

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EARLY
HISTORY OF THE
NORTH-WEST, INCLUDING THE
MORAVIAN MISSIONS IN OHIO**

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Contributions to the early history of the North-west, including the Moravian missions in Ohio by Samuel P. Hildreth

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SAMUEL P. HILDRETH

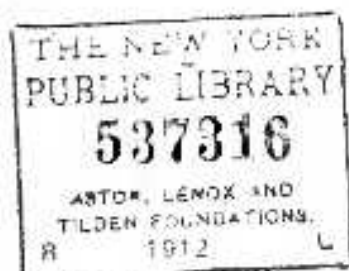
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BY
SAMUEL P. HILDRETH, M. D.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following sketches of pioneer life and times were written by the late Samuel P. Hildreth, M. D., and by him given some years since to Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, first Controller of the Treasury. On Mr. Whittlesey's death they came by bequest into the possession of T. B. Tait, of Ashtabula county, Ohio, by whom they were sent to our Agents for publication. They relate mainly to scenes and incidents in North-Eastern Ohio, and include a brief account of the Moravian Mission.

The author, Dr. Hildreth, was himself a pioneer and the historian of pioneers. He was a native of Methuen, Essex county, Massachusetts. In 1806 he commenced the practice of medicine at Marietta, when the place contained

but six hundred inhabitants, and continued it fifty-five years. In 1861, as he said, "I laid it entirely aside, and am now waiting the time of my departure with resignation and hope." He died at his home in Marietta, July 28, 1863, aged eighty years.

The reader will find these pages entertaining and instructive. Some of the events recorded have occurred within the life-time and memory of those yet living, and a few of the actors or witnesses of these scenes still survive. One of them, Joseph Kelly, died since these pages were in the printers' hands. A daughter of the missionary Heckewelder yet lives in Pennsylvania, having reached a ripe old age. Doubtless others whose stories are given, are yet with us; but one by one the aged pioneers are passing away, and we welcome this volume to perpetuate their names and deeds to those who enjoy the fruit of their labors.

THE EDITOR.

CINCINNATI, AUGUST, 1864.

P R E F A C E.

ON the appearance of a new book before the public every reader has the right to inquire the object of the writer in presenting it. In this instance the author's only plea is the desire of preserving from utter loss a few of the many interesting events connected with the early history of this country, which in a few brief years would have been entirely forgotten. They are at present tolerably fresh in the memories of some of the actors themselves, but are fast fading away before the touch of time. Another object was to compare past things with present, and thus better enable the generation of these days to appreciate the trials and sufferings of those who inhabited this now beautiful land when it was covered with

vast forests, and tenanted by savages and wild beasts. The achievements of these men ought not soon to be forgotten. And last, not least, was a desire to bring to the light the trials and sufferings of the Moravian missionaries and their Indian converts in Ohio. Very few of the present inhabitants even know that such a mission ever existed, and still fewer are acquainted with the particular events connected therewith. Copious extracts have been taken from Loskiel's history, to whom I am indebted for the facts relating to the mission, and many of them in his own language.

With these brief remarks the following pages are presented to the rising generations of the West, accompanied with the wish that they may afford to them as much satisfaction in the reading as they have to me in the writing.

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