

INTRODUCTION

With mingled feelings of wonder, admiration and pride, Americans contemplate the vast, varied and important changes wrought by a people whose constitution is based on equality, and whose triune principles are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He who views the harmonious operation of the republic, elsewhere than in counties and in their towns. Power is of the people, and he who traverses America and sees no insignia of rank, no emblems of power, must consult the annals of her counties, the records of town meetings, to find the origins of government.

Ancestral halls and hereditary succession, the ruins of tower and temple, magnificent and impressive in their decay, monumental shafts inscribed with hieroglyphics, and pyramids recalling the material age, are souvenirs of a ruder time when physical force held the mastery.

America is old; her higher order of civilization is new. Origin is recent, and the supremacy of intellect which guided the pioneer to fell the forest, and excite the earth to production is still manifest as a portent, vital principle, developing mental power, utilizing the force of nature, and advancing to the highest reach of human capacity.

Pennsylvania is the Keystone State, and the Allegheny valley has become celebrated for its mineral resources. The Scotch-Irish sought their fortune in Indiana and found it given as the price of industry. With sinewy stroke and lusty blow, the forest fell before them; their descendants stand to-day upon the vantage ground nobly won by their progenitors.

The history of Indiana aims to present the origin, progress, and culmination of the untiring industry which has yet higher aims and nobler purposes. Whence comes the materials for faithful record? Treasuring the memory of others, Indiana is oblivious of self. A press is active to garner in its many columns-matters replete with interest, but one toils in vain to discover more than allusions to the events of the day. A McCabe, a Row, a Taylor, and a Robinson have gathered fragments, and these have passed from press to press limited in quantity; valued as these have been, they have become a rarity. The records of Indiana, whose annals comprise little more than a century, are as meager as the history of the nation in the days of legend and tradition. To augment material from the recollections of the aged, the manuscript, the press, and the volume, and to combine all as a lesson for present entertainment and future reference and instruction, is no easy nor ignoble task.

Herein is essayed the description of the farms cleared, villages planted, towns founded, the inception and progress of agriculture, manufacture and commerce, the note of rich soil, healthful climate and striking scenery. Journeys and settlements, reminiscences and records, chronology of pioneer stages of growth, are rising in importance as their value becomes apparent. Regarding the many living monuments of the energies of to-day, the constant and higher progress of our people, and the confidence in our future, few but desire to lift the curtain of oblivion and gaze upon the past. Occupants of farm house or town mansion are interested in those initial efforts which have induced present enterprise, and it is a slight reward to combine the names of actors with their deeds, and rescue honest worth from forgetfulness. Prominent notice is given to the pioneer, both from character and achievement. The industry and perseverance of the Scotch-Irish is proverbial; a toiler upon a soil which gave scant reward for labor, he saw along the "Conemaugh," "Black Lick" and "Two Lick," the broad fringe of woods which barred his occupation. The forest fell, and the reward of labor seemed like a tale to fiction. Thence arose the necessity of mills, the need of a market and means of transportation. The portrayal of early days in Indiana declares the present of proportionate effect. Occupation and location change character, and he who would know of the pioneer must learn from the printed page. We seek to make known the struggles of the first settlers, their endurance, their healthfulness, their works and resources, with the achievements and purposes of the present. In these pages biography is blended with history, and a class is pictured by an individual type. Science presents the lineaments of the pioneer and the distinguished, and art pencils the sketch of rural home, town residence, and beautiful scenery. The eye is pleased and the mind informed by historic and statistic page, views of nature grand and remarkable, and of architecture massive and ornate. Tradition recounts adventures connected with the dominance of the Six Nations; outlines of Indiana in the rebellion exhibit the courage and patriotism of her citizens, while catalogue and minutes make known the standing of education and institutions and the progress of religion. A Russian ukase transports a colony to the frozen fields of Siberia of the distant valley of the Amoor; Scotch-Irish migration presents a voluntary exile for life, to a distant forest, of individuals. The contrast in motive, the results of systems, is a lesson for the patriot. We are to consider the truth of the claim that on no other equal area can be found a greater number of aged persons, when the aggregate population is considered.

The changeable character of American civilization, still in progress to transmission, renders the past obscure save through record and illustration, and hence an effort to depict true to life and nature, the history of the early dwellers of the valleys of Indiana.

One hundred and fifteen years ago, the first white man located in all that territory now embraced in Indiana county. Prior to that date only traders of the Moravian missionaries, or possibly the Army of Armstrong, had visited it or the captives adopted into the Indiana Families.

The outline of our work embraces sketches of the Aborigines, their character and government, the discovery and landing upon their coasts of Europeans; the consequent claim of ownership by France, England and Holland, and their contest of supremacy; English success, their allies during the Revolution; merciless barbarity in warfare, and stern retribution.

Also are presented the narrative of treaty, the settlements of State claims, the purchase and the commencement of settlements, the professional men, prominent pioneers, and the types of border character claim attention. Initial measures touching roadways, surveys, and sales, are followed by evidence of a higher civilization in dwellings, mill and cultivation.

The menacing dominant spirit of England is seen to result in the wars which only add increased confidence in the capability of the American pioneer. The close of the war of the revolution begins an active and permanent settlement. Despite privation, sickness and poverty of resources, the settlers are seen to accomplish their work, the county is organized; the seat of justice is located, and Indiana begins its career as a separate constituency of the State.

The Frankston road is succeeded by the pike, and it gives way to the canal in conception, wonderful in execution, which conveys away a wealth of produce, and bears back the multitude of emigration, and the articles of commerce needed by the settlers of our valleys. Railroads are constructed and their rapid movements prove to much for the cumbersome canal. Trade, commerce and manufacture, begun in trifles, end in the transfer of millions' valuation. A community is sent to erect and open public buildings, reformatory, benevolent, educational and religious. The patriotism and valor of the citizens are shown upon the battle-field, and the trades and professions are viewed in healthful activity. To realize these outlines is the object of the following chapters: