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 militiaman 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


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.
Most of the documents are from the files of various bureaus and offices of the Departments of State, War, and Treasury, and of the House and Senate, and now in the National Archives. To these are added some documents from Illinois and Wisconsin depositories. As in the other volumes of this series, documents are arranged chronologically and the location of the original is clearly indicated. All persons mentioned are properly identified, and the index is adequate. As Dr. Carter points out in his introduction, one cannot read the entire territorial history of Illinois from this book (and from the forthcoming second volume). The material here given must be supplemented by documents in other volumes of the Territorial Papers, in the historical collections of the states, and elsewhere.

In spite of its limitations, however, this is readily available source material that illuminates many aspects of the earlier history of the Middle West: the settlement of land claims of former French and British nationals; Indian relations; the preliminaries to the War of 1812, and of the war itself; the vexing matter of assembling and outfitting militia companies; the complexities of leasing saline and mineral lands; and the survey and sale of the public lands.

But this book is not an arid waste of dull papers. It contains the makings for fascinating reconstruction of the lives and passions of pioneer ancestors. For example, from court depositions and land commissioners reports, one can unravel the story of that self-declared Revolutionary hero, John Edgar, who sought to make good his fraudulent claims to large areas of the public lands. It is a tangled tale of forgery, perjury, and dirty politics that finally climaxed in murder. Another incident of violence, among many, is that of the murder of the post-rider on the Vincennes to Kaskaskia route. It was reported that his body “had been staked down under water.”

In a more peaceful mood are such absorbing accounts of life on the frontier as that written by Obadiah Jones, a territorial judge who lived at Cahokia. The long, detailed reports of the government factors at the posts of Peoria, Prairie du Chien, and Chicago tell much of the tortuous intrigue of British and Americans struggling for control of the Indians. Still another story is that of the ambitious settlers at Shawneetown on the Ohio River, who sought to
have the government surveyors lay out a town site. In spite of warnings of flood and actual inundation, the people clung tenaciously to their river bottom homes, just as they do today, although the town has been officially moved to higher ground.

So, inside its sober government-blue cover, this book contains the raw meat of history.

Mac Murray College  Walter B. Hendrickson

**Joseph Benson Foraker, An Uncompromising Republican.** By Everett Walters. Volume I of the *Ohio Governors Series.* (Columbus, The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1948, pp. xiii, 315. Illustrations, bibliography, index, and portrait of Joseph Benson Foraker frontispiece. $3.60.)

Ohio has been writing much about its past, as its recent six-volume co-operative history attests. With this study the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society has inaugurated the ambitions project of a series of lives of the state's governors.

Joseph Benson Foraker (1846-1917) was raised in the conservative philosophy, became one of its chief spokesmen in Ohio and national politics, and refused to make an adjustment to the Progressive Era of his closing years. His biography, therefore, has a general significance as a case study of this transitional period.

Professor Walters' account is clear, free of bias and unwarranted generalizations, and documented in all the right places. A reader wishing to know how Foraker stood on any conceivable issue could find a dependable answer in this book, for the rules of scientific research have obviously been followed with meticulous integrity. The editors have done as careful a job on the mechanical aspects.

Yet this reviewer closed the book feeling that something was missing—that the parts were more satisfying than the whole. One defect appears to be a lack of emphasis. Fact follows fact on approximately the same level. Furthermore, the man is inadequately related to his times. That the author is aware of the social and economic groups that supported Foraker's conservatism is clear enough from his general statements. But these special interests are seldom related to the