

Lawrence-Lake Champlain, Atlantic Seaboard, Chesapeake Bay, South and Southwest, War at Sea, Tactical, Politics and Peace, Miscellaneous, and Manuscripts. The volume concludes with three useful appendixes on newspapers, regiments, and chronology.

There are a few weaknesses in this bibliography that need to be pointed out, although they do not seriously impair the work's utility. First, the entries are unannotated, and thus one has no way of determining significance. Second, the citations are almost exclusively to American sources. It does take two parties to make a war, and the British side of the story will only be lightly touched upon if a scholar relies solely on this bibliography. Third, in the area of manuscripts, the compiler chose not to mention the National Archives or any British repositories, perhaps feeling that these were well known and easily accessible. If that is the case, such a note should have been included in the prefatory remarks.

Nevertheless, Fredriksen deserves high praise for undertaking the time-consuming and laborious task of putting together such an extensive work. This volume should prove valuable both to students and professional scholars. One hopes that in the future the Greenwood Press comes forth with many more additions to its series on Bibliographies and Indexes in American History. I am certain that anyone with a serious interest in the War of 1812 will want a copy of *Free Trade and Sailors' Rights: A Bibliography of the War of 1812*. ■

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### *Erie History—The Women's Story.*

By Sabina Shields Freeman and Margaret L. Tenpas.

(Erie: Benet Press for Erie, Pennsylvania, Branch American Association of University Women, 1982. Pp. 260. Preface, acknowledgments, bibliography, index. \$13.75, cloth; \$5.25, paper.)

This ambitious project commemorates the lives of 130 Erie and Erie County women: female pioneers who started schools, organized community health centers, and participated in politics, finance, and industry even as they promoted art, music, and drama. Those chosen

certainly typify the involvement of women in Erie's history — the authors make that point. Unfortunately, they have created a somewhat imperfect instrument or "resource base" upon which further women's history efforts might build. In sum, *The Women's Story* embraces both the strengths and the limitations so often associated with local history publications.

On the plus side, the number of women singled out for attention helps make the point that women did leave their mark on the region: from Queen Gegosasa, the "Mother" of the Indian nations, to Elizabeth Canon Eaton, the first minister's wife to settle in the region, to Mary Rogers Crawford, who helped escaping slaves, to Laura G. Sanford, Erie's first historian. The list, of course, does not stop with those just named but includes teachers, doctors, and working women across the years. In fact, the discussion of any one person almost seems superficial.

Take the mini-portrait of Elizabeth Waters Burleigh, the free black woman who was the mother of Harry Burleigh. Here is a chance to explore the life and times of a minority woman who trained to be a teacher and then was denied the opportunity to teach in Erie's public schools for no more compelling reason than the color of her skin. She struggled and sacrificed to give her gifted son a formal musical education. But the story exists only in outline, which is one of the limitations of the authors' approach. Might not the authors have made their point by selecting fewer women and exploring their situations and challenges in greater detail? As it is, the all but breathless pace of the narrative creates some annoying omissions. For instance, Harry Burleigh is never identified as the musician responsible for preserving and then bringing black spirituals to the attention of white audiences.

In less than 250 pages the authors obviously cannot do everything, but there are inclusions they might have made so that their product might be a more effective resource for future study. The individual chapters would profit from the presence of what is sometimes called scholarly apparatus, more specifically footnotes. The authors make recurring reference to and sometimes quote from diaries and letters, but there is no indication of whether these primary sources are published, exist in manuscript in local historical societies, or are merely a matter of reference in secondary sources.

There is a bibliography included at the end, but it makes a number of unexpected omissions. One, in particular, leads to confusion. There is recurring reference to a work by Warner, Beers. Because it is not in the bibliography, the reader has to discover in Chapter 3 that they

are the authors of *The History of Erie County*. Perhaps an answer to the reader's need to know might have been a descriptive bibliography at the end of each chapter. That is, the writers might have stated the origins of their materials and which of their sources they found most reliable. As it is, there is little interpretative or evaluative comment in or out of the text.

This reviewer does not want to detract unduly from the sincere and dedicated efforts that went into *The Women's Story*, but there are a number of other nagging reservations. At times, the burden of narrative detail demands more clarification than the writers' sources provide. As an example, Erie's log cabin school, built in 1806, is described as a small building measuring eighteen by twenty feet. This structure, according to the text, held thirty girls and forty boys — all at the same time in that limited space? In another instance, the writers should have verified such assertions as that Mildred Forness, Edinboro University's head librarian, was "a top authority" in children's literature.

But the most serious reservation on this reviewer's part concerns the absence of a summary chapter, setting in perspective the stories of 130 women. Their very number demands it. Readers need a section or chapter that attempts to relate the varied stories to the local and national story of women. As it is, the authors' only summary attempt is a two-sentence quotation from Ida Tarbell that closes the final chapter. The women whose stories are told deserve something more. Certainly, the writers might have seized the opportunity to deal with the implications of their subjects' experiences and the imperatives for women in and beyond Erie. ■

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*Metropolitan Corridor: Railroads and the American Scene.*  
By John R. Stilgoe.

(New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1983. Pp. xiii, 397. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Although artists, photographers, and cinematographers frequently see beauty in the powerful scale, geometry, and textures of the older