

papers on federal Indian policy, and ideas for new avenues of research, *Indian-White Relations* will prove to be a valuable addition to the bookshelf of every scholar interested in the American Indian.

—Harwood P. Hinton
University of Arizona

Building for the Centuries, Illinois, 1865 to 1898. By John H. Keiser. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1978, for the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission and the Illinois State Historical Society. pp. xvi, 386. \$12.50.

For approximately a century, the period between the Black Hawk War and the Great Depression, Illinois experienced a spectacular and uninterrupted growth seldom if ever equalled in the nation's expansion. From more places, more people came to Illinois than to any other midcontinental area. Because of the state's location and resources, they attempted and accomplished more, for better or worse. Such growth provides the raw material for superb state and local history.

An often neglected segment of this period is covered by John H. Keiser in brilliantly launching a new series of Illinois histories. His first book is a classic and Keiser establishes himself as a master of the English language as well as an authority on past events and their meaning. He writes easily and blends major events with the commonplace in creating an understandable account of the last third of the nineteenth century, the period after the death of Abraham Lincoln, when Republican orators won public office by "waving the bloody shirt" before Grand Army of the Republic posts.

Building for the Centuries equals the high scholarship standards of the first four volumes of the six-volume *Centennial History of Illinois* published in 1918. A half century later, a sesquicentennial commission wisely decided that the first four books, by Clarence W. Alvord, Solon Justus Buck, Theodore Calvin Pease, and Arthur Charles Cole, should be reissued rather than replaced. The final two were found wanting, and three new books were commissioned to cover the period since 1865. Keiser completed his assignment first. The other two will be by Donald F. Tingley and Arvarh E. Strickland.

The title of *Building for the Centuries* comes from a quotation by Governor John Peter Altgeld, one of the author's personal heroes. It implies that the foundations of Illinois are solid and its future optimistic. The immigrants who overcrowded Chicago's slums did so by choice and presumably none wished to backtrack his escape from Europe. The coal miners, railroad crewmen and Pullman workers who lost strike after strike at least laid the foundations for their descendants to become union members. Grangers quickly won their goal of placing railroads under government regulation. Greenbackers and other third parties failed for the moment, but the established Republicans and Democrats became more responsive to rank-and-file sentiment.

Under Altgeld the Democrats abandoned me-too conservatism and turned toward liberalism. Meanwhile, as farms became more mechanized and some villages disappeared, in the tradition of mobility the surplus manpower went to the cities to compete with the new arrivals from Europe. Chicago especially provided opportunity to rise through the ranks and become entrepreneurs and possibly millionaires.

To Keiser, Chicago is the "ultimate city." Economic lodestone for most of Illinois and a considerable portion of other midwestern states, it differs greatly from the 101 downstate counties but yet it is an integral part of the diversified state. During the course of Keiser's exposition, Chicago became the nation's second largest city and only two states remained more populous than Illinois. For the state and the city, future growth is destined.

This book is Keiser's farewell gift to his home state. A specialist in Illinois and labor history, he would prefer to work full time in describing and interpreting the foundations of civilization. But he has three school age sons and university administrators are paid better than professors. After he became Sangamon State University's vice president for academic affairs, Keiser published two books and continued to write a weekly newspaper series on Illinois history. Now he has gone to Idaho as president of Boise State University.

—Robert P. Howard
Springfield, IL

School in the Woods: The Story of an Immigrant Seminary, by Thorvald Hansen. Askov, Minnesota: American Publishing Company, 1977. Illustrations and index. \$3.75.

Nineteenth century institutions of higher education experienced frightful mortality rates; calculated estimates indicate but one in five becoming permanent enterprises. In the ashes of each of these hundreds of experiments—however minor they may ostensibly appear to be—are to be found vivid testimonies to the hopes, fears, and the follies inherent in the human record. Hansen's book on the ill-fated Danish Lutheran seminary at West Denmark, Wisconsin, in operation from 1887 to 1892, provides an important insight into American religious factionalism as endured by one immigrant group.

Danish American Lutheranism formally split into two synods in 1894 with the more orthodox group uniting with the Blair Church, an earlier peaceful departure from a predominantly Norwegian synod, and the liberals were left in stubborn isolation. This separation has persisted to the present, although both merged in the 1960s with other Lutherans, but again into distinct organizations.

Actually, accounts of the mundane functioning of the seminary, the spiritual/institutional antecedent of Grand View College of Des Moines, occupy somewhat of a minor portion of the book. But those glimpses into the

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