

In the section on special topics, there are many references to articles on labor leaders and individual unions, including the less well known in both cases. There are numerous listings on communal groups — agrarian, as well as industrial labor movements, biographical accounts, labor legislation, and others. By including articles on civil-service reform, protest and folk songs, religious groups, and on such contemporary topics as Pennsylvania nurses and the state's Public Employee Bargaining Law, McBrearty's compilation is not only essential to the labor historian but could be very useful to students in others areas as well.

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*The History of Wisconsin: From Exploration to Statehood.* By ALICE E. SMITH. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1973. Pp. 681. Illustrations, appendix, essay on sources, index. \$15.00.)

This is the first volume of a projected six-volume history of Wisconsin and marks an auspicious beginning for an ambitious undertaking. Assigned the task of relating two and a half centuries of history, Alice Smith sensibly compresses the "early years" — to the close of the War of 1812 — into a general narrative. Yet even this summary is impressive: well written and precise in tracing the main themes of Wisconsin's early development. Indians, trappers, traders, and missionaries all receive ample attention, and she has clearly outlined the influence of French and British settlement in the region.

The author's main emphasis is the growth of the territory from 1815 to 1848, when it achieved statehood. Neither biased nor narrowly provincial, this history relates the story of Wisconsin to that of national growth. Indian affairs, political and financial problems, population shifts, even social and cultural developments find their place. This is more than a state history and as such stands as an example of how state histories should be written.

If there is a central theme, it is the role of the federal government in promoting western expansion. Through a variety of devices — Indian agents, the army, internal improvements, and land policy — Washington influenced Wisconsin's growth at every point. Smith's recognition of this indicates that Wisconsin territory was no different

from other western areas, but she has highlighted this process well. At the same time, she indicates that the Wisconsin Territorial Act of 1836 "evidenced a new philosophy, a radical shift in the concept of the territorial system." Relaxation of congressional control meant greater opportunity for local development and developers. This marks another focus of the book: the exploitation of western areas by eastern politicians and businessmen for their own benefit. The political and economic conflicts of the Jacksonian years mirrored this struggle. The Yankee emphasis in Wisconsin politics was unmistakable, even dominating the constitutional convention on the eve of statehood.

This volume is an impressive synthesis that is both well documented and well written. At every point Smith has joined Wisconsin's development and problems to those of the nation at large. An extended bibliographical essay provides a useful guide to writings on early Wisconsin history and the problems of territorial expansion. The footnotes are where they belong — at the bottom of the page — and many fine illustrations enhance the text.

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*The Children of Pride. A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War.*  
Edited by ROBERT MANSON MYERS. (New Haven and London:  
Yale University Press, 1972. Pp. 1738. Preface, principal characters,  
prologue, epilogue, who's who, index of free and slave, and maps.  
\$19.95.)

*He beholdeth all high things; he is a king over all the children of  
pride. Job 41 :34*

This book, edited by Robert Manson Myers, is the major part of the correspondence of one large, "well-cousined" family during fourteen crucial years in American history (1854-1868). The family was mainly plantation owners and professional men and their wives and children — all good letter writers with an eye for detail.

The book has three sections: "Many Mansions," picturing the South of the slavery period; "The Edge of the Sword," the war period; and "The Night Season," the struggle to reestablish families in a world turned upside down. Of course, not one of this family realized