By John Strohmeyer. *Crisis in Bethlehem: Big Steel's Struggle to Survive.*

John Strohmeyer, former editor of the *Globe-Times* in Bethlehem, describes the decline of the integrated steel industry, particularly Bethlehem Steel. The book focuses on the causes, character and effects of the crisis of the 1980's when Bethlehem Steel suffered huge losses, steel employment plummeted, and gloom enveloped steel towns and cities. This account draws on over one hundred interviews with steel executives, union leaders, steelworkers, and industry analysts.

The activities of the labor pioneers who unionized Bethlehem Steel in the early 1940's receive some attention, as do the exploits of Charles Schwab and Eugene Grace, who founded and expanded the company. Grace left a particularly strong imprint on company policy as his dictatorial management style, lavish salary, and code of proper conduct for steel company executives influenced the boom era of the 1950's and 1960's. Many workers earned increasing wages and obtained improved fringe benefits while the corporate elite received high salaries and perks. In return, the company demanded conformity from its executives and their wives. They lived in a parochial world based on hierarchy and deference which revolved around the Saucon Valley Country Club. This narrow vision extended to the company's decision-making process which emphasized a "don't rock the boat" attitude. Thus, decision makers spurned the opportunities opened by the world economy and diversification and invested in an office tower rather than in continuous casters.

The lengthy 1959 steel strike undermined the golden age and began the transition to a more troubled era. Not only did the union win the strike and gain wage and fringe benefit improvements, but it retained Clause 2B which maintained existing labor practices under most circumstances. Foreign steel producers and minimills also acquired customers who sought new suppliers. Wages continued to increase in the 1960's and the gap between the cost of production of domestic and foreign steel producers widened. The problems of the steel industry intensified in the 1970's as the Experimental Negotiating Agreement of 1973 increased labor costs and the federal government imposed demanding and costly environmental controls, while top executives maintained their fiefdoms, high salaries, and expensive perks. The integrated steel companies faced intensified competition as "third world" producers joined Germany, Japan, and minimills in the struggle for market shares.

These developments, along with company losses in 1977, jolted the top executives of Bethlehem Steel out of their complacency. In the late 1970's, they streamlined operations, reduced the steelmaking capacity at the Johnstown and Lackawanna facilities, closed Fabricated Steel Construction, and laid off some white-collar employees. New leadership also emerged as Donald Trautlein, a former senior partner at the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse, became chairman and chief executive officer in 1980. His plan to save the company stressed productivity, decentralization, and streamlining. He laid off some workers and obtained concessions from others, reduced the salaried staff, and cut the salaries of top executives. The United Steelworkers of America accepted wage and work rule concessions, but as the company continued to lose money it inaugurated another cycle of lay-offs and other cost-cutting measures. Although steel towns reacted very differently to this growing trauma, both
Johnstown, which offered a good business climate, and Lackawanna, which resisted concessions and imposed high taxes on the company, ended the 1980's with minimal steelmaking capacity and limited employment.

Strohmeyer presents the complex story of Bethlehem Steel's struggle to survive from a variety of perspectives in this important study of deindustrialization. Although corporate decision makers take the spotlight, steelworkers and their communities, especially Johnstown and Lackawanna, also receive attention. The author places major responsibility for the trauma of the steel industry and its employees on internal strife between labor and management, as did John Hoerr in And the Wolf Finally Came. This approach, while questioning aspects of corporate culture, fails to examine and challenge the larger framework which permits corporate executives, in the pursuit of maximum profit, to make decisions which devastate workers, families, and communities without effective challenge from the political system or other countervailing forces.

Irwin M. Marcus, Indiana University of Pennsylvania


These eleven essays present diverse perspectives on religion in the era of the American Revolution. The first two clash over the extent to which colonial religious culture paralleled Britain's. Patricia U. Bonomi argues that religious dissent among the colonists fostered American exceptionalism. However, her linkage between “the dissenting mentality” and the revolutionaries’ “republican understanding” (p. 50) remains vague. In contrast, Jon Butler highlights a coercive established church, a belief in miracles, and the spread of Enlightenment rationalism. A full interpretation would combine elements of both essays.

The second group of four articles, overall the least persuasive, focuses on the experience of religious outsiders. Elaine Forman Crane fashions an imaginative if questionable reading of the religious-political activism of two New England women. Sylvia R. Frey discusses African-American Christianity in the post-Revolutionary period, especially church organizing, but leaves unexplored any links between this movement and the Revolution. Her discovery of numerous Africanisms in antebellum black Christianity and Butler’s portrayal of an “African spiritual holocaust” (p. 11) pose a provocative contrast. Ronald Schultz’s analysis of religion in the formation of Philadelphia’s working class falls short on two counts. One doubts that small-producer ideology could have had the enduring grip on the city’s laborers that Schultz asserts, given the stresses that community was under. Second, while Schultz plumbs well the appeal of Universalism to the working class, he dismissively treats evangelicalism as false consciousness. On the other hand, Robert M. Calhoon’s discursive sketch of the “evangelical persuasion” in the southern backcountry is keenly attuned to the nuances and paradoxes within evangelicalism.

Two essays examine the connections between religion and constitution-making. Edwin S. Gaustad ponders why the Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance remained largely silent regarding religion while most state constitutions required religious tests for office. Stephen A. Marini analyzes the religious affiliations of delegates to the Constitutional ratifying conventions. He finds a split between Antifederalist evangelicals and Federalist religious liberals, yet his evidence does not always serve him well. In New England, for example, many
orthodox Congregationalists belied Marini's categorization by being both Federalist and evangelical.

Three essays remain. M. L. Bradbury surveys ecclesiastical institutions and infighting as he draws parallels between political constitutionalism and the construction of national denominations in the early republic. Paul K. Conkin reinterprets Jefferson's religiosity. Ruth H. Bloch offers a way out of the deadlock between historians of republicanism and liberalism. Bloch's suggestive synthesis contends that popular religious and fictional literature blended both communitarian and individualistic values.

This book will disappoint those looking for definitive answers to the questions of religion's role in the coming of the Revolution or the Revolution's impact on American religion. However, Religion in a Revolutionary Age provides an intriguing entrée to wide-ranging debates that are far from closed.

Jonathan D. Sassi, University of California, Los Angeles


Nian-Sheng Huang assesses Benjamin Franklin's "diverse legacies" in American thought and culture during the two centuries since his death (p. xv). Stressing that he will explore the interaction of images and the evolving culture, Huang promises to investigate the "the rich popular materials concerning Franklin" in various sources including newspapers, celebrations, and public performances (p. xvi).

Huang, who generally alternates coverage between Franklin's admirers and his critics, maintains that he is seen as epitomizing the nation's character even though his complex career and extraordinary versatility "make his own identity kaleidoscopic" (p. xvii). Avowedly employing an interpretive framework suggested by Warren Susman's work, he contends that during 1790-1860 Americans stressed Franklin's "character," but that from 1870-1938 his "personality" sparked people's interest. In the 1945-1990 period, both character and personality were spotlighted, but Americans, including Franklin scholars, proved "unable to answer the question of who he really was" (p. 189). Carefully defining his terms, Huang emphasizes that "character" pertains to morality while "personality," which deals with a person's individual qualities, "is morally neutral" (p. 3).

A variety of problems crop up in the work. Huang's chapter on Franklin's life could have been expanded, especially for the general reader. At times the balance seems wrong. Tangential questions about the ownership and publication history of some Franklin manuscripts receive extended attention. But, contrary to his pledge to emphasize popular sources, he does not, for example, provide any extensive analysis of how the American press responded to the bicentennial of Franklin's birth in 1906. Internal contradictions occur. For example, Huang first says that Paul L. Ford recognized Franklin's complexities, but he later depicts Ford's analysis as simplistic (cf. p. 133 with p. 206). His argument that the 1980s saw a "new trend in the nation's political domain" that highlighted "likability" and "charisma" (p. 218 with emphasis added, p. 217) rings false, especially when one reflects on the popular response to JFK or TR. The author also offers stereotypical pronouncements on "feminine" personality traits (p. 238). Huang has a penchant for both sweeping and debatable pronouncements.
about the nature of American society. On the other hand, he slides over a major theme his own evidence reveals. Huang shows that Franklin has regularly been exploited by those who want, for example, to promote their industry, their tourism, their religion, or their ideology—whether of the left or right (e.g., cf. p. 195 with p. 174). But, unfortunately, the author does not systematically explore this theme.

Although Huang's task is formidable, he delivers less than he promises. Nevertheless, the book has several virtues. Huang gives clear summaries of his major points in the “Introduction” and “Epilogue.” At times he offers intriguing, valuable analyses. For example, he provides an illuminating discussion of the issues surrounding the fabrication by pro-Nazis of an anti-Semitic comment falsely attributed to Franklin. Moreover, Huang's suggestions for additional work demonstrate that he sees this book as constituting only a step on the path toward understanding how Franklin has been perceived in American thought and culture. Huang deserves our thanks for helping move us along that path.

John K. Alexander, University of Cincinnati


In the literature on social movements a distinction is made between new social movements and old ones. New social movements are organized responses to the quality of life issues such as threats to the environment and treatment of the aging. Old social movements hope to obtain economic justice for workers. They were successful in their attempts to gain participation in the decision-making process and decent wages for workers in industrial democracy. Old social movements faded away with the rise of unions and the welfare state and the country moved on to new ones.

Can Workers Have a Voice? The Politics of Deindustrialization in Pittsburgh reminds us that old social movements sometimes resurface, albeit in a slightly different form. Hathaway's book considers steelworkers and concerned citizens of the Monongahela Valley who organize for the purpose of reversing the effects of deindustrialization brought about by labor saving developments in steel technology and corporate disinvestment in the industry.

The author analyzes three social movement organizations: the Network/DMS, the Tri-State Steel Conference, and the Mon Valley Committee for the Unemployed. He questions why local government, leaders of the steel industry, and, most importantly, the communities of the Mon Valley did not support the alternatives offered to steel's demise. The first (and most controversial) organized response, the Network to Save the Mon-Ohio Valley Denominational Ministry Strategy (Network/DMS), challenged the plant closing on moral grounds. This group, headed by Douglas Roth, discovered the relationship between U. S. Steel and Mellon Bank and publicized it using Saul Alinsky's tactics. In their attempt to hold U. S. Steel and Mellon Bank accountable to the community, they lost the backing of the upper echelons of the United Steelworkers of America (AFL-CIO) and their respective religious denominations.

The second group, the Tri-State Conference on Steel, focused on revitalizing the steel industry through the established political process. But this campaign for employee owned and
managed steel plants fared no better than the unorthodox efforts of the Network/DMS. The strategy of this coalition of Roman Catholic clergy and union members was to gain control of abandoned steel plants by applying the principle of eminent domain. But they were never able to convince local politicians or the union hierarchy that U. S. Steel's property belonged to the public.

The Mon Valley Unemployed Committee, consisting of “progressive politicians,” focused their appeals for justice on the state and national government. In Hathaway’s view, they enjoyed a modicum of success by having unemployment benefits extended for a longer period of time and preventing a few mortgage foreclosures.

Hathaway attributes the failure of these movements to stop the deindustrialization of Pittsburgh to the raw power of corporate steel. He concludes that workers must have a voice in such decisions and that the efforts in Pittsburgh have made a small dent in the ideological hegemony of corporate capital.

This book is a valuable addition to the literature on social movements, for it brings the issue of structural inequality back into the equation for a successful social movement—an issue which seems to have receded in favor of resource mobilization and political processes. This study also raises the issue of the role of the clergy in such movements. One comes away from Hathaway's account, though, thinking that all the kings horses and all the kings men couldn't have opened the steel plants again.

Elizabeth Jones, California University of Pennsylvania


Martin Aurand's book *The Progressive Architecture of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr.*, is an important contribution to the under-explored field of Pittsburgh architects. Scheibler designed some of the city’s most visually interesting buildings during a career that spanned fifty years. Born in 1872 on Bouquet Street in South Oakland, he apprenticed with local architect Henry Moser as well as the prestigious firm of Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow. After striking out on his own, Scheibler obtained a handful of commissions for which he produced traditional and classical designs. Although he learned the basic architectural principles from his mentors, he did not follow long in their footsteps. Soon he began to look to Europe for inspiration—to the English Arts and Crafts Movement and the Viennese Secession. Drawing on such influences, Scheibler created a body of work that is strikingly different from the average Pittsburgh building of the 1910s and 20s. His designs continue to delight home owners and fans of architecture with picturesque exteriors, warm interiors, livable floor plans, and beautiful naturalistic details.

The book begins with a brief biographical sketch. Following chapters discuss Scheibler's early commissions, apartment complexes, group cottages, and single family homes, and provide a partial list of books in his architectural library.

For fans of Scheibler's better known works such as the Old Heidelberg and Highland Towers Apartments, the book will come as a welcome guide to his other commissions. For those not yet acquainted with him, this is a delightful introduction. Scheibler's practice centered in Pittsburgh's East End; a good portion of his work can be viewed in a day's tour. This slim and easy-to-read volume is much more than a mere descriptive catalog, however. It carefully traces Scheibler's architectural development from his early work using traditional revival
styles, through his peak of creativity drawing heavily from the Progressive movement, to his final commissions when he returned to a more familiar approach to design. Aurand is careful to detail influences on Scheibler along the way with words and pictures. Paired photos and drawings give a fascinating glimpse into some of Scheibler's adaptations of form and design. The beautiful tile spandrels in Highland Towers, for instance, are taken from fabric designed by German architect Peter Behrens.

Aurand has done an admirable job of bringing to light the work of one of Pittsburgh's most interesting yet little-known architects. The book is notable not only for its important content, but for its handsome production. The crisp text, wealth of historic and contemporary photographs, and attractive layout make this book an informative and enjoyable piece of scholarship.

Lu Donnelly, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

By Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr., and Roy P. Stonesifer, Jr. *The Life and Wars of Gideon J. Pillow.*

(Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993. Pp. 455. $34.95.)

Hughes's and Stonesifer's biography of Confederate General Gideon J. Pillow certainly does not fit the "great man" thesis of history. If anything, their study demonstrates how third-rate men play a second-rate role and bungle it badly. One newspaper said of Pillow: "We look for disasters where Pillow goes. . . . Another splendid army will have to be sacrificed to gratify his vanity and glaring incapacity." (251) The biographers do a good job throughout the book of demonstrating the merit of the critical assessment of Pillow. Even their final evaluation (pp. 324-327) falls heavily on the negative side. One obviously has to ask: why does Gideon Pillow merit a biography? The authors do not directly answer that question except to say that Pillow was one of the most controversial generals of the Confederacy who was especially associated with the debacle at Fort Donelson.

Beyond Pillow himself, this study explores life in Tennessee after the first generation (including Pillow's father) had conquered the frontier. Gideon Pillow's generation inherited the tamed land and turned it into the mature plantation society of the antebellum South. Pillow became one of the more successful planters in Tennessee and augmented his wealth with land speculation on the nearby Arkansas frontier. Those who played the game of politics enhanced their economic and social position immeasurably on the Tennessee frontier. Pillow, educated, ambitious and indefatigable, immersed himself in the Democratic Party and became a political lieutenant of James K. Polk. That association served Pillow well. Pillow, for example, used this connection to gain a naval contract for hemp grown on his plantation.

Politics also brought Pillow military rank and command of a Tennessee regiment in the Mexican War. He went to war obviously expecting glory and acclaim. But his lack of military experience, political appointment, and martinet discipline undermined respect for him. In his first battle at Cerro Gordo, Pillow ignored the advice of professional soldiers like George B. McClellan, launched a frontal assault, and failed miserably. Yet, his political connections bailed him out. President Polk appointed Pillow a major general in the regular army.

Given Pillow's rank, Winfield Scott was obligated to assign him a major role in the final assault on Mexico City. Pillow led one of the assaults on the large Mexican fortification at
Chapultepec. Despite a broken ankle Pillow remained with his troops and gained some fame in the victory. Yet his personality flaws plagued him again. Emboldened by his glory and political influence, Pillow argued with Scott, paid an artist to portray him as the hero in the Battle of Chapultepec, and authorized the circulation of a newspaper dispatch exaggerating his role in the campaign. Ugly court martial charges from Scott's command ensued and newspaper reporters exposed Pillow's self-promotion. When he left the army in 1848, Pillow's reputation was sullied and personally he was exhausted from the travail.

The Civil War brought Pillow back into action. Politics again played to his advantage as he became commander of the Tennessee units. With the integration of the Tennessee soldiers into the Confederate Army Pillow had to accept a demotion. Still, he continued in a personally aggressive course and led the invasion of neutral Kentucky that allowed the Union forces under Grant to enter. By the winter of 1862 he was among the defenders of Fort Donelson against Grant. Again Pillow exhibited an unwise aggressive nature in defending rather than evacuating the fort. Pillow disregarded the principal plans for the Confederates to cut their way out of the fort. Instead, he led his troops into battle against a stronger Union force, lost men needlessly, and then ignobly escaped the lines. As with his Mexican War service, Pillow used public letters to exonerate himself, but obloquy continued to plague him.

The authors' research is thorough, their writing clear, and their attempt to achieve objectivity is admirable.

W. Wayne Smith, Indiana University of Pennsylvania


(Rutherford: Fairleigh Dickenson University Press, 1994. Pp. 373. Appendices, notes, bibliography, and index. $45.00.)

Learning about this book from an advertisement, at once I grew curious. I was curious in as much as the author, who teaches American history at Gettysburg College, firmly had established himself as a scholar who writes about nineteenth-century politics. I also was curious about his choice of subject matter for two distinct reasons, each autobiographical: as a native-son of northeastern New Jersey, I wrote a dissertation about my own hometown (Passaic); and as a historian with an abiding interest, much more recently, in suburbs.

I quickly discovered that Birkner brought critical sensibilities to this work. Clearly quick-footed conceptually and a prodigious researcher, he tells readers about a productive summer seminar for college teachers conducted by Kenneth T. Jackson at Columbia University under the aegis of The National Endowment for the Humanities. It is easy to discern the result from reading this monograph: resolute mastery over the burgeoning historiography of suburban America yielded this first-rate book. The sole deficiency, inexplicable in this day of computer-assisted graphic design, is its woeful absence of documentary cartography.

Critical to this book is Professor Birkner's authority as a native son, which he uses superbly to the reader's advantage. I only know Bergenfield vaguely, save for its location in southeastern Bergen County near such affluent neighbors as Teaneck and Tenafly. In Birkner's deft hands we gain a distinctive and knowledgeable portrait of its evolution into a downscale suburb, a category virtually ignored heretofore by historians. A correspondent for The Village Voice, mirthfully cited by Birkner, classified it as "upper poor."
The combination of the book's title and subtitle accurately represent its temporal scope. The author expertly covers a protracted stretch of time, favorably reminiscent of David R. Contosta's recent study of Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill and Carol A. O'Connor's examination of Scarsdale, New York. But the key word, in effect defining Birkner's book, is transformation. Within the confines of a review it is impossible to do justice to Birkner's nuanced exploration as to how Bergenfield evolved, but one representative dimension merits at least a brief elaboration. Explicating its diminished enticements as a haven for suburban residence in our own time, the author closely analyzed the policies formulated by ratable-hungry municipal officials; easily approving the subdividing of small property parcels and quickly disposing of miscellaneous vacant lots culminated in a constricted residential pattern. (Among other topics Birkner thoroughly explores only a handful can be mentioned: the impact of the George Washington Bridge; the decline of railway commutation; and the ascent of suburban retail malls.)

Birkner's book must also be read as a reminder that our kinfolk, the cultural anthropologists, are much consumed (and properly so) with concerns about whether field work is conducted by an insider or outsider. Birkner falls, unequivocally, on the former side of the fault line; he makes no effort to disguise as much. Indeed, his book assumes an admirable, first-hand ethnographic dimension on such varied topics as the Little League, retail sales, and the culture of school board politics. My reservation is that the author might have demonstrated even more self-consciousness about this significant dimension of his research, culminating with the preparation of an appendix which fully explored these circumstances instead of offering readers titillating hints of home-grown reactions to his scholarly enterprise. (Instructive examples of such self-awareness include Michael Moffatt's *Coming of Age in New Jersey*, an ethnography of the undergraduate culture at Rutgers University written by a faculty member, as well as the venerable classic by Herbert J. Gans, *The Levittowners*, that includes a sparkling discussion entitled "The Participant-Observation Studies.")

Bergenfield should be envied. While locals might not agree with my conclusion about this book's success, their community fared well in Birkner's sensible hands. For more reasons than this review can possibly attend to, *A Country Place No More* has earned its place on the reading lists of everyone claiming to teach knowledgeably and write informatively about American suburbs and cities. This is a model case study.

Michael H. Ebner, Lake Forest College


Take this equation, "a common youth as the central hero of a pivotal episode in America's most heralded battle," and you have the ingredients for a great story. Add to that the immortalization of that young man in Stephen Vincent Benet's *John Brown's Body*, the discovery of the young man's wartime correspondence, and a devoted historian. The result is a highly readable, thoroughly researched biography of Captain Alonzo Cushing, Company A, Fourth Regular Artillery. Cushing's battery stoutly defended the Union line at "the angle" at Gettysburg against Pickett's charge. Severely wounded, Cushing heroically commanded his cannons against the onrushing rebels. Shot in the face, Captain Cushing fell dead in the arms
of his First Sergeant as the Confederates stormed over the stone fence which Company A defended.

Kent Masterson Brown could have fallen prey to maudlin tendencies in providing a Civil War buff's eulogy. Happily, like a good historian, the author has provided the story of an ordinary youth in antebellum America who followed fate's path to heroism. The author extensively details the life of a family struggling on the Wisconsin frontier whose father became ill with tuberculosis. The mother had to find refuge for herself, five year-old Alonzo, and the other three children back east with relatives in Fredonia, New York. In 1856 family support of a local politician enabled young Alonzo to win a West Point appointment. The author vividly writes of cadet life at West Point and shows how young Cushing, who had no particular military interest, matured.

Upon graduation in June, 1861 Cushing immediately joined the Army of the Potomac as an artillery officer. The author competently introduces the reader to the operations of an artillery unit. For Civil War readers who have focused on the infantry, Brown's discussion of Union artillery and the operations of artillery batteries offers a useful dimension. Cushing served as an artillery and staff officer with the Army of the Potomac until he assumed command of Company A in February, 1863. The author mixes the narrow focus of an artillery officer with the larger picture of the eastern campaigns. One small caveat is that the author so enjoys writing military history that he seems compelled to delineate the complexity of every battle.

The reader knows that the story is headed for the climactic struggle at Gettysburg. Here the author keeps his focus on Cushing and builds the drama for the key event. He draws a vivid picture of the artillery battle before Pickett's charge in which Cushing's cannons became a principal Confederate target. Relying upon extensive postwar reports and memories, Brown details the struggle at the angle and Cushing's heroism.

Excellent maps, especially of Gettysburg, show the location of Cushing's artillery unit in the battles. Very traditional, but full, the bibliography demonstrates the length and depth of Brown's research. All in all, he has provided a good story for Civil War enthusiasts and done credit to the life of Alonzo Cushing.

W. Wayne Smith, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

By Charles C. Cole, Jr. Lion of the Forest: James B. Finley, Frontier Reformer.


Born in North Carolina in 1781, James B. Finley lived in Ohio from 1796 until his death in 1857. Known principally as a stalwart Methodist preacher, Finley also worked for several years as a missionary and government agent among the Wyandot Indians in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, served as chaplain of the Ohio Penitentiary between 1846 and 1849, advocated temperance reform, and published several books, which, in their mix of autobiography and history, became important sources on the history of Ohio, Methodism, and the Wyandots. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame was his role in sparking the sectional division of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1846. By all accounts, Finley was a tireless and competent man, although he was also famous for his temper and his blunt speaking. Finley did
not suffer fools gladly.

There are too few studies of evangelical reformers in nineteenth-century Ohio. Those we do have tend to deal with Calvinist New Englanders whose activities centered on the anti-slavery movement rather than on Southern-born Methodists such as Finley.

Cole's biography helps to rectify this situation by providing us with a detailed outline of Finley's life. Quoting generously from Finley's papers, he gives us something close to an exhaustive account of the man's life. Rather than tell the story in a straightforward chronological fashion, Cole has organized *Lion of the Forest* into chapters dealing with subjects such as revivalism, prison reform, temperance, and anti-slavery. I cannot imagine a more thoroughly researched study of Finley's career.

Unfortunately, however, the presentation of the impressive research is not as good as it might have been. A strong editor would have urged Cole to clarify the larger argument of the book, to probe more deeply into Finley's character and motivation, to reflect more rigorously on the intersection of the various strands of his life, and to eliminate needless repetition. Sometimes *Lion of the Forest* seems to be little more than a gloss on the sources, exemplifying the cliché that history is simply a list of facts and events. Too much of the section on Finley as a historian, for example, consists of chapter-by-chapter summaries of his writings.

Finally, Cole, while not uncritical of Finley, tends toward a triumphal interpretation, concluding that his "life was one of superlatives. He worked hard, preached eloquently, and won many religious victories" (p. 216). Cole is right to note Finley's interest in "reaching out to the lowly and marginalized members of society" and the zeal that led him to neglect his family as well as his health (p. 219). But why did Finley behave as he did? Cole is far more successful at describing the events of Finley's life than he is at analyzing their significance.

Andrew Cayton, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

By John H. White, Jr. *The American Railroad Freight Car: From the Wood-Car Era to the Coming of Steel.*

(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993. Pp. 644, $125.00.)

John H. White, Jr., Senior Historian Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, has completed his remarkable trilogy on railroad technology with *The American Railroad Freight Car.* Historians familiar with White's *American Locomotives* (1968) and *The American Railroad Passenger Car* (1978) will recognize the exhaustive research, well-thought-out presentation, careful analysis, and magnificent illustrations that distinguished these earlier works. In this sequel to his passenger-car study, White again classifies the cars by type, but here he ventures further beyond technological boundaries to place the cars within the broader context of nineteenth-century freight operations. The result is a comprehensive book that far surpasses White's modest description of "a hardware study" which he "intended as a reference work" (p. x).

The scope of White's view is clear from the 152-page introductory chapter surveying the economic, business, and operational aspects of nineteenth-century freight service. His explication of complex rate structures for the wide variety of goods shipped by rail is particularly noteworthy. The bulk of the chapter, however, is devoted to an important discussion of freight operations. In addition to topics such as train length and speed, White examines the
work of train crews, the schedules by which they ran, and their systems of communication. White underscores the challenges created after the Civil War as railroads increasingly dispatched more cars in interchange service. Successful interchange required not only compatible equipment but also a larger bureaucracy to monitor car movements, compute mileage charges, provide repairs on cars from other roads, and route their return.

To achieve his primary objective of “explain[ing] the principal types of freight cars used on American railways . . . to about 1910” (p. x), White divides his subject into three periods. The pioneering years to 1870 are treated in one chapter describing how American railroads borrowed and modified British designs to develop freight cars better suited to American needs. For the featured period from 1870 to 1899 when car builders encountered the technological problems of interchange, White organizes his subject by car type or function. Four individual chapters examine the design and development of freight cars for general merchandise, box cars, and flat cars; for food, including stock and refrigerator cars; for bulk cargoes, hopper cars, and tank cars; and for special shipments, jumbo flats, and cabooses. A fifth chapter treats common components and running gears: couplers, brakes, and trucks. White’s third period is the two decades between 1890 and 1910 when the railroads accepted steel cars after a long process that “was evolutionary, almost Darwinian in the sense of a stronger species overtaking a weaker one by natural selection” (p. 550). The volume is liberally illustrated with critically important drawings and photographs from the Smithsonian collection and Patent Office as well as car-builders’ archives and nineteenth-century railway periodicals.

A number of engaging themes emerge from White’s account. Preferences in car design contributed to the tensions between shippers and railroads; the former wanted specialty cars for their products while the latter favored cost-efficient general haulers, such as box cars. Railroads’ master car builders, who answered to cost-conscious managers, increased the length and capacity of cars, but they were adverse to experimental designs that might result in costly mistakes. As a result, freight-car innovations more often originated outside the railroad industry. New equipment, furthermore, had to be made compatible with the existing fleet. Early Janney knuckle-couplers, for example, were engineered to mate with link-and-pin devices. The Master Car Builders Association, organized in 1867 to address mechanical problems created by the interchange of cars, achieved only marginal success in the standardization of equipment. The MCBA’s delays and failures in standardization forced car shops to maintain large inventories with multiple sizes of the same parts to repair cars in interchange service. The car-building “industry was almost always amenable to standard designs in a general sense,” White argues, “but almost never in a specific sense” (p. 484).

Although this book is a national study, the Keystone State receives considerable attention. The freight car designs of the Lehigh Valley, the Reading, and especially the Pennsylvania Railroad are well represented. White includes a large selection of photographs and detailed, dimensional drawings of freight cars from Pennsylvania railroads. Unfortunately, the index does not include references to pages containing full-page drawings with the names of specific railroads. Substantial passages are devoted to the development of cars in Pennsylvania for the transport of coal, coke, and oil. Numerous firms, such as the Harrisburg Car Company and the Milton Car Works, manufactured freight cars for the railroads, and White’s comprehensive account includes the design contributions of these independent car-builders. Pennsylvania companies that manufactured air brakes, couplers, and other freight-car equipment are also featured.

The American Railroad Freight Car is an important addition to the scholarship on rail-
roads in the nineteenth-century for more than its superb contribution to the history of technology. John H. White successfully relates the development of freight-car technology to the decisions made by Alfred D. Chandler's railroad managers and to the working conditions of Walter Licht's railroad workers. Although the price may deter individuals, this rich volume belongs on the shelves of both academic and public libraries.

Robert M. Blackson, Kutztown University


Richard VanDerBeets, Professor Emeritus of English at San José State University and author of The Indian Captivity Narrative: An American Genre (1984), has updated his 1973 collection of major Indian captivity narratives. Although he provides a helpful new bibliography which cites the major secondary works on the subject (written after 1973) by James Axtell, Kathryn Derounian, Anne Kolodny, James Levernier, Richard Slotkin, Alden Vaughan, and Wilcomb Washburn, his new preface is all too brief—only eight pages long, and three of these pages contain bibliographical references.

VanDerBeets' collection has eighteen selections. They include narratives written by Isaac Jogues (1642), Mary Rowlandson (1676), John Gyles (1689), Elizabeth Hanson (1724), Robert Eastburn (1756), John Marrart (1770), Charles Johnston (1790), Mary Kinnan (1791), and Rachel Plummer (1836). The captives' backgrounds are quite diverse with significant representation by women. Today, some of these narratives are not as well-known as those familiar ones written by the Jesuit Isaac Jogue or by Mary Rowlandson. One of the more intriguing selections is John Marrant's account of his captivity among the Cherokee Indians. Marrant was an educated African American, a free man and accomplished musician who later became a religious zealot and hermit during the Great Awakening. Although today Marrant's name is largely forgotten, his narrative was one of the three most reprinted accounts of an Indian captivity.

Despite their Indian-bashing qualities, captivity narratives tell much about Indian mores. They are good sources, for example, on Indian ethnobotany, social organization, Indian-Indian relations, etc. Since VanDerBeets' collection contains references to many Indian nations—Cherokee, Choctaw, Comanche, Huron, Narragansett, Nipmuck, Pawnee, Maliseet, Mohawk, Penobscot, Seneca, Shawnee, Wampanoag, and Wichita—the author would have provided a better service to the reader if he accurately located them on a map at the beginning of the volume and described some of their customs in the preface to each selection.

In VanDerBeets' original introduction for his 1973 edition, he insisted that he sought out a selected diverse sample of captives, religions, locales, and wars. He stated that the narratives contain "a wide range of ethnological data and commentary on American Indian tribes of New England, the Southeast, Plains and Southwest" (xxxviii). Yet, VanDerBeets failed to provide a context in both the 1973 and 1994 editions since the average reader—scholarly or general—needs someone to put this material into an anthropological and historical framework.

I should point out that I am not guilt-ridden or an advocate of "political correctness."
Yet because captivity narratives are heavily laden with stereotypical representations of Indians, I believe that the University of Tennessee Press, by merely reprinting this volume in this manner, was irresponsible at best since this new paperback edition is obviously intended for undergraduate classes in American literature. Students have little or no knowledge of Indian lifeways. The author devotes most of his new preface to focusing on how women's studies have used captivity narratives to analyze gender issues; however, he spends only one weak paragraph on the new historiography of Indian-white relations and then only talks about cannibalism and scalping.

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By James M. Greiner, Janet L. Coryell and James R. Smither, eds. *A Surgeon's Civil War: The Letters and Diary of Daniel M. Holt, M.D.*

(Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press, 1994. Pp. 271. $28.00.)

An upstate New Yorker, age 42, Daniel M. Holt, M.D., in the summer of 1862 enlisted in a newly-formed regiment "to do my duty in the field" (pp. xi-xii). He was exceptionally devoted to his wife, profession, country, and God. An articulate man with a perceptive judgment and a literary flair, he frequently wrote home from the field and kept a diary. A daughter preserved his letterbook and gave it to the Herkimer County Historical Society. Three well-qualified historians have combined their skills and diligence in producing one of the best first-hand accounts of medical practice in the Civil War.

Holt served in the 121st New York Regiment under a succession of commanders, including the renowned Emory Upton. Ill much of the time, but working faithfully and hard, suffering from tuberculosis which took his life in 1867, he resigned in October 1864. His regiment had served in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Five days after the Battle of Gettysburg, writing on a drum head, he told his wife it was "one of the hardest fought, most destructive of human life and most decided in its results of any on record" (p. 118). The Sixth Corps, to which his regiment was attached, "though not in actual fight," he wrote, arrived on the third day, following an all night thirty-seven mile march, "to save the day on our side." What it had done was to take a position at three p.m., relieving other corps, exhausted and without ammunition, and witnessing the tide of battle turn (pp. 118-119).

Dr. Holt's description of medical care is a notable feature of his letters and could readily turn a queasy stomach. "Death was upon our track," he observed (p. 96). He depicted the suffering, the putridity, the dedication, the occasional incompetence, the inadequacy of medical facilities and supplies, and the organization of the Medical Department. The Battle of the Wilderness—in which the Federals lost more than 17,000 men—he recorded, "was the hell of all my earthy experience . . . what have I not heard, seen and felt upon those fields of carnage" (p. 245).

When "Father Abraham" reviewed General Joseph Hooker's army, Holt saw Abraham Lincoln, "care-worn and weary," suffering under "the weight of the war" (p. 87). Taken prisoner by the Confederates, Holt was released by General Lee himself when Lee learned Holt was a fellow Mason.

Notable also are Holt's references to male bonding among soldiers; fraternization of rebels and Yankees; black troops' valor; pitiable "poor white trash" (in his opinion inferior to Negro slaves); religion in the army; the war's purpose; military executions; and failures of
Union command. The entire work is a mine of striking information.

The editing is meticulous, based on wide knowledge of appropriate sources and authorities. Inevitably errors creep in. One must note that General Burnside did not make his “Mud March” in December 1862, but the following month. Union greenbacks did not become “increasingly valuable” but the reverse. Oliver W. Holmes, Jr. never became chief justice of the United States Supreme Court (pp. xv, 98, 218).

Kent State University Press is to be commended for publishing this well-edited, handsome book. A caveat is the suggestion that a table of contents to locate the maps would have been helpful. But this unusual medical account by an unusual Union surgeon is a valuable addition to Civil War literature.

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