cart, a windmill, a perfect currant wine, a flower garden, a cotton factory. At seventy, he had to plan a future for his four youngest children.

As time passed, Peale worried over the Museum's increasing emphasis on entertainment under his sons' management. He solved the problem by spending his last ten years at the Museum, reluctantly selling "Belfield" in 1826.

The old man never attained his hoped-for one hundred twenty-four years, dying from exposure to cold and complete exhaustion at the age of 86. Philadelphia's silver-haired, quick-stepping, pink-cheeked old man with the silver ear trumpet, passed from the scene, honored by a funeral procession blocks long.

This biography is more than the story of a man. It is at once the story of an era, and of a man's interrelations with his talented family. The author, Charles Coleman Sellers, a descendant of Charles Willson Peale, inherited the artist's papers, and it is apparent that he researched widely in the period. The book is filled with excellent reproductions of Peale's paintings.

*Pittsburgh*  

**Florence C. McLaughlin**


Was the American Revolution a revolution? Moreover, was it a social revolution? In each generation historians have delivered a verdict from the nineteenth century Whig historians such as George Bancroft who portrayed the revolution as a step in the inexorable triumph of democracy, to Charles Beard and J. Franklin Jameson in the "Progressive Era" who pictured colonial populists triumphing over a mercantile aristocracy, and finally to contemporary historians Edmund Morgan, Daniel Boorstin, and Robert Brown who view the events of 1776 in terms of a "middle class democracy-consensus" theme.

British historian J. R. Pole, author of *Political Representation in England and the Origins of the American Republic* (New York, 1966), has edited a volume of almost 600 pages of documents, *The Revolution in America*, which purports, rather pretentiously, to excise the historiographical cataract befogging our vision and lay bare the unencumbered record of the American Revolution. This piece of his-
torical surgery is a volume in the series "History in Depth" edited by Gwyn A. Williams, which undertakes to expose the "texture of the past" by probing important historical problems.

Pole's documents, which include extracts from the Journal of the Continental Congress, Max Farrand's Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, A. J. Dallas' Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Diary of John Adams, as well as an excerpt from David Ramsay's 1790 History of the American Revolution, deal with the internal development of America in the revolutionary era, and, according to Pole, illuminate the classic issue: was the struggle against Britain also a struggle to determine who was to rule at home? Not only are the documents Pole introduces exhaustive, but they are carefully ordered in five divisions: "The Problem of Continental Government," which includes a lengthy section on public finance; "Congressional and State Economic Policies"; "Public Lands"; "State Constitution-Making"; and finally "America After the Revolution." Despite Pole's neat presentation of a broad spectrum of official and private evidence unraveling the fabric of eighteenth century American history from the Albany Plan of Union in 1754 to the Federal Convention in 1787 the question of a "social revolution" still remains open for future historical debate.

The documents, as Pole would have us read them, unfold an internal history where lofty ideals are tempered in the fires of political and economic reality. Accordingly, the patriot orators declared the American colonies free and independent; and then began the awesome, arduous task of financing a grueling war, commanding the support of disparate states, establishing and maintaining a currency, promoting commerce, and most important, instilling credibility in the nation.

From the outset a torrent of problems beset the infant nation. Inflation and speculation tumbled the young government's finances into an economic abyss. One letter written by James Lovell in 1781 described "Sailors with clubs . . . 'parading' the streets instead of working for Paper." Nor, as evinced in numerous extracts from the Journal of the Continental Congress, could Congress muster the support of the fiercely independent states. Unable to tax the states for either military manpower or provisions George Washington's undermanned, bedraggled, Continental Army languished, scarcely inspiring confidence in the new America. Yet, in the midst of these brutal gestations of nation-founding, the documents disclose a harried patriot leadership hammering out a practical form of government which com-
ported in spirit with the ideals of republicanism.

Pole's thesis subsumes that the actors evoked in these laws, letters, and journals moved in an age of mercantilism, and, in fact, while the Revolution was fought in large measure to unshackle the colonies from British mercantile restraints, it freed America to pursue her own mercantile course to wealth and power. Unquestionably, the colonists feared the growth of "monied interests"; powerful business figures such as Robert Morris, the financier of the Continental Congress, were vilified as a threat to liberty and "The principal engine of intrigue." Yet, the actions of state and Continental legislatures encouraging price controls, taxes, and regulations against speculation, all looked toward stable government and aimed to foster a healthy climate for the pursuit of private enterprise. What is equally significant, such examples as Samuel Osgood's letter expressing fear of "aristocratical influence," John Adams' *Thoughts on Government*, Melanchton Smith's comments on the "natural elite," and the position of the *Essex Result* on property and representation impress us not only with the young republic's obsessive fear of cabals and latent tyranny, but also with its abiding commitment to a patrician-ordered society where men of wealth and talent and property were owed deference.

Despite the announced pretensions, it is questionable that these documents add any fresh insights into our understanding of the period. Both Carl Bridenbaugh and Frederick Tolles, among others, have described eighteenth century America as a "deferential society"—while colonists feared that the proliferation of British placemen between 1763 and 1775 threatened America with a British-styled peerage, the colonists still believed in an informal social hierarchy.

The Revolution did not alter the deferential society; it did, however, as Bernard Bailyn has so eloquently pointed out, confirm the informal nation which had been metamorphosing since the seventeenth century. Bailyn sees ideas of liberty, "rights," politics, and representation, many borrowed from classical antiquity, religious sectarianism, the Enlightenment, or seventeenth century English thinkers, transformed in the unsullied climate of America into a justification for independence from Britain's "conspiracy ridden," "corrupt" monarchy. In the hands of the Adamses, Paines, Mayhews and Dickinsons the treatises of John Locke, and the writings of John Trenchard, Thomas Gordon, and John Milton became the ideological cement for the foundation of a new Republic.

*The Revolution in America* affords the reader an intensive look
at the internal turmoil attending the birth of the American nation. However, before one partakes of these undigested morsels of revolutionary writings, he should be cautioned to bathe first in its historiography.

California State College  
California, Pennsylvania  

John F. Bauman


George R. Stewart is now a Berkeley Fellow of the University of California where he taught for many years. He has authored many books on historical subjects, including Names on the Land, which inspired him to compile this concise dictionary for those persons interested in America's past, geography, or folklore.

Actual entry headings in the dictionary are about 12,000. However, the style of presentation chosen by Dr. Stewart permits these 12,000 names to represent at least 36,000 places. He has omitted names obviously derived from ownership, such as Jones' Mill or Harper's Ferry. In the preface Dr. Stewart explains at length his criterion for admitting a name to his dictionary. The introduction instructs on the usage of this unique type of dictionary. Such information as whether a name developed through linguistic transfer, geographical features, folk sources, humorous reasons, railroad companies, industrial usage, personal identification, Indian sources, nature, or a combination of any of the above is imparted for each name when it is known — or the degree of probability is listed. Dr. Stewart says, "A man can have but one father, but a name can have two or more." In essence his dictionary pinpoints paternity.

There is another use for American Place Names not taken into account by Dr. Stewart in his explanatory sections that occurs to your reviewer. Those of us who are captivated by a Webster's or a Funk & Wagnall will be equally enthralled by this latest addition to dictionarydom. Your reviewer would like to share with you just two of the many fascinating entries found:

JIM JAM RIDGE CA  The term was commonly used for delirium tremens or the alcoholic jitters, and the name originated from an incident of the 1890's