

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.

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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 The text explores topics as diverse as oral history, published and unpublished documents, photographs, landscapes, buildings, artifacts, preservation techniques, and the art of "research, writing and leaving a record" (201).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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