

the Civil War, art, wild life, secret orders, county history, state history, state parks, rivers and other geological phenomena, and religious life. The importance of the last to Indianians of the century is attested by the number of clerical writers. Of the first 142 entries almost twenty per cent are concerned with church or creed or interpretation of the Scriptures. And the Mormons must have been aware of Hoosier literary lashings long after they had passed the state on their trek west.

Perhaps the chief value of *Indiana Authors* rests in its latent possibilities. The promise of the book begins already to be fulfilled, for James Whitcomb Riley and for George Ade excellent bibliographies have been prepared, and for the former a critical biography is announced in the series of studies which includes the names of Hawthorne and Thoreau. The book in front of us is a mine from which additional rich ore will come—perhaps, at length, a cultural history of the state. And the work so ably done by Mr. J. K. Lilly, Jr., Mr. R. E. Banta, and others will surely be a stimulus to other states to examine and publish accounts of their literary resources.

Indiana University

Frank Davidson

The Vincennes Donation Lands. By Leonard Lux, O.S.B. Volume XV, Number 4, Indiana Historical Society *Publications*. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1949, pp. 421-497. Index, appendix, and pocket map. \$1.00.)

The landholdings of the French and of the early American frontiersmen in and about Vincennes were in a state of confusion for many years. Although the territorial and land-office officials brought order to the titles, an adequate study has not previously made the subject clear for students of history. This pamphlet does present an orderly account of the subject.

The French had been careless about their land titles and generous about making grants to Americans who came to live among them. Congress, however, in response to their petitions adopted an act in 1791 which promised four hundred acres of land to heads of families who were residents in 1783 and to such persons who had received grants from the various

commandants and who had given evidence by making improvements that they considered the donation to have been bona fide. One hundred acres were to be given to each militia man of 1790 if he had not received another allotment.

Winthrop Sargent, Secretary of the Northwest Territory, investigated the claims at Vincennes in 1790-1791 and in 1797-1798. He confirmed many of the claims and these were surveyed, but the government did not issue patents of title. When the land office was established at Vincennes in 1804, it became the duty of the officials to complete the investigation of claims. They made two reports in 1806 which completed their work. The land of the later confirmations was then surveyed and patents issued for all grants approved.

Most of the land had passed into American ownership by the time the investigations were complete. This included 313 of 415 tracts given by French and British governors, 242 of 264 of the 400 acre-donation tracts, and 201 of 235 militia grants. Francis Vigo bought 101 of the 400 acre tracts.

The author erred when he wrote that Governor Hamilton sent Lieutenant-Governor Edward Abbott to Vincennes (p. 435). Both men were lieutenant-governors and both were sent to their posts by the home government.

Indiana University

John D. Barnhart

The Territory of Illinois, 1809-1814. Compiled and edited by Clarence Edwin Carter. *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, Volume XVI. (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1948, pp. xi, 506. Index. \$3.25.)

This book, as well as the others in the series, is of interest to two kinds of readers: the historian who is studying the territorial period of the Old Northwest, and the layman who is looking for entertainment and incidental information about how his ancestors lived. It is the first of two volumes of the papers of the Territory of Illinois. Chronologically, the documents cover the years from the separation of Illinois and Indiana territories in 1809 to the end of Governor Ninian Edwards second term in 1814. Geographically, they are concerned with the vast area which is now the states of Illinois and Wisconsin and a part of Minnesota.