able essays will be of great value and interest to both layman and scholar alike.

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Joshua Gilpin was a successful Philadelphia entrepreneur. He owned a store on Water Street, a residence on Front Street in Philadelphia, and a paper mill in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1809, he journeyed from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh and back to attend to family business and to vacation with his wife, son, and a few servants. The Gilpins were early settlers of Delaware County. Through shrewd investments, they had acquired land interests at Redstone and in Indiana County. In the early nineteenth century, the Gilpin family seriously considered further investments in the trans-Appalachian valleys of Pennsylvania, so Joshua was sent by his family to report on the commercial prospects of the region. While traveling in a private carriage, Gilpin jotted down his observations on diverse subjects for investment purposes. But this journal provides the reader with something more than the keen entrepreneurial assessments of Joshua Gilpin, since the atmosphere at various inns, quality of accommodations, and the state of the roadbed are subjects treated in his notebook also. The reader gets a glimpse of the human side of a businessman and is able to focus the record of history on its basic datum — the individual.

As Gilpin passed through southern and Western Pennsylvania, he noted the terrain, the presence of natural resources, land values, and other investment possibilities. This journal not only gives a detailed observation of the trans-Appalachian region as it developed commercially, but it also supplies the reader with a glimpse of daily life in this area. At Redstone and in Indiana County, Gilpin surveyed extensive tracts of land owned by the family, and he also consulted the tenants about rents and future developments in the area. Basically, the journal was a report to the family on existing Gilpin investments.
and possibilities in land speculation, trade, and industry in Western Pennsylvania.

Professor Walker has edited this journal with skill and attention. Since he is a native of Pennsylvania and an economic historian, his introduction and explanatory footnotes are quite helpful. However, the editor made no effort to change Gilpin's words. Thus, the spirit, style, and pomposity of Joshua Gilpin's prose is preserved so that the reader can obtain a clearer insight into the man and his times.

In addition to the intrinsic value of making such a volume more readily available, its usefulness as a source for research is enhanced by an extensive bibliography of source material relating to the Gilpins and Western Pennsylvania. Professor Walker has given us a good list of relevant sources in research libraries, historical societies, and printed documents to broaden one's knowledge on the economic history of Western Pennsylvania. Also, there is an excellent list of secondary works for the reader's benefit. Taken as a whole, the volume, published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is worthwhile both for the scholar and the casual reader interested in the commercial development of Pennsylvania. Professor Walker's introduction puts the journal in its proper historical perspective, and the reader readily gains a keen insight into the mind of one of Pennsylvania's earlier entrepreneurs. While this volume is only a slice of life, it is the basic stuff upon which good economic history is built. This volume is by no means a major reference work, but it is something that scholars and general readers can peruse for pleasure as well as serious purposes.

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DONALD A. GRINDE, JR.

Hired Hands and Plowboys: Farm Labor in the Midwest, 1815-60.

From county histories, farmers' diaries, account books, reminiscences, and newspapers, David Schob has produced a study which significantly enlarges our understanding of farm life and labor in the antebellum midwest (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota). What we refer to as farming was, in fact, a series of