

the issuance of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation on the leaders of either England or France. Indeed, Professor Sears does not mention the Proclamation in his volume. Can it be that American historians have greatly exaggerated the effects of this policy of Lincoln in preventing the recognition of the Confederacy by the governments of England and France?

This biography of Slidell should find a wide circle of readers. It is based on extensive research, but this does not detract from its interest. Surely those who find time to read history and biography will enjoy the reading of this little volume, for, though it is not from the pen of a popular writer of the journalistic school, it is well written.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

*The Environment of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana, with an Account of the DeBruler Family*, by JOHN E. IGLEHART and EUGENIA EHLMANN. Indiana Historical Society Publications, Volume VIII, Number 3, Indianapolis, 1925. 40 pages.

Number 3, Volume 8 of the Indiana Historical Society *Publications* contains three papers, the ones on the "Environment of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana" and "The DeBruler Family as Typical Pioneers" being written by Judge John E. Iglehart, president of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. The brief paper on "Judge Lemuel Quincey DeBruler" by Eugenia Ehrmann traces the DeBruler family from Maryland through North Carolina to Indiana where they arrived in 1818. Judge DeBruler, who served as judge of the common pleas court of the district embracing Spencer county from 1852 to 1860, was one of the leading lawyers of western Indiana and during the Civil War was a Union man and personally acquainted with President Lincoln. Judge Iglehart in his paper on the environment of Lincoln discourses upon the frontier and its importance in American history, the character and influence of the pioneers and then indicates the influence which the typical neighbors of Lincoln during the formative years of his life in Indiana must have had upon the

man. A number of men more or less prominent in social life and politics in southwestern Indiana are mentioned and brief sketches of their life and works given, but in most cases it is impossible to point out any immediate connection between these men and Abraham Lincoln. Movements of trade, family and persons in and out of Spencer county are noted. The unity of the article is broken by frequent references to the work done by others in collecting biographical material on the neighbors of the Lincoln family in Indiana and by editorial approbations of the same. There are practically no references to source material or documents in the paper.

*Early Navigation on the St. Joseph River*, by OTTO M. KNOBLOCK. Indiana Historical Society *Publications*, Volume VIII, Number 4. Indianapolis, 1925. 18 pages.

Early Navigation on the St. Joseph River by Otto M. Knoblock is published as No. 4, Vol. 8 of Indiana Historical Society *Publications*. This paper was delivered as the annual address before the Indiana Historical Society and the Society of Indiana Pioneers at South Bend August, 1925. Part of the material had previously appeared in 1895. The importance of the St. Joseph-Kankakee portage to the Indians, explorers, and fur traders is pointed out, and the development of boating from 1831 to the end of the century is discussed with some detail. The type of boats, details of construction, names of builders and early navigators, and particularly the technic of poling the boats up stream are described. First hand information on these subjects was furnished the author in 1895 by Mr. Lee P. Johnson, son of Peter Johnson, the first South Bend boat builder. As a boy of fifteen Mr. Johnson had taken a trip to the lake and some of the incidents connected with this trip impressed him sufficiently to be remembered sixty-four years later. A list of the names of the keel boats which operated in the carrying of trade after 1831 is contained in the pamphlet. The decline of the river trade due to the competition of the railroad after 1852, and its degeneration into excursion service is brought out. The author seems to have relied quite largely upon the recollections