

INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

Indiana State Library, Indianapolis
Published by the Indiana Historical Society
GEORGE S. COTTMAN, *Editor*

EDITORIAL.

THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL SURVEY.

Indiana University, through its historical department, is undertaking the ambitious and commendable task of preparing a memorial of Indiana's centennial year, in the form of a students' history or historical reference work of the State. This work, under the direction of Professor J. A. Woodburn, will be of composite authorship, a number of special studies to be contributed by those who are working in history at the university.

When one considers the handicap to honest historical writing from the bread-and-butter point of view, and reflects that the larger part of the historical field is occupied by the gilt-edged abortion of commerce, one hails with especial appreciation work of this sort by an institution that has the ability as well as the will to promote it. Aside from exceptional instances, about the only one who can afford to give time to historical research with a view to adding to historical literature something of worth is the college man, who does it as part of his school work, either as student or professional teacher.

A prospectus of the table of contents of the Indiana University history will give an idea of its scope:

Indiana History—

1. Provincial History.
2. Indiana Under the Old Constitution.
3. Indiana Under the New Constitution.

Compilations—

1. Indiana Newspaper Directory—Historical.
2. Biographical Dictionary of Indiana.
3. Historical Statistics of Indiana.
4. Bibliography of Indiana.
5. Maps and Charts.

Archives—

1. Vincennes.
2. Territorial and Indian.
3. War of 1812.
4. Correspondence of the Governors.
5. Mexican War.
6. Civil War.

Monographs—

1. Early Settlements.
2. Economic Development.
3. Population.
4. Religion.
5. Politics.
6. Constitutional.

DOCUMENTARY FINDS.

Documentary material of interest is apt to turn up in many places, likely and unlikely, and we call attention to the fact that among the likely places are the bound files of old newspapers. By this we mean matter extraneous to the files themselves which, very often, has been bound in with the papers for preservation and which sometimes is discovered by chance as one runs over the volume. Illustrations of this are afforded by the early Indianapolis files in the city library. In these, among other things, are isolated copies of rare newspapers other than those making up the files, which, not being catalogued, have lain there for years before found.

A more striking example is that of the Vincennes Sun files, secured at great expense some years ago by the State Library. As much as these have been looked over by delvers in local history, it seems not to have been appreciated until recently that certain volumes contain, aside from the newspapers, a quite valuable collection of miscellaneous material consisting of candidates' appeals to voters, muster meetings, funeral notices, church minutes, matter relating to Liberian colonization, circus bills, theater bills, horse bills, etc. The advertisement reproduced in our frontispiece is an interesting sample of this material. The feature that is particularly notable is the last paragraph,

which shows that in Indiana, as late as 1830, bear-baiting was countenanced. A theater bill dated 1825 advertising a performance of Kotzebu's "Stranger" reveals that at that time Vincennes boasted an amateur dramatic organization known as "The Thespian Society."

The appeals to voters, printed in the form of little hand-bills, are illuminative as showing the political spirit of the times, and in some instances they show up the personality of candidates in a rather amusing fashion, as witness this one, which we present verbatim:

To the free and enlightened Electors of Knox County.

My Countrymen:

Actuated by the coercive emotions of the Patriot, I accept of this opportunity again to express to you my inclination to become the Protector and Preserver of your civil Rights: of my ability you do not, you cannot doubt. In humble return for your many public and private demonstrations of confidence and respect, permit me thus to testify my gratitude and esteem.

While my limbs were engaged in the service of our country—while their vigor and firmness were decaying, the ornaments of the MIND were brightening by the collision of ideas. While the soul has been electrified in the thunders of war, whirled in the vortex of revolution, and at last intensely devoted to the organization of a REPUBLIC, Experience and Reflection, Study and Application, have caused the Hero of Patriotism to become more enlightened by her enlivening rays.

The chilly Lakes of the North, the scorching sands of the South, the bleak, blue mountains of the East, the humid plains of the West, have not alone wondered at my noble daring in battle—but the cerulean fields of Neptune, the engulfing waves of the Ocean, and the mural shores of many nations, have witnessed the valor of my arm, and re-echoed the thunder of our Cannon.

My Friends—I was first aroused by the rude clamor of war—when "bloodily the Sun began to peer above yon dusky hill"—the toil for liberty kept me watchful, and since the sombre shades of Independence have forced on us the slumbering contentment of Peace, diffusing the calm of solitude around me, amid "the

dull pursuits of civil life," I am still awake to your happiness and prosperity. If, therefore, these can be augmented by my talents and assiduity in the impartial effusion of JUSTICE, I shall act with the same happiness and effect, if elected to the office of

ASSISTANT JUDGE.

I would not, my Countrymen, have you imagine that pen and paper are the only testimony of my capacity and eloquence:—Ask the Soldier whose tongue directed him to the Fight?—Whose courage inflamed, and whose conduct sustained him in Battle?—Whose voice animated the fatigued, fainting Warrior?—Who led the van, in carving the way to Victory, "seeking the bubble, reputation, even in the cannon's mouth."

Often I have been engaged in the doubtful conflict of contending armies—I have known the worth of victory—I have heard the groans of dying brothers—I have seen my own veins' crimson fluid flowing—Who, then, so richly deserves the civic honors, as the one who so dearly purchased our liberties and defended our rights?

I remain, my Countrymen, Your Soldier and Friend,

And, I hope, Assistant Judge,

Vincennes, Feb. 16, 1816.

JOHN MCBAIN.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

A HOOSIER VILLAGE.

"A Hoosier Village: A Sociological Study, with Special Reference to Social Causation," by Newell Leroy Sims, published by Columbia University as one in a series of studies in political science, may fairly be called unique as a contribution to sociology. It takes for its theme a subject so common and near at hand that one is slow to think of it as containing material for nearly two hundred pages of very interesting reading.

Mr. Sims is thoroughly conversant with the community of which he writes, his three years special study of the data for this thesis being strengthened by the fact that previously it had been for many years his home, and he goes at it with a scalpel so in