

encompasses the vast expanse of related major and minor events associated with the founding of Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh

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Whitehall and the Wilderness, The Middle West in British Colonial Policy, 1760-1775. By JACK M. SOSIN. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1961. Pp. xvi, 307, bibliography, index, eight maps. \$6.50.)

This volume, here belatedly reviewed, is highly relevant to the broad history of early western Pennsylvania. It fully deserves recognition in the pages of this magazine.

Historiography, or the story of mankind in narrative or expository writing, can be conceived as answers to ordinary interrogative pronouns. What? Where? When? Who? Why? Not only general readers but specialized scholars wish satisfactory answers to such questions. Such questions and answers have many subdivisions. Possibly the comprehensive question "How?" might include the whole of this process.

The author is a newcomer, but under the direction of John D. Barnhart and the survey of Lawrence H. Gipson and Ray A. Billington, his workmanship could not fail to be of the best type.

The main title is self-explanatory but the sub-title is questionable. The words Middle West indicate emphasis rather than definitiveness. Florida, Louisiana and Quebec are geographically outside the Middle West. More than half of the forts mentioned likewise lay outside.

The scholarship of this work can, it seems, be fully guaranteed. The footnotes are extensive though they are mainly references and fall short of what may be called explanatory notes. The bibliography is a virtual guide to materials most of which seem to have been surveyed or consulted by the author. The index is featured by annotated items, but is somewhat selective, particularly in items of place and regional names.

The classification of this volume is easily observed. It is another successful effort to offset the George Bancroft interpretation of the history of the United States. It continues what Frederick Jackson Turner, Clarence W. Alvord, Lawrence H. Gipson and numerous others have undertaken.

The first two paragraphs in the jacket statement of the publisher accurately and admirably summarize the gist and purport of the volume. One sentence reads, "Pursuing their war aim of security for the New World colonies, the victorious British ministers in Whitehall decided on an imperial program which included maintaining royal garrisons in the wilderness, Indian reservations, and equitable trade with the natives."

Another statement is that "British ministers were primarily administrators who arrived at particular solutions for specific problems as they arose"

The author asked himself many general questions and tried to answer them. In doing so he reached definite conclusions on many. He has a sense of significance and reached important conclusions to numerous problems and matters. In emphasis upon evidence and rationality, sentiment and certainly sentimentality are side-stepped, if not ignored. As merely an illustration may be taken his treatment of the logicity of the Quebec Act of 1774.

The tendency of recent publishers to use reduced maps as endpapers appears in this volume.

Some poor rhetoric is found (p. 5, line 18; p. 33, line 9; and p. 42, line 4). There is some unnecessary repetition, as in connection with the boundaries and division of Canada (p. 59f.). The position and multiple role of Richard Jackson are not clearly established. Another error is the repeated use (pp. 228-229, 297) of Connally as the spelling of the family name of Dr. John Connolly.

With excellent typography, on good paper and well bound, this book is both valuable and attractive though it lacks notation on the front cover and the lettering on the end is somewhat indistinct.

In the opinion of the reviewer, despite the unfavorable matters mentioned here, the author, his sponsors and the publisher are entitled to congratulations for this work of high merit.

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