

Book Notices

Farm Labor in Southern New England during the Agricultural-Industrial Transition, by Richard D. Brown, Ross W. Beales, Jr., Richard B. Lyman, Jr., and Jack Larkin. Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1989. 113 pp. Tables, notes, appendixes. \$14.50 paper.

REVIEWED BY DAVID E. SCHOB, TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

This slender volume, enhanced by an annotated introduction by Richard Brown, is a reprint from the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, containing three seminal articles about New England farm labor. Originally presented as essays for the New England Historical Association meeting in 1987, they represent time-line analyses of three separate farming operations utilizing laborers over a span of years from 1726 to 1860. Ross Beales's "Reverend Ebenezer Parkman's Farm Workers, Westborough, Massachusetts, 1726-1782," examines the prerevolutionary era and subsequent disruption of farming and the farm labor force during America's War of Independence. Richard Lyman's "What Is Done in My Absence?: Levi Lincoln's Oakham, Massachusetts, Farm Workers, 1807-1820," analyzes the impact of nascent industrialization on agriculture and elements of seasonal migratory labor. Jack Larkin's "Labor is the Great Thing in Farming': The Farm Laborers of the Ward Family of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, 1787-1860," explores aspects similar to Richard Lyman's article but expands on the crucial evolution of large-scale farmers being more capable than smaller ones of competing in markets and achieving profitable returns.

The New England farming process and its labor force bear certain similarities to those in the Midwest. Iowa readers will find Richard Lyman's and Jack Larkin's articles extremely relevant in discussing employment patterns, contractual terms, and seasonal aspects of farm labor which were not all that different from the later midwestern experience. New England farming underwent a major evolution by the Civil War as a consequence of transportation, urbanization, and industrialization. As I have demonstrated in my studies of pre-Civil War midwestern farm labor, a shortage of good laborers was a constant complaint of farmers, whether back East or out in the Midwest. This reprint deserves serious examination by midwestern agricultural

historians and reflection by all individuals concerned about the decline of rural America.

Kansas Governors, by Homer E. Socolofsky. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1990. xiii, 255 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY THOMAS BURNELL COLBERT, MARSHALLTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In *Kansas Governors*, Homer E. Socolofsky, a longtime professor of history at Kansas State University and a noted authority on Kansas history, presents an introductory essay filled with comparative facts and statistics about the men who served as governor of Kansas, followed by a series of short (2-7 pages) biographical entries on each of these men. These vignettes cover the governors' lives as well as their gubernatorial roles. Socolofsky discusses fifty-one governors, beginning with Andrew Horatio Reeder, the first territorial governor appointed in 1854, continuing through John Michael Hayden, elected in 1986, and including acting territorial governors. Additionally, portraits and signatures of the subjects as well as other illustrations are included.

Drawing on a wealth of secondary materials, Socolofsky has produced a valuable reference source for anyone seeking a brief "integration of the political history of Kansas, through accounts of the governors" (xi). This book obviously resulted from several years of research considering the paucity of information on some of the governors, and Socolofsky is to be congratulated for his tenacity and the resulting quality of this work on Kansas history. Finally, it is worth suggesting that if someone were to undertake writing a similar volume on Iowa governors, it would be a welcome addition to this state's historical literature.

A Harmony of the Arts: The Nebraska State Capitol, edited by Frederick C. Luebke. Great Plains Photography Series. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. x, 122 pp. Illustrations, appendix, bibliographical essay, index. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY HARL A. DALSTROM, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Built between 1922 and 1932, the State Capitol in Lincoln stands as one of the nation's major works of architecture and as one of Nebraska's most notable landmarks. As its title suggests, this book

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.