

*The Governors of Ohio* presents condensed biographies of fifty-seven leaders written by twenty-six authors. The series begins with the colorful Virginian, Edwin Tiffin, and concludes with Thomas J. Herbert, whose term ended in 1949. Between these two administrations lies an assemblage of characters, each of whom contributed in some degree to the growth and development of the commonwealth. Even a casual glance at their sketches reveals that all of them were gentlemen of great virtue and possessed of exceptional political talent and acumen. Indeed, some of the interpretations remind this reviewer of the old-fashioned laudatory biographies that appeared toward the close of the nineteenth century in subscription county histories.

It may be possible to justify in a volume of this type lack of appraisal, but it is difficult indeed to defend omission of essential facts, a defect which mars too many sketches. It is stated, for example, that William Allen was born in 1803, but neither the month or day is given; the year of Thomas Kirker's death is listed, but not the month or day; the month and year of David Tod's death are given but not the day. The place of burial is indicated for some governors, but not for all. Only in some sketches are next of kin named. A quick glance at standard reference works, such as the *Dictionary of American Biography* or the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress*, might have enabled authors to fill obvious gaps. It would have been helpful also if the title of a biographical article or book had been appended to each sketch to guide readers to additional information.

Despite imperfections, these lives of the governors fill a genuine need. Their rapid, over-all coverage furnishes elementary information quickly and within the boards of a single book. The publisher is to be commended for bringing the sketches together in an attractive format. Perhaps other states will be stimulated to compile and publish thumb-nail sketches of their governors.

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*The Territorial Papers of the United States*. Compiled and edited by Clarence E. Carter. Vol. XIX, *The Territory of Arkansas, 1819-1825* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1953, pp. xii, 1003. Maps and

index. \$6.50.). Vol. XX, *The Territory of Arkansas, 1825-1829* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1954, pp. vi, 967. Index. \$4.25.)

These volumes are the first two of a projected three volumes on the territorial papers of Arkansas Territory, 1819-1836. Volume XIX contains Part One, papers relating to the organization of the territory, 1818-1819; Part Two, relating to the administration of Acting Governor Robert Crittenden, 1819; Part Three, relating to Governor James Miller's first administration, 1819-1823; Part Four, relating to his second term, 1823; Part Five, relating to Acting Governor Crittenden's second administration, 1823; Part Six, relating to the third term of Acting Governor Crittenden; and Part Seven, the executive register for the territory, 1819-1836. Volume XX begins with Part Eight, a continuation of Acting Governor Crittenden's third administration, 1824-1825; Part Nine, pertaining to the first administration of Governor George Izard, 1825-1828; Part Ten, his second term, 1828; and Part Eleven, relating to the fourth administration of Acting Governor Crittenden, 1828-1829.

In keeping with the editorial policy set in previous volumes of the general series, the documents included in these two Arkansas volumes were principally chosen from the collections of the federal departments of State, Treasury, War, Justice, Post Office, and Interior, and from the files of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, most of which are in the National Archives. Some selections came from the manuscripts collection of the Library of Congress, while a few others were secured from the office of the Secretary of State of Arkansas, Little Rock. Much use was made of the *Little Rock Arkansas Gazette* for supplementary and explanatory purposes.

The documents published in these volumes will prove to be, with the possible exception of contemporary newspaper files and of territorial papers located in the Arkansas History Commission, the most valuable source for the formative period of Arkansas history. They throw much new light upon a number of problems that faced the pioneer in a frontier region, among others the acquisition of public land, the removal of Indians, the construction of public roads, the establishment of postal services, and the organization of a militia.

Both volumes make readily available biographical material not hitherto easily accessible. A perusal of the books indicates the importance at once of Robert Crittenden, secretary and several times acting governor of Arkansas Territory, of Governor George Izard, of the early judges of the territorial superior court, and of the territorial delegates to the Congress of the United States. Genealogists will be pleased with the executive register, which contains names of both territorial and local office-holders.

Documentation and indexing are pleasingly thorough. Clarence Edwin Carter's superior editorial standards established in the previous volumes are fully maintained.

University of Arkansas

Walter L. Brown

*Confederate Finance.* By Richard Cecil Todd. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1954, pp. x, 258. Bibliography and index. \$5.00.)

The history of Confederate finances has always seemed to contain all the elements of a nightmare—frustration at every turn and ultimate futility. Most historians have agreed that no government could have committed more errors in its financial operations than the Confederate government. The detailed and careful works of John C. Schwab, *The Confederate States of America, 1861-1865; A Financial and Industrial History of the South during the Civil War* (1901), and Ernest A. Smith's *The History of the Confederate Treasury* (1901), and numerous books and articles dealing with certain aspects of the subject are fairly well agreed in the assumption that the finances of the Confederacy were managed in the worst possible fashion.

Professor Todd's *Confederate Finance*, largely factual, nevertheless seems to the reviewer to present a subtly different point of view. Basing his work on the financial archives of the Confederacy and related documents now assembled and processed in the National Archives and Library of Congress, he presents a far more authentic, penetrating, and objective account than any of his predecessors. The broad outlines of Confederate finance are unchanged by his study; but his painstaking step by step history of each financial move reveals significant differences: (1) that numerous measures later condemned as foolish were adopted as choices of the lesser