

Indiana Historical Society

By CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

The following letter from a new member in the Society at Montpelier, Indiana, is of interest, not only to those who are promoting the work of the Society, but also as an example of the appreciation which the writer has, and which many others in the state might have of their connection with the stream of history

I have always enjoyed the Magazine and am interested in the history of my own state.

I own a farm one mile east and one mile north of Pennville which is not without its history.

This tract of land was entered by a Mr. Ninde, a friend, who helped the negro on his way north. The old log house is still standing and I hope some time to restore it.

We have a tract of land known as the Godfroy Preserve. This tract is east of Montpelier.

This tract was used as the hunting grounds for the Miami tribes who came here from Peru. The little stream which flows on the north edge of our little city is named Salamonie but we have been unable to find what the word means in the Indian language. [Jacob P. Dunn gave it as a corruption of the Miami word for "yellow paint" (blood root)].

You see we are not without our lot of Indiana history.

Mrs. Luther E. Kelley.

The William Henry Smith Memorial Library of the Indiana Historical Society, on February 1, began occupation of the room which has been assigned it in the new State Library and Historical Building. The room is on the main floor at the southeast corner and has been built with special reference to this library. Under the terms of agreement between the Society and the state, the library of the Society is to be here permanently, though the agreement may be terminated upon one year's notice by either party.

William Henry Smith was the editor of the papers of Arthur St. Clair, the first governor of the Northwest Territory. His library and a fund for its maintenance was bequeathed to the Indiana Historical Society by his son, the late Delavan Smith. Much of the original library is of a general character, of literary, rather than historical value. Delavan Smith's will provides that these books may be placed in the State Library or otherwise disposed of and the proceeds used

for the purchase of other material. The policy of the Memorial Library is to supplement the State Library by the purchase of rare and valuable material, preference being given to material relating to the Old Northwest, and more particularly to Indiana.

The Memorial Library is in charge of a committee consisting of Lee Burns, chairman, Benjamin D. Hitz, and Perry W. Lesh. Miss Florence Venn has been appointed librarian. The Library will probably be ready for use early in March. Its material will not circulate but will be available to all who are qualified to use its books and manuscripts in their researches.

Volume XI, Number 2, of the *Indiana Historical Society Publications* will be "A History of Spiceland Academy" by Mrs. Sadie Bacon Hatcher of the Forest Park School, Fort Wayne, with a brief introduction by Albert Mock, associate professor of secondary education in Butler University. Private academies and academies sponsored by religious bodies, for nearly half a century, filled an important place in the educational system of Indiana. Their number was legion. Some were short-lived but many continued from the middle of the nineteenth century well into the twentieth. Spiceland Academy was one of the best known and one of the last survivors of these old schools. It is also exceptional in that unusually full records have been preserved. On the basis of these records, Mrs. Hatcher has written a careful and detailed history of the academy from its beginning to the end. The publication will probably be distributed to members of the Society and will be on sale for others on March 31.