The emphasis of the book is on the design and operation of a mill rather than the history of mills per se. In fact, specific mills are used only as illustrations for this history of technology, although at times the authors do convey marvelous images of the plenitude of mills that existed at one time in the United States, especially on Long Island in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The discussion of the mill at Philipsburg Manor is not altogether relevant to the history of this technology, but it does serve as a useful example of one particular kind of mill, a water-powered gristmill. Built circa 1684, it was subsequently destroyed as the vitality of the Philips family was sapped in its third generation. Because Frederick Philips III, the third generation of the family, was a loyalist, he fled to England after the American Revolution, and the new government expropriated the lands acquired by his grandfather and sold them off in small plots. Ultimately the mill area property was acquired through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and ownership passed into the hands of Sleepy Hollow Restorations. Today, the mill, based on archeological evidence, has been entirely reconstructed and is now operating for the public to see.

For Western Pennsylvanians mills have a great interest. We are all familiar with the restoration of McConnells Mill by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and we will soon be treated to restoration of one of the last large gristmills locally, that which is at Jennerstown. It is now being moved to the Somerset Historical Society complex for reconstruction there.

Handsomely illustrated, handsomely printed, here we have a clear-cut guide to the evolution and operations of nature-powered gristmills.


This handsome volume is the eighth edition of Colonel James Smith's complete journal. It was originally published in 1799 by John
Bradford in Lexington, Kentucky. Over the last century and a half portions of the narrative have been reprinted, in addition to the six earlier reprints of the complete journal. This book contains William M. Darlington's annotations from the 1870 edition, although in a few instances these annotations have been abridged. Further annotations, which add to the clarity of the volume, have been contributed by John J. Barsotti of the Ohio Historical Society.

Born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1737, Smith was captured by two Delawares and a Canasatauga Indian near Bedford, Pennsylvania, in 1755. The young frontiersman was held captive until his escape in 1759. He returned to Western Pennsylvania in 1760, where he later married, raised a family, and became a genuine, if somewhat controversial, leader. By the time of his death in 1812, Smith was a recognized authority on Indian life.

Because Smith believed that "nature always outshines art," his original 1799 punctuation, capitalization, and spelling have been retained in this volume. This decision does not detract from the journal. The competent annotations added by Darlington and Barsotti more than compensate for any of Smith's omissions.

Smith spent his captivity in the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes region. Once he gained the confidence of his Indian captors, he was allowed a remarkable measure of freedom. Adopted into the tribe, Smith adapted well to the Indian life style. Rather than criticize the Indian mode of living, Smith tried to learn as much as possible about the Indians he met and the area where they resided. He was able to meet the Indians on their own terms and did not ask for any special consideration. His journal records what he saw in a style that is both imaginative and informative. He exhibited some of the misconceptions which were common at the time, but he has left us with a commendable work. The reader is entertained by his observations of the relative value of the land in different areas in the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes region. What is more commendable is that many of these observations were made during periods of great personal anxiety.

However, Smith accepted his situation and did not show any overt hostility toward his captors while he was an adopted member of the tribe. But Smith never forgot his white heritage. Initially upon his return to the white settlements of Western Pennsylvania, there were those who feared that he was a renegade. However, Smith soon proved that he was loyal to the whites. He never underestimated the Indians or believed them to be inherently inferior to the whites. This
trait made him a valuable addition to the white settlers when they met the challenges of the frontier in Western Pennsylvania during the last decades of the eighteenth century.

Barsotti and Darlington have preserved the style of Smith in this sturdy book, yet their combined annotations have made the journal much more valuable to the twentieth-century reader. The Ohio Historical Society is to be commended for undertaking this editorial task and for making this inexpensive book available to the reader. Scholars and those interested in the history of the trans-Appalachian frontier who have not acquired earlier, more expensive editions will want to add this book to their collections.

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Robert E. Smith


This book is a welcome addition to the growing number of works devoted to the study of American ideology and its influence on the actions of the Revolutionary generation. By tracing the public career of Thomas McKeans, Rowe "seeks to explore McKeans's impact on American republican ideals and practices between 1750 and 1815, and how, in turn, McKeans was shaped by republican values and assumptions" (p. xiii). Republicanism, a political philosophy based on the concept that man cannot resist the temptations of political or economic power, advocated that governmental power be limited; that checks and balances be placed on its exercise; and that those employing it be constantly watched by a virtuous citizenry. In McKeans, quondam Delawarean and Pennsylvanian, the author has an ideal subject who was prominent in state and national affairs: for Delaware, an assemblyman, member of the Stamp Act Congress, of her constitutional convention (1776), and of the Continental Congress for eight years, signer of the Declaration of Independence and of the Articles of Confederation, and president of the state (1777) and of the Continental Congress (1781); for Pennsylvania, the president of the Provincial Conference (1776), advocate of the ratification of the Constitution of 1776, a writer of the Constitution of 1790, her first