

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA

Editor in Chief

Frederick Converse Beach

Editor of The Scientific American

Managing Editor

George Edwin Rines



SIXTEEN
VOLUMES

ILLUSTRATED

Associate and Advisory Editors

Simon Newcomb, Ph.D., LL.D., D.Sc.

James E. Creighton, A.B., Ph.D.

Robert S. Woodward, C.E., Ph. D.

David Starr Jordan, Ph.D., LL. D.

Russell Sturgis, A.M., Ph.D., F.A.I.A.

Edward Everett Hale, S.T.D., LL.D.

Andrew C. McLaughlin, A.M.

Sylvester Burnham, D.D.

James H. Kirkland, Ph. D., LL. D.

Smith Ely Jelliffe, A.M., Ph.D., M.D.

Allan Douglas Risteen, Ph.D.

John J. Wynne, S.J.

George Letchworth English, A.A.A.S.

For Canada

George McKinnon Wrong, M.A.

Charles W. Colby, M.A., Ph.D.

THE AMERICANA COMPANY
NEW YORK 1904 CHICAGO

COPYRIGHT, 1904
BY
FREDERICK CONVERSE BEACH

SPECIAL NOTICE.—The signed articles in this Encyclopedia have been written especially for this work, and are fully protected by copyright as published. The unsigned articles have also been originally prepared by the various department experts, and are fully protected by copyright as issued. All rights are reserved, and privilege of publication of any portion of the Encyclopedia Americana is expressly reserved by the publishers.

WYOMING VALLEY — WYTHE

science and tactics is also given. The University has organized a University Extension Association, which conducts extension lectures in all parts of the State; a Correspondence Teaching Department is also conducted, by which some of the work toward a degree may be done. The campus now occupied 40 acres in the eastern part of the city; the buildings are the Hall of Languages, the Mechanical Building, the Hall of Science, and the Gymnasium; the three first mentioned are built of gray sandstone, which is found near Laramie. The library in 1903 contained 16,000 volumes; the students numbered 191, of whom 21 were in the College of Liberal Arts, 50 in the Normal School, 47 in the School of Commerce, 16 in the College of Engineering, 15 in the School of Mines, 4 in the Graduate School, and 39 in the Preparatory Department.

The University of Wyoming, though in numbers one of the smallest of the State universities, is well equipped and maintains a high standard of scholarship, as the real head of the educational system of the State.

Wyoming Valley, a crescent-shaped valley in Luzerne County, Pa., traversed by the northern branch of the Susquehanna River; length 21 miles. It is a fertile alluvial plain, with rich deposits of anthracite coal, and is noted for its beautiful scenery. The valley was claimed by the colony of Connecticut as early as 1753, and was first settled by people from Connecticut; the ensuing dispute between Pennsylvania and Connecticut over this territory is known as the "Pennamite and Yankee war," and was not finally settled till after the Revolutionary War. (See PENNSYLVANIA; *History*; *Boundary Disputes*.) In 1782 a commission appointed by Congress decided in favor of Pennsylvania; an attempt was made to drive out the Connecticut settlers which led to a renewal of the war; but in 1788 Pennsylvania confirmed the titles of all actual settlers to their land, and all controversy was ended by 1800. During the Revolutionary War, a large proportion of the men of the Wyoming Valley joined the Continental Army; but a number of Tories were living in the valley; and in 1778, when they were joined by British troops and Indian allies, an attack was made upon the settlers who had taken refuge in Forty Fort near Wilkesbarre. The settlers did not number over 400, chiefly boys and old men; the British force, including the 700 Indians, was about 1,100. After a desperate battle fought on the 3d of July 1778, the settlers were completely defeated, about two thirds being killed. They were forced to capitulate, and after the surrender many of the prisoners were tortured and killed by the Indians. The greater part of the inhabitants of the valley were compelled to flee to other settlements, and endured great hardships. Consult Miner, 'History of Wyoming' (1845); Stone, 'Poetry and History of Wyoming' (1844); Peck, 'Wyoming: its History and Incidents' (1858).

Wyon, wi'on, William, English engraver and designer of coins and medals: b. Birmingham 1795; d. Brighton, Sussex, 29 Oct. 1851. Having won several prizes for medals offered by the society of arts, he went in 1816 to London, and was appointed second engraver at the mint, a post which he filled until the close of his life. In 1832 he was elected an associate of the Royal Academy, and in 1838 an academician,

being the first of his department who had ever obtained these honors. His works, comprising coins, pattern pieces of coins not used, medals, and seals, are numerous. His coins cover a period of nearly 30 years, including the latter part of the reign of George IV., the reign of William IV., and the first 13 years of the reign of Victoria. Far more numerous than these are his war, scientific, artistic, and testimonial medals, executed from his own or from Flaxman's designs, and in the highest style of art.

Wyss, vis, Johann Rudolf, Swiss author: b. Bern 13 March 1781; d. there 31 March 1830. He was educated at various German universities, became professor of philosophy at Bern in 1806, and later also chief librarian. His 'Der Schweizerische Robinson' (1812-13), an imitation of Defoe, was translated into various languages, the first series appearing in English ('The Swiss Family Robinson') in 1820, the second in 1849. Wyss also wrote 'Vortlesungen über das Höchste Gut' (1811), and 'Idyllen und Erzählungen aus der Schweiz' (1815-22) and edited the collection 'Alpenrose' (1811-30).

Wythe, with, George, American patriot: b. 1726 in the county of Elizabeth City, Va., a short distance from Yorktown; d. Richmond, Va., 1806. One of his ancestors was George Keith (1639-1716), a Scotch Quaker, distinguished as a mathematician and Oriental scholar, who emigrated to America about 1684. On account of his radical religious views and his opposition to slavery, he was often imprisoned. On 15 Oct. 1693, Keith issued an "Exhortation and Caution against buying or keeping Negroes," seemingly the earliest Quaker protest against slavery. These views were inherited by George Wythe. From his mother, Wythe received a life-long bent toward classical scholarship. Even at the age of 80, he began to learn a new language. He was trained in the law by an uncle. Wythe's connection with the House of Burgesses, in Virginia, began on 27 Feb. 1752, on the eve of the French and Indian war. Hence he knew in a practical way the steps leading up to the Revolution, whose course he was destined to influence. He was a member of the Continental Congress, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He sat in the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and exerted himself to secure the ratification of the Constitution by Virginia the following year. For ten years he was a member of Virginia's supreme court of appeals, and for above 20 years sole chancellor of the State. However important and varied were such positions that he filled, George Wythe is not to be judged chiefly as statesman or jurist. He was greatest as teacher, and his most lasting work was the subtle influence of his singularly pure and lofty character. Either in his law office or as professor in William and Mary College, he was the teacher of Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, James Monroe, Henry Clay, and scores of other men only less prominent than these. With Jefferson, in particular, Wythe maintained a friendship and interchange of thought which had a bearing upon national concerns. So highly did Jefferson prize the work of Wythe as a teacher, that he exerted himself to establish, in 1779, in the College of William and Mary a chair of law, expressly for the occupancy of his "master

WYTHEVILLE

and friend," as he delighted to call Wythe. Wythe was the first professor of law in the United States. William and Mary College was the second in the English-speaking world to have a chair of Municipal Law; George Wythe coming to such a professorship a few years after Sir William Blackstone. Jefferson, in writing from Paris in 1785 to Dr. Richard Price, an English opponent of slavery, gives striking evidence of his estimate of the services which Wythe was rendering to his country: "The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, since the remodelling of its plan, is the place where are collected together all the young men (of Virginia) under preparation for public life. They are under the direction (most of them) of a Mr. Wythe, one of the most virtuous of characters, and whose sentiments on the subject of slavery are unequivocal." Henry Clay, in a letter of 3 May 1851, to B. B. Minor, says in reference to Wythe: "To no man was I more indebted; by his instructions, his advice, and his example, for the little intellectual improvement which I made, up to the period when, in my twenty-first year, I finally left the city of Richmond." "The most remarkable instance," says Munford, "of his genuine patriotism, to which I confess I am rendered most partial perhaps by my own experience of its effects, was his zeal for the education of youth. Harassed as he was with business; enveloped with perplexing papers, and intricate facts in chancery, he yet found time for many years to keep a private school for the instruction of a few young men at a time, always with very little, and often demanding no compensation." That Wythe conceived the training of publicists to be his true task appears from this sentence in a letter on 5 Dec. 1785, to John Adams: "A letter will meet me in Williamsburg, where I have again settled, assisting, as professor of law and police in the University there, to form such characters as may be fit to succeed those which have been ornamental and useful in the national councils of America." In three signal instances Wythe was a forerunner. As early as 1764, he wrote Virginia's first remonstrance to the House of Commons against the Stamp Act, taking so advanced a position in regard to that ominous Act as to alarm his fellow-burgesses. He was perhaps the first judge to lay down, in 1782, the cardinal principle that a court can annul a statute deemed repugnant to the Constitution, thus anticipating by a score of years the classic decision of his great pupil, John Marshall, in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*. He was an ardent advocate for the emancipation of the slaves, not only infusing his students with his abolition sentiment, but actually freeing his own slaves and making provision for them in his will. His death occurred in Richmond, Va., in 1806, from poison administered by his great-nephew, who hoped to come thus into the inheritance of his estate. "No man," says Jefferson, "ever left behind him a character more venerated than George Wythe. His virtue was of the purest kind; his integrity inflexible, and his justice exact; of warm patriotism, and devoted as he was to liberty and the natural and equal rights of men, he might truly be called the Cato of his country, without the avarice of the Roman; for a more disinterested person never lived. Temperance and regularity in all his

habits gave him general good health, and his unaffected modesty and suavity of manners endeared him to every one. He was of easy elocution, his language chaste, methodical in the arrangement of his matter, learned and logical in the use of it, and of great urbanity in debate. Not quick of apprehension, but with a little time profound in penetration, and sound in conclusion. His stature was of middle size, well formed and proportioned, and the features of his face manly, comely, and engaging. Such was George Wythe, the honor of his own and the model of future times."

S. C. MITCHELL,
Professor of History, Richmond College.

Wytheville, with'vil, Va., town, county-seat of Wythe County; on the Norfolk & Western Railroad; 130 miles west of Lynchburg and 215 miles southwest of Richmond. It is in a stock-raising and mining region and has considerable lumbering interests. It has manufactories of iron works, woolen goods, and lumber products. The town has a county court-house, Trinity Hall Female College (Luth.), Wytheville Seminary (P.E.), Academy of the Visitation (R.C.), public elementary schools, and two libraries. The two state banks have a combined capital of \$100,000. Pop. (1890) 2,570; (1900) 3,003.

Wytheville, Military Operations at. During the Civil War the lead mines and works near Wytheville assumed much importance. On 13 July 1863 Col. John T. Toland, with the 2d West Virginia cavalry and 34th Ohio mounted infantry, about 800 men, started from Fayetteville, W. Va., to damage the lead works and destroy the railroad near Wytheville. On the evening of the 18th Toland arrived within five miles of the town and detaching two companies to destroy a railroad depot and track, 10 miles west, marched his remaining force into the town, which was defended by less than 200 men, under Maj. Bowyer, most of them distributed in houses and some in the streets supporting two guns. There was an obstinate fight in the streets, lasting an hour, when the town was taken and 8 or 10 of the best houses burned. The two guns and many small arms were captured and some prisoners taken, but all were abandoned when the return march was taken up next morning. The command reached Fayetteville on the 23d after a march of about 300 miles. The expedition had failed of its object, with the loss of 78 killed, wounded, and missing, of whom 17 were killed, including Col. Toland and two other officers. Col. Powell, commanding the 2d West Virginia cavalry, was severely wounded and captured. The Confederates report a loss of 6 killed and 12 wounded. On 2 May 1864 Gen. Crook started from Charleston on the Kanawha to destroy the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad and join Gen. Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley. One of his columns, of 2,600 cavalry, under Gen. Averell, was directed upon Saltville to destroy the salt-works, and then rejoin the main column under Crook at Dublin Station. After a very difficult march through the mountains and some sharp skirmishing Averell reached Tazewell Court House on the afternoon of the 8th, where he learned that Saltville was defended by earth-works and artillery, and was held in strength by Gen. W. E. Jones, upon which he abandoned