

Hospital took "a back seat" to Philadelphia General and other hospitals. By 1841, "Anglo-America's first hospital was no longer the nation's largest, nor its leader, in pioneering new methods of treatment, via research, for its patients." A more thorough analysis of the first half of the nineteenth century together with at least a summary of the institution's evolution since that time would have been of service and interest to the historian as well as the general reader.

Department of History

DAVID O. POWELL

*C. W. Post Center, Long Island University
Greenvale, New York*

Clockmakers of Lancaster County and Their Clocks, 1750-1850. By STACY B. C. WOOD, JR. and STEPHEN E. KRAMER III. *With a Study of Lancaster County Clock Cases* by JOHN J. SNYDER, JR. (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1977. Pp. 224. Acknowledgments, preface, introduction, indexes. \$16.50.)

This is a worthwhile and much-needed book, particularly in view of the increasing interest in early clocks, and the fact that Lancaster County was a rich area in their production. Although neither Wood nor Kramer is a historian, and apparently neither one a Lancastrian — they met while attending the Bowman Technical School there, studying clocks — their work shows a real devotion to their subject. The book includes a directory of clockmakers of the county and technical discussions of cases, dials, and movements. It is completely illustrated with excellent photographs.

It is regrettable, however, that some criticisms must be made, reluctant as this reviewer may be to cavil at such a much-needed, well-written, and interesting work. It is unfortunate that the authors failed to provide some symbols on the county map (p. 12) to show the number of known clocks and clockmakers in the various subdivisions. There are occasional passages which seem confusing. For instance, after discussing apprenticeships, the authors note that on the average, clockmakers "started their own business in their twenty-third year," adding (p. 13): "One must realize that for many of them, their lives were already two-thirds over." This would seem to call for a frequent life span of under thirty-five years. Yet a search of the Directory shows only three, Jacob Burg, John George Hoff, Jr., and Henry Lewis Montandon, who demonstrably died at such an early age. (Often vital statistics are partially or completely missing.)

On the other hand, most of those on whose lifespan information is available lived beyond their fortieth year, while at least eleven died in their seventies, five in their eighties, and two in their nineties. Paragraph one of the Directory says it contains "the names of ninety-four clockmakers," while the number of listings seems to be about ninety-eight.

But the most serious fault would appear to have been limited research. Page 11 seems to limit the list to names on clock dials or in "advertisements in the English language newspapers. . . ." Elsewhere there is mention of research in directories, tax records, church records, and some other sources. But there is nothing to indicate that Lancaster County's German-language newspapers were consulted, or of any search made in county histories and similar resources. Worse still, there is no bibliography, and the omission of names found in Wallace Nutting's *The Clock Book* and George H. Eckhardt's *Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers* would seem to show that even those standard works were not consulted.

It is to be hoped that the authors will be able to correct these "sins of omission" in a future edition.

Pittsburgh

GEORGE SWETNAM

George Mifflin Dallas: Jacksonian Patrician. By JOHN M. BELOHLAVEK. (University Park and London: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977. Pp. xii, 233. Acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$12.75.)

Across the grand sweep of American history, the figure of George M. Dallas (vice-president 1845-1849) appears as a small speck on an endless horizon. But during four decades of public life, stretching from the "Era of Good Feelings" to the Civil War, Dallas constantly jostled for leadership of the Pennsylvania Democratic party and played a significant role in national politics. John M. Belohlavek, history professor at the University of South Florida, has written the first biography of this elusive politician. The author states in his preface that he does not intend to enlarge Dallas's position on the historical landscape by showing him to have been an overlooked major figure. Instead, Belohlavek believes, rightly, that Dallas's career offers a unique vantage point for the examination of both Pennsylvania and national politics during the years from 1820 through 1860.

Dallas's family heritage shaped his career. Born in 1792, he was