A History of the Indiana Historical Society, 1830-1980

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book. Galena was a very prosperous trade center in the Upper Mississippi region—the scene of lead mines, steamboat commerce, and traders from the 1820s through the mid 1850s. The Panic of 1857 put a temporary stop in this growth, but after the Civil War the town regained some of its previous affluence and new buildings joined the old ones to make the town one of distinction and beauty. To this very day Galena is admired by thousands of people who tour the historic region each year. The book is enhanced by fifteen original watercolors from the collection of Alfred Mueller and is one that those who have ever toured the town will want on their library shelves.


Although only a pamphlet, this work contains much new data on the Chippewa, Winnebago, Potawatomi, Oneida, Menominee, and Stockbridge groups. The author, a well-known anthropologist and ethnohistorian, gives a vivid account of the struggle of these Indians to preserve their land base and their continued effort to maintain their own cultural identity.


One of the oldest historical societies, the Indiana Historical Society is the envy of most historical agencies with its 23.6 million-dollar endowment from the Eli Lilly Foundation. The founder, John Hay Farnham, was a well-known crusader for public schools, prohibition, and women's rights. Unlike the midwestern pattern in which historical societies blend public and some private support into one institution and centralize their state historical programs, Indiana diverged by dividing its historical endeavors among three agencies and limited its program commitment to a research library, publications, and archaeological studies. This handsome book is one which all state historical societies should strive to emulate. A "must" for anyone working with historical programs in any state.

—MDG

163