

Review Notices

Copshaholm: The Oliver Story. By Joan Romine. (South Bend: Northern Indiana Historical Society, Inc., 1978. Pp. 138. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$8.95; paperbound \$7.50.) *Copshaholm* is a fascinating account of what has become an American stereotype—the “rags to riches” family enterprise of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. *The Oliver Story* is the story of the Oliver chilled plow and the two men, James Oliver and his son Joseph, who parlayed genius, energy, business skill, and an expansive and congenial economic environment into a family fortune. With only a few changes this book might also be the story of Andrew Carnegie or Henry Ford. Joan Romine had access to an abundance of privately held material, and she has used it well. While the Oliver family and their business activities intermesh to form a single focus, the author also casts light upon an important secondary development—the emergence of South Bend, Indiana, as an industrial city in the Midwest. *Lester C. Lamon, Indiana University, South Bend.*

The Lost Heritage. By Walter E. Barton. (Philadelphia: Dorrance & Company, 1978. Pp. viii, 134. Notes. \$5.95.) This ninety-two year old author takes the reader back to his growing-up days on an isolated farm in Posey County, Indiana. His lucid memory is filled with vivid pictures of life before the turn of the century. “What an unforgettable experience to arise early in the morning, behold for a few moments the rosy fingers of dawn . . . dispelling the fogs down in the valley, and walk barefoot across the lush pasture through the bluegrass and white clover baptized with pearly drops of dew.” He tells of the hard work on the farm—clearing the forest, planting and harvesting, digging a well, and hog butchering; and he also tells of the fun times—a wedding night chivaree, “snipe” hunting, the one-room school, and the old-time games they played. This is a cozy little book to spend an evening with in front of a log fire. *Kenneth P. McCutchan, Evansville.*

History of the Public Library in Vigo County, 1816-1975 By Irene Roberts McDonough. (Terre Haute, Ind.: 1977. Pp. xii, 203. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, sources consulted, index. \$7.00.) Despite their reputation for illiteracy and anti-intellectualism, early nineteenth-century Hoosiers regularly declared their dedication to mass education in general and to the significance of public libraries in particular. It was not until the latter part of the century, however, that adequate funds and a public willingness to be taxed for educational and

cultural programs made possible the beginnings of a genuine public school and library system. In the meantime the history of schools and libraries was marked by false starts, frustrations, and failure to bring reality to the ideal of an educated electorate. Most counties experimented with a variety of public, private, and "mixed" libraries in their efforts to acquire library services. They succeeded in the sense that they did put books into the hands of some people who could not afford to buy them, but they were usually short-lived and severely limited in their availability. Some experiments, like the "subscription libraries," were open only to members of the "subscription company"; others, like the township trustee libraries, served a wider public, but were constantly plagued by a shortage of funds. In her *History of the Public Library in Vigo County*, Irene Roberts McDonough traces the appearance and disappearance of a number of the nineteenth-century predecessors of the Vigo County Public Library and the evolution of that library from its origins as the Terre Haute Public Library in 1881 to its emergence as a county-wide library system in 1960. A long-time staff member of the library, McDonough has used her knowledge of the records and documents of the agency to flesh out an interesting and readable narrative. One hopes that other counties in Indiana will come forward with similar studies as a contribution to understanding one of our most valuable and most neglected agencies of culture—the public library. *J. Robert Constantine, Indiana State University, Terre Haute.*

Quotations from Abraham Lincoln. Edited by Ralph Y. McGinnis. (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1977. Pp. x, 134. Illustrations, selected references, index. Clothbound, \$12.95; paperbound, \$6.95.) This book contains approximately fourscore and fifty quotations from Lincoln and utterances attributed to him, arranged under ten subject headings—truth, freedom, God, etc.—and provides a running commentary which supplies the historical context of most of the quotations. Selected speeches, some of them shortened, are also included, and there is a Lincoln chronology. Documentation is usually satisfactory, but occasionally nonexistent. The majority of the quotations are identified in the narrative as excerpts from Lincoln's speeches and letters, but no authority at all is cited for attributing a few of the remaining statements to Lincoln. Textual inaccuracies occur in many of the passages taken from speeches and letters: words are added; words are transcribed in the wrong order; words are substituted; words, clauses, and even sentences are

omitted without the use of spaced periods to indicate ellipsis; and changes are made in punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and typographical emphasis. The book is not recommended. Anthony Shipps, *Indiana University, Bloomington*.

The Northern Expeditions of Stephen H. Long: The Journals of 1817 and 1823 and Related Documents. Edited by Lucille M. Kane, June D. Holmquist, and Carolyn Gilman. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1978. Pp. xii, 407. Maps, illustrations, notes, appendixes, abstracts, index. \$17.50.) Stephen Harrison Long was a nineteenth-century army engineer and explorer best known for mislabeling the Great Plains as the "Great American Desert." The Minnesota Historical Society has now published Long's journals for two of the five expeditions he led between 1816 and 1823. In 1817 Long and seven soldiers traveled up the Mississippi River to the Falls of St. Anthony and down the river to the Missouri. His expedition of 1823 included soldiers, guides, and several scientists. Long led this party from Philadelphia through Indiana (with a stay at Ft. Wayne) to Minnesota, up the Red River to Canada, across the Great Lakes, and back to Pennsylvania. The book also includes the journal of James E. Colhoun, Long's astronomer on the 1823 trip. Long's journals provide detailed descriptions of the lands covered, the peoples met, and the events of the expeditions. He was a meticulous observer, and this book is mandatory reading for those interested in the early history of the Old Northwest. The editors have made exemplary efforts to identify the names and places mentioned in the journals. While additional maps would have been helpful, *The Northern Expeditions of Stephen H. Long* is well-edited and nicely presented. The editors and the Minnesota Historical Society must be applauded for the publication of these journals. Roger G. Miller, *Indiana University, Bloomington*.