

doubtful. The recommendations and suggestions to county clerks and record keepers by a man who has worked through the great mass of Illinois county records, should be given due consideration. The author strongly urges the centralization of certain kinds of county records, as election returns. Often they are destroyed a few months after election. It is the opinion of the author that the county records can not be too highly estimated as a source of State and local history. The county records are of invaluable aid to a writer desiring to show the gradual progress of his State—how the present State came into being. These records bring one closer to the actual life of early Illinois. They help one into the spirit of the period. In the words of the author: "These records are the very incarnation of the State's past." Such a work upon the county archives of Indiana would aid greatly the work of those who are endeavoring to work out the history of Indiana.

R. BLANK.

*The Pioneers of Morgan County: Memoirs of Noah J. Major.*

Edited by LOGAN ESAREY, Ph.D. Indianapolis, 1915. 285 p.

THE MEMOIRS of Noah J. Major constitute the fifth number of volume five of the Indiana Historical Society Publications. These *Memoirs* were written between the years 1900 and 1908. Mr. Major was born in 1823 and moved to Morgan county, then on the very frontier of the State, in 1832. From that date until 1911 the author lived near Martinsville, a pioneer who progressed with the country which he helped develop. Towards the end of a life which spanned the period in which central Indiana grew from an Indian hunting ground to a prosperous part of a modern State, Mr. Major looked back and gave us one of the best pictures of our pioneer life and institutions in existence. Occasionally his memory, which was unimpaired by time, was aided by visits to the State Library and reference to records. The first chapter deals with the First Settlers. The second chapter, dealing with the Home Life of the Pioneers is of especial interest. Courtship, Marriage, Housekeeping, Sickness, Hunting, etc., are told of in a most readable style made all the more vivid by a liberal use of the vernacular expressions of the day, and comparisons with modern methods. The hunting stories would provide an abundance of material for supplementary reading for school children. Chapters three and four consist of a discussion of Religion, Schools, Politics, Elections, and

Transportation. A series of short biographies of Morgan county legislators make up the last chapter.

Mr. Major was aided in his work by his wife who did the writing, or as she styled it, the "copying." Few counties are as fortunate as Morgan in having such an account of their pioneers.

R. C. BULEY.

*Ancestral History.* Compiled by I. BRASHEARS, a Retired Member of the Northwest Iowa Conference of M. E. Church. 21 pp., 1915.

THIS pamphlet contains brief sketches of two of the oldest families of the State of Indiana—the Hinmans and Brashears. Capt. Asahel Hinman was born in Connecticut in 1742 of Puritan parentage. He served in the Colonial Militia during the French and Indian War. In the Revolutionary War he was in continuous service until the close of the war. He fought with Arnold at Quebec, 1775, at Long Island, and with Washington at Valley Forge. He was a wealthy man for those times and spent most of his money for army supplies. The close of the war found him poverty stricken. The legislature of New Jersey failed to reimburse him as justice demanded. In 1790, with his wife and three children he migrated to the wilds of Kentucky to start life anew. After living more than a dozen years on land cleared and tended by himself, Captain Hinman and his family were forced to give up their hard-earned home, thanks to the poor system of private surveys and inaccurate plotting employed in Kentucky. About 1816 he moved to Warrick county, Indiana, dying there in 1825. He had five children, two sons and three daughters; the author, himself, is a grandson of Captain Hinman.

Samuel Brashears, the paternal grandfather of the author, was also prominent in early Indiana history. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1759. He became a member of one of Daniel Boone's exploring parties in the wilds of Kentucky. Some years later he settled in Bullitt county, Kentucky. He moved to Warrick county, Indiana, in 1816, settling a mile or so east of Boonville. He had six sons and a daughter. Ephraim Brashears, the father of the author of this ancestral history, was born in Bullitt county, Kentucky, November 5, 1795. He died at Boonville, 1876. He was a man of more education than the average pioneer. He was sheriff of Warrick county back in the days when the sheriff was tax