

71). He was too often a poor judge of character. Increased influence with James II, succeeding in 1685, brought considerable harassment and temporary loss of his province after the Revolution of 1688 drove that king into exile and placed his acquaintance under suspicion of disloyalty to the new regime. Penn's private life was saddened by family loss, and his carelessness in signing papers drawn up by his steward Philip Ford brought financial exigency. The colonists were loath to help him, to undertake expected responsibility for defense, or to obey navigation laws as Westminster demanded. The long-postponed visit of 1699 was marred by controversy; on his departure in 1701 Penn felt obliged to sign a new Charter abrogating most of the innovations earlier planned, though retaining those proprietary privileges which continued to alienate the province until 1776. In his final years he failed to sell Pennsylvania to the government, and incurred debts from whose worst consequences only the generosity of Quaker and high-born friends rescued him. Increasing ill health rendered Penn's last six years inactive.

Trussell is judicious and has produced a valuable study that should be widely distributed and read. Perhaps, in reprinting, the last recommendation for further reading (p. 72) should be omitted because of its frequent inaccuracy.

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Fort Burd: Redstone's Historic Frontier Fort. By RICHARD A. SELLS. (Annandale, Virginia: Charles Baptie Studios, 1981. Pp. vi, 50. Table of contents, acknowledgments, preface, bibliography, illustrations, maps. \$3.25.)

Local histories are always welcome with history buffs and are usually of some interest to serious history students as well. This little book should be no exception. As the title implies, the book deals with the establishment of Fort Burd at present-day Brownsville, on the Monongahela River. Richard Sells deals with Colonel James Burd's expedition in 1759 to Redstone, the construction of a fort overlooking the easternmost bend in the Monongahela, its tenure as a frontier outpost and trading post, and the role it played in the tensions between the local Indians and white squatters who had illegally crossed the Proclamation Line of 1763. Also included are a discussion of possible locations of the fort, which had disappeared by 1800, and a description of the structure.

This information, however, makes up only half the text. Sells spends the first fifteen pages retelling the story of the Anglo-French conflict in Western Pennsylvania. While this may be of interest to a reader unfamiliar with Western Pennsylvania history, it will probably be a little hackneyed to others. The concluding chapter deals with the development and growth of Brownsville in the early nineteenth century.

Although this book adds some interesting details to the history of the Monongahela Valley, there are some problems which detract from its appeal. It is written in a simple style, which makes for light, easy reading, but this simplicity sometimes borders on the juvenile. The information is badly organized in places and the sentence structuring is sometimes awkward. Sells's habit of saying "down" the Monongahela when referring to movement upstream is particularly annoying. Two eighteenth-century maps are included, but modern maps of Brownsville and southwestern Pennsylvania are badly needed. The most detracting factor is the lack of footnotes. This, more than anything else, keeps the book from being ranked as a scholarly work. This omission can be frustrating. For example, on page 14 Sells tells us that General Braddock was buried in an *unmarked* grave in the wilderness road following his death on the retreat from Turtle Creek. This is common knowledge to those familiar with the history of Western Pennsylvania. However, on page 18 he tells us that when Colonel Burd used the road three years later on his way to Redstone he noted that the grave "was located about twenty yards from a little hollow in which there was a small stream with a bridge." This indicates that the grave was *marked*. A note giving the source of this conflicting piece of information would have been greatly appreciated. Of the thirty sources listed in the bibliography all but three are secondary. Footnotes would tell us how much of the information on Fort Burd Sells found in the three primary sources and how much was found by scouring other histories.

Sells has added some interesting information to the history of the Brownsville area and on the whole has written a nice little book. Its style makes it most appropriate for young readers. If this book, however, is taken at its face value, that is, as a piece of light, popular history, it can be enjoyed by anyone interested in colonial Western Pennsylvania.