round, remarking, "Vell, vell, resurrection morning and I'm the firstun up" ("Heavy drinker fell into grave" p 54).

For under $25, this book is excellent value for money for social historians and folklorists in especial, and for the general reader too.

Gillian Bennett

James McCormick and Macy Wyatt. *Ghosts of the Bluegrass*. 2009. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 208 pages. ISBN: 978-0-8131-9237-6 (paperback).

Georgetown College professors James McCormick and Macy Wyatt, as an assignment to improve interviewing skills, sent out 23 of their students to collect ghost stories from the communities of central Kentucky. The stories, as collected and published verbatim, were compiled and organized into ten major categories. Each of the ten chapters begins with a concise discussion on the specific grouping of the ghost stories while each of the individual stories is accompanied by basic information about the informants: gender, age, and location of teller. The lengths of the stories vary from a few sentences to several paragraphs. Many of the stories are also accompanied by editorial comments regarding local ghosts, motifs, and references to universal supernatural occurrences. "See also" notations frequently appear in the editorial comments as well.

The authors' introduction discusses ghosts and supernatural stories both generally and with specific references to some of the stories in this collection. The authors define the Bluegrass region for people outside of the area and give concise background information on the coursework that initiated the collection of these anecdotes. The first chapter, "Unfinished Business," contains 23 stories, some of which discuss the same ghost while others refer to well-documented supernatural experiences such as "Image at the Window" (pp. 13-14) and a version of a tale from my own repertoire, " Lantern on the Tracks" (pp. 14-15).

Of the seventeen stories in the second chapter, "Disappearing Ghosts," three are examples of the "Vanishing Hitchhiker" tales. There are eighteen entries in the chapter on "Mysterious Events and Haunted Places," forty-two entries for "Presences Sensed by Light, Cold or Sound," and sixteen for "Poltergeists" where stories of The Bell Witch are prominently featured. Chapter Six explores "Communication with the Dead" with eight stories, while the remaining chapters on "Ghosts that Weren't Ghosts," "Ghosts at Educational Institutions," "Death Omens and Superstitions," and "A Collection of Ghost Stories" contain sixty entries under these diverse headings.

The final chapter contains the full rendition of "A ghost story from the Nineteenth Century" regaling the account of supernatural occurrences involving the John Horrell family. This is followed by a bibliography of resources and suggested readings. Throughout the collection there are numerous examples of legend tripping and ostension, as well as black and white photographs of various buildings with ghostly connections in the area.

This is a powerful compilation of reminiscences and oral histories regarding local (and not so local) ghosts past and present from a wide variety of informers of all ages. The oral flavour of the stories bursts from the page, delighting both the ear and the eye, and offering additional delights when revisiting the stories again and again.

Gail de Vos

Edward Steers Jr. *Lincoln Legends: Myths, Hoaxes, and Confabulations Associated with Our Greatest President*. Introduction by Harold Holzer. 2007. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. 264 pages. ISBN 978-0-8131-2466-7 (hardback); ISBN 978-0-8131-9241-3 (paperback).

Early in the second half of the twentieth century, living in three different towns within two hundred miles of Lincoln's tomb, I spent 13 of the first 15 years of my life awash in Lincoln legendry. Much of that legendry was institutional and media-supported: tourists