

rial governor, and got Buchanan to pardon the Mormon leaders.

After the Civil War, in which Kane rose to the rank of brigadier general, he worked to stem antipolygamy legislation against the Mormons. Though Kane strongly opposed polygamy, he felt that evangelical anti-Mormons were overstepping the bounds of a free society. After a visit to Utah in 1873, Kane's wife wrote a favorable account of Mormon domesticity in the hopes of forestalling pending legislation that would have revoked the Mormons' judicial power in Utah. The book likely had an effect through positive reviews, but with the direst aspects of the legislation defeated, the Kanes refused to issue a new printing of the book (they only printed 250 copies). They were likely concerned that they made polygamy look too appealing.

Grow notes at the beginning that Kane's ill health led to hypochondria and depression, which seem to have always compelled him to action in the hope of improving his health and mood. Coupled with his concerns over his small stature, Kane always felt the need to prove his manliness. Yet Grow does not overemphasize these points in explaining Kane's actions, and perhaps he should not have. Why Kane supported his causes generally, and Mormonism particularly, is not entirely clear after reading the book. Grow gives full contextualization of Kane's life, as he masterfully handles and synthesizes an abundance of materials. There is a certain lack of speculation on Grow's part, but ultimately the author provides ample information to allow the reader to draw his or her own conclusions.

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Eastern State Penitentiary: A History. By PAUL KAHAN. (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2008. 128 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$19.99.)

According to its mission statement, The History Press "empower[s] history enthusiasts to write local stories, for local audiences" by offering brief, highly readable community histories. Kahan's notable contribution, *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*, with its detailed social history and in-depth use of archives, maximizes the possibilities of the local history press, bringing its subject to life without sacrificing objective analysis or expansive research.

Eastern State Penitentiary has never lacked for exposure and chroniclers. Yet, Kahan argues that no concise, detailed history of Eastern State Penitentiary remains in print and readily available. His compact study traces the penitentiary from its opening in 1829 to its closing in 1971 in five chronological chapters. While the generalist format of this edition limits Kahan's ability to clarify how his observations and conclusions differ from those in histories of Eastern State Penitentiary written by Negley Teeters and John Shearer (1957), Laura Magnani

(1990), and Norman Johnston (1994), the value of such a compact yet far-ranging study, rich with illustrations and rare photographs, is undeniable.

Kahan begins by situating the impetus and origins of Pennsylvania prison reform within the transatlantic debates on punishment, torture, and prison design that invigorated the Enlightenment and early national periods. Local philanthropists, appalled by the filth, overcrowding, lax security, and corruption in Philadelphia's jails, joined a transatlantic chorus inspired by new ideas about the possibilities of reformative incarceration. The resulting experiments—reorganizing Walnut Street Prison, utilizing public labor, and designing the penitentiary—helped ease public fears over increased violence and crime while it instilled pride in Pennsylvania after Eastern State emerged on the cutting edge of modern penal philosophy and design.

Books about Eastern State often contrast its early success against a later “fall” or failure and highlight the disparity between its initial promise and its devolving effectiveness. Kahan's analysis, however, urges us to see the continuity, rather than massive changes, in Eastern State's history. The second chapter demonstrates how the penitentiary's early years (1829–65) were already fraught with controversy. Problems with overcrowding, drug smuggling, gangs, and violence stubbornly persisted from its inception to its closure. Drawing from a range of sources, including published observer accounts, annual and structural reports, wardens' daily journals, and private letters, Kahan shows how “breakdowns appeared almost immediately” (47). He richly illuminates the discord, complexity, and inherent problems of merging rehabilitative and punitive regimes.

The remaining chapters emphasize these continuities while mapping out subsequent changes in prison government and discipline. In the third chapter (1866–1913), Kahan traces the retreat from separate confinement, attempts at modernization, challenges of overcrowding and idleness, and the eternal battles to prevent (inevitable) escapes and gang activity. Then, as now, officials puzzled over how to treat aging convicts and prisoners with mental illnesses; in addition, wardens' attitudes towards the prospect of rehabilitating convicts and the best use of discipline differed widely. Kahan's rich and extensive use of nineteenth-century newspaper accounts of escapes and controversies wonderfully captures the cultural fascination with Eastern State Penitentiary's legacy and inhabitants.

The concluding chapters follow Eastern State's evolution into the twentieth century, when its rehabilitative mission—all but abandoned by the end of the nineteenth century—experienced periodic revivals. Change happened most consistently after the penitentiary's population began a gradual decline that prompted “a return to the spirit, if not the letter, of the Pennsylvania System” (97). As in earlier chapters, Kahan remains attentive to how wider social forces (the fluctuating economy, the impact of parole, the rise of the Black Muslim movement) affected prison management and populations. Despite offering educational programs and allowing sports leagues, chess matches, and even pets, “life at Eastern

State could be incredibly, and randomly, violent” (102). Kahan’s study draws richly from surviving oral histories of prisoners, administrators, and guards, whose diverse recollections and experiences help contribute to the mosaic of cultural memory of the penitentiary. His examination of ongoing experiments in prisoner-led initiatives (for example, his innovative archival use of prison bulletins) is particularly fascinating, and it allows a mediated glimpse into how prisoners experienced their time at the penitentiary.

I was struck by how defenders of the Pennsylvania system consistently refused to interrogate seriously their assumptions about crime and “idleness” and about which inmates (disproportionately poor, black, and immigrant) were most often assumed to be lacking in self control, discipline, and reformative potential, even as these defenders showed a willingness to modify their beliefs about prison design and penal philosophy. Given the substantial racial imbalances that continue to structure American prisons, I would welcome explicit analysis of the underlying conceptions about race and class that influence “the Pennsylvania model” to see how they compare to competing models of incarceration.

Kahan eschews the sensationalist focus of numerous prison histories, with their anecdotal emphasis on infamous personalities, hairsbreadth escapes, and supernatural tales. He instead offers readers a well-researched, even-handed, and lively history of the penitentiary’s origins and development across the centuries. Abundant photographs and engravings, detailed footnotes, and an introduction by Richard Fulmer provide additional perspectives and direct curious readers to other source material. Paul Kahan successfully brings Eastern State Penitentiary to life as a centuries-long experiment whose history has much to teach us about the challenges of reformative incarceration.

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Remembering Kensington and Fishtown: Philadelphia’s Riverward Neighborhoods. By KENNETH W. MILANO. (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2008. 128 pp. Illustrations, further readings. \$19.99.)

The History of the Kensington Soup Society. By KENNETH W. MILANO. (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009. 160 pp. Illustrations. \$19.99.)

The History of Penn Treaty Park. By KENNETH W. MILANO. (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009. 157 pp. Illustrations, further readings. \$19.99.)

In March 1876, Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park was being readied for the grand Centennial celebration. Pastoral and elegant, even in early spring, the park was the perfect setting for the art galleries and exhibition halls rising along the