

## Correspondence

March 10, 1939

Editor *Indiana Magazine of History*:

In doing research on the life of John McCoy, one of Indiana's pioneers, I have come across three references to his part in the aftermath of the Pigeon Roost Massacre in the *Indiana Magazine of History*. They occur in the numbers for Dec. 1918, March 1924, and June 1927. Because I feel that a misunderstanding lies at the base of the accounts, I am writing to call your attention to some other references.

The first is John B. Dillon's *History of Indiana*, published in 1859. See p. 481 and pp. 492-495. The scouting party which had the disastrous encounter with the retreating Indians was, as you will notice, under the immediate command of a Capt. Devault, not under Maj. McCoy.

Next is a letter from Gibson to Hargrove, printed on pp. 138-139 of the *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, vol. II. It states: "No blame can be attached to the Clark Co. militia."

My third reference is not in print. It is the diary which John M'Coy kept from 1847-1852. There are no references in it to Pigeon Roost, but there are many references to Elder Nugent. Apparently at that time the two men were on friendly terms, not, as the accounts in the *Magazine* would lead one to think, life-long enemies.

If it was Devault rather than McCoy who made the error of trying to fight Indians as if they were "civilized Warriors," it seems unwarrantable to continue the error in reporting. If there are conclusive statements to the contrary, I should be glad to know of them, for I am hunting for proof of facts.

Yours very truly,

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