

The Sweep of Indiana History

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the works of two prominent Mormon churchmen, Bishops Cannon and Knapp, may also be mentioned; a valuable piece of information concerning Brigham Young's sister was given the writer by Attorney H. M. Havner, of Des Moines, who was acquainted with her family.

THE SWEEP OF INDIANA HISTORY

The extent and sweep of a state's past is astonishing. Indiana's real age is ancient. Its origins do not begin with the French settlements in the eighteenth century. Before them were the resident Indian tribes, and before them were the remote mound builders. The true history of Indiana begins with remarkable archaeological evidence of these early inhabitants some three thousand years ago, and extends down through three races, several levels of culture and a dozen nationalities to the twentieth century Hoosier. Its scope includes savage warfare, fur trading, forts and missions, international war, pioneer settlement, individual enterprise, communal association, exploitation of natural resources, the growth of farms and manufacturing, and urban development. The variety of life in Indiana (like in all of the mid-west region) is as amazing as its age.

An interest in history is a sign of maturity, not of adolescent enthusiasm. During the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, this nation was too busy fighting for its existence, expanding its boundaries, forming its governments, conquering the wilderness, and developing its resources to pause for a backward look. The rich resources and the freedom offered the individual were a continual stimulant to "progress"—getting ahead, changing, improving. The material past was something to flee from; what was good enough for father was not good enough for son. But, with the disappearance of the frontier and the rise of new social problems, the United States has stopped to examine its origins. The significance of history has received new appreciation.—Howard H. Peckham in the *Indiana History Bulletin*.

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