collection of Bigger's correspondence. In lieu of such a collection she has had to supplement the few extant letters with numerous other letters which were written by members of the General Assembly and were published in various contemporary newspapers throughout the state. In addition to this material she has included selected items from the Senate and House Journals and the Documentary Journals.

Even though it is both logical and customary to arrange the messages and papers of public officials in chronological sequence, frequently the result is a variegated pattern of events containing many loose ends. This is especially true of the papers of the Bigger administration since many of the problems it faced were common to several administrations. The editor has demonstrated appropriate restraint in not exceeding the limits of the period covered by the messages and papers themselves. In a generous introduction she has carefully delineated the principal problems of the period and has discussed the various attempts at solution. Those readers who desire additional background information need only peruse earlier volumes in this series, while those who are interested in developments subsequent to the Bigger administration can either turn to the original documents or await publication of later volumes of the series.

Despite the many obstacles inherent in a work of this type, the editor has succeeded in compiling a wealth of information dealing with this early period in Indiana's history. Although in general her selection of documents has been judicious, it appears that a few were included solely for the sake of completeness. For example, all three of the Governor's Thanksgiving proclamations were included in the volume when perhaps one would have sufficed to show that Governor Bigger did not depart from the usual stereotyped holiday proclamation. This observation is not so much a criticism of editorial judgment as it is a commentary on the paucity of extant official documents and letters for the period.

The annotations of the documents in this collection are both thorough and scholarly. The work is further enhanced by a useful index. While it may have only limited appeal to the casual reader, certainly the serious student of the Hoosier heritage will recognize it as a worthwhile contribution to history and will look forward to the time when other volumes of the series are completed.

Ball State Teachers College

Richard H. Caldemeyer


College histories are too often written as by-products of an anniversary celebration or for the edification of the alumni. While they serve the useful purpose of preserving facts about a single institution, which, however small, is of course an integral part of the historic whole, they seldom relate that institution in any significant way to the context of higher education or of national life in which it develops.
Miss Thornburg's lovingly related story of Earlham College has both the virtues and the faults of its kind. Her many years of service successively as registrar, secretary to the President, and archivist, gave her unique insight into the inner workings of the institution, and the opportunity to study its records. For the same reasons, perhaps, her view is limited almost exclusively to the campus, the Friends church, and the vicinity of Richmond, Indiana.

Earlham College was founded as a Quaker Boarding School by the Indiana Yearly Meeting in 1847 and became a fully collegiate institution during the fifties. It was one of the earliest coeducational colleges in the country. Although the Indiana Friends in earlier days were not much inclined toward extravagant expenditures for the support of higher education, they did not drive their new institution into bankruptcy and early death, which was the fate of so many church-founded colleges in the Midwest. Earlham's physical plant began with a single half-finished building in the cornfields a mile and a half west of Richmond. It has grown into a beautiful campus with a dozen modern, highly specialized structures. One of the startling facts pointed out by Miss Thornburg is that it required 108 years for Earlham's annual operating budget to reach a million dollars, but that it then climbed to two million within the next five years (to 1960), and by 1963 had almost reached three million (p. 424).

Every good college has a distinctive quality of its own, and Earlham's élan is due in no small measure to its Quaker origins. Faculty meetings still worry through to a consensus rather than splitting down the middle over controversial issues. The authorities fought a long and losing battle against nicotine on the campus but have managed to retain what students call "compulsory" chapel. The pacifist traditions of the Friends have created serious difficulties for Earlham during each of the nation's wars and witch-hunts. But this devotion to nonbelligerence has not by any means protected Earlham from the academic battles which seem to ignite every college campus occasionally. The election of a new president, Joseph John Mills, in 1883, created such dissension that the trustees forced the resignations of the two most popular members of the faculty.

Although Miss Thornburg deals candidly with this and other unfortunate pages in Earlham's history, her devotion to her subject leads her to make claims of superiority in nearly every paragraph. The fact is, however, that many of these claims are justified. Earlham has emerged from an earlier period of dubious flirtations with vocational subjects as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. The last chapter of Miss Thornburg's book, especially, records a dazzling array of foundation gifts, curricular reforms, experiments in international studies, programs of independent study, and achievements of important alumni. "This is a wonderful student generation," wrote one visitor to the campus. "These Earlham young people are alive, keen, intelligent, and concerned. I am amazed at how much they have read, how seriously they face the problems of life, how deeply they are thinking" (p. 433).