

*La Salle.* By ROSS F. LOCKRIDGE. The World Book Company, Yonkers-on-Hudson, 1931. Pp. xv+312, illustrated.

I have read very many of the histories relating to La Salle and his explorations—my library shelves are filled with books about New France and the Great Lakes country and the fascinating story of the intrepid men who planted the cross of the church and the arms of Louis XIV throughout the central west, and if I had not had access to this mass of literature and wanted simply to know about René Robert Cavelier, sieur de la Salle, and his exploits in behalf of his country and his king, I would get it all from Ross F. Lockridge's latest book, *La Salle*, just off the press—which I trust will be on every book counter, in every library and in every school in the country. I have read it carefully and checked it up mentally with Parkman, Sparks, Winsor, Margry, Abbott, *et al* and it "clicks" beautifully. The careful reader of this modest book will get more out of it than he will by reading through all the rest, which statement must not be taken as a reflection on them.

What particularly pleased me and which makes for ready understanding, is the insertion in the text as the story proceeds, of much original matter taken verbatim from the *Jesuit Relations*, contemporary letters and extracts from diaries, all of which having been written while the drama was on the stage, gives undoubted authenticity to the narrative thus avoiding the coloring and the embroidery that many historians delight to hang on their stories. Here are down-right facts backed by authority. Lockridge, instead of using foot notes referring to the books from which he gleans, and practically asking the reader to look it up for himself, avoids that custom, and inserts in the proper places in his narrative the actual language used at the moment of the episode he is describing.

His description of La Salle's conference with the Miamis under the Council Oak on the St. Joseph-Kankakee portage in May, 1681, together with the masterly oration of La Salle and the dramatic reply of the Miami chief assenting to the confederacy with the Illinois, is only one of the fine passages in this fine book.

I will mention here the fact that under the tree identified as the old Council Oak to which reference is made above, there has been placed a huge boulder bearing a bronze tablet memori-

alizing the conference, which, as Lockridge says, united the Miamis and the Illinois to resist the aggressions of the Iroquois. I will also add that the grand old tree is an object of the greatest solicitude and its life will, by constant expert attention be prolonged to the very limit, to the end that future generations will have the pleasure of standing under its wide spreading branches and realizing the part it played in the picturesque and dramatic episode there enacted in May 1681.

My friendship with and admiration for the author as a man and as a historian whom I hold in high esteem, do not in the slightest degree color my judgment of his *La Salle*. If he were an utter stranger to me, my estimate of the book would be the same as I have expressed. I am proud to place it on my shelves along with his *A. Lincoln* and his *George Rogers Clark* and all the rest. It is a lovely tale beautifully told and it should have wide reading and, as we are now, this year, observing the Quarto-millennial of La Salle's greatest achievement which took place on the soil of this state, the book under review is particularly timely and I trust its reading will awaken a new interest in our first Hoosier.

OTTO M. KNOBLOCK

*Johnny Appleseed and His Time, an Historical Romance.* By HENRY A. PERSHING. Shenandoah Publishing House, Strasburg (Virginia), 1930. Pp. xx+379, illustrated.

This is the first complete biography ever written of John Chapman, who was known to the settlers of Ohio and Indiana as Johnny Appleseed. It was the purpose of the author to weave the facts and legends about Johnny Appleseed into an historical romance. The author had no intention of writing a book that would stand successfully the test of historical criticism, but one that would enlighten the general reader as to the real contribution of Johnny Appleseed to the middle west. The author writes in an entertaining manner, and his survey of the life of this interesting character is as comprehensive as could be expected in this type of work.

The career of Johnny Appleseed is one of the most interesting and unique in the history of the middle west. He has been called the "patron saint of the American orchard." This picturesque man, who for forty-six years planted appleseeds in the middle west, appeals to the imagination. He first appeared