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
Forge. *The Battle of Princeton* is weakened by the absence of an index and by a peculiar method of citation but both these editorial deficiencies have been corrected in *Valley Forge*.

Smith's *Princeton* gives a solid, clear, concise narrative of the complex decisions and maneuvers during the last week of December 1776 and the first week of January 1777 that resulted in a second engagement at Trenton, the battle at Princeton, and Washington's eventual encampment at Morristown, New Jersey. I would question Smith's assumption that Washington had planned his movement to Princeton before the skirmish at Trenton on 2 January 1777. Despite his evidence it still seems that the decision to march to Princeton instead of retreating southward or across the Delaware was not reached until the night of January second and need not have been suggested by Washington. Smith's evidence showing the presence of a large number of Pennsylvanians at the battle indicates, that at least by early 1777, the war may have become relatively popular in the Commonwealth.

The *Valley Forge* volume contains an excellent description of the topography of the Continental encampment of the winter of 1778 and gives a clear and concise account of the medical, disciplinary, political, commissariat, and other problems that confronted Washington and his army during this critical winter. Reed also gives an excellent review of La Fayette's action at Barren Hill and describes the British retreat from Philadelphia. The book, however, fails to place *Valley Forge* in a broader military or political perspective. Reed gives some attention to politics but really neglects to consider the almost insurmountable problems confronting both the Congress and the Pennsylvania legislature during the winter. He also sheds little new light on the shadowy and still misunderstood machinations involved in the so-called "Conway Cabal." I also disagree with his conclusion that the army encamped in the midst of a "desolate" area. This was true of the immediate surroundings but the bread basket of the colonies was located only a few miles to the west and south. A competent commissariat and some loyalty from the eastern Pennsylvania farmers would have made the army's ordeal much easier.

Both books are essentially narrative military history. They thus fail to give much attention to broader strategic, political or economic problems. But within this limitation they are clear and concise descriptions of Princeton and Valley Forge and should be purchased by readers interested in the military history of the American Revolution.