Selected Papers from the 1983 and 1984 George Rogers Clark Trans-Appalachian Frontier History Conferences. Edited by Robert J. Holden. (Vincennes, Ind.: Eastern National Park and Monument Association, for the National Park Service and Vincennes University, 1985. Pp. ix, 145. Illustrations, maps, notes, references. Paperbound, $4.95, plus $1.00 postage.)

This is the first collection of papers from the annual conferences held at Vincennes. Six of the eight brief papers in this book emphasize military and diplomatic affairs—not surprising since the Vincennes area was the scene of prolonged three-way struggles between settlers, European powers, and Indians. The authors address topics relevant to the emerging canons of the "new" military history; thus they only indirectly concern themselves with actual fighting.

In a suggestive lead article, Linda Carlson Sharp of the Indiana Historical Society Library surveys some of the contemporary maps and descriptions used by rival powers before the Revolutionary War to advance contending claims to North America; an area they viewed as one with vast potential but also as a drain on the limited resources of the mother countries.

D. R. Farrell of the University of Guelph supports Sharp's conclusions. In his essay analyzing the British war effort in the West during the Revolution, he notes that "Imperial resources were strained virtually to the breaking point" (p. 21). Use of Indian allies was not only morally troubling but supplying them was a burden unjustified by the meager military results they produced.

In a review of the causes of St. Clair's defeat by a federation of Northwest tribes in 1791, Patrick J. Furlong of Indiana University, South Bend, evaluates the role of failures in bringing about St. Clair's disaster. Although the logistical failures were serious, he concludes that they were not the main factor in the outcome of the campaign.

Military architecture, that is, the construction of frontier fortifications, is examined by David A. Simmons of the Ohio Historical Society. He concludes that the wide variations found in the design of frontier defenses were the result of the knowledge and experience of individual military engineers along with cost factors, availability of materials, time constraints, and the nature of the enemy.

Contributions by William Collins and Willian L. Potter are more narrowly focused. Collins, a professor at Purdue University, reexamines the purpose and significance of the Spanish at-

tack on Fort St. Joseph in 1781. Potter's essay concerns the actions of widely dispersed elements of the King's (or Eighth British) Regiment that manned western posts during the Revolution. His essay is written with verve but is marred by disconcerting colloquialisms, poor footnote form, and awkward syntax.

The last two articles depart from military themes. Richard Day provides an engaging account of Michel Brouillet, fur trader, militia officer, interpreter, and scout for territorial governor William Henry Harrison. An interesting individual on his own account, Brouillet was builder and resident of a French style house discovered and restored in Vincennes of which Day is curator. Robert M. McCluggage of Loyola University of Chicago analyzes pioneer stereotypes. He suggests that a less "culture bound" assessment of frontier society is in order.

These essays and the extensive documentation that accompanies each of them testify to the wealth of materials available for reevaluating this critical area during the emergence of the new nation.

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Tecumseh's Last Stand. By John Sugden. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. Pp. xiii, 298. Illustrations, maps, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. $19.95.)

In a detailed study of the British-Indian retreat from Detroit and Malden during the War of 1812, John Sugden, a British historian, evaluates strategies and examines myths that have baffled scholars since Tecumseh fell in the encounter near Moraviantown in Upper Canada on October 5, 1813. Major General Henry Procter, who commanded the British-Indian armies, fled in haste after the encounter, leaving his baggage in hands that soon put his more revealing correspondence into American newspapers. Accounts of this first American overwater foreign invasion have sometimes "fallen prey," as Sugden says, to "indifferent primary sources that bear upon the Indians, many of which are weltered in conjecture" (p. x). Sugden has diligently searched British, Canadian, and American archives to end speculation.

Even with "430 large manuscript pages" of Procter's court martial and the captured records in his baggage, to say nothing of the self-serving reminiscences of platoons of veterans in both armies, a definitive account remains elusive. The frailties and whimsies of human perception, especially under the stress and in the chaos of battle, deny even the most determined researcher