REVIEWS AND NOTES

Indiana Historical Collections, XV, Fort Wayne Gateway of the West 1802-1813. Edited by BERT J. GRISWOLD. Historical Bureau, Indianapolis, 1927. Pp. xii-690.


A historical introduction of 83 pages on the early history of Fort Wayne is done in Mr. Griswold’s usual careful way. The notes are apparently accurate and in good form and taste. The volume is a valuable addition to our small amount of documentary history. The untimely death of the editor is a misfortune. He was one of the few local historians who were doing worthwhile work. His History of Fort Wayne is among the first class examples of local history done in the United States.

Florida Plantation Records (from the papers of George Noble Jones). Edited by ULRICH BONNELL PHILLIPS, Professor of American History in the University of Michigan, and JAMES DAVID GLUNT, A. M., Instructor in History in the University of Florida. St. Louis, The Missouri Historical Society, 1927, pp. 596.

This large, handsomely bound well printed volume presents a great variety of documentary matter pertaining to two Florida plantations, El Destino and Chemonie. These plantations were located in middle Florida, a few miles east of Tallahassee, and were managed by overseers. Journals kept by these overseers and reports made by them to their
masters constitute the greater part of the volume. There are in addition a few letters, lists of slaves, and various other documents.

An “Introduction” of forty-two pages is contributed by Professor Phillips. In addition to matter pertaining to the owners, overseers, slaves, and other factors directly connected with the plantations mentioned above, there is a brief, bibliographical discussion of plantation records in general. This will prove very helpful to students of southern history. Mr. Glunt presents an interesting account of a visit to the two old estates, which he made in 1925.

The documentary material published in this volume is, as Professor Phillips states (p. 42), principally valuable “in its illustration of administrative problems, and particularly of the workaday routine” of the plantation system. Little that is romantic or dramatic is revealed by this collection of records, mainly because the material here presented has to do with plantations that were in the hands of overseers. Of all the features of the life of the old South, nothing was more prosaic than a plantation, with the planter and his family living elsewhere. There was not much beside dry detail that could go into the reports and journals of overseers. Valuable as such records are, they do not mean that the ante-bellum South was lacking in romance and color.

W. O. Lynch


This is a popular and condensed story of Clark’s activities in the Northwest. The story opens with the advent of the hero beyond the Blue Ridge in 1772 and closes with the death February 13, 1818, near Louisville. The author has followed the documents faithfully enough. Here and there fancy has led him slightly from the path direct. The grand ball July 4, 1778, at Kaskaskia, the peril of Saunders, the “Honors of war” surrender of Helm and the love story at the close all hang by tenuous threads. But these are minor details and perhaps make the meal more tempting to the popular taste.