
Book Reviews

Indiana: A New Historical Guide. By Robert M. Taylor, Jr., Errol Wayne Stevens, Mary Ann Ponder, Paul Brockman. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1989. Pp. xii, 682. Maps, illustrations, index. Clothbound, \$45.00; paperbound, \$19.95.)

Indiana: A New Historical Guide was conceived by the staff of the Indiana Historical Society more than a decade ago. Its ancestor, *Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State*, had been published in 1941 as part of the Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project for Indiana. The completion and publication of this earlier *Guide* were sponsored by Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana State University). It included an account of the history of the state, commentary about numerous historical sites around the state, suggested tours for visiting them, and items about public conveniences along the way such as motels and restaurants. The augmenting interest in state and local history, increase in automobiles, expansion of improved roads, growing number of local accommodations for travelers, and gain in leisure time for many individuals made this *Guide* extremely popular. It was generously and lavishly praised by numerous persons for its historical information about Indiana and its descriptions of historical sites. At the same time a number of historians and nonhistorians considered its historical information and descriptions of sites very heavily sprinkled with distortions and errors of fact. For the most part this praise and criticism were both justified!

In 1978 the staff of the Indiana Historical Society decided to prepare and publish a revision of the earlier *Guide*. Numerous sites described therein had disappeared; and others, including many that were nonexistent in 1941, needed to be added. *Indiana: A New Historical Guide* differs from the previous *Guide* in that it offers no information about motels, restaurants, and other public conveniences; organizes its tours in a circular rather than an elongated manner; and has no general account of the history of Indiana. This new *Guide* consists entirely of information about its nineteen circular tours, with emphasis on the descriptions of the more than two thousands sites that they embrace. With one exception each tour is prefaced by a discussion of the history and current status of a "lead city," which is one of the most important and largest cities on the tour route. The Calumet Region is considered as the "lead city" for the tour in its area. Maps make clear the route

to be followed for each tour, and descriptions of items along the way provide explicit information concerning how to locate the sites. With minor exceptions interstate highways are avoided. Tours may begin at any point on the circle, hence may be completed in segments according to personal interest and convenience.

Indiana: A New Historical Guide is indeed a *new* and not a *revised* version of its ancestor. The authors wisely omitted items about motels, restaurants, and other public conveniences, noting that this information is constantly changing and is now easily available from other current sources. A concise history of Indiana, stressing leading trends and highlights, would probably have been more useful to most users of the new *Guide* than the space given to historical material on and the present status of the "lead cities," but this is a moot point. Anticipating disagreement about some statements, the authors appropriately ask "to be informed of possible errors and sources to correct them" (p. ix). Since the sources on which this volume is based often differ concerning the facts for many items, occasional errors are almost inevitable. It is to be expected that some users will wonder why certain sites are included and other sites excluded. Doubtless some misjudgments have been made in this regard, but a modern Solomon could not have made more than two thousand selections with complete consistency. All such comments aside, here is a thoughtfully organized, carefully researched and written, very informative *Guide* to Indiana's historical sites as of the late 1980s. The Indiana Historical Society and the authors merit commendation for having performed an extremely difficult task in a quite creditable manner.

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The Germans in Indianapolis, 1840-1918. By George Theodore Probst. Revised edition by Eberhard Reichmann. (Indianapolis German-American Center and Indiana German Heritage Society, Inc., 1989. Pp. xi, 200. Maps, illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, appendix, index. Paperbound, \$17.25.)

It has taken nearly forty years for this revised Indiana University master's thesis to receive its well-deserved publication. Editor Eberhard Reichmann exercised a light hand with textual revisions but contributed a rich spectrum of illustrations that add greatly to the book.

The work does show some of the shortcomings of its time. The top-down perspective predominates, and the *Vereinsdeutsche* and the liberal freethinker elite often overshadow the more numerous *Kirchendeutsche* and those of lower occupational status. Still, like only a few leading 1950s scholars, Probst supplements this elite