

He will see that the government undertook more construction in southern Indiana, perhaps, to counterbalance the vast contracts for manufacture that were awarded to business firms in central and northern parts of the state; but he will also realize that many of these installations are now inactive and that their acres are not helping to swell the agriculture production of the southern counties, while the manufacturing firms elsewhere have converted to peace-time production.

The volume represents some of the delayed results of the work of the Indiana War History Commission which collected much of the material that has gone into three published books. The compiler, the authors, and the present director of the commission, Lynn W. Turner, are to be congratulated on producing an attractive, interesting, and significant publication.

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The History of Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1853-1953, Mount Vernon, Indiana. By Elfrieda Lang. (St. Louis, Eden Publishing House, 1953, pp. ix, 206. Maps, bibliography, and index. \$3.00.)

Historians have come to expect local church histories to be brief, unreliable, and of little value. Thus it is a considerable pleasure to find a well-written and documented history of a local church; those members of the church responsible for this writing can congratulate themselves on their notable sponsorship of this publication.

Elfrieda Lang, the Assistant Curator of Manuscripts of the Indiana University Library, has divided her book into two major sections, and *The History of Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1853-1953* is a far broader study than its title would indicate. The first section of the work treats successively the history of German immigration, the Evangelical Synod of North America, and the Reformed Church in the United States. These chapters provide a sound and concise summary of certain aspects of the German influences in the Middle West and in many cases include valuable primary material. Numerous citations from diaries, journals, and newspapers form the backbone of this readable and well-documented description and discussion of the problems and

achievements of the German immigrants, the Evangelical Church, and the Reformed Church.

The author next presents the history of the Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church of Mount Vernon, Indiana; this church grew in large measure from the three elements initially described in the book. Essentially, this history becomes a chronicle—a record of particular events given in chronological order. Editorial comments assist the reader in appreciating the significance of the various events described; however, the history of Trinity is presented without attempt to integrate the facts or to develop themes or movements. This is an intelligent handling of these typical local church records. For, even when supplemented by other primary sources, these materials do not provide sufficient basis for writing interpretive history.

This chronicle is a mine of Americana for the student of social history—a day by day record of a small-town church gets close to the basic American religious organizational patterns. The clashing of new ideas with established views is vividly outlined and the pressures for change operating on the congregation are recorded with repetitious emphasis. Small-town America is best understood in terms of materials such as these.

Comparisons of Trinity to other Evangelical and Reformed churches and comparisons of the work of Trinity with other churches in Mount Vernon might have proved useful in assisting the reader to evaluate the role of this particular church. The value of this work extends far beyond the history of this one church, however, and to have included these comparisons might have detracted from the more significant results.

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Mr. Jefferson's Disciple: A Life of Justice Woodward. By Frank B. Woodford. (East Lansing, Michigan: Michigan State College Press, 1953, pp. viii, 212. Bibliography and index. \$3.75.)

A genius, by definition, is a person endowed with unusual mental power, in whose exercise he often seems to defy the