The Papers of Lachlan McIntosh, 1774-1799. (Collections of the Georgia Historical Society.) Edited by LILLA M. HAWES. (Savannah, Ga.: Georgia Historical Society, 1957. Fold-in facsimile MS map of Georgia Rivers and trading paths, etc., index. 176 pp. $3.00.)

The recent publication, in The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, of documents relating to the Revolutionary campaign of General Lachlan McIntosh in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, brings to mind the collection of papers of that officer by the Georgia Historical Society. Although these papers contribute little to our knowledge of the western campaign, they do add much to our understanding of the tangled, turbulent, and noxious affairs of Georgia during the long Revolutionary struggle. Readers of The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine may be interested in following McIntosh's early movements and subsequent trials, difficulties and harassments. He was the storm center of the confused whirlpool of intrigue, blackmail and forgery that was Georgia politics.

These letters serve to illuminate much of the inner workings of the events and military movements that helped save the American cause during the first two years of the conflict. These events are important, because, had the British been able to roll up the southern end of the Continental defense line during that period, all might have been lost. By the time Savannah and Charleston had fallen into British hands, the British armies in the North had been irretrievably lost or immobilized, Burgoyne's army had surrendered at Saratoga, and Clinton's, forced to evacuate Philadelphia, was pent up in New York. Here is revealed the upsurge of greed, personal ambition and rancor that drove into the shadows the earlier selfless desire to unite in defense of freedom from oppression. These ugly spectres reared their heads in others of the new States, but nowhere with the virulence demonstrated by Georgian against fellow Georgian. These papers graphically portray the machinations of the politicians.

In order that one can clearly comprehend the state of affairs in Georgia at this period, one must remember the beginnings of the colony under the leadership of General James Oglethorpe in 1733, for the philanthropic purpose of establishing a refuge for debtors in English prisons. Other groups soon augmented the growing settlement, and some Moravians and Lutherans were attracted, also the Wesleys and Whitfield and their followers. Then came a hardy
band of Scotsmen, all scions of the clan McIntosh. Periodic wars with the Spaniards in neighboring Florida, and with the Indians to the westward, kept the colonists constantly in a posture of defense. After ten years of struggle for survival, Oglethorpe returned to England; and Georgia tottered on under the trustees for another ten years, when it became a colony under the crown. Under royal governors, factions flourished and Republican sentiments early took hold. The beginning of the Revolution saw this spirit well advanced, but a confused situation existed with the circle of Tories surrounding the royal governors of Georgia and South Carolina, which sought to hold those provinces loyal to the crown and to turn the Indians loose upon the frontiers. Against this background, then, these papers portray an intimate view of the actors on the scene.

Part I, the "Letter Book" of General McIntosh, begins with careful and comprehensive reports to the new commander-in-chief, Washington, on troop movements, position and actions of the enemy, potential strength of both contestants, and the situation in general at the southern extremity of the line. These reports undoubtedly later biased the commander-in-chief in McIntosh's favor. There are businesslike, concise and clear orders written to subordinates, as well as diplomatically phrased letters to superiors and colleagues.

In Part II, "Miscellaneous Papers," there are letters from many officers, including his son, Captain Lachlan McIntosh, Jr. There are letters and memorials relating to the unjust persecution of General McIntosh and infamous forgeries pertaining thereto. Ably drawn exposés of these intrigues and unlawful practices, written by John Wereat, have called forth condemnation from every generation since that time. Evidence of unbelievable rancor, falsehood and extravagance is exhibited on the part of those who usurped power. (Governor's salary, $30,000; Governor's house, furniture, grog and other expenses, $100,000.) Prescription lists, or "Names of Persons in the Georgia Disqualification Act . . . ," read like a roster of the state's most patriotic citizens. McIntosh's papers contain many letters and statements intended to be used in vindication of his conduct against the vicious assaults of his enemies. Only too late came the disavowal of the knavery by the State assembly and the testimonial of the esteem of the officers of the Georgia Line in the resolution to allow General McIntosh first choice of the lands to be surveyed for the soldiers of Georgia. He declined the preference but received 3450 acres.
The student of the Revolution will find much source material here. These papers appeared serially in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* previous to their publication in book form. It is to be regretted that they could not have been prefaced by the article that preceded them in the June, 1954, issue of that magazine, namely, “General Lachlan McIntosh and His Suspension from Continental Command During the Revolution,” by Alexander A. Lawrence. Such background material would aid the general reader, but the professional historian and the specialist may be presumed to have this information for himself.

A large part of these papers, now belonging to the collection of the Georgia Historical Society, probably were part of the Joseph Vallance Bevan collection. Others came from the Peter Force Georgia Transcripts in the Library of Congress, also from the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Duke University in North Carolina, and the Draper MSS Collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It would greatly have added to the value of this little book, if the repository of the original of each paper printed could have been noted. Some of the originals are in very bad condition, but the editor has done a fine piece of transcription and supplying missing words and letters. The footnotes are helpful. All-in-all Mrs. Hawes has done a professional job, as she has done in a number of other publications which she has written or edited.

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The State of West Virginia is not yet old enough to have a set of venerable archives containing accounts of its early history and people. Having branched off from an older state, itself rich in historical lore, West Virginia had to find a way to tell its own story through its own resources. Two works have been available since 1958: *West Virginia 1790-1863*, by Delf Norona and Charles Shetler,*

* Unfortunately a typographical error on page viii spells this name Shelter instead of Shetler.