

will also note that the authors often tend to be overly nostalgic in their treatment. Nevertheless, by dealing with the history often neglected—Rehder and Cook have made a definite contribution to the greater knowledge of railroading in middle America. Thus their *Grass Between The Rails* is recommended to railroad buffs and to railroad historians alike.

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Glenda Riley McIntosh

Patterns and Perspectives in Iowa History, edited by Dorothy Schwieder. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1973. pp. 478.

IN ITS COMMENDABLE TRADITION of attempting to supply teachers and students of Iowa history with recent and meaningful information, Iowa State Press has published a collection of notable essays titled *Patterns and Perspectives in Iowa History*, compiled by Dorothy Schwieder. As editor, Schwieder has exercised her extensive knowledge of both Iowa history and its available materials. Schwieder, who holds the B.A. and M.S. degrees, is teaching Iowa history at Iowa State University. In addition, she is a regular participant on the WOI weekly radio program "Iowa Heritage," has published several articles on aspects of Iowa history, and is a member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The primary emphasis of this collection is social history which Schwieder hoped would help the reader "develop a sense and feeling for these Americans of the past," as well as to understand "their achievements, their frustrations, and their heartaches, as well as their persona." The introductory essay by Thomas T. McAvoy dealing with the Midwestern mind is a significant move towards this goal as well as a most thoughtful and insightful examination of commonly-held stereotypes regarding the people of the Midwestern states.

The articles which follow share the common theme of concern

with nineteenth and twentieth century Iowa. They are well-balanced in that they are drawn from original sources, journal articles, and pieces written especially for this compilation. Moreover, they are widely varied in topic, which Schwieder intended to serve both to suggest the range of subject matter available for further study and to provide an intense view of particular areas of interest.

Unlike many history texts and readers, *Patterns* includes several pieces by and about women, thus making this group visible in the history of the state. Unfortunately, however, racial minorities have been overlooked, perhaps because little work has been done in this area. If this is the case, *Patterns* suggests a theme which state and local historians will hopefully develop in the near future. Certainly an essay dealing with racial minorities could strengthen the book, particularly if it preempted the concluding essay, "What Happened to Main Street?" by Peter Schrag, which only projects and reinforces the stereotypes the other selections attempt to defeat.

Since there is no solid college text in Iowa history at the moment, *Patterns* may well be considered not only as a supplementary reader but for use as a basic text as well. Although it was intended primarily for a college audience, it could conceivably also be implemented effectively at the high school level. Iowa State Press has attempted to make it available to both colleges and public schools as inexpensively as possible by using a photocopy process in its production. This accounts for the unevenness of print size from article to article, but does not detract in the least from the clarity of the many fine illustrations.

Because much of the research data available to historians and students of Iowa's past is scattered throughout the state, preserved in local historical societies, gathering dust in someone's attic or barn, or as yet is uncatalogued, many readers of *Patterns* will be tempted to wish that lists of further sources and readings had been included along with the footnotes that accompany the essays. Clearly, however, an editor cannot be everything to every reader. In the 478 pages of *Patterns and Perspectives in Iowa History*, Schwieder has combined significant pieces of scholarship with her own clear, concise introductory statements to produce a volume which most readers will agree is a noteworthy service to the field of Iowa history.

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