

Of William Conner, we are told that he was "a large man, straight as an arrow, with a homely sense of humor and justice; wholly self-educated; of kindly disposition; generous to his friends and to strangers; implacable to his few enemies—an Indian characteristic; held in popular esteem; modest, seldom spoke of his life's adventures, committed nothing to paper." He lived forty-seven years with the Indians, and was not detached from that life until 1820.

The volume contains a map of early Indianapolis, with a "Key", indicating public and private buildings. There is a good index and a bibliography that is extensive, if not exhaustive. The author, like a careful student, cites the authorities for his statements, and many of them are authorities that are original and rare. These citations and notes are not in footnotes but are in the "appendix," and, in many cases, they contain very interesting reading—as interesting as that in the body of the text itself. This is saying a good deal, as the volume is written in clear, concise, readable English, with a narrative of continuous interest. The whole book with its inviting topics will prove especially attractive to all who have any interest in the frontier life of early Indiana. The volume is a credit not only to its author but to the Indiana Historical Society which has many valuable publications on its list. For this, its latest production, and one of its best, we owe Mr. Thompson a debt of gratitude.

JAMES ALBERT WOODBURN.

---

*Oliver Pollock: The Life and Times of an Unknown Patriot.*

By James Alton James. D. Appleton-Century Company, New York, 1937. Pp. 376, illustrated, \$4.00.

Though the life of *Oliver Pollock* has come from the press not long after the retirement of Dean James from active teaching in Northwestern University, it can hardly be called a fruit of his retirement. He has been collecting material and writing about Pollock for many years. It dovetails into his *Life of George Rogers Clark* and his two volumes of *George Rogers Clark Papers*. It stands side by side with these other books as a notable contribution to our understanding of the American Revolution in the West.

Oliver Pollock, while not entirely an unknown patriot, has not hitherto received the recognition to which the importance of his work entitles him; he has neither been the

subject of adequate historical writing nor has he been commemorated in public memorials. This explains, and I think justifies, Professor James' tendency throughout the book to cap accounts of Pollock's activities with reiterations of his patriotism, importance, and high character.

The story of Pollock's services in the American cause did in fact need telling, and Professor James has told it with scrupulous exactness, as well as with appreciation. Much of Pollock's work in New Orleans was crowned with success. He sent supplies, including valuable military material, not only to George Rogers Clark and other soldiers in the West, but to the American armies in eastern centers of operation. He financed the Revolution to such an extent that he ought to be ranked with Robert Morris, his partner in trade, as an essential factor in keeping the Revolution going. He was also one of the key men in securing the cooperation of Spain in the Mississippi Valley and on the Gulf of Mexico. His relations with the Spanish authorities at New Orleans, General Alejandro O'Reilly of New Orleans and, after him, Governor Bernardo de Galvez, Governor of Louisiana, counted for a great deal in maintaining the American cause. At the same time, his relations with the Spanish, far from misleading him into giving them advantages in the Mississippi Valley which would have been disastrous to the Americans, were exploited with an eye single to the interests of the American nation.

It was the tragedy of Pollock's career, as of the career of George Rogers Clark and many other patriots, that he neither had resources nor received support sufficient to carry his work and his plans through to the complete success which seemed to be almost within his reach. After he had been drawn upon for supplies and money till his credit was exhausted, after he had appealed time and time again in vain for means to sustain and rehabilitate his credit, he was faced with fresh demands which he could not meet. Thus the cause which he promoted broke him and at the same time failed of complete success. The Americans in the West failed to reach Detroit at the north, or Florida at the south. In the latter part of the war it was left for Spain, to seize Mobile and Pensacola, and, in the treaty of peace, to get possession for a generation of East and West Florida.

Professor James has included in his life of *Oliver Pollock* most of the story of George Rogers Clark in the War of the

American Revolution. Like his life of Clark, this volume is almost a history of the Revolutionary War in the West. His conclusion upon the question "The Northwest: Conquest or Gift?" which was raised years ago by Clarence W. Alvord's thesis that the Earl of Shelburne virtually gave the Northwest to the United States in the negotiations for peace, is answered in a chapter by that title which emphasizes above all other elements "the accomplishments of Clark, impossible without the contributions of Pollock." Apropos the French and Spanish expeditions of 1780 and 1781 against Miamitown (Fort Wayne) and Saint Joseph (near Niles, Michigan) there is an interesting question as to the site at which the raiders from Cahokia, who pillaged Saint Joseph in 1780, were cut down. Professor James follows Edward G. Mason and Alvord in saying "near Chicago." An official contemporary English version was that it was beyond (southwest of) the Rivière du Chemin, at la Petite Fort. Some early nineteenth century maps call Trail Creek which flows into Lake Michigan at Michigan City, Rivière du Chemin, and local tradition puts la Petite Fort in Porter County near the present entrance to Dunes State Park. Professor James attaches some weight, though not over much, to the evidence that these expeditions looked toward Spanish claims to land east of the Mississippi.

Professor James has given us a much needed and the only authoritative account of Oliver Pollock. Much new material has been brought to light. The preface states that he plans to publish in separate volumes (as was done in the study of George Rogers Clark) contemporary material relating to Pollock and Clark, throwing new light upon the significance of the events of the Revolution that occurred west of the Allegheny Mountains.

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN.

---

*The Territorial Papers of the United States, V, The Territory of Mississippi, 1798-1817.* Compiled and edited by Clarence Edwin Carter, Department of State, Washington, 1937. Pp. vi, 815, \$1.50.

Papers comprising Volume V of the *Territorial Papers of the United States* relate to the Territory of Mississippi (including the present state of Alabama), from the time of its creation in 1798, with Winthrop Sargent as governor, to the end of the administration of Acting Governor Thomas H.