

America was blacks' "native country" (p. 62). Despite his heroic efforts, disfranchisement occurred and Purvis himself would not vote (again) until the 1870s!

Purvis further made his reputation on the Underground Railroad. Bacon's book is particularly strong when focusing on runaway slaves along the Pennsylvania borderland. Purvis took special note of fugitives during the 1830s, when he formed the Vigilant Committee to aid kidnapped free blacks as well as runaways. After operating successfully for several years, and helping several hundred people of color, the group lagged. The federal fugitive slave act of 1850 revived the organization. Purvis aided the soon-to-be famous—Harriet Jacobs and Henry "Box" Brown—as well as the not-so-well-known. Fugitives compelled Purvis to reassess self-defense tactics. Until the 1850s, he was a devout Garrisonian, believing deeply in moral suasion and nonresistance. By the Civil War, however, he saw the limits of such doctrinaire commitments and broke from Garrison.

Purvis's understanding of racial reform also shifted. Though initially opposed to orthodox "race thinking" among black abolitionists—such as Henry Highland Garnet, who believed that African Americans must remain autonomous of paternalist white reformers—the deteriorating racial climate in Pennsylvania made him see black autonomy as a necessary corollary to interracial abolitionism.

No mere regional reformer, Purvis became a mainstay of the national anti-slavery movement, the growing women's rights struggle, and several charitable causes. Purvis attended every one of the American Antislavery Society's annual meetings, save one, and was one of the most consistent advocates of women's right to vote. He became a recruiter of black troops in the Civil War, a trustee of the Freedman's Bank during Reconstruction, and a visionary of equal citizenship until his dying day. He may have been a more important day-to-day abolitionist than Garrison. Bacon attributes Purvis's marginalization in abolitionist studies partly to the man himself—he was just so modest! With this book, Purvis is no longer one of abolition's "unsung heroes" (p. 1).

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*Hinsonville, A Community at the Crossroads: The Story of a Nineteenth-Century African-American Village.* By MARIANNE H. RUSSO and PAUL A. RUSSO. (Selinsgrove, PA: Susquehanna University Press, 2005. xiii, 198 pp. Illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.50.)

*Hinsonville, A Community at the Crossroads* successfully chronicles the origins, impact, and activities of a vibrant village of black denizens situated in the southeastern part of Chester County, Pennsylvania. For forty years, between 1829 and 1869, black transient workers, entrepreneurs, and landowners there cre-

ated an independent sanctuary that buffered the influence of slavery by affording blacks an opportunity to own land, educate their young, and worship in an independent black church. With great sensitivity, independent scholar Marianne Russo argues from the thorough research of her late husband, Paul Russo, that the black "antebellum haven" of Hinsonville disappeared in the wake of the Civil War because the war encouraged the influx of black and white industrial workers, outmigration of Hinsonville's agrarian natives, the growth of Lincoln University, and the sprawling of railroads in Chester County.

Using family Bibles, court records, and wills, Russo meticulously explores the lives of Hinsonville residents and demonstrates how family ties helped sustain the village. She humanizes the inhabitants of Hinsonville by chronicling their fears and reactions to nearby violence. Hinsonville's location six miles north of the Mason-Dixon Line—a line associated with the divide between free and slave states—placed its residents in constant fear. According to Russo, the Christiana Riot and the kidnapping of free-born black sisters Rachel and Elizabeth Parker by a Maryland slave catcher in 1851 shaped the actions of village residents and the whites who surrounded it.

The Civil War, and its aftermath, was a watershed for Hinsonville. During the war, the sons of Hinsonville eagerly joined the famed Massachusetts Fifty-fourth, Fifth Massachusetts Negro Calvary Regiment, and the Quartermaster Corps. Disability applications show that those sons who returned suffered problems ranging from lunacy and dementia to hernia. Russo surmises that with their veteran sons unable to assist fully in the agrarian economy, families suffered a loss of productivity. In 1866, Lincoln University, formerly Ashmun Institute, shifted its focus from colonization to training teachers who could educate former slaves in the American South. The reorganization and federal funding drew more students and led to Lincoln's expansion. In 1868, a white entrepreneur opened a phosphate factory, which brought in an influx of black and white factory workers whose lives revolved around Lincoln University Village. When the maps were made in 1873, the geographic destination of Hinsonville was not listed. By 1877, Hinsonville, which had surrounded the university, had been absorbed into it.

Although the geographic identity disappeared, Russo continues to trace the activities of Hinsonville residents through activities at the Hosanna Church. Arguing that "the church was the extended community," Russo explores a split in 1886 that reflected the clash between the descendants of the earliest settlers and the new migrants who dwelled in Lincoln University. For Russo, this split marked the end of Hinsonville because it undermined what made Hinsonville: family ties and the extended network forged by Hosanna.

There are times where Russo perhaps oversimplifies. She, for instance, briefly discusses the dismal colonization attempts of the Amos brothers without providing information about the financial support received by the brothers from the

Pennsylvania Colonization Society. Russo also fails to present evidence that local whites were hostile to blacks in Hinsonville, as she claims repeatedly throughout the book. She, in fact, offers examples that undermine her position. With the exceptions of the hardship Ashmun Institute founder Rev. Dickey faced from his congregation about starting the institute and a reference in the university's alumni magazine about potential acts of arson, there are no other examples of local white hostility to the residents of Hinsonville. Furthermore, the selling of the land to blacks by local whites, the overwhelming support local whites gave to the recapturing of the Parker sisters and court testimonials attesting to the free status of the sisters, Hinsonville residents' practice of naming their children after local and university-associated whites, and the naming of the railroad and post office suggest that area blacks did not live in a hostile local environment.

Russo, however, has made a valuable contribution. By utilizing court documents, newspapers, oral interviews, magazines, maps, and pictures, she shows why black community histories deserve a more prominent place in American history. Russo brings the now invisible village of Hinsonville back to life and shows how a community of African Americans in rural Chester County responded to the great events that reshaped the nation in the decades surrounding the Civil War as it left a legacy in southeastern Pennsylvania.

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*Industrial Genius: The Working Life of Charles Michael Schwab.* By KENNETH WARREN (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007. xiv, 285 pp. Illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.)

*Industrial Genius*, the latest book by Oxford University professor Kenneth Warren, is a comprehensive biography of one of the most influential and colorful of Pennsylvania's steel tycoons, Charles M. Schwab. Schwab (1862–1939), a protégé of Andrew Carnegie, played pivotal roles in the creation of two of America's greatest businesses, United States Steel and Bethlehem Steel. A visionary and a gambler, Schwab helped revitalize the steel industry when Bethlehem began manufacturing the wide flange or "Grey" structural steel beam. During the first half of the twentieth century, Bethlehem's wide flange beam—lighter, stronger and cheaper to produce than the conventional I beam—formed the structural framework of most American skyscrapers and long-span bridges.

Under Schwab, Bethlehem Steel also became the single most important producer of ordnance, ammunition, and armor plate for the Allies during World War I. By the 1920s, Charles Schwab was the American steel industry's de facto leader.