

The History of the Iowa Law School, 1865–2010, edited by N. William Hines. Iowa City: University of Iowa College of Law, 2011. xiii, 625 pp. Illustrations, notes, tables, appendix. \$19.99 cloth.

Reviewer David N. Atkinson is Curators' Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science and School of Law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and an alum of the Iowa Law School.

This history of the Iowa Law School consists of 15 chapters, the first eight of which chronicle the history of the school from its founding in 1865 through the present; the remaining chapters are topical, detailing the history of the law library (one of the largest in the nation), the *Iowa Law Review* and other journals published by the Law School, international legal education, the teaching of professional skills, continuing legal education, women students in the Law School, and the enrollment of minorities. The volume includes copious footnotes, with information of specialized interest on all aspects of the Law School's history as well as many fascinating stories and anecdotes about deans and faculty members. It is a volume that will especially appeal to former faculty, staff, and graduates of the Iowa Law School.

The chronological chapters are organized by the tenure of the various deans, one of whom was Wiley B. Rutledge, whose strong support of President Franklin Roosevelt's court-packing proposal brought him to the president's attention and eventually helped to earn him an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Dean Rutledge thought it was important for first-year students to be introduced to the judicial process and public law issues in addition to private law subjects. Although he was generally respected by the faculty, most of them disagreed with his political views.

Samuel Fahr's chapter on the long and successful deanship of Mason Ladd is especially colorful. Dean Ladd was nationally known in the field of evidence and always taught a course on the subject, which was taken by virtually all of the students. In the classroom, Dean Ladd's distinctive, high-pitched tenor voice could become quite piercing when he got excited. His riveting classroom style and his command of the law of evidence made him an extraordinarily gifted teacher.

The next dean, David Vernon, had a short but productive five-year tenure. He thought the Law School should move more toward a graduate school model, with small classes and more student-teacher interaction. In order to achieve that goal, it was necessary to significantly increase the size of the faculty, which he accomplished.

N. William Hines served as dean for 28 years. There were many positive changes during that period. Faculty became more involved in decision making, the Law School moved into its present facility (the

Boyd Law Building), and it achieved national prominence through the ratings published by *U.S. News & World Report*. During the last 15 years of Hines's deanship, the school averaged twenty-first in the nation among all schools and seventh among public law schools, and the law library became second in size only to Harvard's.

Future editions might usefully include an index and a chapter on alumni. There is, however, a highly readable chapter on women students, recounting the difficulties and genuine hardships women have had getting a legal education. The Iowa experience was fairly typical of the national situation.

The Organization of American Historians and the Writing and Teaching of American History, edited by Richard S. Kirkendall. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. xii, 373 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendix. \$99.00 cloth; \$29.95 paper.

Reviewer Jon Lauck is senior advisor to South Dakota Senator John Thune. His article, "The Prairie Historians and the Foundations of Midwestern History," will appear in the Spring 2012 issue of the *Annals of Iowa*.

In the late nineteenth century, there were few academic historians in the United States and those few focused mostly on the history of New England and Europe. Historians in the American West, which included anything west of the forks of the Ohio River, were rare and their region's history almost completely neglected. The University of Wisconsin's Frederick Jackson Turner finally sparked an organized effort to focus on midwestern and western history, and his acolytes ultimately launched the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (MVHA) to formalize the movement. University of Iowa professors Benjamin Shambaugh and Louis Pelzer were among the earliest and strongest leaders of the MVHA.

The MVHA was organized in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1907, and convened its first conference at Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, in 1908; its successor body, the Organization of American Historians (OAH), reconvened in nearby Minneapolis in 2007. At that centennial conference, Richard Kirkendall, a former executive secretary of the OAH and one-time professor of history at Iowa State University, spearheaded the organization of panels and papers considering the OAH's century of activity. Kirkendall then organized the publication of much of this commentary into *The Organization of American Historians and the Writing and Teaching of American History*, an impressive collection that presents many sides of the OAH story. Michael Kammen sets the stage for the longer story of the OAH with a masterful chapter on the or-