

the end of each chapter—a better place for them than the end of the book but less helpful than the bottom of the page.

Apaches is Haley's second book, and he is said to be at work on a novel on the same subject. With all due respect to his talents as a writer of fiction, it is unlikely that the novel will be any better reading than this book.

MANKATO, MN

ROY W. MEYER

Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State, by Willis F. Dunbar. Revised by George S. May. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980. pp. xii, 833. Maps, suggestions for further reading, appendixes, index. \$24.95.

Since its publication in 1965, Willis Dunbar's opus has remained unchallenged as the most encompassing survey of Michigan's historical record. Before his death in 1970, Dunbar had revised and updated his book here and there, yet for some years it has needed a thorough reworking. Moreover, the book's widespread use in Michigan college and university classrooms, its popularity with the general public, and the absence of a more recent comparable study, make May's effort especially welcome. Finally, for all its strengths, Dunbar's book is flawed by repetitiveness, is sometimes ill-organized, and its richness of detail could turn away a less than determined reader.

To those familiar with George May's searching and lucid scholarship, his qualifications for this task go without saying—indeed, they should be drawn to this revision with high expectations. As a veteran teacher of Michigan history at Eastern Michigan University and the author of numerous books and articles on the subject, May's contributions to our understanding of Michigan's past easily approach those of Willis Dunbar and make this association especially fitting.

May has wisely retained much of the original text in the first half of the book and contented himself with well integrated revisions that leave the flow of Dunbar's narrative uninterrupted. The chronological arrangement is retained, too, but the focus is sharpened and the narrative strengthened by the addition of two chapters that include material deleted from two of Dunbar's chapters. Altogether, the pre-Civil War chapters emerge renovated, remodeled, and consistently improved.

The post-Civil War portion of the book bears May's stamp still more clearly in style, organization, and content. As one might expect,

it is here that the value of his experience becomes undeniably evident. Material unwisely included in chapters on lumbering and on the Upper Peninsula is removed to reappear in a new chapter devoted to transportation developments. Beyond this, May leaves Dunbar's topical arrangement unaltered until he reaches twentieth-century themes. At this point, even before it became dated, Dunbar's topical approach left much to be desired. Although not without merit, it nonetheless suffered from problems of repetition, readability, and coherence. Some topics were left underdeveloped and others went untouched. Material on the World Wars and the Great Depression were scattered in a manner frustrating to the reader. May has substituted a quasi-chronological approach for these decades, but one which embodies advantages of a topical arrangement. The result is an updated and thoroughly improved survey of Michigan's twentieth-century record.

When it comes to illustrative material, May has retained all but two of Dunbar's maps, while adding one of his own. Unfortunately, three of the original charts are used without updating and therefore one carries its message no further than 1967, another ends at 1960, and yet another stops at 1959.

May's contributions do not end with the text itself, for he has made further improvements and additions. The later category includes an appendix listing Michigan's population by decade from 1810 through 1980. A second appendix lists governors from territorial beginnings in 1805 to 1980 and includes valuable explanatory notes. And while the text has lost its footnotes, they have reappeared in an expanded form—some thirty-two pages—as a separate section. They make rewarding reading in themselves. Moreover, May has not only expanded and updated Dunbar's already extensive bibliography, he has presented it as a bibliographical essay to which all but the most casual reader must be drawn for stimulation and guidance. Finally, May has created a superior index more than double the size of its predecessors—Dunbar's index of names and places and his index of subjects.

In 729 pages of text, some twenty-five fewer than Dunbar used in 1965, May has succeeded in strengthening and modernizing the original edition in admirable fashion. He has done so while retaining its flavor and the inclusiveness that meant few communities, although of little apparent consequence, were excluded from the Michigan story. All of us with an interest in Michigan history now find ourselves indebted to George May for an exemplary act of scholarship.

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