Kate M. Rabb's imaginative Tour through Indiana. We have grown tired of telling students that it was fiction and now Professor Jordan joins the list of those taken in by this account. It is unfortunate that the footnotes are as scarce as in the other volumes of the series. Except in respect to government publications, the bibliography is "suggestive." It has always been a mystery why illustrations cannot be placed nearer the narrative they illustrate. To come upon a picture of a huge modern automobile freight truck in the midst of a chapter on the Civil War is not especially helpful. The author placed the cart before the horse, when he wrote "The great state of Ohio . . . had brought the road into existence with its Enabling Act. . . ."

Scattered throughout the book are delightful phrases, humorous stories, jingling rhymes, and interesting incidents. They make history as attractive and stimulating as life itself. The red cover and gold lettering are appealing to the eyes of prospective readers. The book should make it easier for college teachers to persuade students that historical reading can be a pleasure.

Indiana University

John D. Barnhart

Historic Midwest Houses. By John Drury. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1947, pp. x, 246. Illustrations and index. $5.00.)

This interesting and well-illustrated volume is not, as its title might suggest, an architectural treatise. It is rather a series of delightful "little journeys" to the homes of great and the near great who have lived in this vast midland of ours.

The author, a seasoned Chicago journalist and the recipient of a University of Minnesota fellowship in regional writing, has long been interested in old Midwest houses. He contributed a long series of illustrated articles on historic Illinois homes to the Chicago Daily News (1941-1942) and in 1941 published a volume on Old Chicago Houses (University of Chicago Press).

The writer has been impartial in his coverage of the area. Dividing his territory into the twelve states generally accepted as comprising the Midwest, he includes visits to eight or nine homes in each state except Kansas, Nebraska,
and the Dakotas, making five visits each in Kansas and Nebraska and eight stops in the two Dakotas.

One wonders just what prompted the selections made for one misses many an historic home which he wishes might have been included. On the other hand, one would not wish to miss any found here. The conclusion is that, to do full justice to important places in the Midwest, a whole series of books of this size would be required. As it is, there are included portraits of some eighty-seven houses which have sheltered great, colorful, or historic Midwest figures.

In Indiana, Drury selects for illustration and story "Grouseland," the splendid Southern mansion built by William Henry Harrison on the bank of the Wabash at Vincennes, the Rapp-Maclure place at New Harmony, the Levi Coffin house at Fountain City, Edward Eggleston's boyhood home in Vevay, the Lanier Mansion in Madison, William Vaughn Moody's boyhood home in New Albany, the James Whitcomb Riley house in Indianapolis, and Eugene Debs' home in Terre Haute.

Paging through a volume like this gives one a sense of intimacy with the figures who dwelt in these houses and certainly a sort of cross section of or index to the taste, architectural and otherwise, of the inhabitants thereof. Few of these houses are distinguished architecturally, but some of them like the Rufus Putnam and Baum-Taft houses in Ohio, the Lanier, Harrison, and Maclure homes in Indiana, the Menard and Lincoln houses in Illinois, and Vallé place in Missouri, the Agent's House at Mackinac, and the Botsford Tavern near Detroit, together with the Sibley house at Mendota, Minnesota, would figure in any survey of early architecture in the old Northwest.

On the whole, the book is pleasant reading and brings together in one place much valuable information about important Midwest people and their homes.

*University of Illinois*  
Rexford Newcomb


Lay and professional students of Southern history have