aware that they were Jews. More than a few encountered anti-Semitism. One hears many references to living in poverty (this comes through in the children's games), though some families moved into the middle class and a few became wealthy.

These oral histories, spanning three-quarters of a century, make it possible to spot changes and trends. This is particularly so with regard to religious observances. Virtually all the immigrants brought with them a strict Orthodoxy, but they soon found their religious traditions hard pressed by the demands of work and school. Close contact with Gentiles presented them with obstacles and temptations unknown in the small Jewish communities in Europe. Perhaps the greatest source of stress was the pressure to work on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. As owners of retail stores, they could ill afford to remain closed on the busiest shopping days.

The immigrants and their American-born children were drawn to Conservative and Reform forms of Judaism that made use of English, music, and less restrictive dietary rules. On the other hand, the immigrants quickly reconstituted a set of Jewish communal services (to help the poor and the sick, to provide for the ritual slaughter of meat, etc.) that they had known in Europe. These were efforts to balance the continuity of Jewish culture at the same time as they were adapting to their new land. According to one interviewee, “I want to be remembered by my Jewish identity and as a decent American.”

These histories are salted and peppered with intriguing incidents. One man who was making illegal whiskey during Prohibition was arrested by the federal “Revenuers” and hauled into court, where the mayor and town officials testified for him, declaring “he was a good citizen and it was damn good whiskey!” Much later, in 1948, a man who had fled the pogroms in Russia bought up spare parts of trucks for the Haganah, the underground defense force that was fighting to establish a Jewish state in Palestine.

In short, there is much valuable and interesting material in this book. However, the format chosen by the editors — presenting the interviews in full and without comment — raises several questions. Does this format result in too much repetition? Would it have been helpful to the reader to begin with a broad context for better understanding the experiences of each immigrant? For example, the editors might have presented a description of life in Westmoreland County, as well as a list of the questions that the interviewers posed. By the same token, some interpretation at the end would have been useful. But these are minor concerns that do not outweigh the value of this book in contributing a wealth of raw material on the social history of Western Pennsylvania.

Robert Perlman, Professor Emeritus, Brandeis University. Perlman is the author of *From Shitell to Milltown: Litvaks, Hungarians, and Galizianers in Western Pennsylvania, 1875–1925, and Bridging Three Worlds: Hungarian-Jewish Americans, 1848–1914*, published by HSWP.

*Waiting for Jacob: A Civil War Story*
By Edwin P. Hogan (Latrobe, Pa.: Saint Vincent College Center for Northern Appalachian Studies, 2000). Illustrations, maps, appendices, and index. xxiii + 227 pp. $25 hardcover.

History is defined by those fragile tattered papers preserved through the generations. It is only by collecting these documents and revealing their lost messages that we may continue to illuminate the events that have shaped our past. In Edwin P. Hogan’s *Waiting for Jacob: A Civil War Story*, we are introduced to a small collection of letters that help us understand one of the most important events in our country’s history. Through the experiences and thoughts of Jacob Greenawalt, we discover the hopes and fears of an officer from Western Pennsylvania during the Civil War.

Hogan prefaced his book by recounting how Jacob’s letters survived and how he came to discover them. He tells of Clara Nicholls, the niece of Jacob and Rebecca Greenawalt, who related her remembrances of Jacob’s widow Rebecca. Nicholls recalls how Rebecca kept a black velvet purse tied around her arm her whole life, and after suffering a stroke, would simply stare out the window of her house in West Newton. After Rebecca’s death in 1925, the mysterious black purse came into the possession of Nicholls’ uncle who helped care for Rebecca, and eventually into the hands of Clara. Knowing Hogan’s interest in the Civil War, she contacted him about the contents of the purse, which included the letters written by Jacob to Rebecca while he fought for the Union’s cause during the Civil War.

Jacob Greenawalt was born October 27, 1837, in Sewickley Township. Rebecca was born the following year on the neighboring farm. Their friendship began at an early age; when Jacob left home in 1857 to pursue a law degree, he began writing to Rebecca. The
couple married on April 25, 1860, and shortly after, Jacob was admitted to the Westmoreland County bar. Just a year later, however, the country was at war and Jacob, like so many others, volunteered in Lincoln's army.

Jacob helped Richard "Fighting Dick" Coulter recruit the Westmoreland Guard and mustered into the company on April 24, 1861. He was elected 1st lieutenant of the guard, which became Company I of the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers. The company's first engagement took place that July 2 at Falling Waters and resulted in a slim Union victory against Confederate forces led by the soon-to-be-famous Col. Thomas Jackson. The regiment mustered out of service on July 24, as most recruits only signed on for a 90-day enlistment, and Jacob returned home to Rebecca.

Jacob's stay was short-lived as he helped recruit yet another company; on Sept. 2, he became 1st lieutenant of the Sewickley Infantry, Company E, 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Company E's first engagement took place in May 1862 during General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. The battle of Fair Oaks proved to be the company's trial by fire — the unit lost 30 percent of its strength and Jacob received his first wound of the war when a musket ball passed through his leg, sending him to the field hospital for a month. Hogan uses this episode to incorporate observations on the hardships plaguing the soldier including disease, weather, and the horrors of army hospitals.

Jacob's bravery during the campaign did not go unnoticed and he was promoted to the rank of major on Aug. 20. This promotion sparked another battle, however, this time between Jacob and another officer in the regiment whose seniority he bypassed. Hogan proceeds to describe the political infighting among Union officers and includes letters sent to the governor in support and in opposition to Jacob's promotion. The end result would be Jacob's letter of resignation and its subsequent rejection by Brig. Gen. David Bell Birney.

Hogan continues Jacob's odyssey from the left flank at Fredericksburg to the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg. Hogan provides maps and adequate background into each battle. More importantly, Hogan includes the letters written to Rebecca in which Jacob provides a firsthand account. Hogan also provides insightful commentary into each letter. Jacob's final engagement took place at the battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. Here, Jacob's fourth wound of the war would be a fatal one: he died eight days later in the army field hospital.

Hogan adeptly follows Jacob's story through the Civil War using his letters to Rebecca to guide the reader. He adds primary sources from other soldiers in the regiment to help verify Jacob's statements or to fill in gaps in the narrative. Secondary sources including regimental histories provide further background to the events confronting Jacob. Waiting for Jacob offers an excellent glimpse into the life and times of a Civil War soldier from Western Pennsylvania. The book also leaves the reader with an appreciation for the sacrifice of these soldiers and the loved ones left behind.