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BOOK REVIEWS

The Western Military Frontier, 1815-1846. By Henry Putney Beers. (Philadelphia, 1935, 227 p.) A dissertation in history for the doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Beers deals with the story of the military frontier as "the line of military posts that developed from the Great Lakes to the Red River," but his use of the term frontier is not consistent. At times it is not a line but a region. On account of the Seminole War, garrisons were withdrawn from the "western frontier" at such far apart forts as Dearborn at the southern end of Lake Michigan and Snelling on the Mississippi. He speaks of the northwestern frontier and the southwestern frontier. The former apparently includes Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri, while Fort Gibson, on the Arkansaw is a southwestern post. The two were rather close together for such geographical designation.

The first plan of defense carried out after the War of 1812 was a line of "posts from Mackinac *via* Green Bay, the Fox River and the Wisconsin River to Prairie du Chien and up the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony. Another line of posts was to be constructed from Chicago along the Illinois River to St. Louis." The trans-Mississippi military frontier line was started in 1819 and eventually consisted of a chain of forts from Wilkins on Lake Superior and Snelling on the upper Mississippi, to Washita on the Red River and Jesup near the Sabine, roughly parallel to the boundary of the Indian country.

The advancement of the military frontier was due to several causes: protection for the miner and settler, prevention of inter-tribal warfare, and especially protection for the migrant Indians from east of the Mississippi against the plains tribes. On the northern end of the frontier, British machinations were an additional factor.

In 1832, mounted rangers were created for the "north-western" frontier, and the following year the cavalry branch of the army was permanently restored with the establishment of the dragoons.

The dissertation consists of a preface, eight chapters of text (including an introductory chapter for the period 1783-1815 and a conclusion), bibliography, appendix, and a quite adequate index of twenty-seven pages. The style is a bit awkward in places, and the paragraphs are not always a careful development of the topic sentence. The conclusion is too broad, crediting the army with accomplishments that are not detailed in the text; suggesting, however, topics for further study.

The bibliography is excellent, giving evidence of extensive investigation. But the author slights this part of his work by failing to list all sources cited in the footnotes. For instance, thirteen citations in the first chapter, and six in the second chapter, could not be found in the bibliography.

The appendix consists of a list of forts with dates of founding, and towns that later occupied their sites. Ninety-three western posts were established in the period 1783-1815, fifty-three during the years 1815-1846, and two prior to 1783. It would hardly seem that the army "began an unprecedented advance into the Indian country" after the War of 1812 (p. 172). There are also two maps, one showing the distribution of forts.

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Our America. By Irving R. Melbo. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1937. 402 pages, ill.)

It is not a new thought that the history of a nation is more than a recital of its military and political campaigns. School histories today devote much space to the story of cultural development and biographical data. A supplementary reader for intermediate grades which tells graphically salient facts in the lives of men who have contributed to the

progress of the United States should; therefore, be welcomed by teachers everywhere. Such a book is *Our America*, and in its twenty-five chapters it presents biographies from Leif Ericson and Christopher Columbus to Edgar L. Hewett and Richard E. Byrd, biographies so throbbing with life itself that they are certain to fascinate and inspire the boys and girls who read and discuss them with their teachers.

Chronologically and geographically, the selections have been well made by the author. The West has representation in Jedediah Smith, General Grenville M. Dodge, Luther Burbank, Walter Disney, E. W. Scripps, and Edgar L. Hewett, offering also a variety of careers, professions and occupations covering practically every larger field of endeavor. Incidental to the biographical data, the historical and regional backgrounds are set forth fully and each biography is related to others so as to demonstrate the contemporaneity of men and events. But one fault, if it is a fault, is to be found, namely, that only one woman, Jane Addams, is included in the gallery of famous personages who have made America what it is.

The book is well illustrated in color and in black and white half-tones. It will delight not only teachers, students and pupils but also the general reader who should include it in his "must" reading.

P. A. F. W.

Coronado and Quivira. By Paul A. Jones. (The Lyons Publishing Company, Lyons, Kansas, 1937; 242 pp.; bibliography, no index. \$2.50).

Paul A. Jones of Lyons, Kansas, journalist by profession, became interested in the history of the Southwest a decade ago in seeking to locate Quivira. His curiosity was aroused by archaeological discoveries four miles west of Lyons, in Rice County, Kansas, in 1927. In that year heavy rains washed away the sod and revealed a number of village sites which stirred up some local excitement.

Quivira, it will be recalled, was the mythical kingdom of fabled wealth sought by Francisco Vásquez de Coronado

in 1541 on his exploration into the Kansas country after he had failed to find riches in the land of the Pueblo Indians. Coronado's failure to discover gold in Quivira is well known, but students have not ceased to speculate over the location of the place he sought. The search for further light on the Coronado expedition will undoubtedly go on, in Spain and Mexico, particularly in view of the forthcoming Coronado Cuarto Centennial celebration in 1940, and it is possible that new materials will be found. Dr. Arthur S. Aiton has already turned up a number of new documents on this subject.

Coronado and Quivira is in reality the third edition of Jones' first book on this subject, published in 1929 under the title *Quivira*. This earlier volume contained twenty-five chapters and an "Afterthought," a total of 182 pages, and numerous illustrations. The present edition, *Coronado and Quivira*, is revised and much enlarged and has several new illustrations. The volume is divided into two parts. Part I is a reprint of the older work, except that it contains one new chapter, "The Lure of Gold," and omitted from it is another chapter, "The Tradition of Madoc." Moreover lines or paragraphs have been rewritten or added in a number of places.

Part II, consisting of twelve short chapters, relates Mr. Jones' experiences in pursuing the trail of Coronado and especially his search for additional light on Coronado's life. It includes a reprint of Dr. Arthur S. Aiton's article, "The Last Days of Coronado," published in the *American Historical Review* in 1925. There is also a chapter on Coronado genealogy, contributed by Luís L. de la Barra, Jr., of Mexico City, which brings together some facts not hitherto known about the family of Coronado.

The success of Mr. Jones' books is evidence of the great interest in the activities of the early Spanish explorers, colonizers, and missionaries in the Southwest if the story is presented with simplicity and a touch of imagination. Critical students will find errors in *Coronado and Quivira* and

points of disagreement, such as the location of Cuartelejo, but the average reader will enjoy the stimulating and interesting story. Some will object that there is no mention of the contention of certain critics that Coronado never reached Kansas but got lost in the ravines of Texas. This reviewer feels, however, that the preponderance of evidence points to Kansas as the final point of Coronado's pregrinations in search of Quivira.

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