

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.

Williams in June, 1809. Volume VI will carry the publication of the Mississippi territorial papers to the end of 1817, when the territory became a state. The material published is "drawn principally from the Archives of the Departments of State, Treasury, War, Interior, and Post Office, the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, and the Senate and House files in Washington, D. C."

As in Volumes II and III of the series, containing the papers relating to the "Territory Northwest of the River Ohio", emphasis has been placed on questions of administration and land claims, surveys, and settlement. Students of Indiana history will find many of the problems of administration comparable to those which arose contemporaneously in Indiana Territory. Among these, were the effective adaptation of laws enacted for specific states to the needs of a new territory; the provision of adequate courts; the development of a mail service; the extended absences from the territory of governors and judges; the interruptions in government caused by the death or resignation of officers and the long intervals necessarily devoted to carrying the news of such vacancies to the seat of government, securing the appointment of new officers, and transporting them to their posts.

A letter from Secretary of State Pickering to Andrew Ellicott, commissioner to fix the boundary between the United States and Spain, indicates the painful need for the establishment of roads and post routes and makes entirely clear why the inhabitants of the territory sometimes felt themselves forgotten by the Federal government. Pickering wrote on August 30, 1798: "Your want of tents, as announced in your letter of April 1st (*recd* June 11th) had escaped my attention, until your letter of June 19th (*recd* 24th August) reminded me of it: I will give immediate orders for making and forwarding them."

Among the papers are a number of hitherto unpublished letters of Thomas Jefferson, and letters of the different secretaries. There are printed the acts relating to the formation of the territory and its land system, petitions from the citizens and legislature to Congress (It seemed to be the fate of these prayerful documents to reach Philadelphia after the adjournment of Congress, lie over until the next session, and result in the enactment of laws which were already outmoded by the time they reached the territory, thus necessitating new

petitions which followed the same melancholy schedule), letters from the governors and secretaries, from the judges, occasional letters relating to Indian and military affairs, and petitions from merchants who had difficulty in getting their goods into the country without double payment of duties. Opposing political factions are well illustrated.

Many papers deal with the complicated French, Spanish, and British claims that had to be settled before the United States could begin disposing of lands, the group of claims under Georgia's act of cession, the differences in interpretation of the general laws in different districts of the territory, and the problem of opening unclaimed lands under a system liberal enough to prevent inhabitants from moving into Spanish territory. Writing of the solicitude of the people on these matters, Secretary Thomas H. Williams said, in 1805, that it was "a Subject on which hang if not all their affections, at least all their anxieties." Judge Thomas Rodney wrote about the same time: "The Land business here has certainly been much more Troublesome and Difficult than Congress apprehended—The Testimony required to establish different Claims has put the people to great Trouble difficulty and Expence—and has produced great delay beyond what Congress seems to have contemplated."

In addition to the large body of well-selected papers printed, readers will find careful and voluminous citations to other Mississippi materials published by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History or other agencies. The Index is excellent. Each volume of *Territorial Papers* that appears increases one's eagerness for the publication of the volume on Indiana. It will be Volume VII and is scheduled to appear this year.

NELLIE ARMSTRONG.

American Frontier. By Elizabeth Peck. Doubleday, Doran and Company, Garden City, New York. Pp. ix, 195.

This little volume is made up of a series of poems relating to the pioneer life of a period extending from 1780 to 1875. As a teacher of history in the Academy of Berea College, Mrs. Peck conceived the idea of visiting the homes and schools of the students who had been in her classes. These visits, made on foot or on muleback, furnished the opportunity to learn many of the facts on which she has based her poems.