living in Western Pennsylvania where so many of the stirring events took place.

*Pittsburgh*  
LAWRENCE C. WOODS, JR.


Quite by accident while he was teaching in Oswego, New York, Dr. Charles Snyder came upon some papers belonging to a native daughter, Mary Walker. Intrigued he embarked on a research project. Since "the little Lady in Pants" had never been a shrinking violet, he soon had an abundance of material — private papers and diaries, official documents, news stories and magazine articles by her and about her. Moreover, since she had always been a controversial figure, the townspeople offered "a flood of reminiscences." The result is a well documented biography and a very readable one.

Mary was born in Oswego in 1832. Her father believed in educating women for professions. Encouraged by him, his daughters dressed sensibly in defiance of the prevailing fashion of tight corsets and trailing skirts. Dress reform became an obsession with Mary. For it she campaigned all her life.

Her second great "cause" was recognition of women in her profession. At a time when women doctors were a rarity, she decided to study medicine. In 1855, she received a medical degree from Syracuse Medical College. It is true that she attended only three terms; but because of the rapid growth of population doctors were needed so desperately, that some states required attendance at lectures during only one winter before granting a license to practice. Over and over again her competence as a physician was questioned while male practitioners with no more training — or not so much — were accepted as a matter of course. When she opened her office in Rome, New York, she adopted a knee length tunic over bloomers gathered at the ankle. "This eccentricity certainly did nothing to inspire confidence in prospective patients." It is true that her practice never produced for her a living wage.

In relation to her dress Dr. Snyder makes a point of some significance. He quotes an editorial to the effect that while less graceful
women looked ridiculous in bloomers, "Miss Walker is just the size and style to look well in a bloomer dress." A photograph taken in 1865 shows that she was petite and well formed. Her face had a delicate beauty and, at that time, her hair was soft and abundant. However, by 1880 she was wearing trousers and a frock coat, cropped hair under a high silk hat. She was "a figure of sartorial elegance" at President Arthur's reception.

The Civil War gave Mary her greatest opportunity to fight for professional recognition as well as to serve her country. However, even her persistence could not break down the prejudice of a male Medical Department of the Army. Yet uncommissioned and unpaid, she forced herself into the battle front where she served well and even spectacularly all during the war. One little woman with an iron will and a great compassion defied discouragement. She emerged finally with a Congressional Medal of Honor for Meritorious Service and a Citation from President Johnson dated November 11, 1865. The medal she wore proudly and conspicuously until 1917 when a Board of Review of Civil War Citations revoked it. The author writes, "The blow may well have hastened her death two years later."

She had served in hospitals, treated civilians, been a prisoner in Castle Thunder. She had single-handed bluffed an engineer to take a trainload of typhoid-smitten and wounded soldiers from Richmond to Washington because she knew they would have better care behind the Union lines. She cherished the fact that when she was exchanged as a prisoner-of-war, she was ranked as a surgeon and exchanged for a Southern officer with the rank of Major and "six feet tall!"

"While the Civil War years were without doubt the most colorful of Mary's long life, they were in reality a mere introduction to a full half century of restless striving for lost causes."

On the same platform with Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone, she demanded rather than pled for votes for women. She spoke fluently and frequently. She tried to vote at the polls and berated those who turned her away. Yet in 1912 before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives she was a "hostile witness." She filled fourteen pages of the Committee's report with proof that Congress could not legislate to women a privilege which was hers by divine right.

Everything she did was dramatic. She loved the sound of her own voice. She lectured in England where she was very well treated; she lectured in a carnival show for which she earned $150 a week and
felt no loss of dignity. She waged a long and bitter campaign for an increase of pension. Her case became famous. She fought not for herself alone but for pensions for nurses who had also served in the War. At the age of 66 she was awarded $20 a month. "Though small," Dr. Snyder notes, "it came in time to ease financial burdens of her declining years."

She died on February 21, 1919, at the age of 86. She had weathered many storms. She lived to see New York State give women the ballot. She saw women in her profession not only accepted but honored. The innovations she suggested during a brief period as postal clerk are still in use. She must have rejoiced to see the women in warwork; in factories, and even in the home comfortably clad in slacks. "For 60 years, Mary had been doing a solo performance in pants; now she had thousands of confederates."

While Dr. Snyder writes of his subject with gentle humor, there is also evident a genuine respect for her decision of character and her indomitable courage. Observing the present generation the reader wonders if this breed of woman has perished from the earth.

_Pittsburgh_  
Loretta P. Byrne


This is the third edition of a highly successful booklet. It is "A" picture of an early Pennsylvania minority group. Of any subject there may be many pictures, depending on the angle, the motif, the lighting effect, and the general composition. The artist determines the highlighting and other factors, but what the viewer actually finds depends so much on what background and experience is brought to the picture. The comments of this reviewer, as well as the reflections of the many readers, must be considered in the light of the above comments.

The subject of the "Pennsylvania German" or the "Pennsylvania Dutch" seems to be one of growing interest. The author explains the relationship and meaning of these two terms. This is the type of book to be read at one sitting. Having read practically everything German-American that comes to hand, the reviewer can say that this is