

formation pertinent to the authors' study can be gleaned from the other volumes as well.

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Portrait of an Early American Family: The Shippens of Pennsylvania Across Five Generations. By RANDOLPH SHIPLEY KLEIN. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1975. Pp. ix, 373. Preface, acknowledgment, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$14.00.)

While sociologists and psychologists have long recognized the usefulness and importance of studying the family as a significant societal institution, historians have been more enamored with biography. If, as one scholar maintains, biography is a form of historical kindergarten then the increasing tendency of historians to explore the complexities of the past through family studies should be applauded. As Randolph Shipley Klein convincingly demonstrates in this masterful and innovative study of the Shippen family of Pennsylvania during the colonial and Revolutionary periods, knowledge of a family's relationships and structures serves to explain the actions and thoughts of individual family members and provides a clearer understanding of the past.

By using the abundant Shippen family records, church records, tax lists, probate records, deed books, sociological studies, and other secondary sources, the author is able to describe the lives of more than seventy-five people who bore the Shippen name over a century and a half. Being a Shippen meant belonging to an extended family composed of conjugal units living separately while also retaining significant economic and emotional ties to one another. More than a name was transferred from one generation to the next. The maintenance of property, position in the upper ranks of society, and political connections was a shared responsibility among the Shippen family and the kinship network served to protect and advance family members and to ease the burdens of a changing society.

The first Shippen to come to America was Edward, who arrived

in Boston in 1668. He prospered as a merchant but being a Quaker he was still an outsider more than twenty-five years later. This prompted a move to Philadelphia to be among Friends. His success in the Quaker colony's capital was marked by his extensive land holdings and political offices. He became the first mayor of Philadelphia. Although Shippen established a firm foundation for his family in the city he was not above controversy. Within a year after the death of his second wife the sixty-seven-year-old merchant married again. This outraged the Society of Friends, because they discovered his intended bride's "apron to rise too fast." Edward Shippen survived this scandal, and when he died in 1712 he left an impressive legacy in terms of wealth and position.

The second generation was soon reduced by death to one surviving heir, Joseph Shippen. Since he inherited the wealth of his father and brother, Joseph Shippen was able to retire from his mercantile business at age thirty-seven. He then led the life of a country gentleman at the large house he constructed in Germantown, about eight miles from Philadelphia. He further removed himself from the Quaker community by withdrawing from the Society of Friends, which virtually disqualified him from holding public position. In contrast with the generation preceding him and those to follow, Joseph Shippen felt no obligation to promote his children or kinsmen, preferring to devote his energy toward the continuation of his own life style as a gentleman. While Joseph Shippen's selfishness caused the extended family network to wither, by forcing his sons to be on their own they were aggressive and desired to succeed.

In the three decades before 1750, the three sons of Joseph Shippen — Edward III, Joseph II, and William II — followed somewhat diverse paths towards their economic and personal goals, though all three began to move towards positions of status in Philadelphia. The eldest son, Edward III, was a serious, methodical, and diligent merchant who prospered and accepted a paternal role towards his kinsmen. Joseph II was also a successful merchant who sought to duplicate his father's life style as a country gentleman. William II, while active in real estate, entered the apothecary trade and became increasingly involved as a "practitioner of physick." The careers of all three Shippen brothers were successful and enabled them to enter public life and to use family connections for mutual benefit.

If Klein's account of the Shippens through the third generation resembles collective biography, his treatment of the family life and structure of the fourth generation reveals that "by the mid-eighteenth

century the Shippen family must not be thought of simply as individuals" (p. 74). Therefore emphasis is placed on demographic considerations such as the number of births in the family, the ages when these children married, and the geographical mobility of the Shippens beyond Philadelphia.

Edward III's son, the fourth Shippen in America to bear the name Edward, was sent by his father to England for legal training, and upon his return secured a position as admiralty judge owing to the influence of his father and other kinsmen. Edward IV's dependence on his father is clearly revealed in his successful effort to gain the Shippen family's consent to marriage. Since he counted on the family to provide a firm economic basis for his marriage, securing his parents' support was vital. His union began in 1753 and lasted four decades. His brother, Joseph III, was also guided by his father, particularly while at the College of New Jersey, and later as a merchant and soldier. Edward III took great interest in the welfare of his only daughter and her family, though his sons were more important than his daughter and his eldest son most important of all. The extended family was a constant feature in their lives. An example of the influence of the extended family is seen in the assistance Edward III provided for the medical education in England of his nephew William III, who became a famous physician.

During the two decades preceding the American Revolution, the Shippens reached the zenith of their power. The Shippens' desire for wealth and influence were regarded with disfavor by some fellow colonists who were offended by nepotism and multiple office holding. The Shippens resented the tyranny of British measures, particularly the stamp tax, but most family members opposed the radical demand for independence and tried to remain neutral during the Revolution. While they were not Loyalists neither were the Shippens ardent patriots; rather they avoided heroics in favor of private considerations such as safety and advancement of the family.

Randolph Shipley Klein concludes his study of the Shippen family with the death of the last Shippen of the fourth generation in 1810. His coverage of five generations of the Shippen family provides many new insights into the life of colonial Pennsylvania as well as an approach to family history that might well be utilized in future studies. The 803 notes which follow the text offer support for his findings and their correlation to page numbers of the text facilitates their use. Two appendixes provide a guide to the Shippen family's genealogical jungle. While the author's scholarship is admirable, his

true accomplishment is revealing for us what it meant to be a Shippen in colonial America.

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1777: The Year of the Hangman. By JOHN S. PANCAKE. (University: The University of Alabama Press, 1977. Pp. viii, 268. Preface, prologue, epilogue, maps, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$11.95.)

How strange is the public belief that December 31, 1976, marked a finish to the celebration of the bicentennial of the United States. Actually, most of the traumas and tribulations affecting the infant nation occurred after July 4, 1776, for on that date British troops occupied only Staten Island. Moreover, the mother country's effort to subdue the rebellion was confused by the Howe brothers' dual mission of reconciliation and suppression. A successful political separation remained tenuous. As one Philadelphian noted, "It is One Thing for the Colonies to declare themselves independent, and another to establish themselves in Independency."

The events of 1777, "the year of the hangman," so called because the sevens resembled gallows, contributed enormously to the performance of the "Independency," climaxing in the establishment of the French alliance. John S. Pancake traces these episodes through 1778, roughly the period of Sir William Howe's tenure as commander in chief in America. He concentrates on the twin British campaigns which were to split the states by capturing the Hudson valley and to seize the American political capital, Philadelphia. The author has aimed to demonstrate the interconnection between the two movements and the leadership weaknesses which permitted a limited success in Pennsylvania and a total disaster in New York. He weaves his theme by contrasting the actions, thoughts, and ambitions of the Howes and Sir John Burgoyne in America and Lord George Germain in London. And never would the trio agree among themselves in word or deed. This is military history, but Pancake includes sufficient explanations of the political and social climates to provide the necessary foundation.

A modern synthesis of the crucial campaigns of 1777 has long been needed. Based mainly on monographs and printed sources, *1777:*