

**THE FIRST EXPLORATIONS  
OF THE TRANS-ALLEGHENY  
REGION BY THE  
VIRGINIANS, 1650-1674**

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The First Explorations of the Trans-Allegheny Region by the Virginians, 1650-1674 by Clarence Walworth Alvord & Lee Bidgood

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**CLARENCE WALWORTH ALVORD & LEE BIDGOOD**

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by the Virginians**

## Preface

After the brilliant researches of Francis Parkman and Justin Winsor, it is remarkable that a new chapter in the history of the explorations of North America has remained so long unwritten; yet the story of the discovery of the Trans-Allegheny region by the Virginians is here first told in its entirety. Since the success of these early enterprises has been doubted and frequently denied by our best historians, the attempt to piece together the story from the scattered sources and to determine its truth needs no excuse. For the same reason, it is desirable that all the sources, whether previously printed or not, be published in order that others may test for themselves the conclusions. If the memory of these hardy English explorers be revived and given a place by the side of their better known but not more daring French contemporaries, Mr. Bidgood and myself will feel rewarded for our pains. As I read again the manuscript before sending it to the press, I cannot but feel that a great injustice has been done these Virginians by history. Although the pen of a Francis Parkman could hardly raise them to the rank of Joliet, Marquette, and La Salle, for these latter opened to the knowledge of mankind a continent, still the names of Wood, Batts, Fallam, and Needham should surely be as well known as those of the many lesser lights that surrounded these greater French explorers.



At the request of the publishers, the following expansion of abbreviations has been adopted in the reprinting of the manuscript originals: *Majestie*; *Lordship*, and, *which*, *with*; and occasionally others have been expanded. In the case of the letter "u" used for "v" and of "yt" for "that," the usual practice of making the alterations has been followed. "Ye" used for "the" has been retained in some documents.

For assistance in the preparation of this volume our thanks are due first to Miss Agnes Laut who kindly loaned us her manuscript and notes. We wish to make acknowledgments to Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, Dr. Solon J. Buck, Mr. James Mooney, Mr. Earl G. Swem, and Professor Frederick J. Turner for valuable assistance and suggestions; and also to Miss Margaret L. Kingsbury for coöperation on the bibliography.

CLARENCE W. ALVORD.

University of Illinois.

## The Discovery of the Ohio Waters

