

Benjamin Harrison: Hoosier Warrior, 1833-1865. By Harry Sievers, S. J. Introduction by Hilton U. Brown. (Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1952, pp. xxi, 344. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$5.00.)

Benjamin Harrison, sometime President of the United States and grandson of a president, is Indianapolis' most famous citizen. "Great Lives Do Not Go Out, They Go," said Harrison once about General Grant, and his fellow citizens, thinking the words appropriate, carved them on the base of a Harrison memorial statue in his home city. For long years uncertainty and indecision kept the Harrison papers out of the sight of historians. Then at last the Arthur Jordan Foundation turned the task of erecting an "authorized" literary monument of the city's first citizen over to Father Harry Sievers.

The first volume, constituting the pedestal of the monument, is carved in glistening white stone. It carries young Benjamin Harrison from his Ohio childhood through preparatory school and through Miami University. Then, in Harrison's words, he found a choice of a profession between "theology, law and physics." He chose law—because, as the author explains in a curious rendition of the document, he "had little taste for the pinched existence of an experimental physicist." He read law, married, hung out a hopeful shingle in Indianapolis, entered Republican politics, worked piously in the Presbyterian church, and became city attorney and then reporter for the State Supreme Court. Then came the Civil War, and after a time Governor Oliver P. Morton commissioned Harrison to raise a regiment. He led his troops in routine duties into Kentucky and Tennessee, and eventually won his spurs—and a belated promotion to brevet brigadier-general—in the Atlanta campaign. He returned home for the election of 1864, regained his office, returned to the war for the battles around Nashville, and, after another visit home, rejoined the western army in North Carolina and paraded in Washington in the Grand Review. He was then thirty-two, a modest young man devoted to to his wife, his family, and his church, with a modest record of success in law, politics, and the army. His character was unblemished; his personality undramatic.

Perhaps, after all, this is the whole story of Benjamin Harrison. He was still, when this volume ends, twenty-three years from the White House. In 1888 a campaign biographer said of him: "Benjamin Harrison was a typical American boy, and destined to be a typical American man." Further, with no suggestion of contradiction, he quoted a friend's opinion: "Indeed there is no defect in him anywhere." And General Lew Wallace, also writing a campaign biography that year, declared: "His character, both public and private, is absolutely stainless." Then, he predicted, "The writer who finishes this biography, beginning where we leave off, will find his subject exactly what it has been to us—too pleasant to be accounted a task." It is clear that Father Sievers has found his task pleasant and his subject worthy of a new glistening-white literary monument. The Arthur Jordan Foundation's chairman rightfully concluded: "This book puts Benjamin Harrison on his proper pedestal as Indiana's first citizen."

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William B. Hesseltine

George Rogers Clark, Soldier in the West. By Walter Havighurst. (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, Inc., 1952, pp. vii, 216. End maps, index, and illustrations. \$3.00.)

This life of George Rogers Clark is written in popular style and should appeal particularly to younger readers. Brief, readable, full of descriptive detail, the book is also attractive in appearance, with a good map for end papers, and drawings by Jack Mornet at each chapter heading.

Several introductory chapters build up a picture of Clark by describing the Virginia of his boyhood, and the Kentucky where he had arrived by 1774 at the age of twenty-two. A major of the Kentucky County Militia two years later, he was soon able to see the importance of taking and holding the west in the War for Independence. The story of the Illinois expedition and the later events is dramatically retold, but the account of the troubles and frustrations which then beset Clark until the end of his life is less successful. However, Havighurst brings younger brother William onto the scene and that can be another story.