

well as their political commitment. They struggled to find visuals, audios, and music; to depend on actual participants rather than scholars as on-screen voices; to give voice to diverse, even contending points of view; to include the stories of those typically left out; to define a central theme for a complicated, detailed story; to discover a narrative story line with internal tension and drama; and to give play to participants' ideas and conceptualizations as well as their involvement in dramatic actions. In the end, Green remains dissatisfied with what he and Blackside were able to achieve on the project. "The series," he writes, "had captured the excitement, but not the political process of movement building" (193). Yet, he concludes on a personally empowering note, "what I learned from Blackside people about what makes a story work as human drama has been very helpful in my subsequent historical writing" (198).

Green's willingness to ask critical questions of his own work, to keep his goals and methods uppermost, and, at the same time, to draw out constructive lessons in every experience makes *Taking History to Heart* a rare and valuable volume. Readers from other regions of the country will find a mirror here in which to examine themselves. The challenges Green has faced have nothing to do with region and everything to do with the enterprise of public history itself.

Encyclopedia of Local History, edited by Carol Kammen and Norma Prendergast. American Association for State and Local History Book Series. Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press, 2000. xvi, 539 pp. Illustrations, appendixes. \$79.95 cloth.

Reviewer Glen Gildemeister is director of the Regional History Center at Northern Illinois University and has worked in local history as a researcher, writer, archivist, and administrator for the past 25 years.

Carol Kammen and Norma Prendergast have created a unique reference work for the American Association for State and Local History's book series. They assembled a cast of 130 writers, wrote a number of entries themselves, and then edited the material into the work at hand. The book is organized alphabetically by subject and thus no index was needed. Two appendixes offer brief entries on various ethnic and religious groups. These, too, are in alphabetical order and provide bibliographic, Internet, and repository information rather than subject content. Two more appendixes provide current addresses for state historical societies and the regional branches of the National Archives and Records Administration.

One of the paradoxes of American life is that interest in history as taught in secondary schools and university classrooms is withering at the same time that interest in local history among the adult population is at an all-time high. While history faculties are shrinking, historian Stephen Ambrose regularly tops best-seller charts, and his books based on oral histories with World War II veterans have continued to sell extremely well. What Americans choose is very specific, often local, history. They may not be interested in the general theories of war and nation states, but they put money on the counter when they are offered the human story in concrete, poignant prose.

Two of the largest constituencies coming to archives, museums, and historic sites are genealogists and local historians, audiences this book targets. It is meant, say the authors, as "a companion to aid local and regional historians, and many others interested in the history of place, to think about and research that history" (ix). Thus it has no particular thesis or agenda; it is simply a reference book to keep handy when the need arises to get information on a specific subject. Taken on that premise, the book, for the most part, succeeds. Even those who have spent decades in the pursuit of local history often want to have a term defined or seek succinct information on a subject new to them. There are few such reference works available and none that compare to this particular volume.

No two people would agree on what set of subjects should go into an encyclopedia. This one reflects the interests and expertise of the 130 contributors and the two editors. To their credit, the editors address in their introduction the inconsistencies that are apparent in the book. "There are some inconsistencies: some because of the interests of the people we talked to, some because we were limited in our author search to people we knew and were requested to contribute, or those we found or found us" (x). So there are full entries under "Southwest region" and "Midwest region" but nothing for the Northeast, the South, or the Great Plains. "Nigerian local historiography" merits three full pages of text, while the next entry, "Norwegians," refers readers to a one-paragraph bibliography in Appendix A. There is no entry under either "atlas" or "plat book," two key sources for many local historians, but they are covered briefly under the more generic "maps." The authors did employ "see" and "see also" references, but these, too, are inconsistent. There is no referral, for example, under either "atlas" or "plat." Probate records, a source heavily used by both genealogists and local historians are also covered briefly under a more generic term, "court records," but there is no referral nor any depth of explanation.

It would be impossible to cobble together the efforts of 130 people, cover every subject central to local history, and come out with a single volume to please everyone. The editors have done a commendable job on an impossible mission. Local libraries will want to add this volume to the reference shelf in the local history room. Individuals with experience in researching local history will probably not find the book's utility equal to the relatively high price of the volume.

Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You, by David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty. American Second Edition. AASLH Book Series. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2000. xvi, 300 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, index. \$65.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Kimberly K. Porter is assistant professor of history at the University of North Dakota. In the past several years she has taken time away from her research and writing on the Iowa Farm Bureau to oversee a local history project on the Grand Forks flood of 1996-97.

David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty's *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You* appeared to rave reviews some 20 years ago. Since then, a multitude of historians have relied upon this authoritative text to explore their immediate surroundings with heightened perceptions of historical methodology and inquiry. Now a new generation has the opportunity to benefit from Kyvig and Marty's labors.

Theoretically sound, comprehensive in scope, engaging in style, laden with clarifying examples, and updated to reflect technological advances, ethical queries, and published research, *Nearby History* is a welcome addition to the historian's library. The text explores topics as diverse as oral history, published and unpublished documents, photographs, landscapes, buildings, artifacts, preservation techniques, and the art of "research, writing and leaving a record" (201). While meant to be read as a whole, individual chapters can easily be used to tackle a particular problem or to address the needs of a classroom.

Of particular value are the four appendixes. One offers guidance on obtaining material from federal depositories. Another provides sample gift agreements, and yet another furnishes the names and addresses of firms offering archival products and information. Perhaps most useful is the fourth appendix. There, Kyvig and Marty offer readers an introduction to the pursuit of local history via the Internet.

Regardless of career path or historical interest, readers of the *Annals of Iowa* will find in *Nearby History* useful material to guide their inquiries and illuminate their research. It should find a place on every scholar's and historical society's reference bookshelf.

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