other names, each of which may be a puzzle at least as interesting as the average modern television mystery.

This, we believe, is our Western Pennsylvania equivalent of England's *Domesday Book*, compiled in 1086, "published" in 1783.

*The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania*

The *Battle of Trenton*. By **Samuel Stelle Smith**. (Monmouth Beach, New Jersey: Philip Freneau Press, 1965. Pp. 36. Notes, maps. $4.95.)

The *Battle of Monmouth*. By **Samuel Stelle Smith**. (Monmouth Beach, New Jersey: Philip Freneau Press, 1964. Pp. 32. Notes, maps. $3.50.)

These books present short but detailed accounts of two of the more important battles of the Revolutionary War. Although they are clumsy to handle and lack indexes, their illustrations are good and the maps are excellent. The method of referencing is poor. Footnotes, even if located at the end of the volumes, would have been preferable to the present scheme.

Smith’s book on the battle of Trenton incorporates his research in Hessian manuscripts with the available secondary material and is generally an excellent account of that engagement. The reviewer’s only major criticism is that the author does not give enough attention to the problems faced by the various American columns in their night march and in co-ordinating their attacks on the town. The use of the Hessian materials gives the reader a good view of the "other side of the hill" and enables the author to clarify several confused incidents during the battle. On the whole he produced an excellent account of the battle.

The Monmouth volume does not show as much original research as the Trenton book but gives an outstanding account of a highly confused and disconnected battle. The author’s account is aided by excellent maps and by a personal knowledge of the field which clarifies many of the incidents that have troubled preceding historians. Smith also shows good judgment in refusing to plunge into the thicket of the Lee-Washington controversy. His account shows that Washington's
vague orders were as much at fault as Lee's supposed incompetence or cowardice.

Both of these books suffer from the usual defects of "battle books." The perspective is short and the author must depend on secondary sources in setting his social, strategic and political framework. Thus in these two works it is hard to set either Monmouth or Trenton into an overall military or strategic perspective or to fit the Lee-Washington affair into the political struggles of the summer of 1778. Yet despite these defects, the author has done an excellent job in explaining what happened at Trenton and Monmouth and this reviewer will be awaiting his proposed works on the New Jersey and Philadelphia campaigns to see how he handles a more extensive series of operations.

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