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"Court Records Of Kent
County, Delaware, 1680-1705",
Reviewed.

Tan, 1962

mained nothing but splinters. The impaneled jury for Coroner Daniel A. Shiffer rendered a verdict that Frank Herzog came to his death by the explosion of a cannon caused by carelessness in loading.

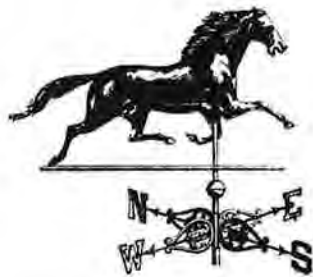
"Peter Roerich, whose right leg was amputated as the result of injuries sustained by the explosion of the cannon, died March 9, 1882."

The victory being celebrated so tragically had other ironical aspects. Although the Democratic Party won the mayoralty by a majority of 223 votes over Republican ex-mayor William D. Stauffer (1874-1877), the Republicans took control of the Common Council, thereby being able to control the small Democratic majority in Select Council and to name all city officials.

See Inside;

"Court Records of Kent County ..."
Reviewed

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CRITIQUE

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited

By

Evelyn

A.

Benson

Forts on the Pennsylvania Frontier, 1753-1758. By William A. Hunter. (Harrisburg, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1960. 596 p. Bibliography, index. \$5.00)

Years of painstaking research have gone into this compilation of facts about the first forts erected in Pennsylvania. The work is designed to replace with a more accurate and historical account the *Report of the Commission to Locate the Site of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania* issued by the State in 1896 and reissued with additions in 1916. The present volume treats only of those forts built before Forbes Expedition of 1758. A second volume is planned to cover other early forts of Pennsylvania built from 1758 to the end of the American Revolution.

The first forts built in Pennsylvania (disregarding those built on the Delaware before the founding of Pennsylvania) were those erected by the French in the western part of the state, Presqu'isle (Erie) and Le-Boeuf (1753) as part of a campaign to take possession of the entire Mississippi Valley, including the Ohio and its branches. The next forts built in Pennsylvania were constructed by the Virginians (1754) to prevent the French from taking possession. In this struggle for the Ohio Valley many Indians were encouraged by the French to attack Pennsylvania frontier settlers. Pennsylvania, after enjoying over seventy years of peaceful Indian relations, was obliged to construct a line of forts along the Blue Mountains to protect the colony from the savages. Mr. Hunter treats each of these forts in circumstantial detail, producing a book which will be found of inestimable value as a reference work for any student of the French and Indian War, especially historians of the localities mentioned.

EVELYN A. BENSON

✓ *Court Records of Kent County, Delaware 1680-1705.* Edited by Leon de-Valinger, Jr. *American Legal Records*, Vol. VIII. (Washington, D.C.: The American Historical Association, 1959. xxii, 382 p. Index.)

No better sources of early American social history exist than the county court records of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, where they have

survived. The American Historical Association has sought to discover, edit and print these priceless documents in a series of great value to historians and genealogists. *The Maryland Court of Appeals 1695-1729*, *The South Carolina Court of Chancery 1671-1779*, *The Records of the Accomack-Northampton County, Virginia, County Court 1632-1640* are among those already published; *The Court Records of Kent County, Delaware 1680-1705* is the most recent volume in the series.

Kent County (formerly St. Jones County), Delaware, shares with adjoining areas north to the Schulykill and west to the Susquehanna an early history under the dominion of a variety of rulers, Swedish, Dutch and English, the English period first dominated by the Duke of York, then by William Penn. At this early day its population was therefore cosmopolitan, containing mixtures of all these peoples, besides Scots and a goodly number of French Huguenots, even a few Canadian voyageurs who had fled the rigors of the north. Access to records such as these make it possible to trace with certainty the movements of historic figures whose activities might otherwise be lost in the mists of time. Mr. deValinger has edited this rare record with care; his historical preface is excellent and the index of names invaluable.

EVELYN A. BENSON

The Amish Folk in Words and Pictures. By Vincent R. Tortora. (Lancaster, Pa.: Photo Arts Press, 1960. 34 p. Illustrated. 75c.)

A well written account of Amish life, customs and religion which will interest those who see them every day and answer the questions of tourists. Illustrated with many photographs in black and white as well as by sketches based on the Amish drawings of our local geniuses, Kiehl and Christian Newswanger, whose sensitive art work does so much to enhance the beautiful documentary film, *The Old-Order Amish*, recently produced by Mr. Tortora.

EVELYN A. BENSON

John Adlum on the Allegheny: Memoirs for the year 1794. By Donald H. Kent and Merle H. Deardorff. (Reprint for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission from *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* vol. LXXXIV, Nos. 3 and 4, July and October, 1960)

First hand observations of Indian life by a surveyor in northwestern Pennsylvania shortly after the American Revolution have been edited and are here printed from an original manuscript in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. John Adlum was born in York, Pennsylvania on April 29, 1759. As a very young soldier in the American Revolutionary Army he was captured by the British and imprisoned for a time in New York. Although his early education had been sketchy, he was a man of great native intelligence, interested in science and agriculture. He learned enough mathematics to become a surveyor and in that capacity

found opportunities for acquiring wealth in western lands, so that in later life he could indulge a fondness for experimenting in grape culture. As a surveyor he was obliged to use diplomacy in personal negotiations with the Seneca Chief Cornplanter, and other Indians met in council, before he could set up his instruments to survey some of their lands. His accounts of what Cornplanter and other chiefs said and did at that time are excellent and interesting source material for Iroquois and Pennsylvania history of that period. Well documented accounts of Adlum's life and travels are presented as introductions to Parts I and II of the Memoirs. The book is illustrated with portraits of Adlum and Cornplanter, as well as Adlum's map of northwestern Pennsylvania.

EVELYN A. BENSON

A History of Calvert County, Maryland. By Charles Francis Stein. (Baltimore, Md.: The author and the Calvert County Historical Society, 1960. 404 p. Illustrated, bibliography, index. \$12.50)

The ranks of lawyers distinguished in history as well as in law are fast disappearing. That they haven't become entirely extinct is evident upon reading *A History of Calvert County*. The author's interest in Calvert County history was inspired by the romantic stories which he heard in childhood from relatives and family friends. His family has lived in Calvert County since within a few years of Maryland's first settlement at St. Marys—over 300 years.

In his research, the author, a history major at Johns Hopkins University in his college days, and a practicing lawyer of many years' experience with land titles, examined several hundred grants and patents to early landed estates as well as wills, Tax Lists, Debt Books, and records of Court proceedings. From data thus obtained Mr. Stein has written in succinct style a County history which is authentic and based on original source material. It makes good reading and is an invaluable reference book. The book is attractive in format, and in every aspect is a model county history. Included in the work are Tax Lists and the genealogies of 136 notable Colonial families of Calvert County.

JOHN WARD WILLSON LOOSE

Thoughts on the Kentucky Rifle in its Golden Age. By Joe Kindig, Jr. (Wilmington, Delaware: George N. Hyatt, Publisher, 1960. 561 p., illustrated. Standard Edition \$27.00 Delux Edition \$50.00)

This wonderful new book by Mr. Kindig is divided into two parts. The first part has chapters on the frontiersman, the gunsmith, on the Kentucky rifle itself, and on the rifle as a collector's item.

The second part is most important. It contains an introduction giving specific information on what to look for in identifying rifles and the men who made them. There is also a very fine map of Pennsylvania giv-

