

while taking sides on specific issues is only one of the many fascinating storylines that become visible in *Writing the Amish*. Attention to Hostetler's working partnership with his spouse, Beulah Stauffer Hostetler, is a welcome feature. Annotations and introductory comments by the editor help contextualize each primary reading, mitigating my standard complaint about collections of previously published works: that reading them is like listening to one side of a phone conversation. Instead, the essays and annotations reflect and continue Hostetler's engagement with the many worlds of scholarship. Readers familiar with Amish history and culture will find this collection a return visit to familiar landscapes of conversation, consensus, and controversy; those new to this world will find it a convenient summation of the period in Amish scholarship before Donald Kraybill's *The Riddle of Amish Culture* (1989; rev. 2001).

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World War II in Their Own Words: An Oral History of Pennsylvania's Veterans. By BRIAN LOCKMAN, with additional text by DAN CUPPER. (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2005. xvii, 253p. Illustrations, maps, timeline, bibliography, resources, index. \$19.95.)

This volume brings together 33 of the more than 150 interviews with Pennsylvania veterans of World War II conducted by the Pennsylvania Cable Network for broadcast on its popular World War II series. Organized by narrator, the interviews all follow the same general trajectory: enlistment, training, combat, and mustering out. A short introductory paragraph summarizes each narrator's service and a concluding paragraph his postwar life. Veterans of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines—but not the Coast Guard—are included in the collection, though the Army Air Force is overrepresented. All but one of the narrators are men; none apparently are minorities. Several sidebars, on such topics as the Battle of the Bulge, life of a paratrooper, and the B-17 bomber, provide helpful background.

There are some good stories here. Other readers will no doubt have their own favorites, but I was fascinated by the way many narrators fashioned their accounts as "adventure stories" and by the ingenious and creative ways individual soldiers, separated from their units and forced to rely on their wits—and sometimes rudimentary skills learned as children—survived danger and capture by the enemy. I was also moved by the way combat tempered these men and by their mature reflections on the cost of war. As flight engineer Chester Ogden put it: "To see the various aircraft blown from the sky in every imaginable way, and the ten men on the crew who went with it—to see this happen day after day . . . And to live with the memory of what my fellow man has done, there's no way my words can

relate what my eyes saw. I'll never forget" (p. 129). And the author's father, crew chief Felix Lockman, reflected on the lifelong impact of losing a buddy in battle: "I learned one thing in the service: Never make fast friends, friends that are part of your life. . . . [My friend's death] hit me hard, so I made up my mind then that I'd have no friends that would upset me if they went" (p. 178). Interestingly, while the book's introduction makes extravagant claims for the patriotism and sacrifices of this presumed "greatest generation," narrators themselves more often spoke of duty and faith. Here's sailor Lou Neishloss: "There is one thing I would want younger generations to know about the war. If you have a certain duty to do and you do it, and everybody else follows suit and does the same thing, things will work out in the long run" (p. 102).

Good stories, however, don't necessarily make for good history. These individual accounts are not verified, contextualized, or interpreted. The author apparently made no effort to compare narrators' stories to their military service records or unit histories. Broader questions of significance are ignored: how, for example, did the experience of World War II shape a generation and hence the history of the postwar decades in Pennsylvania and the United States? One might argue that it is appropriate to leave it to readers to make of these stories what they will. The problem is that people often get their history wrong. Memories can mythologize the past; and stories of personal experiences, while often arousing genuine human empathy, don't necessarily deepen our understanding of the past.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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Espejos y Ventanas: Historias Orales de Trabajadores Agrícolas Mexicanos y Sus Familias/Mirrors and Windows: Oral Histories of Mexican Farmworkers and Their Families. Edited by MARK LYONS and AUGUST TARRIER. (Philadelphia: New City Community Press, 2004. 317p. Illustrations. In both Spanish and English. \$20.)

Making ends meet has always been difficult for poor Mexican farmers, and for many, immigration to the United States has offered an alternative that despite the danger seems worth the effort. In *Espejos y Ventanas*, Mark Lyons and August Tarrier relate the experience of Mexican immigrants in the context of their lives working on the mushroom farms in eastern Pennsylvania.

The book is composed of eighteen interviews with immigrants living and working on the farms around Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. These oral histories recall the subject's border crossing, work, and the adjustment to life in an Anglo-dominated society. The interviews reveal the untold stories of these unique individuals. Unique, because who but someone special would risk everything to