

Other letters in the volume cover a wide variety of topics. Some discuss the forced migration of the southeastern Indian tribes as well as the beginning of the Seminole War. A few correspondents refer to the Texas Revolution. Perhaps the paucity of letters on the Texan war indicates their realization that any mention of Davy Crockett, even in death, would irritate Polk, who had detested Crockett. Of course, many letters concern a myriad of political appointments.

Readers interested in Indiana history will have their curiosity aroused by a letter of April 12, 1836, from Polk to Charlotte Baynton. In a footnote following it, the editors identify this brief, noncommittal correspondence as a response to Baynton's "claim to a large tract of land frequently referred to as the 'state of Indiana'" (p. 578). Although the editors direct readers to a letter from Baynton to Polk, it does not appear anywhere in the volume.

A number of minor editorial errors such as this do occur, but they do not detract from the overall effort which is superb. Students of the Age of Jackson are deeply indebted to the work of Professor Weaver and his associates in providing these documents in printed form.

Western Illinois University, Macomb

John M. Werner

Laura Clay and the Woman's Rights Movement. By Paul E. Fuller. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1975. Pp. ix, 216. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$12.50.)

This is a careful study of one of the "lost" women of the suffrage movement in the United States. Fuller shows that Laura Clay, a Kentucky aristocrat, deserves a place on the second rung of American suffragists under Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Carrie Chapman Catt. In exploring the life and motives of Clay, Fuller reveals insights into the long campaign for equal rights in the United States.

The author follows the life of Clay from her birth in 1849 at White Hall, near Richmond, Kentucky, to her death in 1941. He examines Clay's three roles in the woman's movement: as a leader to reform the laws of Kentucky relating to women and children; as a prominent supporter of the suffrage campaign in her state; and finally as auditor

and later member of the business committee and the executive committee of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) for fifteen years. Fuller shows how Clay's talents as business manager, mediator, and skillful speaker enabled her to function successfully in all these positions.

Using the Laura Clay Papers as his primary source, Fuller points out the early influences which made Clay a feminist. Her mother, Mary Jane Clay, efficiently managed their Kentucky estate during the long, frequent absences of her father, Cassius Clay. Her father, a well known abolitionist and politician, served as the American ambassador in St. Petersburg from 1861 to 1869. When his rather stormy marriage ended in divorce in 1878, Laura and her sisters grasped immediately the unequal status of their sex as they witnessed how economic rights were denied to their mother. Although Mary Jane Clay had built the White Hall mansion and improved and managed the estate successfully, she possessed no legal rights to the property.

Clay's mother believed that her children should be educated, and in 1863 she sent Laura to the Sayre Female Institute in Lexington where she received an academic education. At school Clay wrote in her diary: "I am a woman, but I think I have a mind superior to that of many boys of my age, and equal to that of many more" (p. 8). A devout Episcopalian, Clay then added a sentence omitted by Fuller: "Therefore when we get to heaven we will be equal." Fortunately, however, she did not wait for heaven. As a "practical farmer" of the three hundred acres given to her by her father in 1873 she developed an independent income. With these resources Clay entered the University of Michigan from which a brother had been graduated.

Although successful in her year at the University of Michigan, Clay left her studies and turned to reform and the woman's suffrage movement. She always believed that suffrage should be granted by the states partly because the race issue complicated the movement in the South. Considering her abolitionist background she was a moderate in her views concerning blacks. Partly as a matter of expediency she believed that the southern states should grant suffrage only to literate women "irrespective of the color line" (p. 55). It was her conviction about states rights which led her to

break with NAWSA over its support of the Anthony constitutional amendment. Clay feared that the enforcing clause of the amendment would open the door to federal intervention in state affairs.

In the final chapter Fuller points out that Clay had always viewed the fight for woman's rights as a many sided struggle. As an Episcopalian she worked for church laity rights for women. She also urged the admission of women to southern colleges. Clay played a role in the Democratic party and actively campaigned for Alfred E. Smith's presidency. Finally, when eighty-six she defended the concept of equal pay for equal work at the University of Kentucky.

The author succeeds in showing the importance and motives of Laura Clay to the woman's rights movement. He has expanded his dissertation in a useful book which saves Clay from being at best a footnote in the story of the struggle for woman's rights.

*Eastern Michigan University,
Ypsilanti*

Margaret L. Rossiter

The War Generation: Veterans of the First World War.
Edited by Stephen R. Ward. (Port Washington, N. Y.:
Kennikat Press, 1975. Pp. 192. Notes, index. \$12.50.)

One of history's lessons is that warriors sometimes have exerted great influence upon their societies long after the clash of arms has been stilled. In documented essays prefaced by the editor's introduction, five authors examine the actions, philosophies, and organizations of veterans of the First World War in Britain, the United States, France, Italy, and Germany.

Dealing with the British scene, Stephen R. Ward focuses on several organizations, the largest of which was the British Legion which resulted from an amalgamation in 1921 of four earlier groups. He infers that, following a time of militance in 1919 that won them limited governmental benefits, British exservicemen generally slumped into apathy and opted for assimilation into civilian society.

Donald J. Lisio's essay concerns veterans in the United States, especially those belonging to the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Veterans' organizations gained congressional approval for a bonus in 1924 and later