defect is the more grievous where the organization as here is partly chronological and partly topical. The net result is much repetition of data and statement, not always with due apology for such repetition and sometimes in citations with variant texts (e.g. pp. 67 and 146). Such repetition, however inevitable in any topical organization, is nevertheless somewhat irritating to a reader. It stops the flow of thought and renders difficult the attainment of a sound perspective.

In yet another way this volume is unsatisfactory. At least it seems to this reviewer that it was hurriedly put through the press. It does not appear to have been edited with the meticulous care always required in good publication. A large part of the responsibility here doubtless rests upon the publisher. Good proofreading by an able staff seems to have been badly neglected.

But the most unfortunate aspect of the volume is its imprint, which could hardly have been worse. The paper is defective, the type is small, black lettering is used in place of the usual italics and the binding is miserable. So published, only the choicest manuscript would be worth the high price asked for the volume. Although not good biography and not carefully composed, this important study in a somewhat neglected field deserved a much better fate in the matter of format.

University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James


The scholarly work of editing and publishing the Territorial Papers of the United States goes on apace. These volumes are rapidly becoming a “must” order for the state and local historical societies and libraries of the country. They contain the sources, the official documents that every student of early American history must consult in doing research in any number of fields—social, political, economic, cultural, religious, and others.

The two volumes at hand relate to the territorial years of Michigan, covering the important period from 1820 until her admission in 1837. The official papers relating to the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh administrations of Governor Lewis Cass, covering the years from 1820 to 1831 are included in these volumes, as are the papers relating to Governor Porter, Governor Mason, and Acting Governor Horner, covering the years from 1831 to 1837.
These official documents relate to almost every subject known to frontier society. President Monroe's appointment of Lewis Cass as territorial governor, January 24, 1820; petitions by a number of inhabitants seeking compensation for losses which they sustained during the War of 1812; petitions relating to fugitive slaves; to the extension of post roads; to land speculations; to the appointment of minor officials; protests against misconduct in office; the scale of salaries to be paid officials; land surveys; stationing of troops; petitions for having Michigan declared a second-class, then a first-class territory—these and hundreds upon hundreds of others are found in these two volumes. As might be expected, petitions and correspondence relating to Indian problems fill a great portion of the two volumes. The closing pages of Vol. 12 contain the important papers, petitions, and proceedings attending the long fight that was waged to have Michigan admitted as a state.

Dr. Carter continues to demonstrate the rare editorial and research ability that is needed to clarify so many of these documents. He is rendering a great service to all students of early American history. May he go on and on forever and forever!

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John W. Oliver