instances, brief suggested further readings are appended to the ends of chapters. The book also needs a really good map. The lack of scholarly paraphernalia and an expanded index is regrettable, but the costs attendant to such an inclusion would perhaps have made publication by the Johnstown Flood Commission prohibitive.

A number of typographical errors and the repetition of a whole paragraph mar Chapter 16, and distracting typographical errors can be found elsewhere in the volume. Some textual ambiguities, repetitiveness, and internal chapter disorganization reflect the lack of strong editorial guidance. This is said while appreciating the vision, dedication, and pertinacity of Dr. Karl Berger, a medical doctor, who served as catalyst and editor.

On the title page it is noted that “This book was written and illustrated by members of the community for the benefit and education of the community.” The book, in large measure, attains those goals, and all involved in the writing and production of the volume can take pride in what they have done. In some ways, the book should serve as a model of a community history written and published as testament by current and former members of a community. The book, even with its limitations, will be of value and use not only to members of the Johnstown community but to students, scholars, and historians of local and community history.

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By Bonnie Fox Schwartz.


In October 1933, 12.5 million Americans (ten percent of the population) were on public aid. Federal Emergency Relief Administration Director Harry Hopkins, realizing that the Public Works Administration (due to “slow, meticulous” planning, fear of the pork barrel, and the fact that subcontractors were not required to hire from relief rolls) had little immediate impact on unemployment, pressed Roosevelt to
create by executive order the Civil Works Administration (November 9, 1933). In five months, the CWA, devoting 39 percent and 57 percent of its resources, respectively, to ninety-three of the largest cities and eleven northern and western urban-industrial states, built or improved 500,000 miles of roads, 40,000 schools, and 1,000 airports. In spite of these herculean accomplishments, Bonnie Fox Schwartz argues, conservative Southern Democrats, rural Northern Republicans, and, surprisingly, social workers brought about the demise of the CWA in March 1934. The tension between social workers and CWA administrators is the focus of Schwartz’s study.

According to Schwartz, Hopkins never shared the professional social workers’ commitment to thorough investigation of each relief client; he therefore sought to administer the CWA as a public employment, rather than as a welfare, agency. Consequently, he classified workers according to skill, experience, and training, instead of need or number of dependents, and he chose “scientific management experts” to staff the CWA. Hopkins’ scientific management experts were largely Republican or independent corporate lawyers, public administration graduates, veterans of Hoover’s Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and members of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Taylor Society.

The “professional altruists,” represented by the American Association of Social Workers and the National Federation of Settlements, resented their exclusion from the administration of the CWA and soon came to oppose the governmental agency. The CWA, social workers observed, failed to deal with the relief recipients’ “moral problems,” seeking only to better their economic condition. Once relievers acquired CWA jobs and were removed from welfare rolls, “friendly visitors” could not continue to investigate their home life, oversee the rehabilitation of drunkards and child abusers, and ensure that paychecks were not spent foolishly. To friendly visitors and settlement workers, imbued with the spirit of “moral uplift,” Hopkins’ Taylorites and public administration experts, who were not concerned with CWA employees’ domestic problems and profligacy, obstructed their efforts to attack the social roots of unemployment and poverty: alcoholism and ignorance.

Although Schwartz’s account of the tensions between social workers and the CWA’s scientific management experts is provocative, she fails to present sufficient evidence to prove conclusively that the professional altruists played a significant role in bringing about the demise of the CWA. For example, Schwartz notes that the AASW and the
NFS did not lobby on behalf of the CWA. On the other hand, both social work organizations objected to the demobilization of the CWA. Furthermore, not all social workers opposed Hopkins' administration of this governmental agency. Unfortunately, Schwartz devotes very little attention to particular professional altruists' anti-CWA activities, and quickly plunges into a discussion of public relief projects, such as the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, in the 1970s.

In the final analysis, the role of social workers in bringing about the termination of the CWA was relatively minor compared to the efforts of the Southern Democratic-Northern Republican congressional coalition. Southern Democrats opposed the CWA's color-blind wage scales which encouraged blacks to take well-paid (by Dixie's standards) federal jobs rather than continue as impoverished agricultural workers. And northern rural Republicans complained that the CWA benefited chiefly urban-industrial centers and increased the patronage power of state Democratic machines. It was the Southern Democrat-Northern Republican coalition, rather than the social workers, whose political constituencies were insignificant by comparison, that engineered the demobilization of the CWA in 1934 and ultimately the immobilization of the New Deal itself in 1938.

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Science and Technology in the Eighteenth Century:
Essays of the Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute
for Eighteenth-Century Studies.
Edited by Stephen H. Cutcliffe.


The Gipson Institute at Lehigh University was established to honor Lawrence Henry Gipson, a distinguished scholar of the eighteenth century. The institute is dedicated to promoting studies of a broad interdisciplinary nature focused on the eighteenth century. It was during this century that the Industrial Revolution began in England and reached such an intense period of development and change by the