BOOK REVIEWS

Those interested in reviewing books should contact Nicholas Ciotola at npciotola@hswp.org. Publishers and authors can send review copies to the Editor, Western Pennsylvania History, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15222.

County Courthouses of Pennsylvania: A Guide
By Oliver P. Williams (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 2001). Illustrations, glossary, sources, index. xi + 244 pp. $19.95 paper
A guide to the state's 67 courthouses that includes detailed explanations of each building's history and architectural style. Includes an introduction to styles and a timeline of extant structures.

From Sugar Camps to Star Barns: Rural Life and Landscape in a Western Pennsylvania Community
By Sally McMurry. (University Park: Penn State Univ. Press, 2001). Illustrations, diagrams, maps. xiii + 175 pp., $50 cloth, $24.95 paper
A thorough survey of the history of the Somerset County landscape, chronicling its evolution from a heavily forested region in the 18th century to a progressive, agricultural region in the 20th century.

Houston: Then...and Now
The Borough of Houston covers less than half a square mile, but this Chartiers Valley community has been home to everything from Blue Star Potato Chip and Nut Co. (which annually processed 2.6 million pounds of potatoes) to a still-operating Allegheny-Ludlum Steel plant. Lots of old photos, lists, and interesting stories.

Klondikes, Chipped Ham, & Skyscraper Cones: The Story of Isaly's
By Brian Butko (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 2001). Illustrations, store list, Web site with bibliography. x + 100 pp., $12.95 paper
Narrative account of the rise of Isaly's Dairy, the family company that spread stores and plants across Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The chain became known for its customer service as well as its products, particularly the Klondike ice cream bar, now sold nationally.

Knowledge in a Nutshell on Popular Products, Heinz Edition
A collection of curious facts about the Pittsburgh-based H.J. Heinz Company including its history and products, from ketchup to pickles to company history.

Pennsylvania’s Covered Bridges: A Complete Guide
By Benjamin D. Evans and June R. Evans (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2001). Illustrations, index. x + 306 pp., $19.95 paper
Guidebook identifying each of the 221 remaining covered bridges in Pennsylvania, with specifications such as type, builder, etc. First published in 1993, this revised and updated version contains new photographs — all in color! — and new information.

Wealth, Waste, and Alienation: Growth and Decline in the Connellsville Coke Industry
By Kenneth Warren (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2001). Illustrations, charts, index. xix + 297 pp., $30.00 cloth
Explores the rise and fall of the Connellsville Coke industry with particular emphasis on the industry's impact on the Western Pennsylvania environment.

FEATURE

Mission to America: A History of Saint Vincent Archabbey, the First Benedictine Monastery in the United States
By Jerome Oetgen (Washington D.C.: Catholic Univ. of America Press, 2000). Illustrations, index. xiii + 607 pp., $39.95 cloth

In Europe, the Benedictine monks have a long and rich tradition of supporting the Catholic Church by providing education, scholarship, and missionaries in accordance with the rule of St. Benedict. After surviving the assaults of Enlightenment thinkers and Napoleon's anti-monastic policies, the Benedictines emerged with a new enthusiasm and determination to reclaim their role in the 19th century. This new enthusiasm was personified in the aspirations of a young German monk from the abbey of St. Michaels in Metten named Boniface Wimmer. Wimmer believed that the Benedictines should establish a monastery in the United States to