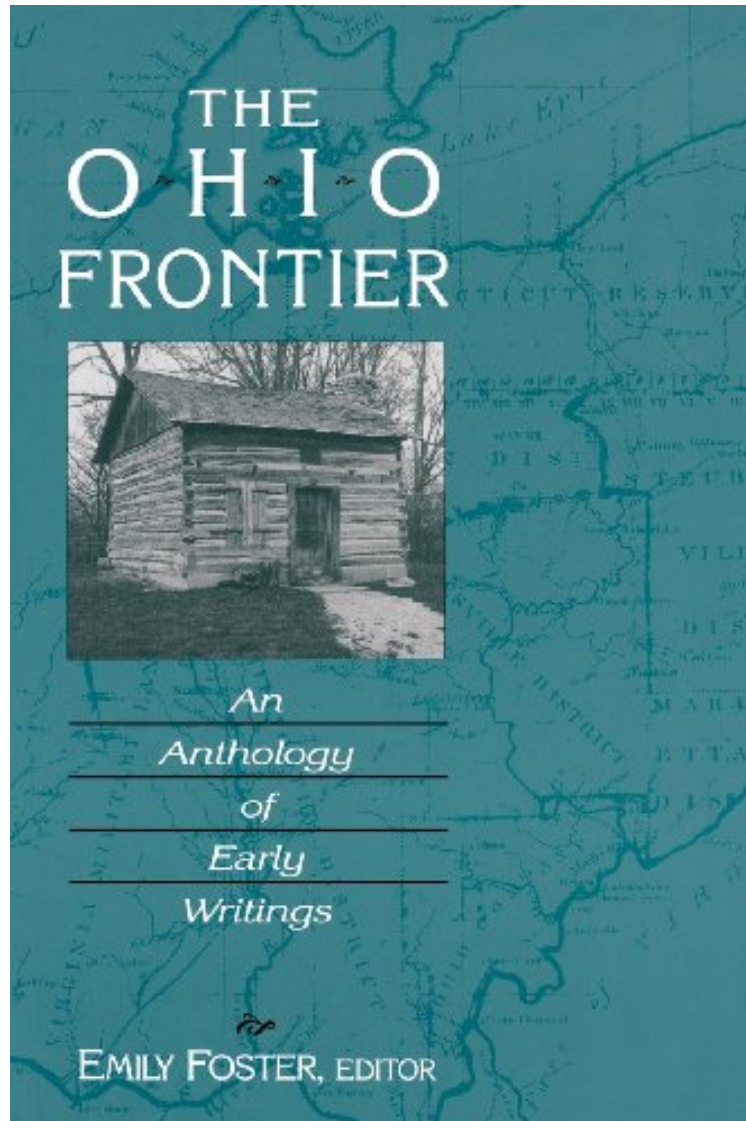


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The Ohio Frontier: An Anthology of Early Writings (Ohio River Valley Series)

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From Brand: The University Press of Kentucky : The Ohio Frontier: An Anthology of Early Writings (Ohio River Valley Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ohio Frontier: An Anthology of Early Writings (Ohio River Valley Series):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Very Charming and Interesting Anthology By 5/0 "The Ohio Frontier: An Anthology of Early Writings" edited by Emily Foster. History is always at its' best when you get to hear

from EVERYONE involved, not just the "winners" or the politicians or priests or pundits. One of the elements that make this book so entertaining is the variety of viewpoints the Editor has selected to present the reader. Ms. Foster brings forth the voices of settlers, evangelizers, military men, Indians, women, slaves and freedmen, captives, children, rich, poor, "travelers", and a raft of nationalities. Almost all the entries are brief - usually in the form of letters or private journal entries and thus the reader can sorta "sip" at the book, taking time to enjoy this or that story or view or experience however they are inclined. Yet the Editor's choice of writings lets the reader amble along Ohio's frontier paths taking in tastes of the changes from Indian relations to the loneliness and sometimes fear of settler life to the canals to the missionaries to the immigrants from the Atlantic coast or those straight from Europe to the arrivals of the miracles of steam power and then the Iron Horse. By the time the reader gets through all the sex, missionaries, warfare, whiskey, comedy, trees, hardship, pestilence, intrigues, revivals, geography, storms, ethnicity, catastrophes, personal dramas, bad roads, bears, wolves, raccoons, and passenger pigeons the reader will have to conclude that the Ohio Frontier was indeed full of something or other every blessed day.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insight into Ohio pioneer lives
By CustomerGood collection of early Ohio writings that give some insight to the lives of Ohio's pioneer settlers.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a step back into history
By Thomas P. Mcauliffe This book is hard to describe but an anthology, like the title says, is a good start. It is a good book to read to get an authentic perspective of the frontier history of this important state, sure, it has some boring moments, but a complete read gives you a good feel for the times and history of the Ohio frontier. It almost puts you there at the time of all these goings on. Like I said, some boring, but, also quite a bit interesting at the same time.

Few mementoes remain of what Ohio was like before white people transformed it. The readings in this anthology the diaries of a trader and a missionary, the letter of a frontier housewife, the travel account of a wide-eyed young English tourist, the memoir of an escaped slave, and many others are eyewitness accounts of the Ohio frontier. They tell what people felt and thought about coming to the very fringes of white civilization and what the people thought and did who saw them coming. Each succeeding group of newcomers hunters, squatters, traders, land speculators, farmers, missionaries, fresh European immigrants established a sense of place and community in the wilderness. Their writings tell of war, death, loneliness, and deprivation, as well as courage, ambition, success, and fun. We can see the lust for the land, the struggle for control of it, the terrors and challenges of the forest, and the determination of white settlers to change the land, tame it, "improve" it. The new Ohio these settlers created had no room for its native inhabitants. Their dispossession is a defining theme of the book. As the forests receded and the farms expanded, the Indians were pressured to move out. By the time the last tribe, the Wyandots, left in 1843, they were regarded as relics of the romantic past, and the frontier experience came to a close. Anyone fascinated by the panorama of America's westward migration will respond to the dramatic stories told in these pages.

"A revealing compilation of primary source materials describing Ohio's early history." *Journal of the Early Republic* "Foster collected many first-hand accounts of life of early Ohioans and assembled them thematically so readers could visualize the difficult transition of Ohio passing from a wilderness state to a setting of bustling towns connected by roads and canals and a thriving economy." *Northwest Ohio Quarterly* "A colorful tapestry of primary source readings from the early trans-Appalachian West." *Ohio Valley History* "Readers will have a better comprehension of what it was like to live on the frontier and how extensive the hardships encountered by the first generation of settlers were." *Ohioana Quarterly* "The organization and pacing are excellent and the evolution of Ohio's nature becomes clear." *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* About the Author Emily Foster is editor of *Cincinnati Magazine*.