understandably, are those based on the autobiographical material Brackenridge left. Perhaps interest will be revived in his writings by this volume.

There are the inevitable minor factual and editorial slips. On p. 56, Jefferson's party in the 1790's is referred to as the Democrats, a term not yet in use; on p. 150, Negro is not capitalized. Brackenridge's wife remains a shadow to whom less attention is devoted than is afforded to half a dozen minor characters. Much of the quoted material is in such fine print as to be tiring to the eyes.

The major shortcoming of the book, however, is proportion. Of 379 pages of narrative, 342 are devoted to the first 42 years of the subject's life, and 37 pages to the second 42 years. Brackenridge's service as a congressman gets only a paragraph (p. 360) and his term in the Pennsylvania legislature, only a sentence (p. 364).

Despite these flaws, the reader will enjoy this sound and spirited account of a versatile western Pennsylvanian.

*University of Pittsburgh*

Hugh G. Cleland

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This little volume has no illustrations, no index and has a meagre bibliography. It is also about thirteen relatively inconspicuous figures in American historiography. Yet it is greatly worth while. The publishers state that it "is a by product of his researches in American history." Somewhat obviously it is not based on thirteen extended researches on the biographies of these "unusual" Americans. But the grasp on the milieu by the author is clearly apparent. He has thought analytically and spoken boldly not only about the thirteen individuals but about the society and politics of their day.

Justification for this book review is found in the examination of p. x2, "Contents," organized as follows: "The Taint of Treason; John Fries; Harman Blennerhasset": "Two Travelling Men; John Ledyard; Edward Bonney": "A Brace of Villains; Simon Girty; John A. Murrell": "Limited Utopias; John Humphrey Noyes; James Strong": "Fairly Respectable Rebels; Clement T. Vallandigham; Jacob Corey": "Freedom Road; Nat Turner; Elijah Lovejoy": "And A Miracle Man; Phineas
Quimby." About half of these accounts deal directly with Pennsylvania. All of them throw light on matters affecting indirectly readers of American history.

The volume is remarkably well written and notably free from imperfections of typography and publication. Its weight intellectually and physically is light but its quality and appeal are "unusual."

University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James

Readings in Indiana History. Compiled by Gayle Thornbrough and Dorothy Riker: Indiana Historical Bureau: October 1956. Price $2.00 (Paper Cover) $4.50 (Cloth Bound).

In the PREFACE to this volume, the reader learns that back in 1914 a committee of the History Section of the Indiana State Teacher's Association compiled a small volume entitled READINGS IN INDIANA HISTORY. This study was published by Indiana University, but has long since been out of print. In preparing the present volume of Readings the editors profited from the earlier volume, and included many of the selections used in it. However, since there is no satisfactory one-volume history of Indiana which can be read in conjunction with the Readings, the editors announce that they had difficulty in compiling this volume. As a result, they decided to use considerable secondary material along with the original source material "to fill out the various chapters." This reviewer thinks they have done an excellent job in this respect.

The table of contents lists some 30 major headings, with a final heading listed, appropriately, as Miscellany, which includes such divergent items as Eugene Debs, and Hoosier Eggs for Korea. However, the over-all organization, with the Readings chronologically arranged, and with wisely chosen items within each chronological period, is to be commended. Naturally, the first chapter, (although the word "chapter" is not used) is entitled "Indiana's Pre-historic Cultures." Then follows The French Period; The English Period; George Rogers Clark and The Revolution"; and "Frontier Life and Border Warfare," bringing the narrative down to the establishment of Indian Territory.

The "readings" move more rapidly from there on, with the editors selecting such events as slavery; beginnings of state government; coming of the early settlers, Harmonie and New Harmony; pioneer life in