

The document texts are in a literal form and should give pause to those groups of editors who prefer to print modernized transcriptions. Shades of meaning in seventeenth-century expression ought to be preserved. Seven maps enhance the book, making it easy to understand Penn's movements and environment.

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Pennsylvania: The Colonial Years, 1681-1776. By JOSEPH J. KELLEY, JR. (Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1980. Pp. xiv, 848. Introductory note, illustrations, maps, bibliographical notes, index. \$19.95.)

First, a rhetorical question is in order: is it possible to write a history of the colonial era of Pennsylvania without placing undue emphasis on the deeds of William Penn and Benjamin Franklin? The answer, as provided by Joseph J. Kelley, Jr., in this ambitious work, and recently by Joseph E. Illick in his *Colonial Pennsylvania: A History* (1976), is probably no. Many reasons explain this phenomenon, not the least being the importance and influence of those two men in their own times. A second rationale is the vast amounts of letters and documents they left to posterity that have shed so much light for several generations of historians. They simply cannot be ignored.

Kelley's book is popular history at its best. It lacks the scholarly apparatus of explanatory footnotes (incidentally as does Illick's), but the detail combined with the judicious quotations from primary sources should also attract academics to his efforts. A great lure for researchers is the extensive and most helpful index. As far as this reviewer can determine, every person mentioned in the text has been included. A minor fault is that he fails to distinguish between the two Thomas Whartons, Junior and Senior, but that confusion unfortunately is all too common among scholars of the period.

In general, Kelley follows a familiar pattern by emphasizing the political aspects of the era. He gives considerable coverage to the disagreements between the Assemblymen and the members of the Council and between the legislature and the various governors, in-

cluding the proprietor, regardless of the relative importance of the debates. His explanations, however, are clear, and he manages to untangle many complicated situations. Although uncited, his lengthy quotations as woven into the text are derived from the printed volumes of the *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* and Series 1, 2, and 8 of the *Pennsylvania Archives*. He has mined those sources most successfully, and the quotations used are generally both apt and illuminating. His emphasis on politics, though, leaves a large void in offering a complete account to the reader of the people involved. To discover how they lived, worked, and played, one must turn to Kelley's earlier work, *Life and Times in Colonial Philadelphia* (1973), in which he limited discussion to the activities of those residing in the province's major city. It should be noted, however, that Kelley interweaves sufficient descriptions of notorious scandals into the narrative to maintain the reader's attention.

Overall, this is narrative history. Kelley avoids interpretations, content to let the major characters and events speak for themselves. He keeps within the parameters delineated by the founding of the English colony and the Declaration of Independence. He describes the progress of developments strictly chronologically, sometimes to the detriment of the reader's instant comprehension of a particular event. In places, several pages separate the discussion of an episode, and one must then turn back to rehearse preceding developments. Again, however, his explanations are complete despite this obstacle, and his easy writing style always is attractive.

A comparison between the surveys of Kelley and Illick comes naturally to mind. Both cover the same period, and both emphasize Penn's and Franklin's contributions to the commonwealth. Both additionally omit, unless absolutely pertinent, any discussion of the effect geography, the Indians, and the early Dutch and Swedish settlers had on later developments. Illick's is by far the shorter and yet, at the same time, the more interpretive study. To counter that, Kelley adds the more comprehensive and valuable bibliography, and it is extensively annotated. Both volumes deserve a place on the shelves of anyone in the least interested in the building of Pennsylvania. Both are highly recommended; both are worthy contributions to the celebration of the state's tricentennial birthday.

As a last word, thanks must be given to Doubleday for publishing Kelley's efforts. At a time when most trade publishers are avoiding

issuance of scholarly inquiries, the appearance of this volume should earn the gratitude of scholars and lay persons alike who are attracted to serious contemplation on America's past.

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The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania. By CHARLES L. BLOCKSON. (Jacksonville, North Carolina: Flame International, Inc., 1981. Pp. vii, 227. Foreword, acknowledgments, introduction, appendixes, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$12.95, hardbound; \$6.95, paper.)

The history of the Underground Railroad (UGRR) remains one of the most exciting and significant issues in antebellum American history; exciting because it was both dangerous and illegal and because it tells the story of oppressed men and women who challenged their oppressors, braved the unknown, and, with the aid of a handful of supporters, attained freedom; significant because it showed quite clearly the extent to which black Americans and their white supporters were willing to go in an effort to undermine an oppressive system. It is a history filled with self-determination, resilience, and daring, on all of which nineteenth-century America placed great store. That is precisely why slave narratives were so popular, for they touched America at its most sensitive and proud spots. Few honest men could read the accounts of Henson's, Douglass's, and the Crafts' escapes without immediately identifying with their ordeal and ultimate success.

Unfortunately for historians the success of the UGRR demanded a large measure of secrecy, and, as a result, few records were kept. This has only compounded the problem of piecing together the history of this clandestine and highly protean network of organizations. As in all such things the problem is increased by an understandable yet unfortunate glorification of some of those who participated in aiding the fugitive slave to freedom. To date, the works of William Still and Levi Coffin, participants in the UGRR, and Wilbur H. Siebert and Larry Gara, its major historians, remain the most important accounts. These can be supplemented by tidbits from local histories, which invariably glorify the activities of some local figures without telling us much of significance. Still and Coffin have