1729 to 1969 has offered numerous opportunities for new world men to honestly — on that hard-won lesson of the past — infuse into their lives the values of freedom that the appearance of such books as this may be the last hope in this millennium. With the editor of the Pennsylvania Freeman, who somehow got the account from the Picayune some two months after it appeared, the lessons were inescapable. Rebuking the North for its prejudice, that editor called on all "who fear danger in the nation from the presence in it of a colored population to read it and ponder" (the Picayune account of the New Orleans celebration). He went on to suggest that his readers could quickly realize how colored freemen acted when fully protected by law and in possession of their rights as Americans. He reminded the North that free Negroes were also devoted to the safety and welfare of their country in spite of the injustices they had received. Instead of this being publicized as in New Orleans, he charged, it was concealed in the false and malicious statements against the injured race.

This was on March 10, 1851!

But one thing needs to be added: that this book projects some of the concealments for our further examination. That its service becomes thus multifaceted is patent. For those who must go farther, a reading of Mr. McConnell’s sources is mandatory.

Our days of agonizing reappraisal are upon us. History concealed, attitudes sedulously cultivated at cross purposes with the national purposes, social chasms artificially nurtured, all belong in the pantheon of a dead past whose examination should be for lesson-learning only.

Pittsburgh

WALTER WORTHINGTON


A. L. Rowse, a leading authority on the Elizabethan age and famous Elizabethans, has given us a much-needed book about a small but highly important segment of our national background, The Cousin Jacks; the Cornish in America. Cornishmen have always been practical; their genius for mining and mining engineering reached its highest point in the nineteenth century. Cornishman A. L. Rowse is the articulate spokesman for their uniqueness. They were proudly aware of it, and he, with care, research and love, has expressed it.
Wherever there are mines in the world, the Cornish can be found, especially in the United States, South Africa, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The name for the individual Cornishman, Cousin Jack, came about in this manner: Whenever there was a mining problem, a new tool needed or an old one to be modified, a Cornishman would speak up, “I have a Cousin Jack back home who can do it.” The women soon were known as “Cousin Jennies.”

Cornish names, Chenoweth, Trelawny, Penrose, Grenchen, Penhallow, Trevillick, Vivian, Trevithian, Bolitho, Polglese are pure honey on the tongue. But since many in America have English names such as Johns, Thomas, Williams, or Matthews, A. L. Rowse found Cornish Americans difficult to tabulate from city to city. Name backgrounds, given in detail in the appendix of his book, are interesting. Richards or Rickards means “Richard’s child”; Pearce or Piers, “Peter’s child”; Hooper and Parsons are occupational names; Benetto, Kitt, are “children of Bennett or Kitt”; Jago is “son of James”; Angwin is “fair man”; Couch is “red face or red head”; Boscawen, “dwelling by the elder tree.” Whatever their names, they have brought their Cornish turns of speech, their folklore, their Methodism, their love of brass bands, “their bits of china,” their saffron buns, and above all, their proud, touchy individualism.

There were Cornish in the short-lived Roanoke colony, organized by Sir Walter Raleigh, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, and headed by Sir Richard Grenville. There were Roscarrocks, Arundells at Jamestown, and all through later Virginia settlements. Sir Ferdinando Gorges was governor of Plymouth at one time, and later founder of Maine. Hugh Peter founded Marblehead, Massachusetts, established the fishing and shipbuilding industries of New England and trade with the West Indies, and “begged all over England for Harvard.”

Many Cornish were Quakers, coming to New Jersey and in great numbers to early Pennsylvania, making a unique contribution to Pennsylvania. For instance, the Rawles, lawyers for generations; the Grubbs, who were ironmasters, their mines for years dependable ore producers before those of Lake Superior.

There were the famous Penroses, first Pennsylvania shipbuilders, who left the industry in 1845; in their employ were Fox and Humphreys, who designed the first ships for the United States Navy, the Constitution, the Chesapeake, among them. Boies Penrose once had absolute control of Pennsylvania politics, while Spencer and Richard Penrose made huge fortunes in western mining.

In the South, the Cornish element was comparatively small;
probably geography, climate and slavery were unpleasing. Outstanding among them was Henry Stuart Foote, foe of Jefferson Davis and all seceders. He was briefly imprisoned by the Confederacy, moved to the Union side, and finding himself not entirely comfortable in the North, eventually went to Europe for the duration of the war. Attorney Nicholls of a famous Louisiana family was a Confederate general crippled in the war, who resumed his law practice after the war. "All that (was) left of General Nicholls, one-armed, one-legged, stumped the state" against carpetbaggers and corruption, twice to become post-war governor. He finished thirty-five years of service to Louisiana as chief justice of the state.

The West first received its Cornish after the American Revolution. St. Louis is proud of a descendant of one of these, the great American botanist, William Trelease. (Even the Cornish have a "bad one" once in a while, and the West after the Civil War had the infamous Quantrill.)

During the hungry '40's in Cornwall, men came over here in masses. In April 1847, A. L. Rowe states, over seven hundred left Camborne for Australia and America; two years later at Truro, the agent processed over six hundred for emigration in a fortnight. In 1849, 1690 left Plymouth for Australia in three months, over 1,000 left for Quebec in a single week. In California there were 5,000 Cornish working in 1849. They sent home money for their families and brought them over as soon as possible; by 1869, they were sending 18,000 pounds yearly to Cornwall.

In the 1860's when copper mining in West Cornwall gave out, thousands of miners came to Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The consistent dream of miners in the West and Midwest was to save enough for farms, businesses, gristmills, fruit and vegetable ranches, and the like.

The Cornish in the early West were proud of Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian who founded the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, with a centennial membership of 1,350,000. Cornish Bob Fitzsimmons was a world's champion boxer, defeating Jim Jeffreys.

Cornish predominated in the gold, silver and copper mines of Montana, Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada. In the Big Bonanza mine of Nevada alone, was the "richest strike of silver in the century . . . . Altogether the output of the Comstock mines was $350 million, of which fifty-five per cent was in silver, and forty-five per cent in gold."

Colorado had the services of the famous Cornish professors Paul
and Pearce, the latter making the first discovery of pitchblende or uranium oxide on the American continent. "Many years later, shortly after Pearce's eighty-eighth birthday, T. A. Rickard, a Cornish metallurgist in the West found that Pearce kept a lump of this very mineral in water in a glass jug and that he drank the radio-active water twice each day . . . . Was that why the dear man lived to within a month of his ninetieth birthday?" It was said of Pearce that no project ever went wrong for him.

Today many of the Cornish mining towns — even many of the famous mines — are ghost places. But a few Cornish still come to America in the twentieth century. Comments A. L. Rowse, "Conditions tended to approximate in the two countries and the welfare state meant less incentive to emigrate, indeed less initiative all around." The descendants of early Cornish emigrants today are to be found in teaching and other professions, in insurance, in the auto industry, in all modern business. They went all over the United States. With the old ones a portion of the romance of the Old West disappeared, and a large portion of rugged individualism — into a sea of social security numbers, credit card numbers, zip codes and all the rest, that would make the old Cornish very unhappy.

Pittsburgh

Florence C. McLaughlin


These two books are the fourth and fifth in a series of ten monographs published by the Philip Freneau Press that deal with various battles, events and map makers of the American Revolution. Earlier volumes dealt with the battles of Trenton and Monmouth and discussed American cartographers and maps of the War for Independence. The volume on map makers received an excellent review in the William and Mary Quarterly, the leading periodical dealing with early American History. Both of the new books are lavishly illustrated and contain superb maps that enable the reader to follow the narrative accounts of the complex and sometimes confusing Princeton campaign and the harrowing experiences of the Continental Army at Valley