

ASSIGNMENT #2

THE FIRST AMERICAN WEST: THE OHIO VALLEY, 1750-1820

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/icuhtml/fawhome.html>

or go to Carol Crowe Carraco's website @wku.edu/1%7Ecarol.crowecarraco

This collection of 637 documents is a unique sampling of materials to be found in the holdings of the Filson Club Historical Society of Louisville and the University of Chicago Library.

Five themes explore the Trans-Appalachian West from the beginning of European Settlement to the end of the frontier period. They are: Contested Lands; Peoples and Migrations; Empires and Politics; Western Life and Culture; and Constructing a Western Past.

Choose one of the following topics and explore the various references to it. Then write a 5-6 page summary on your sources as well as decide how the topic has political, social, and/or economic consequences for the history of Kentucky.

Judge Harry Innes [12 references]

The Burr Conspiracy [12 references]

Letters of Early Governors [at least 12 references]

Letters to and from James Wilkinson [12 references]

Joshua Lacy Wilson's Journal , 1811 [#156] and Diary of Joseph Hornsby [#221]

African Americans [12 references; ex. #173]

John James Audubon [12 references; ex. #217]

The War of 1812 [12 references; ex. # 190, 191, 447]

Letters of Mary Ann Corlis, 1816, and Letters of Amanda Wilson, 1817, [ex. # 250, 259]

Letters from Barthelemi Tardiveau to St. John de Crevecouer [13 references, ex. 258]

Mary Dewees's Journal, 1788-1789 [#268] and William Brown's Memorandum Book [#629]

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The First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750-1820 consists of 15,000 pages of original historical material documenting the land, peoples, exploration, and transformation of the trans-Appalachian West from the mid-eighteenth to the early nineteenth century. The collection is drawn from the holdings of the University of Chicago Library and the Filson Historical Society of Louisville, Kentucky. Among the sources included are books, periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets, scientific publications, broadsides, letters, journals, legal documents, ledgers and other financial records, maps, physical artifacts, and pictorial images. The collection documents the travels of the first Europeans to enter the trans-Appalachian West, the maps tracing their explorations, their relations with Native Americans, and their theories about the region's mounds and other ancient earthworks. Naturalists and other scientists describe Western bird life and bones of prehistoric animals. Books and letters document the new settlers' migration and acquisition of land, navigation down the Ohio River, planting of crops, and trade in tobacco, horses, and whiskey. Leaders from Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to Isaac Shelby, William Henry Harrison, Aaron Burr, and James Wilkinson comment on politics and regional conspiracies. Documents also reveal the lives of trans-Appalachian African Americans, nearly all of them slaves; the position of women; and the roles of churches, schools, and other institutions.

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The Library of Congress presents these documents as part of the record of the past. These primary historical documents reflect the attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs of different times. The Library of Congress, the University of Chicago, and Filson Historical Society do not endorse the views expressed in these collections, which may contain materials offensive to some readers.

Special Presentation: [Encountering the First American West](#)

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