A History of Manufactures in the Ohio Valley to the Year 1860

ISSN 0003-4827
Copyright © 1984 State Historical Society of Iowa. This article is posted here for personal use, not for redistribution.

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.9053

Hosted by Iowa Research Online
uals and specific events. These include lengthy portraits of Thomas Hart Benton, Francis P. Blair, Claiborne F. Jackson, John O'Fallon, Rolla Wells, construction of the Eads Bridge, and the 1904 World's Fair. Unfortunately the author's research effort, readable text, and obvious interest in and concern for the city offer little to the western or the urban historian. No effort is made to broaden the perspective beyond the city limits. How did St. Louis affect the growth or dominate the politics of Missouri? How did the city fit into patterns established in other western cities or into a broader urban historiography? The bibliography includes a cursory summary of secondary sources and concentrates on listing articles in the *Missouri Historical Review* and the *Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society* and theses and dissertations from local universities. The book should attract the interest of local residents who can appreciate the detail of fact and location; that somewhat limited audience is well served.

**University of Northern Iowa**

David A. Walker

---


This Porcupine Press reissue of Lippincott's 1914 work offers the reader an intelligent treatment of the economic development of the trans-Allegheny West and a version of the "old" economic history as practiced before World War I. These two features combined with a low price tag make this volume a worthy acquisition for libraries with a suitable collecting interest.

Lippincott divides the "industrial" history of the Ohio Valley into three parts. The first, more or less coincidental to French occupation, was largely devoted to the initial preparation of furs for export. English occupation after 1763, and American control after the Revolution, changed little. The years 1790 to 1830, which Lippincott calls the "Pioneer Period," were marked by the widespread establishment of small manufacturing firms, primarily involved in processing corn into meal and whiskey. The third phase covered 1830 to 1860, a time characterized by Lippincott as the "Mill Period." As the name suggests, the dominant type of manufacturing enterprise was the mill, usually run by water, but with increasing numbers of steam-powered mills. Lumber and flour mills were the most common, though Lippincott does pay some attention to Pittsburgh's growing iron industry, as well as the meatpacking business of Cincinnati.

Lippincott shows himself to be a follower of Frederick Jackson
Turner in his argument that the three phases of manufacturing development closely followed the progress of the western frontier. By the 1830s, the Ohio Valley was sufficiently populated and connected to the outside world to provide for a significant expansion of the economy beyond agriculture. Lippincott argues that the last three decades before the Civil War saw a move away from small localized production (often situated in the home) toward more heavily capitalized firms located in cities.

The methods, techniques, and assumptions of this work suggest that economic history has traveled quite a path since 1914. The book is based largely on the published census reports and on travelers' and promotional accounts. Lippincott did no manuscript research, no sampling in the unpublished census, and no newspaper reading outside of Niles Register. For a study of manufacturing, the book is curiously devoid of references to the experience of individual firms. Modern economic history concerns itself with the same themes as it did in 1914—growth and development—but the emphasis today is on the use of theory to help explain the past. Terms such as supply, demand, price, and quantity do not appear in the book. Lippincott's assertion of a shortage of capital and labor in the Ohio Valley remains just an assertion because he did not systematically seek evidence of interest rates or wage rates. Finally, there is none of the careful quantitative measurement and hypothesis-testing characteristic of much of the "new" economic history. We stand as far from Lippincott's type of history as he stood from Prescott. This may prove a comforting thought in the midst of today's general crisis in history.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire


A fine new volume has been added to the shelf of books by Juanita Brooks, a student of American frontier history and of the early history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Her journals are exciting because Brooks skillfully keeps her editorial presence in the background, allowing the diarists to speak for themselves. Through her editorial efforts, many valuable diaries of early Mormon pioneers, including luminaries John D. Lee and Hosea Stout, provide us with glimpses of the everyday lives of the pioneers as they made the grueling journey west from Nauvoo and struggled to establish new settlements in Utah.
Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.