

gement called the Battle of Monmouth" (p. 182), and in the phrase where the word "centers" reads as a verb but is intended as a noun (p. 633).

Students of special aspects of Pennsylvania history will find in this volume excellent outlines of their topics. It furnishes a very satisfactory introduction to more detailed reading and research and as a valuable general reference work should have a large sale. It should be gratifying to friends of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania to note that the volume is partly based on material in the WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE and that as many as twenty-seven articles published in that magazine are mentioned in the chapter bibliographies. Printed in large type, well bound, and provided with an elaborate index of nineteen pages, the volume is a credit to both author and publishers.

*University of Pittsburgh*

ALFRED P. JAMES

*Frontier Ohio, 1788-1803. (Ohio Historical Collections, vol. 3.)* By RANDOLPH CHANDLER DOWNES, assistant professor of history, University of Pittsburgh, and research associate, Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey. (Columbus, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1935. xiv, 280 p. Maps.)

THE purpose of this book is to give "a somewhat balanced description" of Ohio from the time of its first settlement in 1788 until it was admitted to statehood in 1803. To this end the author has drawn upon practically every available source of information, except the *Territorial Papers of the United States*, volumes 2 and 3, covering the Northwest Territory, which did not appear until after his monograph was in page proof. The product of his researches is, however, effective, scholarly, and readable.

The central theme of this work is the frontier, with special attention to its agrarian, religious, and commercial institutions. Dr. Downes follows this theme through eight chapters: "The Conquest, 1788-1795"; "The People of Frontier Ohio"; "The Problems of Trade"; "The Reign of Winthrop Sargent"; "Political Reform"; "The Statehood Contest—Cincinnati Phase"; "The Statehood Contest—Chillicothe Phase"; and "The Making of the State." These chapters are interspersed with maps showing principal settlements in 1803, scenes of Indian wars, division schemes, and the like. The bibliography is complete to the point of being exhaustive, and the book has a usable index.

To western Pennsylvanians the chief interest of this work lies in its presentation of the contributions of Pennsylvania to Ohio. On this subject the au-

thor sustains his thesis that "the first permanent white settlements established in 1788 in the Northwest Territory were merely extensions further west, at various points, of the frontier white settlement already existing in Pennsylvania and Virginia." Although the leaders of these settlements were easterners, Dr. Downes proves that in each case settlement sites were chosen with reference to existing frontier communities and that the agrarian, religious, and commercial practices of the new frontier were drawn largely from the old frontier. The Monongahela boat yards were favorite setting off points, and more than might be suspected, Ohio's first settlers were already experienced frontiersmen.

According to the author, settlers were not the only contribution of contiguous and near-by frontiers to the Ohio frontier. Already schooled in the ways of the frontier, pioneer Ohio settlers demanded cheap lands and were not averse to isolated settlements. Existing frontier influences were largely responsible for the credit system in the sale of public lands. In a large measure the success of early Ohio residents in defending themselves against Indian attacks is also rightly attributed to the presence among them of seasoned scouts from Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Moreover, the liberalizing influences of the old frontier extended to the new and tended to make more liberal its institutions, particularly the church.

*West Virginia University*

CHARLES HENRY AMBLER

*Oliver Hazard Perry.* By CHARLES J. DUTTON. (New York and Toronto, Longmans, Green and Co., 1935. xi, 308 p. Illustrations.)

FEW readers of American history and all too few school and college teachers and students realize the tremendous significance to the United States of the spectacular American victory on Lake Erie on September 10, 1813; nor do they give proper value to the influence upon the outcome of that battle of Lieutenant Perry's personal magnetism and his enthusiastic handling of his fleet and men. Most readers and students but dimly perceive the galling relations between England and the United States that followed the Revolution. That war had been fought and won, but the American people were very far from enjoying the expected freedom from what were then feelingly regarded as the ambitious greed and pernicious activities of Great Britain. During the succeeding period the United States was harassed upon the sea, and even in its harbors by Britain's sea-going crews. In the course of these depredations and of the war that followed in 1812, much of the country's attention was con-