

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

in Ohio about 1801. He kept ahead of the settlers and each year planted his seeds farther west. In this way he covered most of Ohio and came far into Indiana. He died near Fort Wayne in 1847. It was due to the untiring efforts of Johnny Appleseed that many people settling in Indiana and Ohio during the first quarter of the 19th century found orchards waiting for them. Johnny Appleseed led a busy life planting nurseries, teaching farmers apple culture, assisting them in caring for their orchards, and preaching the Swedenborgian religion at the same time. This strange character did a great deal toward making the lives of the settlers of Indiana and Ohio pleasant and enduring. The people of both states owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Pershing has not been unduly careful in his handling of chronology, to say the least. In his zeal to do his character justice he has committed several errors. His account of Johnny Appleseed's experiences with Daniel Boone will hardly stand rigid investigation. He relates that Johnny witnessed the capture of Boone by the Shawnees and tells of their effort to make him a member of the tribe. It is true that Boone did undergo such an experience, but it was in 1778 when John Chapman was a mere boy in his New England home. It is also very doubtful whether Johnny Appleseed covered as much territory and was a participant in so many of the great events of the day as Mr. Pershing gives him credit for in his narrative. There is no mention of Johnny Appleseed in the papers of William Henry Harrison although the author assigns him an important role in the battle of Tippecanoe. These are examples of what the reader must be on his guard against when reading the book.

Mr. Pershing, however, has done a useful and laudable work. His purpose in writing the biography was to instill in the hearts of the people of the nation a real appreciation of the life and work of Johnny Appleseed. The book, it can confidently be expected, will do this.

POWELL MOORE

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A *Centennial Handbook* covering the first one hundred years (1830-1930) of the Indiana Historical Society appeared late in 1930. This very useful and interesting pamphlet (In-