

A Last Word From the Editor

This is the last issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History* to display on the title page my name as editor. After seventeen years it is time to give up the blue pencil. My primary reason for exercising the right of last word is to thank the many people who made these years so meaningful to me: Martin Ridge, who taught me what blue pencils were for; the many graduate students at Indiana University who worked as editorial assistants and assistant editors; the folks at the Indiana Historical Society, particularly Gayle Thornbrough, Peter Harstad, and Tom Mason; the dozens of historians across the state who served on the Editorial Advisory Committee and did much of the hardest work in making judgments about revision and publication of articles; the hundreds of willing book reviewers; and most of all Lorna Lutes Sylvester, who always kept me on my toes and patiently taught me about her native state even though we never agreed fully on what Hoosiers really were or are. From all I learned.

Although I am leaving the editorship of this journal, I am not deserting the history of Indiana. On the contrary, my current writing focuses squarely on the state's past, and I will continue teaching my course on Indiana history at the university in Bloomington. Other duties now occupy more of my time, but I'm a long way, I hope, from being rid of Indiana history.

Finally, I intend to do for my successor what Donald Carmony did for me: get out of the way and let the new guy do his thing. Richard Blackett, a colleague in the History Department in Bloomington, is a specialist in nineteenth-century history, particularly the history of African Americans, and a former editor at the *Journal of American History*. I am eager to listen to his voice on these pages.

James H. Madison