being indeed a keystone of the greatness of our nation. American history is Pennsylvania. The strength of character and skill and courage to build is in Pennsylvania, still. *The Pennsylvania Sampler* is only a representative stitching of the design.

And, although in substance it is easy and pleasant reading, as a "sampler" for the Commonwealth which was the home of the master printer, Benjamin Franklin, the book deserves a more distinguished format.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
AGNES L. STARRETT

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Professor Rice's account of the exploration and settlement of what was to become West Virginia is regional history at its best. His scholarship is obvious but not obtrusive. While Dr. Rice is clearly fond of "his" region and its people (at least most of them), he avoids both defensiveness and special pleading. He can also write.

There are two rather distinct parts to his book. The first six chapters are devoted largely to what might be called, for want of a better term, "straight history." They provide an essentially chronological account of exploration, Indian massacres, political intrigues, military campaigns and land speculations. While the specialist will find little new in these chapters, the general reader will be grateful for an interesting and well-organized treatment of a very complex period.

If the first six chapters are good, the last nine are more than good. Dr. Rice's ability as a social historian becomes obvious in his treatment of folkways, education, medical care and religious life on the Allegheny frontier. The author has done far more than compile a series of quaint anecdotes — a task so easy and entertaining that all too many regional historians stop there. Consider, for example, the first paragraph in his chapter on medical care:

The common belief that the wilderness was conquered by men and women of unusual physical strength and robust health is without solid foundation. Instead, the difficulties which lay across the path of civilization were overcome by pioneers whose physical vigor was sapped by privation, disease, exposure, and debilitating seasonal ailments. Such an accomplishment by no means diminishes — rather it enhances — the heroism of the conquerors.
One of the major contributions of *The Allegheny Frontier* is the light it sheds on many of the basic problems which still plague the area. Perhaps the most important of these can be traced to the fact that much of the most valuable land soon fell “not into the hands of the pioneers who had shed their blood and spent their treasure in gaining it but into the clutches of speculators, many of whom never set foot in the mountains.” This goes far to explain the melancholy paradox that while West Virginia has produced billions of dollars worth of timber and coal, its people still have one of the lowest per capita incomes in the nation.

Dr. Rice has provided a comprehensive bibliography and an excellent index. The University Press of Kentucky should be congratulated in recognizing that a superior manuscript merits superior design. On all counts, this is a book well worth owning.

*West Virginia University*

*Morgantown*

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This book tells a two-fold story: first, of the small group of Irish Quakers who came to colonial Pennsylvania, and second, of the sect itself, its leaders, its zealous missionaries, its aspirations, its persecutions, and its reasons for coming to the New World. The 1969 edition is a reprint of the original issue of 1902, making available to a new group of readers the careful scholarship of Albert Cook Myers. Genealogists will be interested in the many letters and certificates of removal from Ireland, minutes of Quaker meetings in Ireland and Pennsylvania, wills, inventories, marriage records, and lists of children.

Amid accounts of war and religious persecution are sketches of leading Quakers, for instance, of George Fox, who founded the Society of Friends. There is the story of William Penn’s conversion in Ireland, and of William Edmundson, founder of the Society in Ireland, and once one of Cromwell’s soldiers. Anne Gould and Julianna Wastwood slosh through the winter mud of Ireland, and wade rivers to preach the story of the Inner Light. James Logan, vitally important through official government positions and through being William Penn’s secretary and business manager, receives an entire chapter. The sufferings of missionaries and Irish Quakers are narrated.