

BOOK REVIEWS

History of Western Maryland. Being a History of Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties from the Earliest Period to the Present Day; including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men. By J. THOMAS SCHARF. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968. 2 vols. \$50.00.)

John Thomas Scharf was essentially a newspaper man turned historian. Following service in both the Confederate army and navy (he wrote a history of the latter service) he served on the *Baltimore News, Sun Telegraph*, and *Morning Herald*. His writings on local history appeared frequently in the *Baltimore Sun*, to the editor of which the present *History* was dedicated when first issued in 1882. Prior to this he had written *Chronicles of Baltimore* (1874) and a three-volume *History of Maryland* (1879).

The *History of Western Maryland* is both an extension and a refinement of his state history. His account of the Braddock expedition includes quotations from the *Maryland Gazette* of the time and covers about ten double-column quarto pages. Scharf devotes almost ten pages to the Whiskey Insurrection of 1794, which is frequently considered solely a Western Pennsylvania affair. Fortunately, the author does not hold rigidly to the Mason and Dixon Line, and there are large sections of both Pennsylvania and Maryland interests. This is particularly true of his treatment of the Civil War, which covers about 250 pages. Frederick County, established in 1748 as the earliest of the western counties, occupies a large portion of the first volume. Scharf's interest in land tenure, which was rewarded by his becoming Commissioner of the Land Office in 1884, is reflected in a list of the names of about 2,500 officers and soldiers of the Revolution entitled to lands west of Fort Cumberland, pp. 145-161; a list of about 1,250 resurveys of land in Frederick County before 1800, pp. 373-380; and a smaller listing of wills before 1777, pp. 431-432.

Seven years before his death in 1893 Scharf presented the fine library of Americana that he had collected in historical researches to Johns Hopkins University library, which included not only pamphlets but files of early newspapers, which he used much in preparation of his histories.

After almost ninety years Scharf's *Western Maryland* still makes sound and interesting reading, though county histories are not much in fashion in the 1960's. They may have a renaissance in the 1970's and 1980's in the wake of the U.S. Bicentennial, just as the Centennial

of the last century gave impetus to a rash of county histories.

The Regional Publishing Company is to be congratulated for re-issuing *Western Maryland* on good quality paper and in a serviceable binding. This is just one of a series of reprints of valuable reference books on local history and genealogy that the publishers have issued in recent years.

*Historical Society of
Western Pennsylvania*

JOHN W. HARPSTER

History of the Galley Family (1908). Revised and enlarged by NANCY WARE GALLEY, *et al.*, 1968. (Privately printed for the family association by Charles Henry Printing Company, Greensburg, Pa. Pp. 500. \$25.00.)

Most family histories (aside from containing much folklore) hold little interest for researchers, except for kin, genealogists, and the rare historian whose work raises some question involved with the clan's history.

History of the Galley Family is of great value for some 250 pages of historical and sociological material written for the original work by its principal author, Dr. J. O. Arnold, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Arnold, a Galley descendant, wrote in 1887 concerning Fayette County as he knew it in his youth (he was born in 1820) and as he remembered hearing about it from his family, who had been in the area for two decades before his birth. He was still alive and alert and took a principal hand in the first publication of the *History* when he was nearly a century old.

This valuable material, somewhat paralleling Doddridge's celebrated "Notes," has apparently escaped scholarly notice up to this time because of the small number and limited circulation of the former printing.

Pittsburgh

GEORGE F. SWETNAM

If He Can Make Her So. By RON CAPLAN. (Pittsburgh: Frontier Press, 1969. Pp. 85. Bibliography. \$6.00.)

One afternoon in 1968, while I was engrossed in research of early Pittsburgh history, I suddenly heard a young man ask the librarian of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania for material on