highlighting the laws governing the observance of the Sabbath. Solberg has performed an important function of the historian by collecting primary data on colonial practice on the Sabbath. He holds forth tidbit after tidbit which delights the lover of detail and builds evidence for the peculiar development of the English colonies in America. This contribution to the study of American history is marred only by periodic tangents into general history known to every American schoolchild, like the movement of the Pilgrims from England to Holland to Plymouth (pp. 115-20).

Solberg has undertaken an ambitious project. In so doing, he raises the questions which plague modern historians. Is the task to document alone or to posit reasons why? If the historian does offer explanations, upon what understanding of humanity do they rest, an intellectual-spiritual one, or a political-economic one, or another? It is disappointing that Solberg's broad overview of the practice of observing the Sabbath fails to touch the depths of either these concerns or the continuing implications of Sabbatarianism.

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Some years ago a historian sent an article on the McIntosh expedition of 1778-1779 to the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine. The editor returned it with a kind note saying that the topic was being covered in a series, already commissioned, on Fort Pitt and the Revolution. A bit upset at this turn of events, the historian waited for the articles in question, convinced no one could handle the subject as well as he — he was wrong. This reviewer was that historian, and this book is an outgrowth of those articles.

Modern scholars have been inclined to assign the Revolution on the frontier a secondary role in the struggle, but in the 1770s this was hardly the case. General Washington, long aware of the significance of the Ohio Valley, saw territorial expansion as a goal second only to independence itself, as evidenced by the concern expressed in his letters, and by his willingness to sacrifice men and material he could hardly afford to that end. Central to his concern was the garrison at
Fort Pitt, "the anchor of the whole frontier line" (p. viii); therefore, if one is to understand just what operations in the west meant to the success or failure of the American quest for freedom, Fort Pitt must be the point on which to focus.

One of the problems facing scholars attempting to understand the war in the west has been the complex accumulation of characters and circumstances. On one side were the British and their Loyalist allies; facing them were the Americans — Continentals, militia, and a variety of partisans. On both sides were the Indians, whose involvement made a confused situation even more complicated. If this were not enough, there were the state governments, particularly Pennsylvania and Virginia, who often could not decide if they were fighting for American independence or for their own territorial ambitions. It is a story filled with heroes and villains, with land speculators and their grand colonization schemes, with broken treaties and noble acts; and it is a story Edward G. Williams tells with clarity and authority.

But Williams brings more to this study than his vast knowledge of events of the era. He gives the reader the benefit of his understanding of the land on which the conflict occurred. From the point of its publication, *Fort Pitt and the Revolution on the Western Frontier* stands as one of the best descriptions of the terrain which did so much to shape the struggle. The work is a historical geographer’s dream, and an excellent example of how much is added when an author has this knowledge at his disposal.

Approaching his subject in a direct, chronological fashion, Williams first sets the stage with a brief colonial background of the region, which he follows with an assessment of the undercurrents which led to the rebellion. Though aware of what was going on in the east, he nevertheless remains firmly rooted in the west, avoiding the pitfall of many authors—the temptation to stray afield. All this prelude is capably handled, but it is when he gets to the war itself that the author is in his element. Skillfully blending narrative with pertinent documents (in which the participants are allowed to speak for themselves) the reader is treated to a bit of authenticity often missing from works of this nature. Overall, the result is most effective.

Though the participants were many and colorful, the core of the work relates to three central characters: General Edward Hand; General Lachlan McIntosh; and Colonel Daniel Brodhead — the men who commanded Fort Pitt during the crucial years of the conflict. Their careers clearly reveal the problems faced by commanders in the west, and the scant rewards they received for their efforts. This re-
viewer was especially pleased with the treatment accorded General McIntosh, the Georgia general Washington sent to Fort Pitt in hopes of easing the tension between Pennsylvania and Virginia. His often-criticized, generally misunderstood efforts are recognized by the author who gives McIntosh his rightful due as a man who, against heavy odds, accomplished more than might have been expected.

Fort Pitt and the Revolution on the Western Frontier represents local history at its best. That qualification, "local history," is not added to diminish the book's significance in the least, but rather to call attention to the fact that it was not written just for scholars — it is not a study that bogs down in interpretation and forgets the excitement that is history. It is a book for the layman, but one that the professional historian will delight in and be educated by. Well researched, carefully documented, and thoughtfully presented, this stands as a tribute to Edward G. Williams's lifetime of love for Western Pennsylvania. It is also a credit to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the sponsor of the volume. Other such societies should follow this example.

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The success of the Americans in their War for Independence depended largely upon the ability of the United States to build an army of regular or "line" units made up of men whose training, organization, and length of service was sufficient to mount a sustained military effort against the British. Pennsylvanians, who furnished General Washington with as many as eighteen regiments of regulars, contributed as much as the citizens of any state to the development of the Continental army. Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line played an important part in the Revolutionary War from its beginning in New England until its final throes in South Carolina and Georgia.

John B. B. Trussell traces the organizational development of each