

ans report on their specific chronological area of expertise starting with Margaret Kimbell Brown's summary of "The Illinois Country Before 1865" and ending with Cullom Davis's description of "Illinois Since 1945." In a third section Hoffmann chose another group of scholars to write about major topics such as "Peoples of Illinois," "Chicago," "Religion and Education," "Literature," "Art, Architecture, and Music," and of course "Abraham Lincoln." The last part of the *Guide* is devoted to archival and manuscript collections. Here twelve archivists and librarians analyze deposits in the state and Chicago historical societies, the Newberry Library, the state archives, and academic institutions. There is even information about Illinois materials in the National Archives and Records Administration.

The book has much to recommend it to historians, genealogists, students, and the general public. Imitative of the *Harvard Guide to American History*, it is an indispensable research tool for almost every conceivable approach to the story of Illinois. The index is reliable and thorough. Hoffmann as editor has crafted a uniform collection of bibliographies from a total of twenty-six individual contributors. There are redundancies, however, where overlapping entries give essentially the same information. Also, as in many recent works on Illinois history, Chicago receives an inordinate amount of attention; it takes up a full page—seventy-three entries—in the index. Overall, though, the volume succeeds remarkably well in its avowed purpose of providing the first comprehensive guide to the literature and sources, both primary and secondary, of Illinois history.

On Firm Foundation Grounded: The First Century of Concordia College (1891-1991), by Carroll Engelhardt. Moorhead, MN: Concordia College, 1991. 414 pp. Illustrations, notes, index.

REVIEWED BY LEIGH D. JORDAHL, LUTHER COLLEGE

Hordes of Europeans, lured by tales of empty lands, economic opportunity, and social egalitarianism, streamed into nineteenth-century America. Only the famine-stricken Irish exceeded the emigration rate of the Norwegians. Overwhelmingly rural in background, the Norwegians settled where good land was available. That meant Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa (especially the northern part of the state), and, by the 1880s, the Red River valley and into the Dakotas. No single ethnic group is better described by the famous "Turner thesis" than the Norwegians.

Wisely and somewhat ingeniously, they determined to nurture their Lutheran faith and their ethnic self-identity but also to affirm

the American dream of upward mobility. Thus they founded numerous academies where their young could learn to make their way in the new land while also cultivating their faith in an affirming environment. Typical of such schools was Concordia College which, when it opened in 1891, advertised itself as a "school for both sexes" comprising "a business, practical, and classical course." As the public high schools developed rapidly after the turn of the century, the academies either went out of business (by the 1920s few were left) or made attempts to become colleges. A few succeeded. Except for Luther College—the oldest but also unique in that it began as a full-scale college—such mainstream colleges as St. Olaf, Augustana in South Dakota, Pacific Lutheran, and Concordia began as academies. The story of how these schools survived is itself an introduction to a sometimes neglected chapter in the story of how one major ethnic group made its way into the multicultural American melting pot while also maintaining a character of its own.

On Firm Foundation Grounded is a thoroughly researched institutional history that will be of special interest to alumni. Yet it is much more than that. It is an excellent case study of the process of acculturation by which the Norwegians worked out their own "experiment with the wilderness." Engagingly written and with careful attention to American social history, the author has maintained a good balance between institutional history and the cultural development of an ethnic group intimately associated with the upper Midwest.

The HON Story: A History of HON Industries, 1944–1985, by C. Maxwell Stanley and James H. Soltow. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1991. x, 197 pp. Illustrations, graphs, appendixes, index. \$24.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY WILLIAM B. FRIEDRICKS, SIMPSON COLLEGE

In combining two perspectives, *The HON Story* is unusual among company histories: the manuscript was originally written by the late C. Maxwell Stanley, one of the founders of the firm, and completed by James Soltow, a professional business historian, now emeritus at Michigan State University. The varied backgrounds of the two authors provide an insider's view of a small Iowa-based company's rapid rise from its modest beginnings in 1944 to its 1985 listing as a Fortune 500 company as well as the distance and objectivity of professional historian.

HON Industries' success was based on the entrepreneurship of its founders, the creation of a sound management strategy and struc-

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.