Salem, North Carolina. Of particular value to a researcher is the extensive bibliography. The author has done excellent work in drawing together information from the archival material, much of which is in German. There is a need for more studies in the area of organ building in early America. Perhaps with this ground-breaking volume, others will soon follow.

Pittsburgh

Norris L. Stephens


Andrew Wyeth has made Chadd's Ford his little world for painting, and C. A. Weslager, the Delaware Valley, for historical writing. _The English on the Delaware: 1610-1682_ is Weslager's eleventh book on the valley, a book written with loving, careful scholarship in lean, careful style. It is a book about a segment of our early history, when Spanish, Virginians, New Englanders, Lord Calvert, Swedes, Dutch, and William Penn plotted for control of the Delaware Valley. Indeed, there is enough exciting material for a television series like the current _Daniel Boone!_

About C. A. Weslager: He was born in Mt. Oliver Borough, and lived successively in Knoxville and Carrick, boroughs of Pittsburgh. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. His "Reminiscences of Beltzhoover and Allentown" appeared in the _Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine_ in 1966.

Important to the understanding of this book on the Delaware Valley is the "Buffer Zone." The London Company received territory between the thirty-fourth and forty-first degrees; the Plymouth Company, between the thirty-eighth and forty-fifth degrees. The territory overlapping between the thirty-eighth and forty-first degrees of north latitude could be settled by either company, but they should avoid planting "a colony within 100 miles of one already begun by the other . . . Neither of the two English companies knew there was a bay in the buffer zone; in fact, they knew nothing about its geography, but whatever was there they could claim belonged to them."

Here are a few of the visitors to the bay. On August 27, 1610, the _Discovery_, Captain Samuel Argall, "a good Marriner, and a very civill Gentleman," entered "a very great Bay," now known as the
Delaware. Henry Hudson exactly one year before had anchored in this bay, while searching for a passage to the Orient. Then there was Argall, this time from Jamestown, who on his way back to Jamestown on a food-gathering expedition, had anchored in a “great Bay.” In his journal, he referred to falling among a “great many of shoales, about 12 leagues to the Southward of Cape La Warre.” In June 1613, Nicholas Hawes, in writing about Virginia, mentioned “the De La Warre Bay,” thus becoming the first Englishman to record both names. His superior was Sir Thomas West, the third Lord De La Warre, “Lord Governor and Captaine Generall” of the Virginia Colony. None of these men knew about the river.

Now as the English became faintly interested in the region, Spanish intrigue entered the picture. The Velasco Map of 1611 showed the mouth of the Delaware Bay without a name, although the river was not delineated; it makes use of all information about America then available in England from Newfoundland to Cape Fear. Spanish ambassador Don Alonzo de Velasco had secretly obtained a map copy and sent it with a coded letter to Philip III, who was not interested in this “worthless” region.

Gradually, accurate maps in both England and Holland about new routes and new lands were at the disposal of companies seeking financial gain. There was map smuggling between nations, and seizure of maps as booty in naval warfare. Finally, after Dermer entered the Delaware River and became the first to refer to it by name, the river was included in the maps. Eventually, after the defeat of the Armada, Spain bowed out and the economic expansion of the New World accelerated. Companies of investors were formed.

In 1606 the Virginia Company was organized primarily for profit and for colonization of the New World. They also considered the company a public undertaking for the good of Great Britain. Settlers and their children were guaranteed the privileges of Englishmen at home. Although privately financed, the company was closely controlled by the Crown. Next organized was the Plymouth Company.

All investors were secretly interested in a Northwest passage to the Orient. The first expedition was advised: . . . “if you happen to discover divers portable rivers, and amongst them any one that hath two main branches, if the difference be not great make choice of that which bendeth toward the North-West, for that way you shall soonest find the other sea.”

The other sea was the Pacific Ocean or the “South Sea.” All maritime nations were engaged in the same search.
Another belief was that a great lake, Laconia, in the interior of the continent was the source of the major rivers of northeastern America. If the new route to China were found, colonies close to the route could establish a profitable trade.

A fourth motive of all companies was the establishment of a fur trade, since well-dressed European gentlemen had a passion for beaver hats. Trouble arose when the Dutch began to settle in the buffer zone, and the Dutch West India Company in 1612 built Fort Nassau for Indian fur trade. Next on the Delaware were the Swedes, who founded Wilmington in 1638.

The Delaware was important, since it was navigable to large sailing vessels, and the international movement of people and goods was largely by water. It had fish, whales, waterpowered mills, timber and beaver trade.

The next contender for Delaware territory was the Calvert family, claiming all land below the fortieth parallel lying along the western side of the Delaware River and bay.

Then, to make matters still worse, came Edmund Plowden of the 112 known lawsuits, granted on July 24, 1632, a territory including almost all of present New Jersey and the present east bank of the Delaware. “Our greate Seale unto our loving Cozen Sir Edmund Plowden, Knight.” He only had a bona fide royal charter and seal of all making claims to Delaware Bay and River prior to 1660. Plowden returned to England disappointed, angry, and determined to return with settlers who would oust intruders upon his land. “This River the Lord Ployden hath a pattent of, and calls it New Albon, but the Sweeds are planted on it and have a great Trade of Furrs.”

Next to trespass on others’ claims was the New Haven Company, who, finding furs pretty well depleted, and needing to build up credit with the London Company, decided to seek beaver pelts along the Delaware. In 1641 their representatives, Lamberton and Turner, were in the Delaware territory in a small sloop to buy lands, unwittingly trespassing on the claims of both Plowden and Baltimore.

There is tragedy in the story of the beavers. Before the coming of white traders, Indians waited until the beaver young had been born, but the white men, greedy for gain, were making the beaver almost extinct. Trade became highly competitive; the white men acceded to the Indians’ wish for firearms and ammunition, later regretting their decision. Ironically, tobacco rapidly took the place of beaver pelts as the favorite European export from the colonies, but the damage had been done.
Next, Charles II gave his brother, the Duke of York, territory extending from the St. Croix River in Maine to and including the east side of the Delaware Bay and River. He ignored Plowden and the New Haven group. This grant stemmed from a policy of economic nationalism intended to exclude foreign trade and commerce, and was mainly directed against the Dutch. No products of Asia, Africa, or America could be carried to England, Ireland, or the English colonies except in English, Irish, or colonial ships, and manned mainly by British sailors. This monopoly of colonial trade became a seed of the American Revolution.

The Duke of York as head of the Navy then seized all Dutch territory, only to have the Dutch later retake it in a surprise move. All this makes prime reading in international duplicity, ending in the Treaty of Westminster. William, Prince of Orange, now realized that they could not permanently hold their American territory, and returned the New York and Delaware settlements to England.

The Dutch were like the King of France in the old song, who, "with twenty-thousand men/ Marched up the hill, and then marched down again."

The successful contender for the Delaware territory was Quaker William Penn, who applied for his charter of Pennsylvania while the differences between the Duke of York and Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore, over the Delaware territory were unsettled. In granting land to Penn, Charles II cancelled a debt owed Penn's late father. William Penn, however, also wanted a clear and certain water route to the Atlantic, persistently bargained with the Duke of York, and finally won on August 24, 1662.

Penn inherited a hornet's nest of controversies: Indian troubles, land intrigue, the results of wars, suspicious settlers, the anger of the Calverts, the resentment of the heirs of Plowden, and trouble with the New Haven group. The ruling giving him possession was contested many times, but stood firm. The Delaware territory became the "three lower counties" of Pennsylvania, until the creation of the state of Delaware in 1776.

A little historical postscript to these international complications: in 1773, the great-great-grandson, Francis Plowden, revived the New Albion claim, gathering dust for more than a century. Francis sold a part interest to Charles Varlo, who became "hypothetical governor of a hypothetical colony," to collect back rents. Varlo even visited George Washington at Mount Vernon. Everywhere Varlo was ignored.
These are but the highlights of the book. Read the book for its personalities, glimpses of Indians, attacks, counterattacks, secret plans, spies, changing allegiances, Stuart duplicity, Dutch counter-duplicity, Plowden's misadventures, the Baltimores, the beaver trade, the Northwest passage, and Penn's skillful acquiring of the territory. The most unfortunate pawns in the whole affair were the settlers and the Indians. Read the book; it's a good one.

Pittsburgh

Florence C. McLaughlin


The modern literary public has become accustomed to expect a biography to present a portrait of the subject that at once makes his personality stand out against a background of his time and place. The biographer seeks to find the vital spark that motivates the subject's springs of action. New material, or at least new light upon known evidence, can alone justify the printing of a new book upon an old subject. Written by a former newspaper man, this work is written in matter-of-fact narrative style, almost devoid of figures of speech or other rhetorical devices that can render the account more readable.

There is evidence of rather careless editing, which the publishers should have given attention, as for example: (p. 35) "The corps had not yet been reinforced, and neither munitions were being provided by a harried Continental Congress, that lacking authority over the states, could not fulfill its promises or meet its financial obligations."

Above all, good biography must be founded upon true and authentic history to aspire to accredited standing. We are constrained, in the interest of true history, to call attention to a few of the many factual discrepancies interspersed through the book. (p. 17) Daniel Morgan was yet a captain and prisoner of war in July 1776, and was not commissioned colonel of the 11th Virginia Regiment until November 12, 1776. Also (p. 86), he was not a native of Virginia but of New Jersey; and, if the author refers to General Muhlenberg as one of the "major participants in the quarrel [over Lee's right to command]," he was a native of Pennsylvania, not of Virginia. (p. 34) It was not a sudden thaw, but rather a sudden freeze that providentially enabled Washington, and consequently Lee's cavalry to advance to Princeton.