

colonies to the mother country (Document 10). That the policy of nonimportation was not the exclusive domain of the colonial merchant is plainly illustrated as is the independent attitude of the members of Burgesses (Document 14).

Perhaps the most important contribution of the collection is the detailed account of the Convention of 1774. It was that body that issued one of the several spontaneous calls for a Continental Congress and that adopted an association that must have influenced the later delegates at Philadelphia. Fully one-fifth of the volume is devoted to the maneuvering leading to the meeting, with an additional 150 pages pertaining to the work of the group itself and the response, both pro and con, that it generated. In light of the absence of any surviving journal of proceedings, these pages are especially valuable. They clearly demonstrate the breadth of the revolutionary movement in Virginia, indicating that more than just the elite group of planters and lawyers was disturbed by the practices of the British ministries. The settlers in the backcountry were just as concerned as the tidewater aristocrats.

Despite these strong points, it is difficult to see why such a volume is necessary and at such an expensive price, when most of the information is available to anyone so inclined. Two scholarly monographs of equal length could have been published for about the same price as the subject of this review. Perhaps the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission should reassess their decision to issue a documentary series on the period and find more useful ventures to underwrite.

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*Kentucky's Last Frontier.* By HENRY P. SCALF. (Pikeville, Kentucky : Pikeville College Press of the Appalachian Studies Center, 1972. Pp. 565. Foreword, introduction, illustrations, endnotes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

Eastern Kentucky is the setting for this well-researched regional history. This area was denied many opportunities to develop a prosperous economy which would benefit not only absentee investors but also local residents. The twelve counties of eastern Kentucky are an interesting microcosm of some of the heritage and the problems which are confronting the entire Appalachian region.

Scalf, in *Kentucky's Last Frontier*, writes in a manner which be-

trays his lifelong residency in eastern Kentucky. He presents the white-man's story objectively. However, his treatment of the American Indian displays a lack of concern for the original inhabitants of eastern Kentucky. Savage seems to be Scalf's favorite word when he is writing about the native American. The rough white frontiersman appears to have every right to evict the original inhabitants from eastern Kentucky, because Indian culture does not fit into the culture of the white invaders. The white man or woman is his hero or heroine, while the Indians are relegated to such descriptions as "the savage denizens of the sandy forests" or "could be skulking near." Despite this shortcoming, Scalf used oral history to good effect in his discussion of the Kentucky frontier.

This volume traces the history of eastern Kentucky to the modern era. The author provides the reader with a good background for the causes which made eastern Kentucky a region of devastating internecine strife when the United States was caught in the grip of civil war. His description of the contributions the citizens of the region made to the Confederate and Union war efforts is excellent.

The slow and painful recovery of the region during the decades following the Civil War is a study of the courage and determination of the inhabitants. However, the hope for the future was dashed by the experiences endured by officials of new concerns established in the area by those who came to Kentucky to exploit an underdeveloped area. These individuals were not concerned with the welfare of the people, and it was left to the eastern Kentuckians to extricate themselves from the depths of poverty and ignorance. The native sons who rose to statewide prominence and the significant role they played in the development of the region is an important part of the heritage of eastern Kentucky. The author has integrated this aspect of the history of the region into the book without allowing it to dominate the modern era.

This book is one of a series of studies of Appalachian culture published by the Appalachian Studies Center. It is an important contribution which will promote an understanding of a neglected area. Despite its somewhat harsh treatment of the native American and several lapses in proofreading, this volume should encourage others to undertake similar regional studies of other portions of Appalachia.

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