

Book Reviews

At the Headwaters of the Maumee: A History of the Forts of Fort Wayne. By Paul Woehrmann. Introduction by Richard C. Knopf. *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Volume 24. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1971. Pp. xv, 306. Illustrations, notes, sources cited, index. Paperbound, \$3.00.)

In 1794 when the new American military post of Fort Wayne was occupied, General Anthony Wayne wrote to Colonel John Francis Hamtramck, the first commander, that the fort "may well be esteemed the Key or barrier between the Navigable waters of the Gulphs of Mexico & St. Lawrence as well as between the Indian tribes settled along the margins of those waters; & as such it has always been considered both by the French & British who make it a grand deposit for their Indian warehouses or Stores" (p. 49). This insight of General Wayne's is the theme of Professor Woehrmann's book. He thus gives a proper emphasis to the often neglected fact that the headwaters of the Maumee, where Fort Wayne was built, formed one of the great crossroads in the West. Fort Wayne was a key spot for Indian trade and for military control over a large area.

Noting first the history of the French and the British at the location, Woehrmann moves quickly to the story of American activity at Fort Wayne from its founding to its abandonment in 1819. Using a chiefly topical arrangement, he discusses the establishment of the fort as a culmination of the drive against the Miami Indians that was mounted by Josiah Harmar, Arthur St. Clair, and Wayne, the administrative and logistical problems of the post, the history of the government trading factory and the Indian agency at the site, and the vital role played by Fort Wayne in the War of 1812. He has filled in with great detail the well known outline of events at the fort and agency by heavy reliance on the letters and reports of the government officials and agents who operated there. In his accounts of the interplay between Indian missionaries, factors, Indian agents, and army officers he shows clearly how personal conflicts endangered the smooth operation of the federal Indian policy and by such case studies helps to illustrate a larger picture. Even though, as Woehrmann asserts, the fort was "largely a failure to 1812 as a government trading post, as a center of 'civilization,' and as an Indian agency" (p. 256), it managed to survive the severe military test of the War of 1812 and thereby guaranteed American control in the area.

The book, though thoroughly researched and neatly printed, is seriously marred by a dissertation style that should have been revised before the work was published. Items from the sources are often strung out like a chronicle rather than used as materials from which

to create a readable narrative or a stimulating analysis, and rough spots in composition are a frequent irritant to the reader.

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Indiana to 1816: The Colonial Period. By John D. Barnhart & Dorothy L. Riker. *The History of Indiana*, Volume I. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau & Indiana Historical Society, 1971. Pp. xvi, 520. Notes, maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$7.50; paperbound, \$4.50.)

In recent years considerable effort has been made to utilize election returns, voting patterns in legislative bodies, population figures, and other statistical data to provide computerized information hitherto unavailable to the historian. An older method corrective of generalized statements relating to American history has been the production of scholarly accounts, often in a number of volumes, of the history of the various states. Pioneering in this field was *The Centennial History of Illinois*, edited by Clarence W. Alvord, in five volumes (Springfield, 1918-1920). The volume here under review is part of a projected five volume series commemorating Indiana's sesquicentennial of statehood. Volume III, *Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880*, by Emma Lou Thornbrough of Butler University, appeared in 1965, followed by Volume IV, *Indiana in Transition: The Emergence of an Industrial Commonwealth, 1880-1920* (1968), by Clifton J. Phillips of DePauw University. John D. Barnhart, long a leader in the study and writing of Indiana, was scheduled to write the present volume. After his illness and then his death in December, 1967, Dorothy L. Riker, senior editor of the Indiana Historical Society, completed the assignment. The resulting volume traces Indiana's history from the days of the prehistoric Indians to the coming of statehood.

The chapter "Indiana's Prehistory" by James H. Kellar, archaeologist for the Indiana Historical Society, is an erudite study, which in parts may seem somewhat technical to the average reader. Other chapters give careful attention to topics discussing international rivalries, conflicts with the Indian, struggles between the supporters of Governor William Henry Harrison and his opponents, and the economic problems of pioneer life. Interesting material is presented concerning members of the Constitutional Convention of 1816. Only nine members had never lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line (p. 443), but the constitutional fathers took pains to eliminate the undemocratic features found in "the early fundamental law of the southern states with their property qualifications for office holding and