lar questions. It is less revealing of the complex interaction of gender, ethnicity, and class than it might be. Many tables begged for the inclusion of other variables that might clarify patterns or suggest new ones. To do so might have answered some questions left hanging. Yet, even without taking full advantage of her data, DeVault has written a book that is an important addition to both the history of Pittsburgh and of American society. Its arguments should cause historians of class relations in America to view their subject differently. They raise serious questions about the meaning of social mobility studies in the twentieth century. For, as DeVault concludes (page 177), she has explained how “these individuals became white-collar employees, but remained the sons and daughters of labor.”

Jan Reiff
Newberry Library, Chicago

War on the Great Lakes: Essays Commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie
Edited by William Jeffery Welsh and David Curtis Skaggs

The number of relevant titles on bookstore shelves is used as a measure, the 1812 War ranks among the least known conflicts in North American history. Every year new treatments of the American Revolution and the Civil War are published, and there is no shortage of works dealing with the hostilities of this century. But “Madison’s war” seems to have been all but forgotten.

Events such as the re-launching of the U.S. brig Niagara at Erie, Pennsylvania, are serving to revitalize interest in the 1812 period. Occurring on September 10, 1888 (the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie), the launch attracted international attention. Another gathering, the “War on the Great Lakes Symposium,” was held that same weekend at Windsor, Ontario, and Put-in-Bay, Ohio. While the Niagara will sail the lakes in years to come, reminding people of a distant war’s events, the subject of this review, a compilation of papers presented at the symposium, will help fill the wide gap on bookstore shelves.

The volume’s 11 articles are the texts of presentations by some of the leading historians studying the period. Their papers were chosen by the planning committee to provide “a truly objective assessment of the war in the Lake Erie basin,” a goal that is attained quite successfully. Experts and novices alike will be intrigued. The first paper, a compelling narrative by Gerard Altoft, immediately focuses the reader’s attention on the clash between the British and American squadrons. His account makes the events vivid, with its “exhausted and mentally stunned sailors,” and Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry’s boot heels rapping “a steady tattoo” as he paced the deck. A critic might complain that Altoft waxes too poetic, but versions of the story like this one are useful. They remind us that real people, who lived and breathed, felt fear and confusion, manned the warships. In addition, his account gives equal attention to the men of both nations.

After the narrative, the reader encounters an exhaustive investigation of the influences that ordnance had upon the course of the battle. Frederick Drake painstakingly examines the nature of the batteries aboard the American and British squadrons, casting aside the notion that weight of metal alone is a suitable means for comparing the opposing forces. Given the disparity in firepower between the forces, Drake asserts that the British should have avoided a close-in action with Perry. Commander Barclay might have been better off to put all of his men in his three strongest vessels and to engage Perry in a running fight.

While admitting that numerous other circumstances influenced the battle, Drake argues that the manner in which the opposing commanders organized and used their ordnance was critical to the eventual outcome. Drake’s paper raises interesting questions about the command decisions that preceded the battle. Commander Robert Barclay is discussed by W.A.B. Douglas, who also sheds some light on several other members of the British naval establishment. Unfortunately, there is little new information in Douglas’s paper; it is, rather, a basic review of well-known literature.

Some fresh insights, however, may be found in a pair of articles that step back from the action of that Sunday in September 1813 to examine circumstances that existed before and after Perry’s great victory. R. David Edmunds explores the relationships among the native peoples who supported the British. Generally, Tecumseh has been the principle Indian leader connected with these events. Edmunds points out that the Shawnee chief, while being especially influential, was only one of several influential tribal leaders. His brother, Tenskwatawa, also known as the Prophet, Main Poc of the Potawatomis, Roundhead, and Walk-in-the-Water, were all involved in the many different confrontations and coalitions that evolved during the war. Those who survived continued to pursue their struggle or learned to live with their changing world, their part in the conflict mainly forgotten. Edmunds’s article offers a number of enticing leads for further study.

In a similar manner, Dennis Carter-Edwards explores what happened after Barclay’s defeat had led to the
route of British General Henry Proctor and the subsequent invasion and conquest of southwestern Upper Canada. The difficulties faced by the officers and men who occupied the territory were similar to those that weakened Barclay and Proctor. And, as usually happens during war, the citizens who did not flee the area suffered painfully during the occupation. Carter-Edwards details the circumstances that unravelled into 1814 and then supports a claim that, since the British barely contested control of their lost land, the effects of Perry's victory were negligible.

An essay of a different sort is that by Harold Langley. Editors Welsh and Skaggs obviously included it in this collection as a reminder of the efforts that led to the signing of a peace treaty that has gone unchallenged for nearly two centuries. Langley describes how the larger international context evolved before and after Barclay and Perry waged their campaigns. Readers will see numerous parallels in the negotiations between men like Gambier and Adams and the high level talks carried on in all parts of the globe today. The paper was presented at Put-in-Bay, site of Perry's victory and the International Peace Memorial National Monument.

An objective of the symposium was "to provide a look at the possibilities of new research opportunities." Articles mentioned above should provide a wealth of ideas for fresh historical inquiries. Two other contributions also provide an overview of the historiography of the topic and identify questions that remain to be answered. Ian Pemberton looks at how Canadians have covered the issue, while Christopher McKee, in his "Aerial View," summarizes the work of American authorities. Both authors conclude that much work remains to be done.

In the end, Pemberton suggests: "The best books on the War of 1812 on the lakes frontier are yet to be written and published — perhaps by historians of this generation."

To help the serious researcher or the armchair historian pursue some of the inadequately answered questions, the final three segments in this text offer a sampling of materials to be found in Canadian and American archives and in libraries and collections throughout the United States. Combined with the informative endnotes of the other articles, these references form a mini finder's guide for material relevant to this topic. This feature of the book makes it an excellent choice for use in history courses that take detailed looks at the Lake Erie campaigns.

War on the Great Lakes would make a very worthwhile addition to the shelf of any student of the 1812 War. It certainly has the qualities of the type of text that Pemberton foresaw at the end of his contribution. The articles are informative and written in an accessible manner. The book appears to have been compiled to present a layered approach to the topic; the material is at first informative, then thought-provoking, and finally helpful in pointing the directions in which further inquiries may be made. The editorial efforts of Welsh and Skaggs have produced a laudable addition to the War of 1812 historiography.

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(Robert Malcolmson and his brother, Thomas Malcolmson, are co-authors of HMS Detroit: The Battle for Lake Erie [Naval Institute Press, 1991]).

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The Rough Road to Renaissance: Urban Revitalization in America, 1940-1985
By Jon C. Teaford

Perhaps the most compelling conclusion one can draw from Jon Teaford's brilliant analysis of the revitalization efforts of 12 northeastern American cities is that urbanization is a dynamic and often volatile process. Most students of urban society are aware that Pittsburgh achieved a remarkable rebirth during the 40 year period after World War II, up through the administration of Mayor Richard Caliguiri. Many are also aware of attempts at revitalization in numerous other cities in what is frequently called the "Rust Belt." By comparing the efforts in each of these cities, Teaford has convincingly revealed a number of striking similarities and a few interesting differences.

Many readers of Pittsburgh History are familiar with the stages of Pittsburgh's revitalization. What we have come to know as Renaissance I was dominated by the personalities and leadership of David L. Lawrence and Richard K. Mellon and collaboration between the public and private sectors. Its focus was primarily on the central business district and the civic arena recreation project. Joseph Barr, whom Teaford unflatteringly characterizes — I think incorrectly — as "a goose-stepping, unimaginative devotee of the Democratic Party machine," carried on the work of Lawrence while attempting to deal with the urban unrest of the 1960s. Renaissance I concluded with the election of Mayor or Peter Flaherty in 1970. While Flaherty headed a few projects of his own, his major agenda was to reduce the municipal budget and to eliminate what he saw as the bureaucratic stanglehold that political partisanship and special interest groups had on the city. The immensely popular Flaherty's fiscal conservatism produced what one historian has called "the interim" between the city's first and second redevelopment stages. When Flaherty moved on to the Washington scene in 1976, he was succeeded by City Council President Richard Caliguiri. As mayor, Caliguiri quickly brought an end to the anti-party, anti-business atmosphere in city hall, announcing that the city was ripe for another renaissance. Renaissance II in Pittsburgh continued the central city rebuilding theme started two decades earlier. In addition,