

Counties' histories recorded in 1884

"This volume goes forth to our patrons the result of months of arduous, unremitting and conscientious labor. None so well know as those who have been associated with us the almost insurmountable difficulties to be met with in the preparation of a work of this character."

THUS BEGINS the preface to *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties, Indiana*, published in 1884. The publishers, F.A. Battey and Co., of Chicago further stated that a large force of company representatives had been hired to collect information about Monroe Countians. According to the preface writer, the task had not been easy.

"In gathering from these numerous sources, both for the

Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

historical and biographical departments, the conflicting statements, the discrepancies and the fallible and incomplete nature of public documents, were almost appalling to our historians and biographers, who were expected to weave therefrom with some degree of accuracy in panoramic review, a record of events."

To read the preface, one would

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