Pre-Drake Refining Industry" and Paul H. Giddens' "The Significance of the Drake Well." Excellent but of less interest are Henrietta M. Larson's "The Rise of Big Business in the Oil Industry" and Arthur M. Johnson's "Public Policy and Concentration in the Petroleum Industry 1870-1911."

53. Peckham, S. F., *Report on the Production, Technology, and Uses of Petroleum and Its Product.*

Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office, 1885.

319 pages. Illustrated. Maps, charts, and plates.

This report covers the natural history of petroleum, production, transportation, technology of refining, and the many uses of oil, both crude and refined. An extensive bibliography is included.

Peckham made this report as a special agent for the Federal government, and as an experienced oil man, his report ended as the best over-all treatise on petroleum up to 1880.

Highly recommended for the sections on production and refining.

54. [Sherman, Roger], *A History of the Organization, Purposes and Transactions of the General Council of the Petroleum Producers' Union and of the Suits and Prosecutions Instituted by it from 1878 to 1880.*

Titusville, Pa., Sunday News Letter Print, 1880.

50 pages. Paper wrappers, buff.

Chiefly anti-Standard Oil and railroads; relates trials and tribulations of the independent producers against these forces.

RARE.

Written anonymously by Roger Sherman who was the chief counsel for the independent producers.

55. Silliman, Benjamin, Jr., *Report on the Rock Oil or Petroleum from Venango Co., Pennsylvania, with special reference to its use for illumination and other purposes.*

New Haven, Conn., J. H. Benham's Steam Power Press, 1855.

20 pages. Paper wrappers, orange brown.

The initial scientific investigation of Pennsylvania petroleum, the distillation of the crude and the uses of the distilled fractions. This report helped increase interest and stock sales in the first oil company.

56. Smiley, Alfred W., *A Few Scraps: Oily and Otherwise.*

Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1907.

220 pages. Illustrated.

Personal observations of an early oil buyer and pipe line operator. Interesting facts about his relationship with John Wilkes Booth at Franklin, Pa.

57. Tait, Samuel W., Jr., *The Wildcatters: An Informal History of Oil Hunting in America.*

Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1946.

218 pages. Illustrated. Maps.

A well written history of early oil hunting with clear explanations of "creekology," doodlebugs, Angell's belt theory, and oil geology.

58. Tarbell, Ida M., *The History of the Standard Oil Company.*

New York, McClure, Phillips & Co., 1904.

Volume I. 406 pages. Illustrated. Map.

Volume II. 409 pages. Illustrated.

An excellent business history by a woman well acquainted with the early oil region. This book helped turn public opinion strongly against Standard Oil and the trusts.

Other editions, all exactly the same, appeared as follows: in London by Heinemann in 1905, reissued in the United States in 1925 and again in 1933, two volumes in one. A photo-offset duplication, two volumes in one, was done in 1950.

The book was translated into Chinese by Dr. W. E. Macklin and Mr. Tao Siun Rin. The only copy located was in the Ries Library of Allegheny College.

59. Tate, A. Norman, *Petroleum and Its Products: An Account of the History, Origin, Composition, Properties, Uses, and Commercial Value, &c., of Petroleum.*

London, John W. Davies, 1863.

116 pages.

An especially good source for early refining information and on products derived from petroleum. Tate was a chemist and Secretary to the Liverpool Chemists' Association.

60. Taylor, F. H., Editor, *The Derrick's Handbook of Petroleum (Containing the Data of all Important Events in the History of the Petroleum Region; Daily Market Quotations; Daily Average Production, and Tables of Field Developments; Runs, Shipments, Exports, Stocks, Etc., Etc.).*

Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1884.

110 pages.

A day-by-day chronicle of the first years of oil from 1860 through 1883. Brief but accurate statements of events. Do not confuse this volume with the *Derrick's Handbook* series as referred to in entry number 10.

61. Tennett, John C., *The Oil Scouts.*

Oil City, Pa., Derrick Publishing Co., 1915.

85 pages. Illustrated.

The story of how the oil scouts came into existence and history of the gusher wells that upset the crude oil market. The author was one of the original oil scouts. The group was active chiefly from 1882 through 1886.

62. Townshend, Henry H., *New Haven and the First Oil Well*. New Haven, Conn., Privately printed, 1934.
37 pages. Paper wrappers, blue.
Written and published by Henry H. Townshend whose uncle was James Townsend (the spelling of the family name was later changed), the New Haven banker who was instrumental in the formation of the first oil company and in sending Drake to Titusville.
The author used James Townsend's original records, prepared this history at the time of the 75th anniversary of the Drake Well, and then presented the papers to the Drake Well Museum. The edition printed was very small.
63. (Trusts) — *The Report of Committees of the House of Representatives for the First Session of the Fiftieth Congress, 1887-88*. In Eleven Volumes.
Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office, 1888.
Volume 9. 956 pages, *The Standard Oil Trust*.
This is Report No. 3112, 50th Congress, 1st Session.
A lengthy investigation of Standard Oil and Standard Oil Trust. Witnesses included many prominent producers, members of the Oil Well Drillers' Union and the Producers' Protective Association. Standard Oil men included John D. Archbold, Henry M. Flagler, Daniel O'Day, and John D. Rockefeller.
64. vonMillern, Alexander, *All About Petroleum and the Great Oil Districts of Crawford and Venango Counties, Pa.*
New York, American News Co., 1865.
88 pages. Paper wrappers, dull green.
Good descriptions of early oil towns plus a trip the author made from New York City through part of the oil country. Includes some early material on Ohio and West Virginia petroleum activity.
65. Wainwright, Nicholas B., *The Irvine Story*.
Philadelphia, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1964.
100 pages. Illustrated. Maps. Paper wrappers, buff.
Published in an edition of 1000 copies in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.
This includes the unique story of Dr. William A. Irvine of Irvine, Pa., an early oil producer, and his Irvine Oil Tract, connection with the Allegheny River Transportation Line, and other oil dealings.

66. Whiteshot, Charles A., *The Oil Well Driller: A History of the World's Greatest Enterprise, the Oil Industry*.
Mannington, W. Va., Charles Austin Whiteshot, 1905.
896 pages. Illustrated. Maps and charts.
A fund of important information on all phases of the industry. Important for the history of various companies such as the Pure Oil Company, Galena Oil Company, Harmony Society, and many others. Information on Standard Oil is in greater detail than generally found. Early oil exchanges, pipelines, torpedoes, famous wells, and producing districts are well covered. An excellent reference volume but must be "searched" for details.
67. Wilkie, Franc B., *Petrolia: or, The Oil Regions of the United States*.
Chicago, John R. Walsh Co., Publishers, 1865.
82 pages. Maps. Paper wrappers, buff.
This guidebook is divided into two main parts. The first forty-two pages cover the entire gamut of the oil business with the best descriptions being "Route to the Oil Regions and Cost" and "Hotels." The remaining pages consist of six letters written home from different places in the oil fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The descriptions are accurate.
VERY RARE; the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, Pa., has a copy. The paper used was of poor quality.
68. Wright, William, *The Oil Regions of Pennsylvania*.
New York, Harper & Brothers, 1865.
275 pages.
A careful survey of the region and the business by a newspaper reporter.
In March 1865, Wright, correspondent for the *New York Times*, had planned to spend a day or two investigating conditions in northwestern Pennsylvania's oil country. Upon arriving he found so many conflicting claims that he spent the balance of March and three weeks of April gathering his facts. The result was this authentic volume.
Wright felt that the contents of Chapter VI, "Statistics of Production," was most important.
69. Wrigley, Henry E., *Special Report on the Petroleum of Pennsylvania, its Production, Transportation, Manufacture, and Statistics*.
Harrisburg, Published by the Board of Commissioners for the

Second Geological Survey, 1875.

122 pages. Six folded maps in pockets, one folded plate.

An abbreviated but authentic report on the various phases of the industry through 1874. The plate showing a drilling rig in detail is valuable.