

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

rules of ordinary common sense. Judge Augustus Brevoort Woodward was emphatically a genius, misunderstood and commonly unappreciated by his contemporaries. Yet he left a deeper mark upon Detroit and Michigan than did almost anyone else who can be named.

It is this tantalizing character whose career Frank B. Woodford undertakes to portray. Woodford is a journalist by profession, who makes a hobby of the study of local history. It is scarcely necessary to add that he commands an easy narrative style and a high degree of skill in organizing his narrative—qualifications not too commonly possessed by present-day historical scholars. The amount of information he has assembled about Judge Woodward is remarkable. The book is much broader than its title suggests. In short, it is a "Life and Times" biography, which comprises a pretty thoroughgoing history of Michigan for the two decades (1805-1824) of Judge Woodward's residence there.

Woodward was born in New York City in 1774. Baptized "Elias," he subsequently discarded this name, replacing it with the "Augustus" by which he is commonly known. Thoroughly steeped in classical literature, his self-chosen baptismal name suggests the role he aspired to play in life.

In 1795 Woodward migrated to Rockbridge County, Virginia, where he had the good fortune to meet and establish a life-long friendship with Thomas Jefferson. Following several years spent in infant Washington, D.C., as lawyer and land speculator, upon the creation of Michigan Territory in the winter of 1805 he was appointed by the President a member of the Board of Governor and Judges of the new territory.

The Territorial Act became effective on July 1, 1805. Three weeks earlier (June 11), century-old Detroit was completely destroyed by fire. Such was the scene of desolation which presented itself to the governor and judges who shortly arrived on the scene to establish the new territorial government. Judge Woodward, however, viewed the situation as a heaven-sent opportunity to replace the cramped lay-out of vanished French Detroit with a city plan whose magnificence has never yet been excelled. The town of Detroit, buried in the American wilderness, was destroyed, he affirmed, to become one of the foremost metropolises of the "terraqeous" globe. Such old-world centers as London and Paris had suffered immeasurably through lack of adequate fore-planning.

This fate he would forestall for infant Detroit by laying out a city plan capable of indefinite extension as population increased, and endowed with a multiplicity of avenues, squares, triangles, and parks. Since then the metropolis he foretold has taken material form, and one striking illustration of his vision is afforded by the fact that he provided 200-foot-wide main avenues, almost identical with the 204-foot "superhighways" which ring twentieth-century Detroit.

One would like to trace further the career of this unique American but limitation of space forbids. Woodford has done it exceedingly well and his study makes a notable addition to the historiography of Detroit and the Northwest. In him this remarkable man Woodward has at length found an adequate biographer.

Detroit, Michigan

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Veterans in Politics: The Story of the G.A.R. By Mary R. Dearing. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952, pp. xiii, 523. Index, bibliographical note, and illustrations. \$6.00.)

Each draped in a torn army blanket and kneeling before a coffin which bore the name of a victim of Andersonville Prison, thousands of Hoosiers took their solemn oaths to the Grand Army of the Republic. Throughout the eighty-three years between its first national convention in Indianapolis in 1866 and its last in the same city in 1949, the G.A.R. and Indiana exercised reciprocal influences upon each other. Explanation of the order's special appeal to Hoosiers is to be found, perhaps, in the role of the state in the war, the Copperhead movement, the intensity and relative equality of partisan warfare, and the nationalistic spirit that Indiana evinces in such varied manifestations as war service and the Ku Klux Klan. Whatever the explanation, this book has a particular relevance to Indiana readers. It is also a case study of veteran political behavior with possible applications to the present.

Mrs. Dearing has done well. Written entirely from the sources, her account is characterized by restrained judgment and a style that is straightforward but not particularly lively. It is comprehensive in scope. Perhaps its unique contribution is a discussion of the less well-known efforts of the G.A.R.