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## Book Reviews

*Pathways to the Old Northwest: An Observance of the Bicentennial of the Northwest Ordinance.* Proceedings of a conference held at Franklin College of Indiana, July 10–11, 1987. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1988. Pp. xvi, 93. Notes, index. Paperbound, \$6.00.)

The six scholarly essays in this modest volume collectively discuss significant developments and milestones concerning the Old Northwest from its discovery by the French through the pioneer era. Delivered at Franklin College in July, 1987, as part of the observance of the bicentennial of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, these papers are generally of a high quality. They merit careful reading by citizens who are interested, as every citizen should be, in why and how the Union of thirteen Atlantic seaboard states became the Union of fifty states stretching across the continent and beyond.

The initial essay by Paul Finkelman reviews the background, adoption, and significance of the Ordinance of 1787. The author views the ordinance as the result of various motives and influences and considers it one of the major achievements of the Confederation Congress. Many historians will doubtless agree with this assessment, but not all of them will accept Finkelman's conclusion that the ordinance "never worked well as a constitution for the territories. It worked far better . . . as a political credo for an Empire of Liberty" (p. 16). Most, however, will probably concur that, despite much progress, the "Empire of Liberty" has not yet been adequately realized.

The remaining essays help place the Ordinance of 1787 in its historical perspective. William J. Eccles adds important insights about the Anglo-French duel for empire that England won. Reginald Horsman considers how the brief British interlude helped produce the American Revolution and affected American policy toward the Indians. Patrick J. Furlong offers evidence to show that the ordinance was defective in mandating that laws for the first stage of territorial government be adopted from the codes of the original states. Andrew R. L. Cayton emphasizes the conflict of personal interests and local rivalries in developing emerging political parties, especially in Ohio. And Malcolm J. Rohrbough notes the considerable diversity that existed among the pioneers of the Old

Northwest. All who read these essays should first take note of Ralph D. Gray's excellent introduction, which gives an overview of their content and views.

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*A Century and Beyond: The History of Purdue University.* By Robert W. Topping. (West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press, 1988. Pp. xv, 418. Illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index. \$27.50.)

Visitors to Purdue University see a workaday campus embracing massive, functional-looking buildings; not a glamorous campus, but one that conveys a sense of ordered purposefulness. This visual impression is an outward manifestation of the university's essence. For over one hundred years a succession of strong, businesslike presidents molded Purdue into one of the nation's foremost engineering and scientific institutions. This book is the story of these presidential leaders, who they were and what they accomplished. It is, therefore, not so much a comprehensive history of the entire university effort as it is a series of mini-biographies of presidential leaders and their chief administrative assistants.

Although histories by their very nature deal with beginnings, Topping gives unusual attention to the historical forces that led to the creation of Indiana's land-grant college. Long sections dealing with pioneer society and with Justin Morrill's struggle to get his land-grant college act passed by Congress seem excessive; but once John Purdue, prosperous Hoosier farmer and entrepreneur, focuses Indiana's stumbling efforts to erect an A&M school by giving \$150,000 to the cause, things start moving. Despite John Purdue's effort to direct the enterprise, the college was shaped by its presidents. From an early time they moved it toward a concentration on engineering, thus provoking agriculturalists who felt their interests were being slighted. In due time Purdue University would be recognized for its work in the agricultural sciences, but that part of its program was always overshadowed by its striking accomplishments in engineering and related disciplines. Aggressive presidents and administrators, many of them engineers by training, seized every new opportunity from aeronautics to computers to keep Purdue at the forefront of engineering science.

The dominance of engineering and the "hard" sciences is such that readers find no reference to the humanities until they have digested some three hundred pages of text. Frederick L. Hovde, Arthur G. Hansen, and other more recent presidents recognized that engineers and scientists needed the humanities for a well-rounded education, yet one reason Purdue made few efforts to excel