Honoring a Long-Standing Contributor: Julie LeClerc Knox

At this fifty-year mark in the life of the *Indiana Magazine of History,* it is especially appropriate that we acknowledge the contribution made to this publication over many years by Julie LeClerc Knox, of Vevay, Indiana. Miss Knox is known to many readers of the *Magazine* through her articles, the first of which, "Vevay and Switzerland County," appearing in September, 1915, reflects her lifelong interest in the history of her native Vevay. Directly descended from the Dufour family who founded the town in 1802, she is the great-granddaughter of Madame Antoinette Dufour Morerod, sister of the Dufour brothers. She says that she grew up in a bewildering tangle of kin, imbibing more or less unconsciously her family history. That family history is a colorful one; Miss Knox's father was of Scotch-Irish extraction, and her mother of French-Swiss. Through a great-grandfather born in Down County, Ireland, who was later a scout in the American Revolution, she is a member of the D.A.R.

A graduate of Vevay High School, Miss Knox taught first in the grades of Vevay, then became assistant principal and later principal of the high school. During this time she attended Indiana University, mostly in the summer terms and by correspondence; in 1918 she received the A.B. degree, majoring in English and minoring in Latin and French. She has also had postgraduate work at Columbia University.

Dr. L. N. Hines invited her to Crawfordsville High School, where she was head of the Latin department for eighteen years, during the last few of which she served as critic Latin teacher of Wabash College. For several years she was district chairman of the Latin activities. For some time her pupils annually published one of the first Latin magazines in the state, and due to it she was invited to address the classical section of the State Teachers' Meeting, and later was elected president of that body.

Julie LeClerc Knox says that she has written for publication since she can remember. When she was quite young a cousin ran a newspaper and encouraged her by printing her writings. Although Miss Knox explains that he did this "no

doubt as he was short of copy," it is more likely that even at an early age she displayed the facility for writing that has kept her busy and successful at the craft all her life. She has continued to write regularly for the local papers. Under the persuasion of Logan Esarey and the encouragement of James A. Woodburn, whom she remembers with affection, she began writing historical articles for the *Indiana Magazine of History*. As a member of the Creative Group of the Crawfordsville Branch of the A. A. U. W. she was stimulated to try to write verse. Some of it was published in anthologies and under the pen name of her great-grandmother Antoinette, Vevay, she received recognition in the columns of Hoosier Homespun of the Indianapolis *News* and made new friends through her character sketches and verse. She has been more or less a contributor to that column since it was organized.

A member of Poet's Corner, Inc., since its organization, she has entered the poetry contest every year but one, and has had an impressive record of prize-winning: she has taken first prize every time in the division in which her contribution was entered, except the first time, when she received a second. Last year she was awarded a gold medal in the national contest for her article on "My Choice of Poets." The preceding year she was one of five to tie for a first prize in the national contest for a prose description of the "Home of a Great Poet." She chose Abbotsford, which she had visited.

Miss Knox is the author of *The Dufour Saga: 1796-1942*, published in 1942, the story of the eight Dufours who came from Switzerland and founded Vevay, and of their descendants. She also authored a booklet, "Some Interesting Pioneer Homesteads In and Around Vevay, Indiana," published in 1948. Among publications to which she has contributed are the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, the *Classical Journal*, the old *Popular Educator*, and the *Indiana School Journal*. She has been a frequent contributor of articles to the *Indiana History Bulletin*, among them "Adventures Among Yesterdays," September, 1932; "The Old Phineas Kent Mansion of New Albany," April, 1932; "An Elegy in a Country Burial Ground," April, 1941; "Switzerland County's War Brides," July, 1947; and "Indiana's First Piano," September, 1948.

Upon her return to Vevay after she retired from teaching, her interest in writing led her to organize a club to encourage creative writing. Eighteen years old, it is still active. She is a charter member of the Julia L. Dumont Club, one of the state's oldest literary societies, which was organized by her cousin when Miss Knox was a schoolgirl. She has served as its president seven times. She was president of the Switzerland County Historical Society for eleven consecutive years before resigning that office. Since becoming a member of the Music Club she has served as its president three times. She is also a member of the Presbyterian Church, Eastern Star, and a charter member of the Crawfordsville Branch of the A. A. U. W., of which she served two terms as president.

In 1948 excerpts from *The Dufour Saga* were broadcast on the Builders of Destiny radio program. Not long ago, Miss Knox was one of thirteen Hoosiers contributing to an Indiana University radio and television department's series on folklore of Indiana. She made a recording of French-Swiss lore. Various organizations, churches, and literary groups often call upon her to speak.

Miss Knox has traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, Europe, the British Isles, the Near East, and the Mediterranean.

The following articles by Julie LeClerc Knox have appeared in the *Indiana Magazine of History:*

"Vevay and Switzerland County," XI (1915)
"Pioneer Homesteads," XVIII (1922)
"Some Interesting Crawfordsville People and Their Homes," XXII (1926)
"Some Reminiscences of Vevay," XXV (1929)
"The Old Jean Daniel Morerod Home at Vevay," XXVII (1931)
"A Quaint, Little, Old Indiana City," XXVIII (1932)
"Two Pioneer Homes of Switzerland County," XXVIII (1932)
"Cravenhurst," XXIX (1933)
"Stories That Old Houses Tell," XXIX (1933)
"A Survivor of 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' " XXX (1934)
"The Old Sullivan Home in Madison," XXXI (1935)

"The Unique Little Town of New Harmony," XXXII (1936)
"The Century-Old Wright Home," XXXII (1936)
"I Remember My Grandmother," XXXIV (1938)
"Robert Glenn's Scottish Home in Indiana," XXXVI (1940)
"The Swiss Inn of Vevay, An Old Landmark," XLI (1945)
"An Interesting Old Home of Vevay, Indiana," XLI (1945)
"George Gill Knox—Pioneer Cabinetmaker and Miller," XLIII (1947)
"The Thiebaud Genealogy," XLIV (1948)
"The Old Ferry House at Vevay, Indiana," XLV (1949)
"The Julia L. Dumont Club of Vevay, Indiana," XLVI (1950)