**Canals and American Cities: Assessing the Impact of Canals on the Course of American Life**
Edited by Ronald C. Carlisle

These are the published papers of a 1991 canal history symposium, edited by a senior historian at a Pittsburgh-based engineering company. One chapter is devoted to the excavation and preservation of the eighteenth-century Pennsylvania Canal in Pittsburgh. The article reveals the nitty-gritty of the excavation, but also provides a concise, useful and generally accessible history of the canal in the commonwealth’s early transportation network. The other chapters do an acceptable job of placing the Pittsburgh discovery in a broader context. — Paul Roberts

**Advance the Colors!**
by Richard A. Sayers

The history of Pennsylvanians’ service in the nation’s wars is distinguished. The symbol of this honor is the regimental flag, or colors. This was especially true during the Civil War, when colors maintained order during the chaos of battle, showed a regiment’s advancement across the battlefield, or provided a rallying point during retreats. Honors earned in battle were also displayed on the flag, which to the regiment is its very soul. To lose the colors in battle is the equivalent of being damned.

Advance the Colors! is a catalog of every known Pennsylvania Civil War regimental color, but the books also provide a unique view of the war itself. The volumes are the product of more than 10 years’ research, conservation, and fund-raising. The beautiful books tell the stories of soldiers from more than 200 regiments of infantry, artillery and cavalry. For the historian, Civil War buff, casual reader, and anyone with ancestors who served, these volumes are invaluable as well as entertaining.

Volume I includes a survey of pre-Civil War era militia standards, a chapter on Civil War African-American regiments (though most of their colors are lost), a dedication to the history of the colors after the war, from their official return to the state in 1866 to their placement in the capitol rotunda in 1914, and a recounting of the project to save the flags. That effort began in 1982 after Company A of the 87th Regiment Civil War Re-enactors donated money for the preservation of the orginal regiment’s flags. As of November 1991, 107 flags have been conserved through the sponsorship of individuals and organizations donating $1,000.

The body of both volumes is devoted to regimental histories, detailing how each regiment received its colors (many were sewn and embroidered by the soldiers’ wives) and describing the men who carried the flags throughout the war, often with images. Also included is a regimental bibliography. Photographs show the present state of each regiment’s colors, many reduced to rags by battle, weather, and deterioration. At the end of volume II, there is an interesting chapter on the whole conservation process.

Advance the Colors! was a campaign for more than preserving the old flags; the publications give everyone a chance to appreciate their heritage. — Mark Tabbert, Museum Programs Department, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

**The Olde History of the Pittsburg Field Club**
by James C. Hayes, M.D.

This is an impressive “club” book, both in appearance and content. Dr. Hayes shows a good sense of the historically relevant, and he avoids elite pretensions easy to stoop to in a history of perhaps the region’s wealthiest country club, with roots in Industrial Age bounty. His wry sense of humor infuses the text, from the beginning as an incorporated cricket club in 1882 in Pittsburgh’s Regent Square area, through dealings with sourpuss landlord Henry Clay Frick in the early 20th century, and into the present at the club’s beautiful rolling site north of the Allegheny River. The photographs are fantastic, with a unique four-fold fold-out in the center, and the graphics, though a tad trendy, are at least not homemade-looking. An index would have made the volume friendly to researchers, as would a table of contents and a thematic summary in place of the “foreword” (sic). Golf is good terrain for social history, given its Scots-Irish slant, and Dr. Hayes has gotten the topic off the first tee. — Paul Roberts
Dorothy Hetzel Cantner was a news reporter from 1945 to 1961. She worked most of those years for the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph*; above, interviewing a mountain family near Johnstown, Pa., and, opposite, later in her career. The Historical Society's Hetzel-Cantner Family Papers is devoted to this Pittsburgh family, which included the famous nineteenth century painter, George Hetzel.