

# Contents

<i>Chapter</i>		<i>Page</i>
I.	<b>ORIGINS. . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
	<i>Geographers . . . . .</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Topographical Engineers . . . . .</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Assignment to the Engineer Department . . . . .</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>The General Survey Act and the Board of Engineers for Internal Improvements . . . . .</i>	<i>9</i>
II.	<b>INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TOPOGS . . . . .</b>	<b>19</b>
	<i>The Topographical Bureau . . . . .</i>	<i>19</i>
	<i>The Seminole War . . . . .</i>	<i>23</i>
	<i>Establishment of the Corps of Topographical Engineers . . . . .</i>	<i>23</i>
III.	<b>CONSTRUCTION . . . . .</b>	<b>27</b>
	<i>Lighthouses . . . . .</i>	<i>28</i>
	<i>Marine Hospitals. . . . .</i>	<i>31</i>
	<i>The New Orleans Customs House . . . . .</i>	<i>32</i>
	<i>Washington, D.C.. . . . .</i>	<i>33</i>
IV.	<b>NAVIGATION . . . . .</b>	<b>37</b>
	<i>The Great Lakes . . . . .</i>	<i>40</i>
	<i>Great Lakes Survey . . . . .</i>	<i>43</i>
	<i>U.S. Coast Survey . . . . .</i>	<i>45</i>
	<i>The Mississippi River System . . . . .</i>	<i>46</i>
	<i>The Mississippi Delta Survey. . . . .</i>	<i>48</i>
V.	<b>EXPANDING FRONTIERS . . . . .</b>	<b>53</b>
	<i>Pre-Mexican War Exploration . . . . .</i>	<i>53</i>
	<i>Western Roads . . . . .</i>	<i>55</i>
	<i>Military Surveys . . . . .</i>	<i>56</i>
	<i>The Mexican War . . . . .</i>	<i>57</i>
	<i>The Southwestern Reconnaissance . . . . .</i>	<i>59</i>
	<i>Boundary Surveys . . . . .</i>	<i>61</i>

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Post-Mexican War Western Roads . . . . .</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Pacific Railroad Surveys . . . . .</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>The Isthmian Canal Route. . . . .</i>	<i>69</i>
 VI. DECLINE AND DEMISE . . . . .	 <i>73</i>
<i>Decline of the Bureau . . . . .</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>The Civil War . . . . .</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Civil War Troops. . . . .</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>End of an Era . . . . .</i>	<i>78</i>
 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING. ....	 <i>81</i>

## Illustrations

<i>Erskine Survey of New York and Connecticut, 1778 . . . . .</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Map of the Route From Alexandria to Colchester, 1781. . . . .</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Isaac Roberdeau . . . . .</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Stephen H. Long . . . . .</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>The Wing Dam at Henderson Bar, Kentucky, 1825 . . . . .</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>John J. Abert . . . . .</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Dredge Used at Ocracoke Inlet, North Carolina, 1829 . . . . .</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Joseph G. Totten . . . . .</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Chicago Lighthouse, 1854 . . . . .</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>James Kearney . . . . .</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>The Potomac Aqueduct . . . . .</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Construction of a Pier for the Potomac Aqueduct . . . . .</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Red Rock Rapids, 1841 . . . . .</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>The Snagboat <i>Archimedes</i> . . . . .</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>John McClellan's Plan for Cribwork . . . . .</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Buffalo Harbor . . . . .</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>James D. Graham . . . . .</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Title Page of the Humphreys-Abbot Report . . . . .</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>John C. Frémont on a Postage Stamp. . . . .</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>James Abert's Drawing of Cribwork, 1845 . . . . .</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>James Abert's Portrait of a Plains Indian. . . . .</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>George H. Derby's Map of San Diego Harbor. . . . .</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Amiel Whipple's Map of the Mouth of the Gila River. . . . .</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Crossing Hellgate River in the Winter . . . . .</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Crossing Hellgate River in the Spring . . . . .</i>	<i>65</i>

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Robert Williamson's Survey Party in Livermore Pass ....</b>	<b>67</b>
Gouverneur Warren's Route From Fort Pierre to Fort Kearny. . . . .	70
Civil War Topographers Near Yorktown, Virginia, 1862 ..	75
Andrew A. Humphreys . . . . .	76
William H. Emory . . . . .	78
Gouverneur K. Warren . . . . .	78
George G. Meade . . . . .	79

Illustrations courtesy of the following sources: pp. 4 and 5, New York Historical Society, New York City; p. 7, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; pp. 10, 14, 21, 25, 30, 32, 33, 38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 56, 57, 62, 70, and 79, National Archives; p. 31, Catholic University of America; p. 54, Smithsonian Institution; pp. 75 and 76, Library of Congress; p. 78 (left), U.S. Military Academy; and p. 78 (right), Nebraska State Historical Society. All other illustrations from the files of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.