

Indians' story in the Old Northwest might have turned out for the better. As it was, the unbridled expansionism of land-hungry whites undermined any hopes for peace and led to destructive Indian-white warfare before and during the War of 1812.

Although Carter's book is well researched and written, it suffers from one of the main problems inherent in writing Indian history and biographies. The Indian subject has left no written accounts from which to work. As a result, as Carter himself admits in the preface, the book's "emphasis more often falls upon the times than upon the man" (p. xii). Despite that drawback, Carter's work is a fine addition to knowledge of American Indian history, frontier history, and the history of Indiana.

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Visions of Harmony: A Study in Nineteenth-Century Millenarianism. By Anne Taylor. (New York: Clarendon Press/Oxford University Press, 1987. Pp. 285. Map, illustrations, notes, select bibliography, index. \$46.00.)

The unique role played by New Harmony as the site for two distinct attempts at utopia has attracted the attention of such able scholars as Karl J. R. Arndt, Arthur Bestor, Donald E. Pitzer, and William E. Wilson. To their works readers can add, with reservations, this book by Anne Taylor, previously the biographer of Laurence Oliphant. Taylor's particular strength lies in her portraits of George Rapp, Robert Owen, William Maclure, Frances Wright, and a few of the other fantastic folk who dreamed of an earthly heaven on the banks of the Wabash River. In general, she tells an interesting tale rather well grounded in primary sources. Although she concentrates on the Owenite period at New Harmony between 1824 and 1828, her narrative extends from late-eighteenth century Germany to mid-nineteenth century America by way of the British Isles, Philadelphia, and Washington, D. C.

The most distinctive characteristic of Taylor's work is its debunking tendency to explain the behavior of men like Rapp and Owen principally in terms of egotism and self-interest. She portrays Robert Owen, the central figure in the narrative, basically as "a speculative, scheming, mischievous man"—the words of John Quincy Adams used as the title of her fourth chapter—who misrepresented his administration at New Lanark and who at New Harmony seemed mainly interested in turning other people's dreams into ready cash for himself. In her tenth chapter, "The Lord Proprietor"—a title also derived from one of Owen's many critics—she attributes his disastrous decision to rush the infant experiment prematurely into its mature stage to his desire to force a profitable

sale of his New Harmony property on the people he had attracted there.

There is some certainty in the belief that even the greatest man is made of common clay, particularly when the man was as egotistical and self-deceiving as Owen. Taylor's research has furnished some support for her views, most notably the conclusions of Owen's numerous critics and enemies. They are, however, only partial truths. What is missing here is any evident appreciation of the thoughts and dreams that gave men like Owen their direction and power. Contrary to its title, this book is not about "visions of harmony," nor is it a study of millenarianism in the nineteenth century or any other time. Rapp's mysticism and his vision of the Second Coming receive little notice, and there is even less attention given to Owen's not entirely fatuous hopes of creating a New Moral World from the pains and promises of the industrial revolution.

In general, Taylor's reductionism sheds only the dimmest light on the very influences that brought New Harmony into existence and gave it significance. To those who see history merely as intelligent entertainment, this book will have considerable appeal; to those who look to the past for understanding, however, it will likely yield only a marginal return. New Harmony and the visions which made it deserve something better.

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History of the Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry Regiment, 1863-1865.

By John W. Powell. (Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publications, 1987. Pp. 119. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, index. Paper-bound, \$11.50.)

Organized in April, 1864, the Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry was the last cavalry regiment raised in Indiana during the Civil War. It saw action in northern Alabama, middle Tennessee, the Battle of Nashville, and the campaign to capture Mobile. The cavalrymen spent their final months of service as occupation troops in Mississippi where the regiment was mustered out in November, 1865.

This history is largely a compilation of published reports describing the actions in which the Thirteenth Indiana participated. Although the author's grandfather, William Powell, was a private in the Thirteenth, the book tells little of the soldier experience. Perhaps unpublished letters or diaries were not available. One such diary of a Sergeant Albert Alyea is cited on page 104 of the appendix, but no quotations from it appear in the text. Some previously