

Minor Notices

FELIX T. McWHIRTER

Mr. McWhirter was born in Lynchburg, Tennessee, July 17, 1853. In 1873 he graduated from East Tennessee Wesleyan University, taking a master's degree three years later. For a few years he edited the Athens (Tenn.) *News*, serving as mayor of that city in 1877. Following 1887, for a number of years he taught rhetoric and English literature at Depauw University. About 1890 he came to Indianapolis and engaged in the real estate business. In 1900 he organized the Peoples' Bank, over which he presided until his death June 5, 1915, at the age of 62. Besides his interest in education and especially in literature he took an active interest in politics. Perhaps he is better known in connection with the Prohibition party than any other man in the State. He was one of its ablest supporters, and in 1904 was its candidate for governor. He was active in locating the Long Hospital, was a prominent member of the Central Avenue Methodist Church, of the Chamber of Commerce, and a Mason.

THE PIGEON ROOST MASSACRE

A mistake concerning the names of the victims of the above has crept into the printed accounts. The names in the *Readings in Indiana History*, page 129, were taken from Dillon. A little care would have partially corrected the error. In the account by Isaac Naylor the name "Ellis" Payne is given instead of "Elias" Payne.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, May 2, 1915.

Gentlemen—I have been informed of an error in a book written by you lately, I think, concerning the history of the State. My home is in Salem, and not being there at this time, can not give all particulars, but perhaps enough for you to find it. The mistake was in regard to Pigeon Roost Massacre, 1812, saying Jeremiah Payne and family were among the victims there at that time, which should have read thus: Elias Payne and family, who was a brother of Jeremiah Payne.

I am a granddaughter of the last named and remember him quite well; besides have known his children, my mother's brothers and sisters and their children also. If you have the story of Pigeon Roost Massacre,

written in the year when the monument was made and dedicated, you can there see how it is; as the same mistake was being made then when I stated this same error to Captain Fortune Jeffersonville and it was corrected. Hoping this may be of some help to you in your work, as well as to myself, I shall feel grateful to you in future as may be you can change and rearrange correctly.

Yours truly,
MRS. A. R. OVERMAN.

THE MARECHAL NEY TRADITION.

The following letter from Reverend Jansen is a valuable contribution toward a settlement of the "Ney Tradition" and is here published as written:

ST. BONIFACE, MINNESOTA, May 14, 1915.

Dear Sir—In answer to your kind letter received this morning, I beg to make the following statement:

In 1888, as Catholic pastor in Henderson, Sibley county, Minnesota, I made the acquaintance there of the old Doctor of Medicine, Seigneuret Francais de la France. On the accession of Louis Napoleon either as president in 1848 or as emperor in 1852 (I forget which) several revolution makers had to fly from France to escape guillotine or imprisonment. Victor Hugo, Louis Blanc, the Bijous, and the Seigneurs, etc. The Seigneurets went to the English island of Jersey, the bishops to Switzerland (I have an old daguerotype of Victor Hugo against the Jersey rocks). Leaving out the history of those families, I may confine myself to the Ney business.

When there appeared in the paper (probably at that time the *St. Paul Globe*) an article about the Ney Traditions in connection with a party found out in, I believe, Virginia, I spoke about it to Dr. Seigneur, etc. The doctor had studied in Paris, France, and graduated there in 1845. His mother was working, as matron or nurse, or in some other capacity at the Hospital de la Maternite in Paris, and from a window in the hospital saw the whole of the shooting of Marechal Ney (whom she knew very well, anyhow by sight) against the blind wall of a house or a garden nearby.

I say knew Ney, but if I recollect well, she was personally acquainted with him. Of course, at that time I did not pay so much attention to the statement, but only in as far as it was a general refutation of the newspaper report. (Maybe I have still the latter in my scrap books, which are not here.)

I helped to bury Dr. Seigneuret years ago in Henderson where he lived to the age of about ninety. His only son died in the Island of Jersey, pretty well helpless and *aliéné* in his last months. Of the Bijous there are still several alive.

I ask: "French or English"—presuming that you are French or of French descent. I thought of the name of General Isabey, (of Napoleon I's time).

Hoping this little may be of some interest, if not of value, and willing to give any information, I can, I beg to remain,

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. B. G. JANSEN, Pr.

THE LINCOLN WAY

The interest developed by this investigation has brought out some valuable articles reminiscent of the Lincolns. The best of these have appeared in the Petersburg *Press*, the Huntingburg *Independent*, and the Boonville *Standard*. The *Press* has evidence that the Lincoln Way lay through Petersburg, while the *Independent* published a very able article by George R. Wilson setting forth the evidence that the Lincolns passed through Jasper. The *Standard*, through its correspondent, Mr. Baker, has published the evidence showing that they passed through Boonville. The papers possess great interest for the local historian. All of it should be published after the commission has made its decision.