

in support of history. He received, however, an offer of the chief clerkship in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress which he accepted in 1928. For nine years he continued his historical activities, often utilizing the expert workmanship of various members of the profession, his own experienced supervision, and funds from private persons, the American Council of Learned Societies, or from government sources. *The Dictionary of American Biography* (22 vols., 1929-1944), *The Territorial Papers of the United States* (1934- ), an extensive project of photocopying materials from European archives, *The Records of the Virginia Company* (vols. 3 and 4, 1935), are the result in some manner of Jameson's leadership. Probably his greatest contribution was his tireless labor in support of the National Archives, which fortunately was rewarded with success before his death.

This volume is in a sense a memorial in recognition of his service. In addition to an excellent introduction prepared by Elizabeth Donnan, it contains selected letters of Jameson arranged chronologically and in periods of his career. They are amply documented and indexed. Often they reveal bits of information about individuals with whom Jameson worked. Sometimes the notes contain short quotations from letters which Jameson was answering. The workmanship embodied in this volume seems as nearly perfect as one could wish. Two features may be queried; the lack of a bibliography of Jameson's publications and the awkward and forbidding size of the work. The importance of Jameson's publications and his relations with many other publications would easily have justified the labor of compiling a bibliography. Nevertheless, the American Philosophical Society has sponsored a worthy volume. The editors who did not live to see their work published will be pleasantly recalled because of the labor they expended on this work.

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John D. Barnhart

*The Wild Jackasses: The American Farmer in Revolt.* By Dale Kramer. (New York: Hastings House, 1956. Pp. xi, 260. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$4.50.)

This is another volume in the American Procession Series—a series of “Dramatic non-fiction books which center around epic episodes of our history and cultural growth that have not

been adequately told—crucial developments that set the direction of our civilization.” Here the story is concerned with agrarian discontent as reflected in the Granger, Farmers Alliance, Populist, Nonpartisan League, and Farmers Union movements. Dale Kramer is particularly well equipped by training and experience to tell this story in that he has had firsthand contact with participants in these revolts, has edited two farm newspapers, and at one time served as national secretary of the Farm Holiday Association.

The Populist Convention of 1892 provides the stage for the opening of the story. Excitement on that occasion reached a high pitch as farmers, some of whom had been exhorted “to raise less corn and more hell,” joined joyously in song and crusade against the evils that beset them. The proceedings of the convention were participated in with all the fervor that usually accompanies an old-time religious revival.

From the high drama of Populist revolt Kramer turns to trace the origin, development, and demise of the other farm movements from the Grangers to the Farmers Union. “Emphasis has been laid,” he states, “on the stirring rise of the crusades and the accomplishments of the agrarian movements; the melancholy bickerings of disintegration have mostly been omitted.” The economic and social conditions out of which these revolts sprang are seen to vary only slightly. The farmers’ problems seemed to defy solution; and each revolt failed to attain its immediate objectives. In each instance, the author gives less attention to the causes of discontent and the accomplishments of the revolt than he does to drawing vivid pen portraits of the leaders. The reader will detect a Hollywood-like style in the buildup of such leaders as Mary Ellen Lease, Ignatius Donnelly, “Sockless Jerry” Simpson, Tom Watson, “Pitchfork Ben” Tillman, Arthur C. Townley, and Milo Reno. The conservative press, usually identified by the author as the “gold-bug” newspapers, dubbed these leaders “wild jackasses.”

The general reader will find this book to be exciting in most parts, but will not acquire a very good understanding of the conditions which spawned these recurring revolts, or of the results obtained. The emphasis is centered on presenting in dramatic fashion the personalities involved in these movements. This is very well done, for generally they were colorful and vociferous characters.

The more serious reader—particularly the historian—will regret that the author did not use footnotes or include in the bibliography a listing of all the sources used in this important study. The effectiveness of the narrative is impaired, too, by the inclusion of numerous long (for example pp. 38-45) quotations. There is considerable evidence, also, that the book was not proofread carefully.

The author has a definite flair for dramatic storytelling and he has produced a readable study. It is gratifying to note how many of the reforms proposed in these periods of agrarian revolt have later come to be parts of our way of life. After reading this volume one will agree with the author that "the hoofprints of the wild jackasses are on our democracy, and its configuration is the better for them."

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Cornelius O. Cathey

*History of St. Meinrad Archabbey.* By Albert Kleber, O.S.B. (St. Meinrad, Indiana: Grail Publications, 1954. Pp. v, 540. Illustrations and index. \$7.50.)

In the Middle Ages in Western Europe Benedictine monks performed a valuable service for posterity by chronicling the histories of their establishments. Because of their labors, later historians were enabled to know much about the times that might otherwise have been lost. Now Father Albert Kleber follows in the venerable footsteps of many a son of St. Benedict in giving us a book about Indiana's Archabbey of St. Meinrad. It is not—let it be recorded—a work in the modern tradition of history writing. Father Kleber, like his scholarly predecessors, sees history as the working out on this earth of God's Providence. But while the secular reader may not place the same interpretation on events as the Benedictine priest, he can, nevertheless, profit by studying about them. Father Kleber—again like the medieval annalist—has gone far beyond the cloistered walls of St. Meinrad. This book deals with early Indiana history, with the Catholic Indian missions, and with the foundation of various other Benedictine abbeys and educational institutions, as well as happenings within the monastery itself.

It was in February of 1853 that two priests from Einsiedeln in Switzerland arrived in Southern Indiana to found