

INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

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EDITORIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A DELAYED ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

An acknowledgment of favors received should have appeared in the last number of this magazine, but was unintentionally omitted. The magazine last year barely paid expenses, and, much as the publisher desired to keep it up, its continuance seemed impracticable. That it has continued to exist is largely due to the friendly aid of several well-wishers who added to their personal subscriptions a number of extra ones, thus swelling the subscription list very materially and putting in the hands of the publisher a fund sufficient, in addition to the regular list, to defray the publishing expenses for the current year. This was done without any soliciting on the part of the publisher, and that men of such character should have thought the publication worthy of their voluntary support and endorsement is the most gratifying result, so far, of our effort to promote an interest along this line. We here make mention of the gentlemen to whom our thanks are due:

Messrs. A. W. Butler, W. E. Henry, J. Frank Hanly, Charles J. Buchanan, Geo. W. Benton, Daniel Wait Howe, John H. Holliday, C. B. Coleman and T. E. Hibben, Indianapolis; Mrs. Milton Shirk, Peru; Mr. Fremont Goodwine, Williamsport; Mr. J. A. Woodburn and the Monroe County Historical Society, Bloomington; Mr. Cyrus W. Hodgkin, Richmond; Mr. F. B. Shutts, Aurora; Mr. Robt. S. Taylor, Fort Wayne, and Mr. Geo. B. Lockwood, Winona Lake.

To Messrs. W. E. Henry and A. W. Butler we are especially indebted.

THE RICHMOND CENTENNIAL.

The plans for the Richmond Centennial anniversary, to be observed next September, still go enthusiastically on. The program has been arranged, and committees for the many branches of work organized, while the local press from time to time

publishes historical matter calculated to arouse the public interest in the movement, and the town, seemingly, is being searched for relics, historical documents and all kinds of tributary material. An important feature of the occasion will be a "Centennial History" of the city, under the charge of a History Committee, in which the various phases of development will be carefully dealt with by those most competent for the tasks. With the effort that is being made to get at all existing material, it is probable that the book will contain much of real historic value hitherto unused.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN INDIANA.

By request Prof. Cyrus W. Hodgin, of Richmond, supplies us with the following information:

"The local historical societies in this State that are at present active, so far as we have been able to learn, are located in the following counties: Elkhart, Grant, Henry, Kosciusko, Monroe, St. Joseph, Wabash and Wayne. The facts of the history of the Elkhart, Grant and Kosciusko societies are wanting. The Wayne county society was organized first in 1882 within the Old Settlers' organization. It was reorganized in 1901 and incorporated in 1902. It has rooms in the court-house at Richmond, assigned to it by the county commissioners, who recently appropriated \$250 to furnish suitable cases for its collection. Its collection of books, files of papers, volumes of magazines and various relics, numbers between six and seven hundred. This does not include the papers that have been read before it. Its meetings are held quarterly, that in November being called the annual meeting. It is supported by membership fees.

"The Henry county society was organized in 1887 and incorporated in 1901. It is housed in a valuable property purchased for the purpose by the county commissioners at a cost of \$5000. It is supported, however, by membership fees and special contributions. It has a valuable collection.

"The society in St. Joseph county is known as the Northern Indiana Historical Society. It aims to work the field of the entire State. It has for its quarters the entire second floor of the public library building in South Bend. Its collection is said to contain the largest number of historical publications and the

most interesting historical relics in the State. The annual meeting occurs in February.

"The Wabash society was organized and incorporated in 1901. It has been given the use, by the county commissioners, of Memorial Building in the city of Wabash, where it has begun a collection of historical materials. This society does not collect membership fees, but each member must 'pay for one share of stock in the association.' Among its officers are a historian and an archæologist. The annual meeting is held in Wabash in October. Special meetings may be held at such times and places as the board of directors may designate.

"The Monroe county society was organized in 1905. It is maintained by a membership fee. The meetings are held monthly in the lecture-room of the Kirkwood Avenue Christian Church in Bloomington. The topics in its programs indicate that much good investigation is being made in the history and biography of the county."

PRESERVATION OF THE FRIGATE "CONSTITUTION."

Since our last issue the Northern Indiana Historical Society has put into circulation the following circular which we are glad to reprint. All local societies should indorse the memorial:

"To the Senators and Representatives from Indiana:

"The Northern Indiana Historical Society at a special meeting of its executive committee held this day, unanimously adopted the following memorial:

"The members of the Northern Indiana Historical Society hereby strongly indorse the movement for the preservation of the U. S. Frigate 'Constitution,' now lying at the Navy Yard at Charlestown, Massachusetts,—a war vessel around which cluster many memories of the early days of the Republic,—the vessel which, by its destruction of the British warship 'Guerriere, gave to the war of 1812 its first victory, and encouraged the nation to renewed and ultimately successful efforts, after the early and discouraging events of the war.

"The society urges that the members of Congress from Indiana favor the appropriation added by the Senate to the naval appropriation bill for the repair or rebuilding of the famous frigate, that it may be an object lesson, showing what in 1812 was

considered a well-equipped vessel of war, thus illustrating the marvelous progress which steam and steel have wrought in naval architecture in a single century. The frigate 'Constitution,' so long as she is afloat, will serve to recall a naval victory which, small in itself when won, was the foundation of the maritime power of the nation.

"And, said society earnestly requests and urgently petitions the members of Congress from Indiana to use every honorable effort and influence within their control to secure so liberal an appropriation as may be necessary to fittingly restore and permanently preserve the frigate 'Constitution' for the purpose above set forth, and as an inspiration of patriotism to the youth of our country.

TIMOTHY E. HOWARD, *President.*

"GEORGE A. BAKER, *Secretary.*"

LOCAL HISTORY CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Moravian Mission on White River.—In the *Indianapolis News* for March 17, 1906, Mr. J. P. Dunn has an interesting contribution in which he discusses the martyrdom of Christian Indians among the Delawares of White river, under the instigation of the nefarious "Prophet," and the Moravian Mission that was established among these people early in the nineteenth century. Hitherto the chief, if not the sole authorities, touching upon these matters have been John B. Dillon, the Indiana historian, and John Heckwelder, the Moravian missionary. To these have recently been added the original reports of the mission, which were discovered in the archives of the Moravian church, and which it is the intention of the Indiana Historical Society to publish. That they will add new information to our rather meager knowledge of the Indians of Indiana is to be expected.

The site of the old Moravian mission, like that of Ouiatenon, is somewhat uncertain, though tradition places it on White river about two miles east of Anderson. A witchcraft craze, inaugurated by the Prophet, who, with his brother Tecumseh, was then located among the Delawares, so discouraged the missionaries that their establishment was discontinued in 1806. In subsequent history so little mention is made of it that its existence is practically forgotten.

In this connection, it may be said that such authorities as we

have upon the subject seem to be quite uncertain as to the distribution of the Indians along White river. Chief Anderson's town and the Munsee town, at or near where Anderson and Muncie now stand, are frequently spoken of in local chronicles, but to most of the others there is very little allusion. According to a United States survey map made in 1821 there was a Little Munsee Town, near Anderson's village, and a Buck Town a little farther up the river. In a former number of this magazine (see Vol. I, No. 4, p. 176) were published some communications reminiscent of an old Indian torture stake that stood for a number of years after the whites came into the country. This was on the river, about three miles southeast of Muncie. From one of these letters, written by Samuel Cecil, who for many years owned the land, it is pretty conclusive that an Indian town of some permanence stood at that place, and that a stake for torturing prisoners was a notable feature of it. Mr. Cecil says that the village was known as Old Munsey, or Old Town Hill, and that it antedated the Munsey that stood just across the river from the present city of Muncie. In Henry county they have a tradition of a town that stood not far from the site of New Castle, and which remained there for some time after the coming of the whites. Judge Martin L. Bundy who, we believe, has a personal recollection of them, affirms that they were Senecas. The Indians who were murdered near Pendleton, in 1824, are also said to have been Senecas. The Senecas belonged to the Iroquois confederacy, and this dual tradition would seem to indicate that Iroquois were to be found among the Algonquins of this section. Strawtown, in Hamilton county, is also said to have been originally "a flourishing Indian town," and there are vague reports of others on the river at the north and south boundary lines of Marion county.

The Union Literary Society.—We are in receipt of an interesting article with this caption, written by Philander Outland, of Richmond, and published in the *Sun-Telegram* for November 22, 1902. The Union Literary Society, or Institute, more properly speaking, was a school in Randolph county, established by the Friends in 1845, and was, perhaps, the first institution of the kind in the State to throw open its doors alike to white and col-

ored pupils. It was commenced in a two-story hewed-log building, "located in a dense forest," and in this primitive seat of learning many a youth of the under race was guided toward a broader life. An account of the school, written by Professor Ebenezer Tucker, its principal, may be found in the History of Randolph County, but Mr. Outland, a colored man who was educated there, deals freshly and more at length with its special service to the colored race. Negro pupils attended the school not only from the territory immediately surrounding, but from Richmond, Logansport and Indianapolis, this State, and from Dayton, Piqua, Cincinnati, and Shelby and Mercer counties, Ohio, while some came from Mississippi and Tennessee.

Baber's History of Greene County.—Mr. Henry Baker, of Worthington, sends us a copy of the little paper-bound History of Greene County, the authorship of which is accredited to "Uncle Jack Baber," and which was published at Worthington in 1875. Some of the best local history we have is to be found in pamphlets or small, unpretentious volumes published by the authors, and Baber's is one of this class. It is evidently written by a reminiscient who is thoroughly familiar with the community in which he has long lived, and the text, which rambles along in a gossip style, contains many minor incidents and anecdotes that bring the people of Greene county close to the reader. The book is now hard to find.

THE SNOWFALL IN OCTOBER, 1869.

From Indiana Farmer, November 11, 1905.

I SEE in the last issue of the *Farmer*, C. H., of Ohio, wants to know the exact date of the deep snow that fell in October of 1868 or 1869. As I have been keeping a record only since 1872, I can rely only on my memory for the information wanted, which was in 1869, the day of the week or month not remembered. If I knew the day of the month I could tell the day of the week. I well recollect a snow in 1843, when I was just turned into my twelfth year, that for severity has perhaps never