Again and again the author deftly catches in a few sentences the facets of personalities associated with King. He also reveals uncommon insight and taste in his account of the King household, attributing to Mrs. King a most important part in the career of her basically shy and overly sensitive husband. Julia Coates King enabled the Kings to build and to maintain friendships with students and faculty alike by providing apparently effortless and genuine hospitality for literally thousands of guests. Her quiet good sense and firm grip on reality gave balance and serenity to everyone around her.

This is a beautifully written book about an attractive man and the college he served. Throughout the volume one glimpses a unique combination of scholarship, friendliness, religious faith, and devotion to social causes and to principle —elements of a character which appeared in King and in many of the men who worked with him. Mr. Love's biography will win a place in the literature of the liberal arts college; certainly it is the definitive biography of President King of Oberlin.

Indiana University Arthur R. Hogue

Tecumseh: Vision of Glory. By Glenn Tucker. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1956. Pp. 399. Notes, bibliography, and index. $5.00.)

This is a long and detailed, but never dull, biography of Tecumseh, Shawnee chief, brother of the Prophet and de facto leader of those Indians inhabiting the unsettled areas of the Old Northwest prior to the War of 1812. As a biography it contains all that can conceivably be known about Tecumseh from birth to death. It is, however, more than a biography; it is essentially a history of the struggle of the Indians north of the Ohio River with the advancing white frontier from the close of the Revolution until the death of Tecumseh at the Battle of the Thames in 1813.

Tecumseh was an able and superior Indian in most respects; he was a man of vision who had unusual qualities of leadership and personal magnetism. He strongly advocated that if the Indians were to remain Indians, not succumb to the agricultural life of the whites or be dragged down into

drunken poverty by their whiskey, they must cease giving away the tribal hunting lands by treaty and unite to resist the ever-moving frontier. From 1808 until the outbreak of the War of 1812 he sought with only moderate success to sell this message to tribes both north and south.

Outside of the dime novel variety produced by the professional hacks and those written for juveniles, there have been only a few biographies of Tecumseh of any merit: Benjamin Drake, *The Life of Tecumseh and His Brother the Prophet,* 1841; Edward Eggleston, *Tecumseh and the Shawnee Prophet,* 1878; E. O. Randall, "Tecumseh, The Shawnee Chief" in *Ohio Archeological and Historical Society Publications,* XV, 1906; Norman S. Gurd, *The Story of Tecumseh,* 1912; and John M. Oskinson, *Tecumseh and His Times,* 1938. Perhaps this great Indian chief has not attracted more biographers because source materials relating to him are scattered in widely separated depositories, are fragmentary and in many instances contradictory. The Shawnee had no written language, and many of the records that remain were written by whites, some of whom were strongly biased and singularly inaccurate in their accounts. The author has used this extant evidence judiciously, even where the trail has grown dim, and has given us a modern appraisal of Tecumseh in youth and manhood as he played his role in peace, diplomacy, and war.

Readers who are expecting traditional treatment of such topics as the Prophet, William Henry Harrison, the Battle of Tippecanoe, the causes of the War of 1812, the capture of Detroit, and the death of Tecumseh will not find them in this biography. Mr. Tucker is not a traditionalist and takes particular pains to revise the historical record when his reading of the sources makes it necessary. Nor is he hesitant to call a spade by its correct title when, upon careful examination and distillation of evidence, it has all the characteristics of a spade.

Laulewasika, better known as the Prophet, youngest brother of Tecumseh was not, as has been commonly recorded, a misguided epileptic who held a charm over the Indians but a great and even remarkable religious leader whose doctrines possessed a brand of militant racialism used by Tecumseh to further his own plans for Indian solidarity. Though the Prophet was vain, arrogant and sometimes vin-

dictive and a great emotional force in the Indian world, Tecumseh emerges the dominant leader, the final voice of authority exercising a restraining influence on his weaker and less stable brother.

The picture Tucker draws of Harrison is not complimentary. Harrison is described as a verbose ("he never permitted one word to serve a purpose when two would do" p. 134), proud man who never really understood Indian character and was arbitrary and wily to the point of circumvention in his negotiations and dealings with the red men. The Battle of Tippecanoe was precipitated by Harrison: "He was the aggressor. The responsibility rested with him" (p. 218). "He was not only the aggressor, he was the presumptuous treaty breaker. . . . Harrison's march was an outright invasion of the territory of another nation without the consent of the President or a declaration of war by Congress" (p. 219). Tippecanoe was a minor engagement of no consequence, except to make Harrison President.

In what should be a final conclusion on one important aspect of war guilt Mr. Tucker has clearly demonstrated that the Indian unrest preceding the outbreak of the War of 1812 was not the work of the British in Canada or the work of British agents circulating among the tribes promoting, urging, and fomenting Indian attacks against the frontier. He has conclusively shown that the British were strictly neutral and attempted to restrain Tecumseh and the Indians. The contemporary reports by Harrison, western newspapers, and regional historians to the effect that the British in Canada were the fountainhead of Indian aggression was unfounded propaganda so loudly and repeatedly trumpeted that it seemingly had become inextricably woven into the fabric of American historical writing. Now, thanks to this author we, at last, are set straight.

This reviewer had always assumed that Major General Isaac Brock was the sole moving force behind the capture of Detroit by a combined force of British and Indians in the War of 1812. Mr. Tucker quickly dispels this opinion and points out that a great deal of Brock's success at Detroit was due to Tecumseh's military knowledge: "The British leader had come to recognize that Tecumseh's knowledge of the country was invaluable, almost photographic; but still not so important to the success of the campaign as his military judg-

ment and tactical ability, his quick eye for good battle positions and his understanding of the value of intelligence and the need for its speedy transmission to headquarters" (p. 267).

Tecumseh presumably was killed in the Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. The legend was fostered by returning soldiers and during the Presidential campaign of 1836 that Colonel Richard M. Johnson shot him with his pistol. This version as well as others still seeps into regional literature. Tucker has sifted all the evidence pertaining to Tecumseh in this battle and concludes: "No one knows how he was killed, who killed him or where he lies buried, though as with other epic heroes, the search and research have been indefatigable" (p. 319).

It is occasionally the practice in writing a "favorable" review to pick out minor flaws "which mar the work" in order to demonstrate the reviewer's objectivity, or superiority. There are a few errors of fact in this volume but it would be ungracious, even presumptuous, to note them. This is a good book, a readable one, written after long and purposeful use of historical sources by an author filled with refreshing enthusiasm for his subject.

Indiana University Libraries Cecil K. Byrd

Westernized Yankee: The Story of Cyrus Woodman. By Larry Gara. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1956. Pp. x, 254. Frontispiece, illustrations, notes, and index. $4.50.)

The Story of Cyrus Woodman represents a kaleidoscopic view of the life of a western land agent, 1840-1870. The value of this partial biography comes from the careful enumeration and description which it contains of the activity of a man engaged in such a profession. Cyrus Woodman, land agent, and others like him were the invaluable middlemen in the settling of the West.

Woodman's experiences also give good indication of the wide range of western business opportunities open to the enterprising man. Numerous schemes to gain wealth presented themselves, asking only for the investment of money, time, and energy. The vigorous and growing western society was a challenge, a place in which fortunes could be made—