as a book of documents can be. It is remarkably free of typographical errors. There is no bibliography.

The book shows some improvement over the first two volumes in this series but still is not up to the standards of the Indiana Decade. Should you buy this book? Yes, if you are interested in the history of the Harmony Society, Western Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Robert Owen. If you are interested enough you can almost read it as if it were a novel with no beginning and no end. The high price, however, will undoubtedly limit the sales to libraries and historical societies.

I hope that Dr. Arndt will hire a competent editor to look at his next books before they go to press. We at the PHMC have made such an offer to him. It would prevent a number of petty errors that diminish an otherwise excellent book.

Washington Crossing Historic Park
Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania


The writing of traditional history has been frequently unidimensional, that is, political history, economic history, cultural history, and so forth. The focus has been on the individual, the event, the issue, and what was seen as the development, transpirings, and molders of events and issues. Traditional historical interpretation has centered on the charismatic leader, presidential administrations, political parties, national political campaigns, elections, voting behavior, legislation, movements, ideology, foreign affairs, and domestic, economic, and social issues. The interpretation has been done in broad strokes without much shading and tended to make the item under discussion predominant and causative. The behavior and study of aggregates have been relied on for analysis and interpretation.

During the past two decades historians have urged newer and more encompassing probings into historical processes. There has been a shift from interpreting history as the narration of episodic events to that of studying history as social change occurring over a period of time and the transition had as its basis the concern "with the interactions of large numbers of people — the whole society." Concepts of social structure and change and the understanding of their dynamics
and transformation over long periods of time were seen as providing the basis for new historical syntheses.

David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty in *Nearby History* have employed the concept of “nearby history” “to distinguish,” in their words, “the new [historical] approaches which emphasize analysis, comparison, and the examination of change over time from the static, narrow and non-analytical historical undertakings of past generations.” The concept of “nearby history” is employed rather than that of “local,” “community,” or “family history” in order “to include the entire range of possibilities in a person’s immediate environment.” The particulars in “nearby history” are seen to relate to historical universals by the utilization of H. P. R. Finberg’s view that events on individual, family, local community, national, and supranational levels take place within a series of concentric circles within which all experience is encompassed.

Kyvig and Marty have written this book with the novice historian and interested layman in mind. In the opening chapters the authors deal with an overview of traditional historical writing vis-à-vis the new “social history.” They suggest to the potential practitioner of “nearby history” that the addressing of a series of question inventories in regard to the family, community, organizations, neighborhoods, and functional categories (such as environmental setting and economic activity) could provide the opportunity for sharpening the focus of research or interest. They discuss what is historical and what is non-historical and suggest criteria of authenticity, reliability, accuracy, credibility, and usefulness in assessing materials, nonmaterials, and artifacts for historical validity.

In subsequent chapters, the authors discuss the importance, relevance, and pitfalls in the locating, uncovering, and use of published documents, unpublished documents, oral documents, visual documents, artifacts, landscape, and buildings. Accompanying illustrative case material is incorporated within the chapters. (A portion of Josephine McIlvain’s “Twelve Blocks: A Study of One Segment of Pittsburgh’s South Side, 1880-1915” which appeared in the *WPHM* is used as an illustrative example.)

The book, too, can serve as a practical primer. In chapters such as those dealing with oral history, visual documentation, and preserving material traces, the authors provide succinct but sound caveats in the initiation, development, and implementation of such projects. Indeed, the appendixes contain sample forms such as that for a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
It would do well for every undergraduate who expects to do analytical and interpretative essays and papers in American history to read this volume; indeed, its reading would profit a number of graduate students. It is an excellent introduction for those individuals who are untrained in historical methodology and techniques but who are interested and fascinated by the past that surrounds them.

Archives of Industrial Society
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania


This latest contribution to the growing literature on the collapse of the Penn Central Railroad is based on the papers of David Bevan who was the chief financial officer of the Pennsylvania Railroad and later of the Penn Central. At the time of the railroad's bankruptcy, Bevan was singled out by government investigators as the principal villain for allegedly having misappropriated funds, for allegedly disguising the railroad's true financial state from investors, and for allegedly having diverted scarce railroad funds to more profitable outside investments. There were charges of gross misjudgment, of trading on inside information, and even of wild sprees in Las Vegas with female companions. Bevan was indicted, tried for conspiracy, and acquitted in 1977 after a long ordeal. Believing he had been singled out as the scapegoat for the failures of others, Bevan let historian Stephen Salsbury go through his papers in the hopes of getting out the "true" story. These papers included minute diaries that Bevan began keeping from the time, long before the Penn Central merger, when he believed the railroad was being run incompetently; when his boss, Chairman Stuart Saunders, first began to urge him to falsify accounting data; and when he knew that, sooner or later, someone was going to be in serious legal trouble.

Salsbury wastes little time retracing the story of the deteriorating situation of eastern railroads in the 1950s and 1960s and of the protracted negotiating that led to the merger of the Pennsylvania and New York Central railroads in 1968. He gets quickly to the new light the Bevan papers shed on that story. This new information confirms,