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No. 32

Bibliographical Contributions

December 1937

REFERENCES ON AGRICULTURAL HISTORY AS A FIELD FOR RESEARCH

By

Everett E. Edwards, Agricultural Economist  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Washington, D. C.

1937

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P R E F A C E

This bibliography pertains to agricultural history as a field for research and study. Special attention has been given to references on the scope and significance of American agricultural history, references that relate to sources of special interest to research workers in agricultural history and the steps that are being taken to collect these sources, and references that describe special methods of research utilized by agricultural historians. For earlier lists relating to the same general subject, see Citations 18, 19, and 24.

Attention is called to "References on the Significance of the Frontier in American History" and "References on Economic History as a Field of Research and Study," issued as numbers 25 and 31 respectively of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library's Bibliographical Contributions series.

Everett E. Edwards  
Agricultural Economist  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics



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R E F E R E N C E S

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY. vol. 1- Washington, D. C., Agricultural History Society. January 1927- (1)  
Comments:

Agricultural History, the quarterly journal of the Agricultural History Society, is a medium for the publication of research and documents pertaining to the history of agriculture in all its phases. Materials on the history of agriculture in all countries are included, and also materials on institutions, organizations, and sciences which have been factors in agricultural development.

Each number has a News Notes and Comments section in which current books and articles of interest and value to workers in the subject of agricultural history are cited.

Editorial paragraphs on activities of interest to this group are also included. The following are examples of this kind of comment: "Activities of the Business Historical Society," 5:182-184 (October 1931). "Agricultural History at North Dakota Agricultural College," 9:162 (July 1935). "Agricultural History in Minnesota," 5:129 (July 1931). "Agricultural History in Texas," 5:129 (July 1931). "Charles Read's Notes on Colonial Agriculture," 8:35 (January 1934). "A Chinese Agricultural Library," 3:186 (October 1929). "Columbia University Studies in the History of American Agriculture," 6:157 (July 1932). "The Daniel Parrish Witter Agricultural Museum," 4:74 (April 1930). "A Future Agricultural History Source," 7:207 (October 1933). "German Society of Agricultural History and Literature," 6:181 (October 1932). "The Hadley Farm Museum," 5:130 (July 1931). "International Committee on Price History," 9:162 (July 1935). "Inverness Museum," 5:130 (July 1931). "Natural Land-Use Areas and Types-of-Farming Maps," 8:146 (July 1934). "Prehistoric Agriculture in America," 10:91 (April 1936). "A Social Survey of an Agricultural Region," 2:218 (October 1928). "The Virginia Collection at the University of Virginia," 4:75 (April 1930).

The Agricultural History Society was organized in 1919 to promote interest, study, and research in the history of agriculture. It holds its annual meeting in Washington, D. C., in the spring. Through an affiliation agreement, its principal literary session is held in connection with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association and other historical societies during the last week in December.

Additional details concerning the Agricultural History Society and its quarterly journal may be secured by addressing the Society at Room 3901, South Building, 13th and C Streets, Southwest, Washington, D. C.

An account of the Agricultural History Society is given by W. Seedorf under the title, "Die Landwirtschaftliche Geschichte-Gesellschaft in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika," in the Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Literature der Landwirtschaft (1931) 30(2-3):12-14.

BALMER, FRANK E. The farmer and Minnesota history. Minnesota History 7:199-217. September 1926.

(2)

Comments:

This paper was presented at Castle Rock, Minn., on June 16, 1926, as part of the program of the fifth annual historic tour of the Minnesota Historical Society.

In conclusion, the author said: "in the field of local agricultural history there are endless opportunities in which communities should become interested. There has been a remarkable development of coöperation among Minnesota farmers. The organizations and institutions involved have a history well worthy of record- and the mistakes as well as the successes should be registered. There is a great strength of farm leadership in Minnesota. This is made evident by the uniform success of farmers' coöperative organizations in the state, and by the energetic manner in which local farmers have participated in the several phases of the 'agrarian crusade'- the Granger movement, the Farmers' Alliance, and others of minor or major importance. Certain individuals stand out as leaders of these movements. Oliver E. Kelley, who for a time lived in Elk River Township, was a conspicuous character in the Granger movement which, for a number of years beginning in 1869, exerted a considerable influence on Minnesota agriculture. Later in 1883 came O. C. Greig with the Farmers' Institute work in Minnesota. Several persons conspicuous in agricultural leadership have been associated with the farm journals issued in the state, which in themselves are an important source of historical data in agriculture....

"Throughout the entire countryside investigation reveals individuals whose contributions to agricultural development are worthy of record and revelation. As an illustration, the Minnesota Historical Society recently received the remarkable diary of the farming operations of Allen W. Dawley, who lived at Smithfield and at Highland in Wabasha County and later at Northfield. This diary was begun in 1864 and was kept continuously until the death of the author in 1925. It is filled with items of interest and value for studies of the weather, crops, harvests, church, school, community life, and other affairs in the localities where the diarist lived....

"Since both individuals and communities have made such valuable contributions to agricultural progress, is it not true that both the individual and the local community ought to become more interested in local agricultural history?...

"More study needs to be devoted to agricultural history, its accumulation, organization, interpretation, and use, though there are some splendid beginnings upon which to build. Much of the history of Minnesota is agricultural in character. The Minnesota Historical Society is fortunate in having as its superintendent a leader in the field of agrarian studies. This central historical

BALMER, FRANK E. Continued.

body is splendidly equipped to extend its leadership in the field of agricultural history. It remains only for the counties, the communities, and the individuals of the state to act with the society to make further investigations.

"The historian is interested in preservation. All nations must be concerned in the preservation of their agriculture or insure continued subsistence from other regions. For a people to know, to interpret, and to understand their agriculture should be occasion for them to love it, promote it, protect it, preserve it. Have not the historian and all who aid him in the making, the preservation, and the use of records a great responsibility in relation to agricultural history?"- p. 215-217.

Mr. Balmer's efforts to help the county agricultural agents of Minnesota acquire the historical background of their respective communities are noted in Minnesota History, 6:198 (June 1925).

A brief note concerning plans for the "establishment of a museum for agricultural history and records on the campus of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota" is given in Minnesota History, 11:109 (March 1930).

A note on the Minnesota Historical Society's exhibit at the annual State fair for 1930 which centered about the theme of the farmer in Minnesota history is given in *ibid.*, 11:442 (December 1930). These last two notes are summarized under the title, "Agricultural History in Minnesota," in Agricultural History, 5:129 (July 1931).

See also Citation 62.

BARNETT, CLARIBEL R. Horticultural trade catalogues. Agricultural Library Notes 1:76-77. May 1926. (3)

Comments:

A brief statement on the value and extent of the collection of catalogs and other trade publications of firms and individuals engaged in the nursery and seed industries which is part of the Library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

BEARD, CHARLES A. Culture and agriculture. Saturday Review of Literature 5:272-273. Oct. 20, 1928. (4)

Comments:

In this article Dr. Beard "outlines the 'agrarian thesis'-- the belief that 'the existence of an area of free land, its continuous recession and the advance of the American settlement westward, explain American development'; that, in effect, it is to the frontier, to the land and to their people, that the American intellect owes its striking characteristics. He then makes as his chief point that this simple thesis 'is

BEARD, CHARLES A. Continued.

inadequate when applied to American politics and utterly untenable as the clue to American civilization in the large.'

"As a reason for this belief Mr. Beard points out that 'three other powerful economic forces have operated in the course of our affairs'- capitalism, the slave-planting system and industrial labor- 'all with their respective political theories and moral ideologies.' Then he traces carefully though briefly the influences of each of these forces and their contributions to America's development. On the whole, he seems to find that the 'agrarian thesis' has been overemphasized in accounting for past and present, and that the contributions, 'immense and significant,' of the other forces have been overlooked. Mr. Beard very critically calls the roll of the farms' gifts to American culture."- Baltimore Sun, Oct. 24, 1928.

Other articles by Dr. Beard that supplement the above by emphasizing the urban factor in American development are: "The City's Place in Civilization," in American City, 39: 101-103 (November 1928), and Survey, 61:213-215 (Nov. 15, 1928); and "The Contest between Rural and Urban Economy," in Bulletin of the University of Georgia, 30(2):70-78 (November 1929).

See also Everett E. Edwards, "References on the Significance of the Frontier in American History," U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, Bibliographical Contributions 25, 63 p. (Washington, D. C., 1935).

BLAKE, M. A. Old New Jersey catalogue proves a rare find. New Jersey Agriculture 5(12):6, 13. December 1923. (5)

Comments:

The historical value of old seed catalogs is emphasized in this analysis of the contents of the nursery catalog of Daniel Smith & Company of Burlington, N. J., issued in 1806.

BRUCE, KATHLEEN. Materials for Virginia agricultural history. Agricultural History 4:10-14. January 1930. (6)

Comments:

This paper was presented as part of a symposium on Materials for Southern Agricultural History at the luncheon tendered by the University of North Carolina to members of the Agricultural History Society and guests at Chapel Hill, N. C., on Dec. 31, 1929.

In the course of her discussion, Dr. Bruce said: "the backbone of any agricultural study of Virginia in the first half of the nineteenth century lies in the seven thousand pages more or less of the Farmer's Register and in the Southern

BRUCE, KATHLEEN. Continued.

Planter,...and the early volumes of John Skinner's periodical, The American Farmer. Though Edmund Ruffin did not initiate the Register until 1833, his material frequently reaches back to the beginning of the agricultural revolution in Virginia around 1808-1810, and occasionally to the preliminaries of the movement in the eighteenth century."

After describing and indicating the significance of the Bruce Papers in the Berry Hill Plantation House, Dr. Bruce said: "my personal experience reveals to me that the Bruce Papers are but one of many collections of manuscripts ripe for exploitation in Virginia."

See also Citations 34, 52.

BUNYARD, E. A. Nurserymen's catalogues and their value. Royal Horticultural Society, Journal 51:82-83. January 1926. (7)

Comments:

The value of nurserymen's catalogs to the horticultural historian and to scientific investigators.

BURBANK, HAROLD H. Local tax records as economic documents. Business Historical Society, Bulletin 1(9):9-11. September 1927. (8)

Comments:

"A source of information concerning the early economic conditions in this country, and a source which has hitherto been little employed, is the tax records of local communities. I have run across some of them in an historical study of taxation in Massachusetts in which I have tried to press back the story to as early a period as possible. Undoubtedly, somewhat similar records are available in other states, and altogether they would supply many data upon the economic life in this country during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries for which other sources of realistic material are all too scanty.... in many cases they are mere statements of the actual taxes assessed, but not infrequently details are available which give a fairly accurate distribution of real and personal property.... these data need a great deal of interpretation; but properly understood, they form an incomparable basis for a study of the life of the period. The course of commodity prices, the changing status of economic groups, the growth and decay of fortunes, the attempts at tax evasion, the varying prosperities of different communities- these and other interesting and important aspects of economic life...are found reflected in the tax records."

See also Citation 13.

BUSINESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Agricultural records in the Baker Library. Business Historical Society, Bulletin 9:60-63, illus. June 1935.

(9)

Comments:

This article quotes Citation 23 at length and includes a list of the agricultural manuscripts in the George F. Baker Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Soldiers Field, Boston.

In conclusion the article reads: "It is believed that countless papers, manuscripts, and record books of importance to the economics and history of agriculture are stored away in unfrequented closets and attics, and it is hoped that such material will gradually be placed in the hands of historical organizations and libraries where they will be available to the research worker."

CARMAN, HARRY J., and REXFORD G. TUGWELL, editors. Essays upon field husbandry in New England and other papers, 1748-1762, by Jared Eliot... (Columbia University Studies in the History of American Agriculture, 1). 261 p., illus. New York, Columbia University Press. 1934.

(10)

Contents to be noted:

General introduction, by Harry J. Carman and Rexford G. Tugwell, p. v-xii.

Comments:

Designed primarily as the editorial introduction to the Columbia University Studies in the History of American Agriculture, the "General Introduction" is a valuable statement of the importance of a more adequate "acquaintance with the rural past."

The point of view of the authors is expressed in the following paragraph:

"If it is important to know our country intimately, then it is important that our acquaintance with the rural past should be deeper than it now is. We all of us are only too familiar with certain political and military events which serve as mile-posts in the traditional accounts of our development; we all know the proper associations for 'Pocahontas,' 'Burker Hill,' 'Great Compromise,' 'Bull Run,' 'Tippecanoe,' and so on—names associated with striking personalities, with battles, or with political brawls. But having learned all the correct responses to such stimuli as these, one is not much wiser. It is the blood and bones, the nerves and glands of history that we need to know, not merely the color of hair, the slant of nose, and the type of posture of some monumental representation. We need to get inside our living past. There is only one way to do this: that way is to follow men and women in their everyday routines, to observe their work, their leisure, their

CARMAN, HARRY J., and REXFORD G. TUGWELL, editors. Continued. happiness and sorrow; to see them plow and mow, chisel and hammer, bake and sew; to see their schools, their churches and, above all, their homes. For the home was once the center of American affairs- economic, social, religious, educational- as it is no longer. And it was a home with fields around, for the most part."- p. v.

CARRIER, LYMAN. The beginnings of agriculture in America. 323 p., illus. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. 1923. (11)

Contents to be noted:

Value of agricultural history, p. 1-12.

Comments:

This chapter has paragraphs on the following topics: beginnings of life; theory of evolution; effects of environment on species; determination of plant history; biological evidence; ancient deposits; historical evidence; philological evidence; origin of food plants; primitive agriculture; plant culture; most food plants domesticated by savages; food of the Lake Dwellers; domestication of animals; early civilizations in dry climates; accumulation of wealth; food essential; conditions favoring development of civilization; great civilized zone; importance of agriculture; division of labor; and rural class unappreciated.

CLAPHAM, J. H. Tithe surveys as a source of agrarian history. Cambridge Historical Journal 1(2):201-208. 1924. (12)

Comments:

"The object of this note is to call attention to a class of document which, so far as I know, has not been utilised seriously, if at all, in the writing of modern agrarian history- namely the tithe surveys of the late eighteenth century."- p. 201.

CRANDALL, RUTH. Hidden treasure in old-time taxes. Business Historical Society, Bulletin 1(9):11-15. September 1927. (13)

Comments:

"The value of old tax data...lies in the wealth of detail in the tax lists, and more especially in the valuation lists. For each tax-payer these latter lists frequently give the amount and value of real estate, annual crops, livestock, stock in trade, shipping, mills of various sorts, warehouses, and occasionally even the silver plate owned by the family. Many of these headings, too, are in detailed form. For instance, real estate is divided into plow land, pasturage, orcharding, meadows, and wood land. What an opportunity to learn accu-

CRANDALL, RUTH. Continued.

rately how the wealth of these early communities was distributed and of what it consisted! The condition in any one town could be traced down through the years, or cross-section pictures of the larger community could be drawn at various critical moments."

See also Citation 8.

CRAVEN, AVERY O. The South in American history. Historical Outlook 21:105-109. March 1930.

(14)

Comments:

This paper was presented at the Illinois State History Teachers' Conference at Urbana, on Nov. 23, 1928.

"The first thing to be understood about the South is that it has always been primarily a rural-agricultural region." This factor is discussed in detail and therein lies the significance of this article for agricultural historians.

See also Citations 49, 66.

CURWEN, ELIOT CECIL. Air-photography and economic history: the evolution of the corn-field. (Economic history society, bibliographies and pamphlets 2). 31 p., illus. [London], Economic History Society. [1930].

(15)

Comments:

In indicating the development of the size, shape, and arrangement of ancient fields, air-photography and field-archaeology have probably done as much as is possible for them in the elucidation of the problems of the early economic history of agriculture. In this way archaeology and air-photography may be handmaids to the wider study of economic history, and this is especially true in inquiries relating to ancient methods of agriculture.

DAVIES, J. LLEFELYS. The diary of a Cardiganshire farmer, 1870-1900. Welsh Journal of Agriculture 10:5-20. January 1934.

(16)

Comments:

The article shows the value of diaries and accounts as historical sources and aptly illustrates the way in which records of this type can be used. The introduction includes the following statement:

"It is interesting to study a farm diary which has now become available because the facts contained therein assist the appreciation of the details in a picture of a farm during that period in relation to a background of conditions which

DAVIES, J. LLEFFELYS. Continued.

are known in a general way. Deduction from the diary of a single farm naturally suffers from the disadvantage that the facts and conditions described are related to the circumstances of a single case, and may be at variance with general conditions of the industry as a whole. While this may be true, and the facts shown should be taken mainly for illustration, the details of a single case seems more real and colourful than sets of averages however efficiently compiled. The history of farming in Wales even in recent periods has yet to be written adequately, and treatment of individual diaries may help to provide the bricks for that great story."- p. 6.

DAVIS, LEROY G. The study of pioneer life; a communication. Minnesota History 10:430-433. December 1929. (17)

Comments:

A criticism of descriptions of pioneer life, especially that of grasshopper plagues in Ole Edvart Rølvaag's Giants in the Earth.

See also Einar Hoidale and J. H. Klovstad, "The Study of Pioneer Life; Two Replies to Mr. Davis," in Minnesota History, 11:63-74 (March 1930), and John Talman, "The Study of Pioneer Life: A Communication," in *ibid.*, 185-187 (June 1930).

EDWARDS, EVERETT E. An annotated bibliography on the materials, the scope, and the significance of American agricultural history. Agricultural History 6:38-43. January 1932. (18)

Comments:

This bibliographical list was also issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics with the title, "References on the Materials for American Agricultural History," 7 p., mimeographed (January 1932).

It was superseded by Citation 24.

----- A bibliography of the history of agriculture in the United States. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication 84, 307 p. Washington, U. S. Govt. Print. Off. 1930. (19)

Contents to be noted:

Scope of the history of American agriculture, p. 7-8.

Comments:

The section here cited was superseded by Citation 13.

EDWARDS, EVERETT E. Farmers' account books, diaries, etc., are often valuable research aids. U. S. Department of Agriculture Yearbook 1932:197-200, illus.

(20)

Comments:

"The importance of preserving farmers' account books, diaries, letters, and reminiscences for the use of research workers is being realized increasingly. Of similar significance are country-store account books, mill records, old farm periodicals and rural newspapers, pamphlets, reports and programs of agricultural societies, and pictures of all phases of rural life....

"These materials supply research workers with many facts not obtainable elsewhere. They furnish data indicating the course of farmers' standards of living; they show the influence of the competition of various agricultural sections, the changing conditions and wages of farm labor, the ups and downs of various systems of farm management, and the trends of crop acreages. They afford figures on the cost of fertilizers, machinery, twine, and other supplies and information on yields, disease epidemics, the dates of the introduction of new varieties and breeds, and new cultural practices. The country-store records throw light on the spread between rural and city prices and the changing margin between the cost and selling prices....

"Having indicated the utility of these materials as sources of information on our agricultural life, it is hardly necessary to plead that they be given to historical collections. To preserve them is to show gratitude- an appreciation of the generation whose labors are therein recorded....It is hoped that readers of this article who have or know of materials of the kind here discussed will aid historical and economic research by giving them to historical collections or depositing them with such collections. There they will be classified, filed in fireproof cases, and made forever accessible to research workers."

See also Citations 21, 23.

----- Importance of preserving historical records for agricultural research. Agricultural Library Notes 3:185-188. December 1933.

(21)

Comments:

"Increasingly, the importance of preserving farmers' account books, diaries, letters, and reminiscences for the use of research workers is being realized. Of similar significance are country store account books, mill records, old farm periodicals and rural newspapers, pamphlets, and reports of agricultural and horticultural societies, and pictures of all phases of rural life. These commonplace documents of the past are the necessary sources of information for analyses which historians and economists make of our past agricultural and economic life."- p. 185.

This article is an expansion of Citation 20.

See also Citation 23.

EDWARDS, EVERETT E. Middle Western agricultural history as a field of research. Mississippi Valley Historical Review 24: 315-328. December, 1937. (22)

Comments:

This comprehensive discussion of the many phases of Middle Western agriculture that are worthy of the attention of historians was presented at the joint session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association with the American Historical Association at Providence, R. I., on Dec. 29, 1936.

The point of view of the author is expressed in the initial paragraph:

"If one is to comprehend the living past, he must give infinitely more attention to the implications of the fact that this country was primarily rural for over two and one-half centuries. The vast maze of forces and conditions that have entered into the evolution of rural life may well be taken as a central theme of American history. Today economic and social problems press for solution with perhaps more vehemence than ever before, and it behooves historians to supply the essential backgrounds of these current problems, many of which arise out of a rural past, if the people of this Nation are to develop a sound national and international economy.

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The need of historical materials for agricultural research. Agricultural History 9:3-11. January 1935. (23)

Comments:

The point of view of this article is expressed in the following quotation:

"The United States has been until recently a nation of farmers, but comprehending students of America's past now realize that far too little cognizance has been given to this fact in the writing and teaching of our history.... For over two and one-half centuries our country was primarily rural, and the elements of our national life which we consider distinctly American originated in that background. It is well to remember that the American way of doing things is a heritage from our rural past.

"Realization of this fact- that the warp and woof of our Nation's history is the story of a people whose economic, social, and political life centered in agriculture- has turned and is turning the attention of many historians and economists to the study of our country's development from this elemental point of view. To succeed in their investigations students of our past and present problems must have access to historical records, and especially those which afford information on the activities of farmers. They must have account books of country stores and similar business organizations, mill records, old farm periodicals and rural newspapers, and proceedings of

EDWARDS, E. E. Continued.

agricultural and horticultural societies. Of equal significance are farmers' account books, diaries, letters and reminiscences....

"These commonplace documents of the past are the necessary sources of information used by historians and economists in making analyses of our past agricultural and economic life."

The article includes a consideration of the steps that "Various organizations have taken, and are taking, to collect and preserve the materials from which the history of all phases of American agriculture may be written....it is hardly necessary to plead that they be given to historical collections. Preserving them is showing gratitude,- an appreciation of the generation whose labors are therein recorded,- but they should be placed in the hands of historical organizations where they can be readily used by research workers to significant advantage. The materials may possess a certain value to their owners, but their perpetuity should not be menaced by failure to take steps to safeguard them from destruction by fire or similar disasters. It is hoped that readers of this article who have or know of historical materials of the kind here discussed will aid historical and economic research by giving them to, or depositing them with, historical collections where they will be classified, filed in fireproof cases, and made forever accessible to research workers."

The article is a revision and expansion of Citations 20 and 21. It was also issued with the same title by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics (8 p., mimeographed).

Reviews:

The above article is quoted at length in "Agricultural Records in the Baker Library," in the Business Historical Society, Bulletin, 9:60-63 (June 1935). A list of agricultural manuscripts in the Baker Library is given on p. 62-63.

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References on agricultural history as a field of research and study. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. 3 p., mimeographed. November 1934. (24)

Comments:

This list is a revision of Citation 18 and is in turn superseded by the present bibliography.

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Some sources for northwest history; agricultural periodicals. Minnesota History 18:407-414. December 1937. (25)

Comments:

"Agricultural periodicals contain a vast treasure trove of data which historians have failed to exploit to full advantage. Considering the fact that the United States has been primarily a nation of farmers until recently and that each of its sect-

EDWARDS, EVERETT E. Continued.

ions and states has passed through- or is still in- a predominantly agricultural stage of development, it would seem logical for historians to give more attention to the contents of this group of periodicals which were consciously designed to serve as the main clearinghouse of information pertaining to agriculture and its related interests....

"There is naturally notable variation in the contents of the farm journals issued for a particular region during the course of half a century or more, and there are, therefore, considerable differences in their relative value as a historical source. Each editor had his own particular ideas of the mission of his paper; each decade brought forth new problems and interests; and each generation of readers had to be approached in different ways....

"The multitudinous subjects dealt with in agricultural periodicals constitute an integral part not only of agricultural, but of general economic, social, and, to a less extent, political, history.... Historians will do well to mine and utilize to the full the wide variety of data available in agricultural periodicals."

[ELY, RICHARD T.] Review of "English Farming Past and Present, by Rowland E. Prothero (London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta, Longmans, Green & Co., 1912, xiii, 504 p.)," in American Historical Review 13:860-865 (July 1914). (26)

Comments:

This unsigned review is usually attributed to Richard T. Ely. the following statement is one of the earliest in American historiography which calls attention to the significance of agricultural history.

"But strangely enough one of the very greatest fields of research has been, comparatively speaking, unworked, one which will prove particularly fruitful, and that is the field of agriculture. But what the present writer has in mind is not technical agriculture, not a discussion of how crops grow and what fertilizers to use on the land to give more abundant yields, but rather the legal, the economic, and the social side of agriculture. Above all things the future historian will concern himself with those questions which centre about the institution of landed property, involving questions of large and small holdings, of tenancy, of the status of agricultural labor, of free land and its disappearance, etc."- p. 861.

FRUITS AND GARDENS. Value of seed catalogues. Fruits and  
Gardens 47(2):11. March 1931. (27)

Comments:

The seed catalog as a historical source and its accurate pictorial value in recent years.

FUSSELL, G. E. Agricultural history for farm economists.  
Agricultural History 11:302-307. October 1937. (28)

Comments:

"A historical background is essential for the intelligent appreciation of modern economic conditions, and especially is this true since economists have turned to the study of existing conditions in place of basing their theories upon imaginary states of society. Because of this new approach, a good deal of economic inquiry is now made in specific fields. The results of the studies are, however, often isolated in time and cut off from their historical roots because the economist dealing with modern problems can rarely obtain historical information of the type that he requires in order to make the necessary comparisons. It should be the business of the economic historian to provide these data. Although the illustrations here given relate to English agricultural history, it is believed that the generalizations derived therefrom are also of interest to historians and economists whose main work relates to other countries."- p. 255.

----- English agriculture: from Arthur Young to William Cobbett.  
Economic History Review 6:214-222. April 1936. (29)

Comments:

This survey of the writings on the agricultural history of England from Arthur Young to William Cobbett is suggestive of subjects yet to be done as well as materials to be used. The same statement is true of the numerous other articles by this author. They are cited currently in Agricultural History.

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE. Presentation of trade catalogues. Gardeners'  
Chronicle (ser. 3) 80(2064):41, 42. July 17, 1926. (30)

Comments:

The utility of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library collection of horticultural trade catalogs.

G[ATES], C[HARLES] M. Some sources for northwest history;  
Account books. Minnesota History 16:70-75.  
March 1935. (31)

Comments:

The possibilities of extracting significant historical information from financial records.

————— Some sources for northwest history; Probate records.  
Minnesota History 17:189-193. June 1936. (32)

Comments:

This article suggests "more specifically some of the many possible uses of one important series, the records of the probate judge."

GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GESCHICHTE UND LITERATUR DER LANDWIRTSCHAFT.  
Jahrbuch...eine viertel jahreschrift. jahrg. 1-, no. 1-  
1902- Göttingen [etc.] 1902- (33)

Comments:

Volumes 1-11 appeared with the title, Landwirtschaftlich-historische blätter.

HAMILTON, J. G. DE ROULHAC. Agricultural history materials and  
their collection. Agricultural History 4:14-18.  
January 1930. (34)

Comments:

Professor Hamilton's remarks are based on his experience in collecting old books, newspapers, agricultural journals, plantation records, business records, and private letters for the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina. His work in preserving materials for North Carolina history is briefly summarized in Agricultural History, 2:159 (July 1928).

See Professor Hamilton's article entitled "The South's Place in American History; A Serious Effort to Establish It" in the Baltimore Sun, Magazine Section, Mar. 4, 1928, p. 11, 12, which is also available as a reprint with the title "A National Southern Collection at the University of North Carolina." His article on "The Preservation of North Carolina History" in the North Carolina Historical Review, 4:3-21 (January 1927) is also of interest.

See also Citations 6, 52.

HENDRY, GEORGE W. The adobe brick as a historical source.  
Agricultural History 5:110-127. July 1931.

(35)

Comments:

This article affords an account of an unusual method of research in agricultural history. It includes sections on the testimony of the adobe brick; crop and weed remains from various historic buildings; field, fruit, garden, and ornamental plant determinations; and alien weed introduction.

The article is a summary of contributions through the method of adobe brick analysis and is a continuation of earlier studies reported in a paper by the same author (with Margaret P. Kelly) entitled "The Plant Content of Adobe Bricks, with a Note on Adobe Brick Making; A Contribution to the Agricultural History of California Derived from a Study of the Plant Remains Found in Adobe Buildings" in the California Historical Society Quarterly, 4:361-373 (December 1925).

See also G. W. Hendry and M. K. Bellue, "An Approach to Southwestern Agricultural History through Adobe Brick Analysis," in University of New Mexico, Bulletin 296, p. 65-72 (Albuquerque, 1936).

HOWER, RALPH M. Wanted: Material on the history of marketing.  
Business Historical Society, Bulletin 9:79-81.  
October 1935.

(36)

Comments:

The article is an appeal for the collection of "account books, correspondence, and other records of early mercantile firms, village stores, department stores, wholesale houses, and related businesses" for use in research in the history of marketing.

"Despite the importance of the distribution of commodities in modern society, there is a surprising lack of factual data regarding the major historical developments in the field, and there is reason to believe that an adequate history of marketing in America would not only be of general interest but would also be of direct value in solving some of the distribution problems which confront business today."

JERABEK, ESTHER. Some sources for northwest history; Almanacs as historical sources. Minnesota History 15:444-449.  
December 1934.

(37)

Comments:

"One type of publication that does not come readily to the mind of the average person as an historical source, but that is similar to newspapers and periodicals in that it records contemporary history, is the almanac. Its vogue in America began with Franklin's Poor Richard and has continued to this day. In fact, some almanacs have been published continuously

JERABEK, ESTHER. Continued.

for over a century.... The Northwest is even richer than the East in this kind of source material because of its heterogenous population, composed of people who subscribe to almanacs of many different types."

The examples are from the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society and special mention is made of the series of autobiographical reminiscences in the Czech almanac, Amerikán, národní kalendář, first issued in 1878.

KELLAR, HERBERT A. An undeveloped phase of American history. (38)

Comments:

This paper was presented at a session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at St. Paul, on May 10, 1918.

"Attention was called to changes in the point of view of writers of American history, the limitations of early conceptions, the gradual appreciation of the importance of the south and west in the growth of the country, and the inclusion of industrial, commercial, and social phases of society in the record of the composite whole. Notwithstanding the existence of this broader conception, further progress can still be made in the interest of accuracy of the survey or interpretation of the past by calling attention to the effect of agricultural development upon the history of the people of the United States. Mr. Kellar pointed out the character of this influence and discussed the sources of agricultural history."- Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Proceedings (1917-18), 9:345 (Cedar Rapids, Ia., 1919).

KELSEY, RAYNER WICKERSHAM. Description and travel as source material for the history of early agriculture in Pennsylvania. American Historical Association, Annual Report 1920:285-292. Washington, Govt. Print. Off. 1925. (39)

Comments:

This paper was presented at the joint session of the Agricultural History Society with the American Historical Association at New Haven, on Dec. 30, 1922.

It also appears in the Agricultural History Society Papers, 3:285-292 (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1925).

"This type of material has distinctive value and definite limitations. It constantly supplies data, especially in the early periods of American history, that can be obtained from no other source. On the other hand, it must be used with care, for frequently the author was so shortsighted as not to foresee the obligation of accuracy that would be placed upon historians of later centuries....

"In purely travel accounts something can usually be judged

KELSEY, RAYNER WICKERSHAM. Continued.

from the writer's general equipment for accurate observation. If he was a farmer himself, or for any reason especially interested in farm problems and progressive farming methods, his record is of course greatly enhanced in value. Fortunately, a good many early travelers were themselves farmers, interested in all the vital phases of farm practice."- p. 285.

The bulk of the article illustrates by "a few topical studies the value and availability of description and travel as source material."

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——— Possibilities of intensive research in agricultural history. American Historical Association, Annual Report (1919) 1:377-383. Washington, Govt. Print. Off. 1923. (40)  
Comments:

This paper was presented at the joint session of the Agricultural History Society with the American Historical Association at Cleveland, Ohio, on Dec. 29, 1919.

The article is also in the Agricultural History Society Papers, 2:377-383 (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1923).

The subject is considered under the following headings: Introduction; method; materials (secondary works; printed sources; manuscript sources); results.

The introduction includes the following statement:

"Extensive study in this field [agricultural history] has long been in evidence. Outstanding facts in various periods, or important movements and conditions covering a considerable area or epoch, are a commonplace in American history. Examples in point are the influence of the plantation system in the South, the effect of the new harvesting implements in the wheat area, the reaction of the farming community to various forms of the cheap money propaganda. Just now we have before our eyes the possibility of a fundamental transformation of farming conditions through the general introduction of the automobile and the tractor into the economy of rural life. Such influences, movements, and changes are writ large, and he that runs may read. It is probable, however, that many very important influences of agriculture upon the main currents of American life can not be discovered until a goodly amount of intensive research in various fields of agricultural history has been accomplished. A very slight contribution to such results is here made as to the outcome of some tentative excursions into the history of agriculture in early Pennsylvania."- p. 377.

The author's conclusion is as follows:

"These pages have touched very lightly and inadequately upon some of the possibilities, in method and materials, of

KELSEY, RAYNER WICKERSHAM. Continued.

the intensive study of localized agricultural history.

"The results of such study might ultimately appear in various forms. Specialized articles could be written on the history of any important phase of farm practice. New light could be thrown upon many critical periods of political history, showing the reaction of the farming community to and upon the events of the time. Social histories could be written, compassing the whole round of country life, economic, social, educational, and religious. Finally, the general history of a State or section could be rewritten, filling in that important background of rural life, so fundamentally important to the picture, yet so largely omitted in almost every history.

"These are some of the possibilities of intensive research in agricultural history, as pursued in a restricted field of time or place. Such studies must be the scaffolding for the more extensive surveys and generalizations that will ultimately build the story of country life into the growing structure of American history. The intensive study should not be called more important than the extensive. They are mutually supplementary, not competitive in their nature. The intensive study is different in kind, essential in its place, and alluring to a degree."- p. 383.

LARSEN, SELMA P. Some sources for northwest history; Sporting magazines. Minnesota History 16:187-191. June 1935. (41)

Comments:

"...periodicals devoted to recreation and outdoor life provide a valuable source of information not only to the student of natural history, but to the social and economic historian as well."

The author's illustrations are from the Spirit of the Times and Forest and Stream.

[LEGGE. MRS. KATHERINE B.] The importance of farm and general store account books in business history. Business Historical Society, Bulletin 5(2):12-14. February 1931. (42)

Comments:

A statement of the importance of farm and general store account books to business history which is equally applicable to agricultural history, and an account of the collection which is being developed by the Business Historical Society at the George F. Baker Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Soldiers Field, Boston.

For a similar statement, see Everett E. Edwards, "Activities of the Business Historical Society," in Agricultural History, 5:182-184 (October 1931).

LLOYD, W. A. The relation of the county farm bureau and the county agent to the collection of historical data relating to agriculture. Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Proceedings (1917-13) 3:441-449 (i. e., Mississippi Valley Historical Review, extra no., May 1919).

(43)

Comments:

A paper presented at a session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at St. Paul, on May 10, 1918. The author was then in charge of the county-agent work of the States Relations Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"County-agent work in the United States had its origin in an effort to prevent the threatened destruction of the cotton industry in the south by the cotton boll weevil....

"As incident to the development of county-agent work there has come about a complete and orderly organization of agriculture and rural life through an association known as the farm bureau....

"The county farm bureau is an organization of farmers and their families for the purpose of coöperating with the state and federal government in all their extension activities in agriculture and home economics in the county and for assisting these public agencies in the development of a county program of work adapted to the conditions and necessities.... Agricultural history in the United States is a most fertile field for the student and one which has been only partly explored. There are a few agricultural economists who have followed the broader lines of agricultural development and worked out something of the philosophy of agricultural history. Even this has been imperfectly done, because, for the most part, the study and treatment have been confined to an interpretation of statistical data and of the migration of populations. The great body of local agricultural facts is almost altogether an unexplored field. No one has thought it worth while to record the simple happenings of country life. Unfortunately the world's written history is made up for the most part of accounts of its cities, its wars, its politics, and its commerce. For the life of the country people we must rely on the fragmentary expressions of an occasional writer. Until recently there had been no systematic effort to collect and group such facts as were known. Through the Carnegie Institution of Washington an organized effort is now being made to assemble agricultural historical data.

"This lack of interest is in no way due to dearth of material, for no field of historical research could be richer in human interest and stronger in its appeal to the imagination than that of agriculture....every agricultural county, every farm community, should in an organized way collect and

LLOYD, W. A. Continued.

record the matters of local interest and importance in the community life and in the industrial development of the countryside.... Cooperative relations should be established between the county historical society, library associations, and the farm bureau. The county agent may often be the agricultural historian, and he will be a better county agent if he knows, appreciates, and sympathizes with the struggles, the triumphs, and the defeats of the people he serves."- p. 441-449.

LOEHR, RODNEY C. Some sources for northwest history; Minnesota farmers' diaries. Minnesota History 18:284-297. September 1937.

(44)

Comments:

"The Minnesota Historical Society is fortunate in having not only a relatively large number of farmers' diaries, but also a large number of farmers' account books, letters, and memoirs.... The weather, that stock topic of conversation, received constant notice in the diaries of Minnesota farmers. ... For most farmers this interest in the weather was not just curiosity or an effort to lay up a stock of conversational material; it was a demonstration of the great concern which every farmer had in that most important and incalculable factor of farm life.... Ordinarily, the diaries are of small literary value.... Occasional bits...color and enliven the diaries but they are all too few.... [They] tell something about agricultural tools and implements...offer occasional bits of information about the prices of farm lands, both in the West and in the East...[and] prices of farm produce and farm supplies are frequently mentioned.... Some of the reasons for the enmity of the farmer for the middleman and the towns, which developed later into the Granger and Populist movements can be found.... Two things in the attitude of the frontier prairie farmer toward religion can be noted in the diaries. One was the levelling effect that the frontier had upon sectarianism.... The other was the tenacious hold that the farmer maintained upon certain common religious symbols, such as refraining from work on Sunday and assembling for common worship.... The subject of politics is generally dismissed with a comment such as this, made in 1876: 'Put in a good honest vote for Hayes & Wheeler,'... The diaries tell little of the life of the farm wife and the conditions under which she labored.... [They] ignore the things that the farmer took for granted- his clothes, the interior of his house, his tools, his wife. All in all, however, there is a surprising amount of valuable historical material in farmers' diaries, not only for the history of farm life alone, but also for other phases of American history."

MANKS, DOROTHY ST. J. Trade catalogues in the library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Agricultural Library Notes 3:295-296. October-December 1928. (45)

Comments:

A consideration of the trade catalogs of dealers in fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants in the library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society as a collectors', students', and buyers' collection.

NEVINS, ALLAN. Some neglected aspects of settler life. Indiana History Bulletin 6 (extra no. 2):113-127. May 1929. (46)

Comments:

The article holds that "a great many important topics on early settler life are and will remain mysteries to city dwellers of today until more writing of a careful, thorough, and yet easily mastered nature is done." Questions are raised concerning the following: the elements of population; the log cabin; the location of the settler; the food of the settler; settler ailments; and speech.

Reviews:

Minnesota History, 10:341-343 (September 1929).

NUTE, GRACE LEE. Some sources for northwest history; Minnesota county archives. Minnesota History 15:194-199. June 1954. (47)

Comments:

The types of material to be found in the original records in the eighty-seven county courthouses of Minnesota.

PELZER, LOUIS. The public domain as a field for historical study. Iowa Journal of History and Politics 12:568-578. October 1914. (48)

Comments:

A suggestive article with attention to the sources.

PHILLIPS, ULRICH BONNELL. The central theme of Southern history. American Historical Review 34:30-43. October 1928. (49)

Comments:

A paper presented as the basis for the discussion at a session of the American Historical Association at Indianapolis, on Dec. 29, 1928.

The South is considered as "a land with a unity despite its diversity, with a people having common joys and common sorrows, and, above all, as to the white folk a people with a common

PHILLIPS, ULRICH BONNELL. Continued.

resolve indomitably maintained- that it shall be and remain a white man's country. The consciousness of a function in these premises, whether expressed with the frenzy of a demagogue or maintained with a patrician's quietude, is the cardinal test of a Southerner and the central theme of Southern history."- p. 31. This viewpoint is important, in view of the fact that the South has been, and is, primarily a rural-agricultural region.

As Professor Phillips's life was devoted to Southern history, it is pertinent to refer to two bibliographies of his writings: Everett E. Edwards, "A Bibliography of the Writings of Professor Ulrich Bonnell Phillips," in *Agricultural History*, 8:196-218 (October 1934); and David M. Potter, Jr., "A Bibliography of the Printed Writings of Ulrich Bonnell Phillips," in *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, 18:270-282 (September 1934).

See Citations 14, 66.

POWER, EILEEN. On the need for a new edition of Walter of Henley. Royal Historical Society, *Transactions* (series 4) 17:101-116. London. 1934.

(50)

Comments:

A paper read before the Royal Historical Society on Oct. 12, 1933, the occasion being the exhibition of a newly discovered MS. of Walter of Henley from a Register of Mottisfont priory together with an annotated copy of the edition published for the Society in 1890 showing variants found in the Mottisfont version.

The significance of the discovery has also been dealt with in a special article in the *London Times* for Oct. 13, 1933, and in an article by Dr. Hubert Hall, "Sir Walter of Henley and the Gospel of Husbandry," in the *Contemporary Review*, 145:573-581 (May 1934).

The need of comprehensive studies of the English agrarian theory of the late Middle Ages as found in a remarkable group of didactic treatises on farming and estate management is discussed in detail by Professor Power. Between Palladius in the fourth century and the Renaissance writers, the output on agronomy is astonishingly meager. Aside from the Byzantine *Geoponici* and the Hispano-Arabic treatises, medieval Europe produced only three important groups of works on the science of farming in nearly eleven centuries. The first consists of Gurgundio of Pisa's treatise on viticulture (largely derived from the *Geoponici*) and the *Opus ruralium commodorum* of Crescentius, written between 1285 and 1305. The second group comprises four

POWER, EILEEN. Continued.

English treatises on agriculture and estate management, written between 1240 and the end of the century: (1) *Les Reules Seynt Roberd*, a treatise on household management, containing some rules for estate management, and attributed to Grosseteste; (2) *Le Dite de Hosebondric*, attributed to Walter of Henley, which is a treatise on estate management and agricultural technique; (3) an anonymous work entitled *Ceo est Hosebonderie*, which is mainly concerned with the rules for keeping the manorial accounts and making the estate pay, and (4) another anonymous treatise called *Seneschaucie*, which enumerates the various manorial officers and the duties of each. The third contribution of the Middle Ages to scientific agriculture is a treatise on the care of sheep, *Le Bon Berger*, written by Jehan de Brie in 1379, on the command of Charles V of France, and which survives only in an abridged version printed in 1541. To these works may be added a group of treatises on gardening, prepared in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries.

The thirteenth-century English treatises are undoubtedly the most original contribution of the Middle Ages to scientific agriculture. Their value lies in their empirical character, for they seem to come straight from the soil and owe nothing to their classical predecessors. Miss Power believes that we would be justified in regarding them as part of the intellectual revival connected with the friars, particularly the Franciscans, in that century. She also points out the significance of their appearance when demesne farming was at its height. As many great estates were being directly farmed for profit by their owners, there was a public for these scientific writings.

The question of the authorship of these treatises, and also the question of who used them, is discussed at length and other problems such as the relationship between the four treatises and the extent to which they represented current practice are suggested. Miss Power concludes with a consideration of the necessity for a new edition of Walter of Henley's *Husbandry*.

The history of agricultural technique and estate management in England during the Middle Ages has never been systematically studied and the desirability of distinguishing between the practice of different parts of the country has also been ignored. Thus far historians have dealt only with manorial organization and the problems of tenure and labor that can be observed in a manorial framework. Yet, as Miss Power points out, ample material exists for studies of English agrarian economy and estate management

POWER, EILEEN. Continued.  
during the last three centuries of the Middle Ages, and her comments on the four treatises of the thirteenth century are important for that reason.

The gist of the observations of Professor E. F. Gay, Professor R. H. Tawney, and others on Miss Power's paper are appended to the text.

PRIDHAM, ALFRED M. S. Collection of horticultural catalogues in Cornell University Library. Agricultural Library Notes 4:328. January-February 1929. (51)

Comments:

A description of the collection of horticultural catalogs in the Cornell University Library.

RAMSDELL, CHARLES W. Materials for research in the agricultural history of the Confederacy. Agricultural History 4:18-22. January 1930. (52)

Comments:

The subject is considered with two things in mind,- first, agricultural methods, processes, and routine; second, the special conditions and problems imposed by the War.

See the same author's article on "Some Problems Involved in Writing the History of the Confederacy" in the Journal of Southern History, 2:133-147 (May 1936).

See also Citations 6, 34.

ROBERTS, W. A seedsman's broadside. Gardeners' Chronicle (ser. 3) 71:54. Feb. 4, 1922. (53)

Comments:

The article is concerned with an advertisement in the shape of a broadside issued in 1769 by the historic and world-esteemed house of Mm. Vilmorin et Cie. of Paris. It includes the following interesting statement: "Buckle, in his History of Civilization in England, and Macauley in his History and Essays found much of their most valuable data in the flotsam and jetsam of literature; and no branch of commercial activity is more dependent for its history on what may be regarded as ephemerides than that which deals with the history of the dealer in seeds and plants. Carlyle...declared that 'ten histories of kings and courtiers were well exchanged against the tenth part of one good History of Booksellers'; and the same...might be said of the seedsman and nurseryman."

ROBERTS, W. Continued.

See also W. Roberts, "Some Old Seed and Plant Catalogues," in *Gardeners' Chronicle* (ser. 3) 60:299-300, 309-310 (Dec. 23, 30, 1916) which relates to the "catalogues and advertisements of London and provincial seedsmen and nurserymen of three-quarters of a century ago."

SCHAFFER, JOSEPH. Cooperation between the State Historical Society and local historical societies [in Wisconsin]. *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 4:200-207. December 1920. (54)

Contents to be noted:

See especially the paragraphs under the captions: a method for local history study; data about the land and the people; and the study of local progress.

----- Documenting local history. *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 5:142-159. December 1921. (55)

Comments:

This article on the town of Newton illustrates the possibilities of the historical methods suggested in Citations 56-57, 59-60.

----- The microscopic method applied to history. *Minnesota History Bulletin* 4:3-20. February-May 1921. (56)

Comments:

A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul on Jan. 17, 1921.

The so-called Wisconsin Domesday Book, "a plan by which it may be possible ultimately to prepare and publish, partly in the form of an atlas and partly in the form of text, the pioneer history of all the townships of Wisconsin" is discussed. The plan is one of the most significant and suggestive contributions to research methods of particular interest to agricultural historians.

"...history is well fitted to interest large masses of people if rightly presented...study of history by localities...is one sure mode of helping toward the interpretation of the general history of America."- p. 6.

"Of special interest will be the inquiry as to how the emigrating family prospered in the new home...."

"Associated with the problem of emigration, is the following question in agricultural history: Who, locally, has been responsible for introducing improvements in farming? Has it been the owners of the big farms or the owners of the little farms? Has necessity been 'th mother of invention,' or have changes come about through outside leadership?"- p. 17-18.

See also Citations 55, 57, 59-60.

SCHAFER, JOSEPH. A rural life survey of a western State. Conference on the History of the Trans-Mississippi West, edited by James F. Willard and Colin B. Goodykoontz, p. 291-308. Boulder, University of Colorado. 1930. (57)

Comments:

A paper presented at the Conference of the History of the Trans-Mississippi West at the University of Colorado, at Boulder, on June 20, 1929.

"...ten years ago there was outlined in Wisconsin a plan for making intensive studies of restricted local areas....

"The quest in Wisconsin was for a group of sources of universal availability and applicability which might serve to establish a significant outline of the history of any agricultural area in the state....the professional abstractors of every county are the historians of land ownership for their appropriate constituency....sources...described [are] the surveyor's plats and notes, the abstractor's history of land entry and ownership, the census schedules for population and for agriculture..."

"The ultimate value of this plan of studying history as a growth of the soil depends upon the number and variety of its application."

See also Citations 55-56, 59-60.

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Schedule for the study of local history of Wisconsin rural towns. (Teachers' edition). 6 p. [Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1926]. (58)

Comments:

The pamphlet indicates one of the ways in which historical material may be gathered.

The mimeographed circular on the Teachers' Pictorial Survey of Rural Wisconsin a Century after the Black Hawk War, sponsored by the State Historical Society in consultation with the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, the State superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Wisconsin Journal of Education, affords information on a project which will give pictorial data invaluable to agricultural historians.

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The Wisconsin domesday book. Wisconsin Magazine of History 4:61-74. September 1920. (59)

Comments:

The Wisconsin Domesday Book is described as "a plan for a future great history of Wisconsin which should reach very much further down in the social life of the state than any history that has yet been produced. The aim would be...to gather such abundant materials about our Wisconsin population as would

SCHAFER, JOSEPH. Continued.

enable us ultimately to point the influence upon Wisconsin history of even very local and seemingly humble individuals who have contributed ideas or developed processes that helped forward the civilization of the state."

See also Citations 55-57, 60.

----- The Wisconsin Domesday book in agricultural history. American Historical Association, Annual Report 1921:220-221. Washington, Govt. Print. Off. 1926. (60)

Comments:

An abstract of a paper presented at the joint session of the Agricultural History Society with the American Historical Association at St. Louis, on Dec. 23, 1921.

A discussion of the way in which the execution of the Wisconsin Domesday Book plan is destined to cast "abundance of fresh light- the light of exact data in place of tradition- on the processes of pioneer settlement in one State at least" and to illuminate "the character of land speculation, the choices made of lands, the differing social result of settlement in forested and in prairie townships."

"The Wisconsin Domesday Book has been described as a plan by which the history of local communities in Wisconsin, and first of all rural communities, shall be studied intensively." Utilization of the methods advocated will do much toward remedying the deficit in exact knowledge of the beginnings of rural life. "The records used, and the process of study of rural towns, make possible certain generalizations about the agricultural history of Wisconsin." Therein lies the significance of this project and its methods for agricultural historians.

See also Citations 55-57, 59.

SCHMIDT, LOUIS BERNARD. The economic history of American agriculture as a field for study. Mississippi Valley Historical Review 3:39-49. June 1916. (61)

Contents to be noted:

The following topics are considered: Fundamental significance of the economic history of American agriculture. Some problems in the economic history of American agriculture,- the history of the public lands, the history of leading agricultural industries, the history of agriculture in the various States, the history of the transportation and marketing of agricultural products, the history of farmers' organizations, the history of agricultural education, the biographies of leading men who have contributed to the advancement of agriculture. Indications of an awakening interest in agricultural

SCHMIDT, LOUIS BERNARD. Continued.

history,- agriculture as the leading occupation. Relation of the economic history of agriculture to the political and constitutional history of the United States. The economic history of agriculture as a necessary background for the development of a sound and farsighted rural economy. The economic history of agriculture as part of a well-balanced history of the Nation.

Comments:

This paper was presented at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Washington, D. C., on Dec. 28, 1915.

It is reprinted with minor changes under the same title in the author's Topical Studies and References on the Economic History of American Agriculture, p. 5-17 (Philadelphia, McKinley Publishing Co., 1919), and under the same title in the Historical Outlook, 10:8-12 (January 1919). An abstract is printed under the title, "Agriculture as a Field for Historical Research," in the American Historical Association, Annual Report, 1920:161-162 (Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1925).

Professor Schmidt also presented a paper entitled "An Unworked Field of Mississippi Valley History" at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at Iowa City, on May 11, 12, 1922. Printed in the Iowa Journal of History and Politics, 21:94-111 (January 1923), it was based in part on the same author's paper, printed in 1916 as noted above.

This version is reprinted with the title, "The Economic History of American Agriculture," in the author's Topical Studies and References on the Economic History of American Agriculture, p. 9-26 (Philadelphia, McKinley Publishing Co., 1923), revised ed. It is also reprinted with omissions under the title, "The Economic History of American Agriculture," in L. B. Schmidt and E. D. Ross, editors, Readings in the Economic History of American Agriculture, p. 16-27 (New York, Macmillan Co., 1925).

[SHELDON, LYNN.] The farmer and local history. Minnesota History 6:21-22. March 1925. (62)

Comments:

A brief summary of a talk on the value of local history to farmers by the county agricultural agent of Redwood Falls County, Minn., presented at a session of the Minnesota Historical Society on Jan. 19, 1925.

It reads in part as follows: "a new settler in the community, by studying its historical background would be in a better position to adapt himself to the new conditions than if he were

[SHELDON, LYNN.] Continued.

in ignorance of that background. History is of great value to the farmer; the formulation of economic laws, for example, is impossible without a knowledge of history; and many practical steps in agriculture, such as the regulation of crops, can be taken wisely only if the lessons of the past are learned...farmers get much joy from an acquaintance with the past of their community...there is need for a museum where old implements and other articles, such as early plows, oxcarts, yokes, and spinning wheels, may be preserved. These things are not difficult to find but unless they are collected soon they may be definitely lost."

See also Citation 2.

SIMKHOVITCH, VLADIMIR G. Hay and history. Political Science Quarterly 28:385-403, maps. September 1913. (63)

Comments:

The thesis of this article is that hay is the explanation of "why the village community was so prevalent in Europe, regardless of race or climate." It is here cited as an example of the importance that may be attributed to an agricultural commodity in history.

STARR, JOSEPH R. Some gaps in the history of the northwest. Minnesota History 9:109-122. June 1928. (64)

Comments:

Agricultural history is briefly discussed on p. 118-119.

STINE, O. C. United States agriculture, The history of. The Book of Rural Life 10:5727-5768. Chicago, Bellows-Durham Co. 1925. (65)

Contents to be noted:

Judging the future by the past, p. 5763.

STONE, ALFRED HOLT. Some problems of Southern economic history. American Historical Review 13:779-797. July 1908. (66)

Comments:

In condensed form this paper was read at the twenty-third annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Madison, Wis., on Dec. 30, 1907.

It is devoted to suggestions of certain lines of thought which have occurred to the author in connection with a study of the relative influence of the institution of slavery, the Negro, the white man, and physiography as factors in the economic life of the Southern States.

It is reprinted with the title, "Unsolved Problems in

STONE, ALFRED HOLT. Continued.  
Southern Economy," in L. B. Schmidt and E. D. Ross,  
editors, Readings in the Economic History of American  
Agriculture, p. 274-292 (New York, McMillan Co., 1925).  
Supplement with Citations 14, 49.

TAYLOR, H. C. The historical approach to the economic problems  
of agriculture. Journal of Farm Economics 19:605-607.  
May 1937. Agricultural History 11:221-223.  
July 1937.

(67)

Comments:

A statement made at the opening of the joint session of  
the Agricultural History Society with the American Farm  
Economic Association at Chicago, on Dec. 28, 1936.

It is a succinct evaluation of the various approaches to  
economic problems with emphasis on the historical method  
"because it brings a dynamic point of view to bear upon the  
materials with which the accountant, the statistician, and  
the logician may be working; furthermore, historical study  
helps the student of agricultural economics to appreciate the  
many subtle forces which may be at work at any given time,  
which are not subject to analysis by the accountant or the  
statistician, and which have been usually overlooked by the  
logician while formulating his hypothesis.... In the light  
of the historical setting, the accounting and statistical  
materials will possess their greatest value, and the general-  
izations drawn may be of greatest value."

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The place of economics in agricultural education and  
research. Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station,  
Research Bulletin 16, 93-130 p., illus. Madison, Wis.,  
June 1911.

(68)

Comments:

The subject is considered under the following main head-  
ings: The place of economics in agricultural education and  
research, p. 93-100. The scope of agricultural economics,  
p. 101-105. Methods used in the study of economic problems  
in agriculture (introduction; the historical method; the  
geographical method; the statistical method; the accounting  
method; experiments), p. 106-127.

The discussion of the historical method on p. 108-113 is  
prefaced with the following paragraph:

"In the study of economic forces, much is gained by  
tracing their operations through a considerable period of  
time. Economic forces are not easily measured, and they  
are so numerous, of such varying strength, and so often  
operate in opposite directions that at any given moment it is  
difficult to make an estimate of the future resultant of these

TAYLOR, H. C. Continued.

forces, unless the changes wrought by them in the past can be resorted to as a basis of judgment."

TAYLOR, RAYMOND G. Some sources for Mississippi Valley agricultural history. Mississippi Valley Historical Review 7:142-145. September 1920.

(69)

Comments:

"When the history of American agriculture is written not a little of it will be from the observation of European travelers- so plentiful for nearly every period of the Nation's history. No matter who or what the traveler was, the predominance of agriculture in our life has compelled his attention. When, as often happened, he was interested in farming at home his observations have been more plentiful and more valuable. Moreover, some have come on purpose to study agricultural conditions. Especially has this been true of the British."- p. 142.

In the opinion of the author, James P. Caird's Prairie Farming in America (Edinburgh, 1857) and Finlay Dun's American Farming and Food (London, 1881) "present a remarkable picture of the progress of American agriculture in the sixties and seventies. And there is much more- the reflected light from English agricultural and industrial conditions, the settlements of English and Scotch in Illinois, Dakota, and Kansas, and the growth of railroads, cities, and industries in the central west. In fact, no account of agricultural and economic development in the west can be complete without them."- p. 144.

TRIMBLE, WILLIAM JOSEPH. The agrarian history of the United States as a subject for research. History Teacher's Magazine 6:135-137. May 1915.

(70)

Comments:

A revision of a paper read before a session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at Chicago, on Dec. 30, 1914 and printed with the same title in the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Proceedings (1914-15), 8:81-90.

"The term 'agrarian history' seems preferable to 'agricultural history' because the latter to many minds has rather narrow signification. Agrarian history means more than the development of the technique of agriculture, though that has in it an important place; it includes also wide study of laws and politics; transportation, markets, and correlated manufactures; education and religion; social movements and ideas; types of society- all of these studied sympathetically in their relation to agriculture as focal and measurably determinative rather than as merely subsidiary and tangential. Such a conception, however, emphasizes a systematic, conscious

- TRIMBLE, WILLIAM JOSEPH. Continued,  
method of approach rather than entrance upon an entirely new  
field, for many of the facts of our agrarian history have been  
considered in other connections. But this method involves  
also investigations on new lines, the acquisition of much new  
data, and the re-estimation of old."
- TUCKER, ETHELYN M. The lure of gardening as expressed by its  
literature. Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Year Book  
1928:47-60. (71)  
Comments:  
A lecture by the librarian of the Arnold Arboretum before  
the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on Apr. 1, 1927.  
"So far as possible this literature has been gathered into  
...the Library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society,  
'believed to be the oldest, most complete and best organized  
strictly horticultural library in the world,' and the Arnold  
Arboretum Library, 'unique in its field, the largest library  
in the world devoted to woody plants."
- WATSON, JOHN. Catalogs and growing things. Florists' Exchange  
57:1471, 1472. May 10, 1924. (72)  
Comments:  
Observations reprinted from the Acorn, published by the  
Du Bois Press of Rochester, N. Y.
- WOODWARD, CARL R. Some glimpses of the history of agricultural  
publications. The A. C. E. 7(4-6):4-9. November 1925. (73)  
Comments:  
A paper presented before the American Association of  
Agricultural College Editors at Raleigh, N. C., on July  
8, 1925.  
Excerpts from this paper appear under the same title in  
Agricultural Library Notes, 1:5-6 (January 1926).
- WRIGHT, CARROLL D. An economic history of the United States.  
American Economic Association, Publications (ser. 3)  
6(2):160-179. May 1905. (74)  
Comments:  
A paper presented at the joint session of the American  
Economic Association and the American Historical Association  
at Chicago, on Dec. 30, 1904. It presents the plan for the

WRIGHT, CARROLL D. Continued.

economic history work of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The discussion by J. B. McMaster, C. H. Hull, J. H. Hollander, H. R. Seager, C. D. Wright, and F. W. Taussig is given on p. 410.

See also the Introductory Note by Henry W. Farnam in Percy Wells Bidwell and John I. Falconer, *History of Agriculture in the Northern United States, 1620-1860*, p. v-vi (Washington, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1925), and the Introductory Note by Henry C. Taylor in L. C. Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860*, p. v-ix (Washington, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1933).

WRIGHT, CHESTER WHITNEY. *Wool growing and the tariff.* 362  
p. Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Co. 1910.

(75)

Comments:

The following statement is among the earliest in American historiography which calls attention to the significance of agricultural history.

"Although the United States has been preeminently an agricultural country, this phase of its economic history has suffered from the most amazing neglect."- p. viii.

C H R O N O L O G Y

The following list is designed to show the chronological development of interest in agricultural history in the United States.

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	Taylor, R. G. Some sources for Mississippi Valley agricultural history.....	69
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	Roberts, W. A seedsman's broadside.....	53
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	Carrier, Lyman. The beginnings of agriculture in America,- with chapter on the value of agricultural history.....	11
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1924	Clapham, J. H. Tithe surveys as a source of agrarian history.....	12
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	Hendry, G. W. and M. P. Kelly. The plant content of adobe bricks...a contribution to the agricultural history of California derived from a study of the plant remains found in adobe buildings.....	35
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	Pridham, M. S. Collection of horticultural catalogs in Cornell University library.....	51
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	Edwards, E. E. A bibliography of the history of agriculture in the United States, with a section on the scope of the history of American agriculture.....	19
	Hoidale, Einar, and J. H. Klovstad. The study of pioneer life.....	17
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1936	Edwards, E. E. Middle Western agriculture as a field of research. . . . .	22
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	Gates, C. M. Some sources for northwest history; Probate records. . . . .	32
	Hendry, G. W. and M. K. Bellue. An approach to south- western agricultural history through adobe brick analysis. . . . .	35
	Ramsdell, C. W. Some problems involved in writing the history of the Confederacy. . . . .	52
	Taylor, H. C. The historical approach to the economic problems of agriculture. . . . .	67
1937	Edwards, E. E. Some sources for northwest history; Agricultural periodicals. . . . .	25
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