ties would have resulted if there had been more uniformity. Moreover, such organization would have facilitated comparative analyses.

An additional comment about style is in order. The chapter headings appear to be appropriate but what constitutes a chapter is questionable. Several chapters are almost microscopic. A line drawing and twenty-three lines of text comprise Chapter 9, “The Elk County Jail.”

A notable feature is printing style as related to reading ease. The pages are large. A semibold sans-serif type face is used. Also, the leading (approximately 2) and the picas per line (20) are in accordance with the research reports on readability. Illustrative materials total almost four hundred items — maps, photographic reproductions, line drawings, and tables.

The flaws are really minor in nature. A History of Elk County is a notable contribution to the annals of Pennsylvania county history that should be read by all interested in that part of the state.

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_The Three Rivers_. By WALTER C. KIDNEY. (Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 1982. Pp. iv, 76. Picture credits, reading list, acknowledgments. $7.95, paper.)

This is a beautifully illustrated and charmingly written book, not so much a history as an appreciation of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers, principally portions of them in or near Pittsburgh.

The 130 illustrations include 34 in color, all good and some of remarkably fine quality. The remainder are a well-chosen selection of new and old photographs, maps, and drawings.

The text of the book is for the most part unusually well written and interesting — at times almost poetry. Who could more delightfully describe the duties of the engineer on a steam towboat of the second quarter of this century? “If the ship-up gong rang once while the engines were stopped, he prepared to reverse: pulled the gear that pulled the chain that rotated the drum that pulled the chains that raised the levers that controlled the poppet valves; pulled the lever that raised or lowered the ship-up jack that held the spider that engaged and disengaged the rocker pins that controlled the wipers;
dropped the poppet-valve levers back on the wipers; and obeyed the following bell for steam" (p. 27). Only an expert could figure out what it means, but it is utterly charming. The reader may also wonder at the choice of materials and the amount of space given to various ones.

Unfortunately, the book contains numerous factual errors. To mention only a few: Fort Machault was built in 1755, not 1753 (p. 10); William Pitt was never prime minister of England (p. 10); Fort Duquesne was not built "directly at the Point" (p. 11) but at least one hundred yards up the Allegheny; there is no authentic evidence that Mike Fink was an Indian fighter with Anthony Wayne (p. 19) or that he left the rivers during the War of 1812 (p. 19) or at any time before his death; and George Fitch (1877-1915) was not "a Victorian expert on the Western River boat" (p. 23). He was an early twentieth-century newspaperman and humorist. Such regrettable mistakes could have been avoided by better research and editing.

Pittsburgh

George Swetnam


A few years ago the Garland Publishing company initiated the publication of its Modern American History series under the general editorship of Frank Freidel. In an effort to disseminate its volumes as quickly and as broadly as possible, the company did not contract for new titles and syntheses but merely produced facsimile editions of completed dissertations (some over twenty years old), placed the copies between hard covers, and exacted rather stiff prices for its new product. Many scholars would insist that dissertations are different in kind from books; therefore, to publish an unrevised dissertation in book form, particularly one which is more than two decades old, is to mislead the reader or buyer.

Some of these dissertations have been revised and expanded. However, this volume differs from the original only in that there is an index along with a seven-page foreword (neither is included in the table of contents) which offers a summary of journal articles and dissertations published since Keller, a professor of history at Millers-