

Comment and News

Last January, Kin Hubbard, in the character of Abe Martin, expressed himself with his usual cleverness in regard to the extensive output in the field of biography:

"Sorry I can't stop as I'm writin' a biography o' Simon Kenton, a great historical character, and I'm afraid somebuddy 'll beat me to it," said Hon. Ex-Editor Cale Fluhart, as he rushed out o' the Emporium with a bottle o' ink today. Biography writin' is one o' the big present-day industries that shows no signs o' lettin' down. Ther'd be fer more unemployment than ther is if it wuz'n fer biography writin'. I expect Lincoln is furnishin' almost as much employment as the railroads I expect to see a daily 'Life o' Lincoln' before the year is out¹

A new issue of the *Tennessee Historical Magazine*, which has been in a state of suspension for some time, appeared recently. The last number of the *Magazine* came out in October, 1928, being No. 4 of Volume IX, the issue for January, 1926. The current number of the quarterly bears the date October, 1930, and is designated as No. 1, Volume 1, Series II. Tennessee is rich in political and economic history, and the revived *Magazine* will receive a cordial reception everywhere. It is hoped that the quarterly will be well supported and that its issues will appear without interruption for a long period of years.

The Alabama Historical Quarterly is a new magazine in the field of State History. The third or "Fall Issue" of volume one has appeared. The *Quarterly* is published by the State Department of Archives and History at Montgomery. The editor is (Mrs.) Marie Bankhead Owen, the capable Director of the Department. The three issues of this new historical magazine have carried matter of great variety. The illustrations are numerous and very attractive. From the Summer Issue of 1930, we quote a poem "The Sea is a Senorita" by Martha Layman Shillito. This real gem is dedicated "To Mobile Bay by Moonlight". A remarkable picture of the bay is shown on the page opposite the poem.

*The sea is a Senorita fair
With a comb of shell in her swirl of hair.
About her a silken shawl she flings*

¹ Abe Martin, "Short Furrows", in *Indianapolis News*, January 18, 1930.

*That swishes gaily, yet softly clings.
Sometimes she flaunts its silver folds,
Stamps her foot and shrilly scolds.
In fury having spent her strength
She swoons upon her couch, full length,
Her spangled shawl a shimmering heap
Beside her as she falls asleep.*

An interesting interview with Mrs. Catherine Kuhn of North Manchester, Indiana, which was reported in the Marion (Indiana) *Chronicle* of February 11, 1929, is well worthy of some space here. Mrs. Kuhn was born at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on February 13, 1841. She was at home during the great, three-days battle of 1863, when she was twenty-two years old. At the age of eighty-eight, she remembered quite distinctly her exciting experiences during that period of stress and strain. She was a member of the choir and sat on the platform when Lincoln made his famous Gettysburg Address on October 23, 1863. An interesting and carefully prepared volume, *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, by William E. Barton, has been issued recently by The Bobbs Merrill Company. Mr. Barton did not know of Mrs. Kuhn, but her statements tally closely with his findings. The account by Mrs. Kuhn follows:

I do not remember how many there were in the choir that day, but not many. A few of them are living besides myself, I think. The day was nice.¹ Governors of all States in the Union came to town for the ceremonies.² Governor Oliver P. Morton of Indiana was entertained in our home. President Lincoln was entertained at the home of Mr. Wills, a lawyer.

The war memorial cemetery was not far from town, situated across the road from the battlefield. The monument which since has been erected there is situated in the center of the cemetery. On the day of the dedication nothing was on the grounds except a little wooden building with a high platform built on one side of it on which the services were held. President Lincoln, the governors and members of the choir sat there.

There was a short prayer service at the Presbyterian church before we went out to the cemetery. We walked out there. I remember seeing Lincoln riding to the cemetery on horseback. His head was bare and he did not even bother to put his feet in the stirrups. They almost

¹ Barton says that "the weather was propitious". *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, 71.

² The Governors present included: Curtin of Pennsylvania; Bradford of Maryland; Morton of Indiana; Seymour of New York; Parker of New Jersey; Dennison of Ohio; Governor-elect Brough of Ohio; ex-Governor Tod of Ohio. See *ibid.*, 76. Barton relied on the Philadelphia *Press* for the list of Governors and other notables present.

touched the ground.³ I don't believe that I have ever seen a sadder looking man than Abraham Lincoln.⁴ When he spoke his voice was sad too. He talked slowly and distinctly, and not for a very long time. A hush fell over the crowd.⁵ A man before Lincoln had talked for an hour and a half.

I remember how big and important I felt sitting up there as a member of the selected choir on the same platform with the President. I can't remember exactly what we sang; some of the good old hymns, I think.⁶

When I got up on the platform, Governor Morton spoke to me, and that made me feel very happy indeed. After the services, President Lincoln shook hands with all the choir members.

The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania has inaugurated a "vigorous program of research and writing of history of the Pittsburgh district." The Buhl Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh are coöperating in this most laudable enterprise. The research and writing will be done by a staff of six trained men. The labors of the staff are to lead to papers and monographs that will appeal to scholars, but also to narratives of a more popular nature for the general public. In addition, the history of the district is to be written in a form adapted for use in the public schools. Accuracy is to be regarded as of prime importance in each of the three levels of writing, but the hope is entertained by the promoters of the plan that the "full inspirational value of the enterprise as a substantial contribution to a spirit of effective citizenship", will be understood and successfully embodied in whatever the staff of workers may produce. It is much to be desired that the spirit of the movement may spread and prompt similar plans to be launched in a number of other local areas of the country likewise rich in historical experience.

In the paper on "Colonel John Francis Hamtramck" which was published in our last issue, Zebulon Montgomery Pike was mentioned with a correct list of his greatest exploits.

³ Barton says: "The President's horse was too small, and the President did not appear to good advantage". See *ibid.*, 75

⁴ "Colonel Carr, who rode just behind the President stated that when the procession started, the President sat erect on his horse and looked the part of the Commander in Chief of the Army; but as the procession moved on, his body leaned forward, his arms hung limp, and his head was bent. He seemed absorbed in thought." See *ibid.*, 75.

⁵ The accounts of other persons who were present agree, generally, with Mrs. Kuhn on this point. See Barton's chapter 21—"Some of Those Who Heard It."

⁶ Just before Lincoln's brief address, the choir sang a Hymn composed for the occasion by Benjamin B. French, and, after the address, rendered a selected dirge. For the song by French, see Barton, *Gettysburg Address*, 169-170.

He was not, however, a soldier in the army of the Northwest in 1792, being then but twelve years of age. It was his father, Zebulon Pike who was the captain of a company at that time. The editor of the *Michigan Pioneer Collections*, volume xxxiv, is in error both in his footnotes and in the index. He seems not to have known anything about Zebulon Pike, confusing him in every case where he is mentioned with his more illustrious son, Zebulon Montgomery Pike.

A new department has been added in this issue of the *Magazine* which will remain a permanent feature. It is headed *Indiana Historical Society*. The material for its pages is furnished by the Secretary of the Society, Dr. Christopher B. Coleman. This feature is inaugurated on the initiative of the *Editor* who is certain that it will meet with the approval of readers and furnish tangible evidence that a spirit of co-operation exists between the Society and Indiana University.

The *General Index* for volumes i-xxv of the *Indiana Magazine of History* was prepared by Miss Dorothy Riker, of the Indiana Historical Bureau, who deserves high praise for careful workmanship. Copy was completed before June 1, 1930, and a limited edition of 500 was issued from the Indiana University Press in October. The *Index* has been offered at one dollar, though the cost, aside from the labor of preparing the volume of two hundred pages, has been nearly twice that per copy. It was well understood that sales of the *Index* would be limited almost entirely to members of the Indiana Historical Society and to libraries possessing files or partial files of the *Magazine*. Orders have been received from about fifty libraries, but individual members of the Historical Society have supported our venture, certainly a worthy one, to the number of less than twelve. We counted on a sure response from three or four hundred members. Otherwise the publication of an *Index* would never have been undertaken. Orders will be filled at one dollar per copy, if received within ten days after the mailing of this issue of the *Magazine*, after which the price will be raised to two dollars. We hope for a quick and generous response.