A New Bibliography Coming

The Third Volume of the Clements Library Bicentennial Studies, funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., is on its way to the University of Chicago Press. Like its predecessors, this Guide to Sources of Biographical Information on Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors presents valuable information to be used by others in studying the war that brought forth American independence.

Histories of the American Revolution were being written even before the last shots of the war were fired and they have been written ever since. Few historical events have received more attention from historians. The generals of the Revolution and the movements of the armed forces are, perhaps, better known than for any other war in history. Yet, after two hundred years, little is known about the hundreds of thousands of individuals upon whom the ultimate success of the Revolution depended. Generals and political leaders are important, but in war it is the willingness of men from everyday walks of life to support their country that makes the difference between victory and defeat.

This volume is a guide to the vast published and manuscript materials available for studying the men who made up the Revolutionary

Vann Fund Gift

German-Americana is a significant field for collecting. It embraces accounts of exploration translated into German, reports of German travelers in this country, records of German settlements here, sermons and proceedings of the several German churches established along the Tidewater, etc. By means of the Vann fund we have been annually strengthening our resources in this field. Now the donors have made possible an important acquisition of great rarity and dual appeal.

The Moravians, who settled in Georgia in 1735, moved up in a few years to Pennsylvania, founding Nazareth and Bethlehem. Their leader in Germany visited them in Pennsylvania throughout 1742. He hoped to bring together some German Lutherans and Evangelicals with the Moravians into a united faith. His tour is reminiscent of the travels of St. Paul among the Corinthians and Colossians, where he found them divided and misinterpreting the faith he had first explained to them. So he wrote those magnificent letters found in the New Testament. In somewhat the same manner, Bishop Zinzendorf admonished his adherents in their new and different environment not to lose faith, not to succumb to quarreling, and not to emphasize their differences. Unfortunately, he was not very successful.

In place of letters he held seven conferences with various groups, established new congregations, and stimulated mission work among the Indians. Yet he failed to unite the several German groups on common ground. Before he departed he sought to get the proceedings of the conferences published in seven pamphlets. The printer in Germantown would not touch them, but in Philadelphia the wise and tolerant Benjamin Franklin would print them. They were all issued late in 1742, and only two complete sets are known today. They are prized as Franklin imprints as well as great religious appeals.

Recently we were able to get hold of five of them. Then by way of luck we found another! They were not cheap, but we are delighted to report that the Vann family encouraged us to acquire them. We are proud to insert their bookplate in the six pamphlets and we are not without hope that we can uncover the seventh. Having friends like these when opportunity knocks is one of the joys of this Library. We are grateful indeed.
Unconscious Evangelist

In The Surprising Case of Rachel Baker, Who Prays and Preaches in Her Sleep (New York, 1814) we have an interesting description of somnambulism, one of the psychic phenomena which fascinated nineteenth-century readers.

Miss Baker, normally a rather quiet young lady, would fall into a trance every night at about nine o'clock, during which time she would pray, deliver a long exhortation based upon Biblical texts, and finally close with a supplication to the Supreme Being. She was also capable of giving rational answers to questions put to her during her unconscious state. At the end of the exercise she would sometimes have a few small spasms and then undergo a period of restlessness, but the following morning she would awaken completely refreshed and have no memory of events during the trance.

She was examined by a panel of medical experts headed by the distinguished Dr. Samuel Mitchell, who concluded that her case could be understood in purely rational medical terms, without resort to any supernatural explanations. Miss Baker was, in their opinion, of a naturally docile and susceptible turn of mind. This, added to her upbringing in a devout Presbyterian home which had been frequented by travelly preachers, caused her to repeat words and phrases of a strong Calvinistic cast; some examples are given in the pamphlet, which was purchased for the Library on the Towsley Fund.

A New Captivity Narrative

COL. WILLIAM CRAWFORD'S expedition into Ohio against the Indians in 1782 was one of the concluding episodes of the war—and one of the saddest. He marched straight to his doom. Under him were about 465 Virginia militia, and they met a force of similar size commanded by Loyalist Capt. William Caldwell, consisting of more than a hundred British Rangers and 340 Indians, near modern Sandusky. The first day's battle forced Crawford to retreat; but on the second day the enemy caught up with him and scattered his troops in flight. Only about 15 men were killed, 35 wounded, and 9 taken prisoner, including Crawford. He was tortured slowly and finally burned at the stake.

Two other prisoners, Dr. John Knight and William Slover, managed to escape and chiefly by exhaustive running eventually reached Fort McIntosh in western Pennsylvania. Their oral accounts were written down by H. H. Brackenridge and published in 1783 at Philadelphia. The story was reprinted in 1799, and then again at Nashville in 1843 under the title of Indian Atrocities. All three editions are scarce, the third as much as the first. We had none of them in our collection of captivity narratives, but now we have acquired a copy of the Nashville edition. The battle was as close as the Revolution came to modern Michigan, and it involved British militia from Detroit, not to their credit.
A Personal Note

Dear Friends:
I should tell you that I have given notice to the Library's Committee of Management about retiring in mid-1977. My reasons are personal and concern my wife's health as well as a feeling that I should make way for a younger, more vigorous successor. A search committee is seeking candidates, and the University President will submit a recommendation to the Board of Regents.

Leaving this Library is a wrench, of course. The work here has been a large part of my life since 1953, and before that I was on the staff for nine years. I remain convinced of the importance of the Library's collecting activity, of its value in research and education, and of its significance as an intellectual asset of the University. It has acquired depth and breadth, served scholars uniquely, and emerged as a research center. All of this growth has been immensely gratifying to me.

The Associates have played an increasingly significant role in this development. By your annual contributions and several fund-raising campaigns, you have spent a grand total of $456,095 on Library acquisitions! You are the envy of other libraries. The Clements would be a much lesser institution today without your material help and boost. I have expressed my gratitude before, but I want to repeat it. You have every right to feel proud of your efforts in behalf of preservation of scholarly source materials.

I confess that I have written most of the Quartos of the last twenty-three years, so you know my enthusiasms and sense of achievements. Working with the Board of Governors has been fun as well as productive. I retain many pleasant memories.

Your organization and your continued support are an asset to the Library which will prove attractive to any new Director. I hope to greet all of you again on one or two social occasions this current year.

Faithfully yours,

Howard H. Peckham
Director

Keeping the British Army Going
A Collection Of 37 Boxes of the British Army's financial records has been added to the shelves of the manuscripts division. For more than 30 years these documents, part of the Thomas Gage Papers, have been stored in the recesses of the division. The 5,500 items are now organized and accessible to researchers. The collection offers a rich source of data on the complex business of maintaining the British Army in North America during the twelve-year period preceding the Revolution.

When the manuscripts were unfolded from their original bundles, 85 letters were found in addition to the great variety of documents generated by the army's financial transactions. Accounts, bills, vouchers, and receipts—many of considerable autograph value—reveal every type of military expense, from the building of barracks at St. Augustine to the purchase of guns and japanned looking-glasses as presents to the Indians.

The documents trace the route of payment from a basic expense such as a waggoner's wages, through agents, military officers, merchants, and contractors to Gage, who authorized the expenditures. This detail demonstrates the way in which the army's finances touched upon every level of the colonial economy. To aid researchers in understanding the different types of documents and the tangled cash/credit system which they represent, a guide to the collection has been prepared. A finding aid to specific topics within the documents will be compiled in the coming year by Barbara Mitchell, former assistant in the manuscripts division.

The Shelburne Papers
William Petty, 2nd Earl of Shelburne and first Marquess of Lansdowne, remains one of the great enigmas in eighteenth century Anglo-American history. In spite of a long public career, during which he served on the Board of Trade in 1763, as Secretary of State 1766–1768, and finally as Prime Minister in 1782–3, Shelburne's merits are difficult to assess. Neither contemporaries nor successive generations have been able to agree. He has alternately been seen as a brilliant reformer, a radical visionary, a pseudo-liberal, or simply as a grand failure. Among his peers Shelburne was singularly unpopular, with a reputation for deviousness and arrogance that is difficult to justify by his behavior. In other quarters—among City of London radicals, Dissenters, colonial rebels, and Enlightenment leaders he was regarded with respect and affection.
Throughout his career Shelburne was deeply involved in American affairs. As a young politician in 1768, he played an important role in drafting the regulations for England’s newly acquired empire in North America. Secretary of State during the Chatham administration, he attempted to find a source of revenue acceptable to both colonials and Parliament. Throughout the American Revolution he was a consistent, outspoken opponent of the war. Ultimately, as Prime Minister Shelburne directed the negotiations and shaped the policy which determined the controversial Peace Treaty of 1783.

Shelburne’s extensive papers are divided between the Clements Library and the Bowood estate in Wiltshire, England. In 1921 Mr. Clements, making his first large manuscript purchase, bought the political memoranda and public papers dealing with British, American and European affairs. The family retained Shelburne’s personal correspondence.

During the past year Arlene Shy, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts, has been on leave in England and examined the family papers. She is working on a new calendar which will include the Bowood papers and material found in the Public Record Office, the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, and County Record Offices. It is hoped this research will help historians working in the Clements collection overcome some of the problems created by the division of the Shelburne papers.

The present Earl of Shelburne visited the Library in July and our mutual interests were discussed.

Call of the Wild

The Arctic Ocean was the subject of considerable interest and cartographic speculation from the first discovery of America. The search for the Northwest passage into it is well known, but not so familiar is the search for a Northeast passage around Europe. In 1676, Capt. John Wood, a member of the Royal Society of London, hatched a plan to sail over the North Pole to Japan and persuaded a group of investors including the king, the Duke of York, and two members of the Privy Council to support the project. Two ships, the Speedwell and the Prosperous were fitted out to steer directly for the Pole, but an ice barrier forced Wood eastward where the Speedwell was smashed on the shore of what was known as Nova Zembla. Fortunately, the Prosperous rescued captain and crew and all returned to London in August.

We recently acquired a map published at Oxford in 1680 to show the results of this voyage. The location of the wreck is ironically named “Point Speed-ill” and three other place names on the map were given in honor of Wood’s voyage. A separate inset map continues the conflicting legend that Nova Zembla was a peninsula rather than an island. Curiously, the portion to depict Hudson Bay and the Canadian Arctic accurately shows the absence of any strait or passage. A handsome cartouche includes scenes of an Eskimo family and a European whaling expedition.

The map was probably drawn by Robert Hooke and was the only map included in the four-volume series known as the English atlas—the other maps were all re-issues from Dutch plates. The project was intended to extend through eleven volumes but the publisher, Moses Pitt, eventually ran out of patience and money.

War Stories

In Reading Pension applications of Revolutionary War veterans, Dr. John C. Dann has come across various anecdotes about military experiences. A Massachusetts soldier remembered hearing Gen. Israel Putnam say to the troops marching toward Harlem, “Boys, don’t be afraid of being killed by the British, for we have today filled Hell with so many Hessians their legs hang out the windows.”

A Connecticut soldier was struck by a musket ball fired into his knapsack. It cut 33 holes through his folded blanket and finally was stopped by a lump of hard bread. All it did was knock him down on his knees.

A prisoner on board a British ship was so covered with lice that he took off his clothes, spread them on a smooth deck, and rolled a cannon ball over them to crush the vermin.

Col. Poor, Lt. Col. Dam, and Major Gilly were the first officers of one regiment. The latter had his son as a waiter, who one day referred to the unit as “a poor, damned, silly regiment.”

A New Jersey soldier remembered marching up the Hudson not far behind Gen. Washington. They passed a little boy sitting on the roadside who was singing a patriotic song. Washington stopped and gave the boy a present to show his father as a reward for the patriotism taught him.