

towns, counties, lakes, rivers, streams, etc., listed alphabetically from Abington to Winchester. Two pages of *Appendix* give a list of several of the principal roads and distances in Indiana. There are four pages of *Addenda*, "consisting of several items of information received too late for a place under their proper heads." The book concludes with nearly two pages of "Recommendations" from Governor James Brown Ray and other state political leaders.

As a companion piece the Indiana Historical Society has published a reprint of Scott's 1826 map of Indiana. This is a fascinating map, partly because of its inaccuracies, but it also has value in showing the political subdivisions as they existed at the end of Indiana's first decade of statehood. The Indiana Historical Society has rendered a real public service in publishing the reprint and the accompanying map.

Franklin College

I. George Blake

George Mercer Papers: Relating to the Ohio Company of Virginia. Compiled and edited by Lois Mulkearn. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1954, pp. xxxviii, 731. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$10.00.)

In the last few years there have appeared several volumes of edited documents concerning the pre-American period in the Ohio Valley. Generally they are of such significance to the history of the area that new and revised chapters will have to be written from them. Of such is the stuff contained in the *George Mercer Papers*.

The story of the Ohio Company of Virginia is familiar to American historians. But many of the details of the story as here presented have not been known, and some of the ideas and theories already in common currency will now have to be changed.

In the proceedings of the Ohio Company, for example, there is a resolution of 1753 which contains enlightening detail concerning "a [projected] Town to be called Saltsburg" (pp. 147-148). It was to be the first English town on the Ohio River, but it was never built. Lois Mulkearn's careful editing also serves notice that Croghan chronology will now have to be revised (note 78, pp. 478-479). These are illustra-

tive samples of the sort of information to be found in the *George Mercer Papers*.

George Mercer and his father, John, were intimately connected with the Ohio Company as stockholders and officers. Father was its secretary for several years and the son its London representative, 1763-1770. It was the latter who, in 1771, merged the interests of the company with those of the ill-starred Grand Ohio (Walpole) Company, and personally became the largest stockholder in the merger. He lobbied unsuccessfully in England to get clear titles for the lands the company was originally granted in 1749. Original documents, official copies of others, official correspondence to Mercer, and the records of his dealings with the Walpole Company make up the corpus of the manuscripts printed in this volume. There is also a facsimile reproduction of a unique George Mercer pamphlet concerning the Ohio Company.

The nature of the documents printed in the volume is such that they contain considerable information on the economic and social history of the eighteenth century especially in Virginia. This material, although of considerable value, has not been subjected to editorial scrutiny in the notes because, Lois Mulkearn explains, it is not relevant to the story of the Ohio Company.

Despite the significance of this volume and the reception which its contents warrant, there are certain characteristics of its editing and general make-up which are both awkward and confusing. The order in which the contents of the volume are presented, for example, is rather unfortunate. Of its four parts, the first and second are the documents and the third and fourth are notes and comments; but part three is related to the second and part four to the first.

Within the first section itself, the documents are not printed in the usual chronological order. This situation occurs because a number of documents, in turn not in chronological order, are printed as enclosures of letters. The section is prefaced by a "Chronology of Communications," in reality an analytical chronology of the documents themselves. The arrangement of the documents lessens the value of the analytical preface, whose value in turn is lessened by errors it contains.

The location of the notes apart from the points in the documents which they concern leads to further confusion. This is too bad because they are meaty and obviously the work

of painstaking and prodigious scholarship. The notes are numbered but the page to which each refers is not indicated. Further, one note often refers to more than one place in the documents. This leads to a curious situation. For example, one is confused to find on page 234 in the documents superior figures for notes 687, 7, 688, 9, and 11, in that order. Further confusion is afforded in the index where it is usually necessary to give dual page references, one to the document section and the other to the note section.

Another aspect makes for awkwardness. The second part of the book is a facsimile reproduction. The pages of the facsimile, of course, carry the numbers of the original document. Then there is a multi-page appendix to the facsimile whose pagination is yet a separate one. The absence of additional continuing pagination of the text, which is only assumed in this case, is resumed (with an error) after the facsimile insertion. In the index then, for example, there are many entries of this nature: "Potomac River (Va.): 69, 241, 249, *fac. 2, 8, fac. app. 25.*" "*Fac.*" and "*fac. app.*" mean "facsimile" and "facsimile appendix" respectively. If the pagination of the volume were carried through the facsimile the index entry cited above would take a much simpler form: "Potomac River (Va.): 69, 241, 249, 332, 338, 391."

In the bibliography, there is a section called "Calendar of Communications." This seventeen page calendar lists almost four hundred documents covering the period from 1682 to 1905. Only about one-third of these, however, are labeled as "manuscript material consulted." The remainder are supposedly of some pertinence. Relevance may be stretched to mean "universal" but it is not always relevant to do so.

From an editorial standpoint a number of ambiguities and practices detract from the utility of the volume. It will suffice to mention some by way of illustration. There is no distinction made between italicized statements which are editorial and those which are not. Also, without explanation, while some passages are italicized others are underlined. Further confusion is produced from the frequent use of brackets, parentheses, and "<>" marks. Again, some seem to be editorial and others do not. Lined out portions from the original documents are reproduced, and some of these contain brackets which are also lined out. Are they, in the ordinary usage of brackets, editorial, or not?

An index entry "Bloody Run (Pa.): junction of Indian paths, 474; *see also* Everett." leads one to the unrewarding entry "Everett (Pa.). *See* Bloody Run." Further comments might be made about bibliographical notes, consistency of citations, and other of the mechanical aspects of the volume, but these will suffice to illustrate the unfortunate things which will hinder rather than expedite use of this valuable collection of documents.

Columbia University

Dwight L. Smith

A Merchant Prince of the Nineteenth Century: William E. Dodge. By Richard Lowitt. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1954, pp. x, 384. Bibliography and index. \$5.00.)

Phelps Dodge & Co. has meant to the American public a vast western mining empire, but this development did not take place until after the death of William E. Dodge. While he was a partner, the main business of the company was the importation of tin plate, and the allied activities made the organization sound like a country store, with dealings which ranged from other metals to tea and rugs, and from cloth to beeswax. Particularly important was the export of cotton from the South, for cotton provided return cargo for ships which had brought metal from England. The operations ranged as far afield as China and the East Indies, while in America selling agents covered the entire nation, and also did business in Canada and Mexico.

The interests of Dodge and of the company moved rapidly into various more or less related fields, with investments in iron and copper mines; in brass, copper, iron, and glass manufacturing; in timber land and other real estate; in railroads, insurance, telegraph, and cable enterprises. Dodge himself seldom did any direct management, but now and then he intervened to be sure that the directors followed his general ideas. Most of Dodge's investments turned out well, but there were the inevitable failures, particularly with the various fluctuations of general prosperity. Dodge's success can be credited mainly to his own efforts, even though he by no means started as a penniless immigrant, and even though he followed an old recipe for success by marrying the boss's