

Tribute to John D. Barnhart*

John D. Barnhart, a native of Decatur, Illinois, received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1916. He received the Master's in history from Northwestern University and in 1930 the Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. For nearly a half-century Professor Barnhart has been teaching history, chiefly but not exclusively in the Middle West. He first taught at Indiana University in 1925. For the last twenty-four years he has been a permanent member of the history faculty at Indiana University, serving as Chairman of the Department from 1947 to 1953.

The Middle West has been Professor Barnhart's principal field of interest for both his teaching and research. A student and disciple of Frederick Jackson Turner, also of the Middle West, Professor Barnhart has written dozens of articles and book reviews in historical quarterlies throughout the country. Many of his articles give particular emphasis to the movement of population from the Upper South into the Middle West during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. They also note the impact of this southern population on the economic, political, constitutional, and cultural life of the Middle West. Much of Professor Barnhart's research and many of his findings are crystallized and summarized, as well as amplified, in three publications which appeared in the early 1950's: *Henry Hamilton and George Rogers Clark in the American Revolution* (1951); *Valley of Democracy: The Frontier Versus the Plantation in the Ohio Valley, 1775-1818* (1953); and, with Donald F. Carmony as co-author, *Indiana: From Frontier to Industrial Commonwealth* (2 vols., 1954). Professor Barnhart's contributions as a scholar have been widely and favorably recognized.

A realization of the many facets of his career as an historian is essential to a full appreciation of his varied and important achievements. One should particularly note that

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from 1941 until 1954 he edited the *Indiana Magazine of History*; since 1948 he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Indiana Historical Society, serving as its president from 1957 to 1959; from 1955 until 1964 he was a member of the Advisory Committee on History for the Secretary of the Navy; in 1946-1947 he was president of the History Teachers Association of Indiana; and in 1950 he served as chairman of the Indiana Territory Sesquicentennial Commission. Still other examples could be cited of the quantity and quality of his contributions.

Professor Barnhart's personal qualities have endeared him to his numerous colleagues and students, graduates and undergraduates alike. Through the years his concern and affection for his students have been among his most conspicuous characteristics. Colleagues quickly were aware of the satisfaction and pleasure he felt upon learning of their achievements and those of his former students. Faithful as he has ever been to his own high principles, Professor Barnhart is nevertheless distinguished for his sympathy and tenderness toward the frailties of others. Known for his gentle and kind disposition, he has always exercised patience and restraint in his evaluation of others. Professor Barnhart has well earned all the joys of retirement due a kindly gentleman and colleague and faithful devotee of Clio.