

*History of Cass County, Indiana, from its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time.* Edited by DR. JEHU Z. POWELL, President of the Cass County Historical Society. In two volumes. (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company. 1913. Pp. 1207.)

The author of a county history in the Middle West has a pretty strong initial prejudice against him to overcome. So much work of this kind has been done, and is being done now, for purely commercial purposes, that one who does valuable and serious work in this field is likely not to be appreciated. In this money-making era it is hardly believable that a sane man would deliberately devote valuable time to preserving local history. Nevertheless there are a few of that kind of rare souls left. When we get tired running each other down with our trains and automobiles we will turn with gratefulness to the men who have preserved our early history for us.

Dr. Powell was fortunate in having a county history to write which is so full of interest as is that of Cass. He was fortunate again in having the great collections of Lasselle and Biddle to draw on. There are few counties that have their historical source materials so well preserved as is the case with Cass county. The men of Cass have not kept their lights under a bushel. Four of her citizens were United States Senators at various times; three sat in the national House of Representatives; eight colonels in the Civil War came from homes in Cass county; and at least ten State officers have been chosen from within her boundaries. The greatest of our state historians, a score of editors of State reputation (one of them the pioneer of Northern Indiana), to say nothing of thirty or more writers of more or less fame—all these have made Cass county and Logansport an important place in State history. Dr. Powell has given us the local history of these men, and has thus done a valuable service for State and national history.

The grandfather of the author was one of the early settlers of Cass county, moving there from Ohio and Pennsylvania. The author is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Having been a resident of the county since his birth, in 1848, Dr. Powell has been able to give us a plentiful supply of the traditions that have been handed down from the early days. Among these are many from French and Indian times, together with others from canal days, the Underground Railroad, and Civil War times. One feels that more attention should have been paid to the Wabash commerce, so graphically set forth in the old *Canal Telegraph*, *Pottawattomie Times*,

the early *Pharos*, and the *Journal*. One also misses the "news" of the "Treaty Grounds,"—the fierce political feuds between Tipton, the Ewings, and Lasselle, and later between Bringhurst, Fitch, and the Civil War politicians. However, these topics concern State and National history, and perhaps the author has done wisely in leaving them out.

The second volume is devoted entirely to biographies. Accounts of all the churches, cemeteries, schools, newspapers, lists of county and city officers, lists of professional men, are given in connection with these. A good index makes the contents of the volumes accessible. The volumes carry very little surplus material; but discussions of mound builders and kindred topics add little to a county history except avoirdupois. In honorable distinction from some county histories recently published, the one under consideration does not duplicate or copy former histories of the county. The illustrations are appropriate, and add materially to the value of the work. A fairly good bibliography is given, and the author's sources are usually indicated.

LOGAN ESAREY.

*The Mennonites of America.* By C. HENRY SMITH, Ph.D. Illustrated. (Scottsdale, Pa.: Mennonite Publishing House Press. 1909. Pp. 484.)

Dr. Smith traces the history of the Mennonites from their origin in Europe down to the present time. With reference to their origin it is enough to recall that they are descended from the Anabaptists who arose in Europe during the early part of the sixteenth century, and that the name Mennonite is derived from Menno Simons (1492-1559), a notable leader of one branch of the Anabaptists. The author says in his preface that he has attempted "to cover the entire field of American Mennonite history and tried to place every event of importance in its proper perspective." The eighteen chapters of the book cover every phase of the church's history, and show that the author has done a great amount of research work.

The first Mennonites came to America from Holland and Germany in 1683, and settled at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The one hundred and twenty who came over were "mostly mechanics and linen weavers 'and not much given to agriculture.'" The second Mennonite colony was established at Pequea, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1710, about sixty miles out of Philadelphia. Smaller communities were gradually established in the State, and by