
Indiana has its share of history and genealogy recorded in old-style German documents which must be read in Fraktur and script. Unless these archaic forms have been studied, Fraktur is hard to understand, and script, impossible. Fewer and fewer people have been taught them. This reprint of Witter's German-English primer for American public schools "wants to meet" this "special need" and aims to help in "deciphering old manuscripts, letters and diaries, church records and entries in old family Bibles" (p. iii). Witter's primer offers fundamental and systematic instruction—a basic course—in the old written forms as German-Americans learned them, as well as lessons in the reading of elementary German. Here, too, is an artifact of nineteenth century schooling, a document of ethnic history, and a record of beliefs and values taught to children. "Seid fröhlich! Steh früh auf! Be merry! Rise early!" (p. 65).

The appendix includes a table of statistics on German in American schools. In Indiana 532 teachers in 231 schools in 153 communities taught German to 30,038 pupils in 1880 (pp. 92-93). The reprint of *Deutsch Englische Schreib-und Lese-Fibel* is a valuable aid in understanding the German language and the Germans of the past and will be used many times with pleasure and profit.

FREDERIC TRAUTMANN has published translations in historical journals, including the *Indiana Magazine of History*. His latest translated books are about Germans in the Civil War: *Twenty Months in Captivity* (1987) and "*We Were The Ninth*" (1987).


Charles Scott's name is not widely known today, but Indiana history buffs may recognize him as commander of the Kentucky militia that fought with Arthur St. Clair and Anthony Wayne against the Indians of the Northwest Territory in the early 1790s. Readers of *Charles Scott and the "Spirit of '76"* will learn that Scott's long military and brief political career spanned the years from the French and Indian War to the War of 1812. Rising from private to captain of militia during the former conflict, the Virginian became a general in the Continental Army during the War for Independence. Scott's service in that war enhanced his reputation but left him with a sizeable burden of debt—not an uncommon experience