

# Suggestions for Further Reading

A number of worthwhile books and studies deal in detail with different aspects of the roles and missions of the Corps of Topographical Engineers. Forest G. Hill's *Roads, Rails & Waterways: The Army Engineers and Early Transportation* covers the topogs' work on the nation's waterways. W. Turrentine Jackson, in his *Wagon Roads West: A Study of Federal Road Surveys and Construction in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1846-1869*, describes their role in establishing a national network of roads. For a full treatment of the topogs' role in westward expansion, the reader should see William H. Goetzmann's *Army Exploration in the American West, 1803-1863*.

Some unpublished manuscripts are also especially useful. Garry D. Ryan's dissertation, "War Department Topographical Bureau, 1831-1863: An Administrative History" (American University, 1968), deals with the administrative evolution of the corps and the Topographical Bureau. Adrian G. Traas's master's thesis, "The U.S. Army Topographical Engineers in the Mexican War" (Texas A&M University, 1971), clarifies the roles of individual members of the corps in the various campaigns of the Mexican War.

Some aspects of the topogs' work have never received full treatment. Of the numerous books on lighthouses, none treat the topographers in any detail. The same is true regarding their work in Washington, D.C.

The best sources of information on the overall activities of the corps and bureau, laid out by year, are the annual reports of Colonel Abert. Because Abert used these reports to enumerate the many duties of his officers and to lobby Congress for additional funds and manpower, the reports provide a full record of his operations and problems.