

Indiana Blacks in the Twentieth Century, by Emma Lou Thornbrough, edited with a final chapter by Lana Ruegamer. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2000. x, 286 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$27.95 cloth.

Reviewer Konrad M. Hamilton is assistant professor of history at Knox College. His research interests include the civil rights movement and federal anti-discrimination policy.

Indiana Blacks in the Twentieth Century is Emma Lou Thornbrough's posthumous sequel to her pioneering work, *The Negro in Indiana Before 1900*, originally published in 1957. *Indiana Blacks* joins a well-established historiography on African Americans in the Midwest, including several recent works specifically on blacks in Indiana (by Wilma Gibbs, Darrel Bigham, and Darlene Clark Hine and Don Wallis). Thornbrough's study is unique, however, in both the statewide scope of her investigation, and in her use of an older "race relations" legal history approach, instead of the more social science-based community study or oral history methodologies favored by most other students of mid-western black communities. For Thornbrough, segregation, discrimination, and the legal remedies created by civil rights activism take center stage. Readers looking for detailed discussion of black culture, community social structure, or thick-description collective biography are likely to be disappointed.

We learn from *Indiana Blacks* that the Hoosier State has a long history of being one of the most inhospitable places for African Americans in the Midwest. Although slavery was never legal in Indiana, the state had "the harshest Black Code in the North" during the antebellum period (4). By 1900, writes Thornbrough, "Indiana blacks lived in a society in which racial discrimination and segregation were as pervasive in most aspects of life as in the states of the upper South" (5). By the 1920s, Indianapolis, Indiana's largest and most sophisticated city, had become an important stronghold for the Ku Klux Klan, and in 1930 two black men were lynched by a mob of 20,000 whites in Marion (see James H. Madison, *A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America* [2001]). Only one piece of civil rights legislation was adopted in the state between the end of World War II and 1961, and employment discrimination, segregation in housing and schools, and occasional anti-black violence continued to be the norm in Indiana until well into the 1960s.

The Marion lynching demonstrated the depth of racism in Indiana; it also served as a rallying point for civil rights activists within the state. The state legislature passed anti-lynching legislation in 1931, and the NAACP grew in numbers and influence over the next two decades. Thornbrough does an excellent job of detailing the various organiza-

tions and issues that pushed the civil rights agenda forward in the 1940s and '50s, culminating in the 1967 election of Richard Hatcher as the first black mayor of Gary, Indiana.

Professor Thornbrough gives good verbal descriptions of cities and counties in Indiana, but the lack of maps sometimes makes it difficult for a reader not intimately familiar with the state to fully appreciate the information being offered. A more serious problem is the lack of an introduction discussing the thesis, methods, and principal questions employed in the writing of this study, giving *Indiana Blacks* a somewhat episodic and less analytical quality.

On balance, *Indiana Blacks in the Twentieth Century* is the best available general study of African Americans in Indiana. It should find its way on to the shelves of anyone interested in the history of Indiana or of African Americans in the Midwest. Iowa historians may find Thornbrough's statewide scope and emphasis on state legislation useful for studying African Americans in Iowa, because it allows discussion of small and widely dispersed African American populations in states with few urban industrial centers. Such scholars would also benefit from reading two 2001 releases, Charlene Barnes's *Life Narratives of African Americans in Iowa* (Arcadia Press), and *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000* (State Historical Society of Iowa).

Victory Without Violence: The First Ten Years of the St. Louis Committee of Racial Equality (CORE), 1947-1957, by Mary Kimbrough and Margaret W. Dagen. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2000. x, 158 pp. Illustrations, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$22.50 cloth.

Reviewer Kristin Anderson-Bricker teaches U.S. social and cultural history at Loras College. Her current book manuscript, "Making a Movement: The Meaning of Community in the Congress of Racial Equality, 1957-1968," explores CORE chapters in New Orleans, Detroit, and Washington, D.C.

"What a moving experience was CORE. Beautiful people, working unselfishly, with very little conflict, in a most democratic environment," recalled Al Park when asked about the founding chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality in St. Louis (114). Huston Smith remembered, "What a great feeling to be involved with durable friends in a noble cause" (119). These reflections reveal the most powerful characteristic of this group memoir, the story of the formation of a community, of strangers who became friends.

A shared commitment to integration as a means to racial equality and to the "Gandhian philosophy of patient negotiation and nonviolent direct action" brought this small group of veterans, students, and

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