series. A grossly inadequate bibliography, an outline of Afro-
American history, a heterogeneous list of organizations, a
very good statistical section, and several other collections of
information are included.

*The American Indian, 1492-1976* has 118 pages of chrono-
logy. The appendixes include Indian publications, organiza-
tions, lists of prominent Indians past and contemporary, and
a short bibliography almost entirely limited to historical
studies. The lists have been considerably expanded from the
1971 edition, though without much updating of previous
entries.

Information about prominent Russian-Americans in
many fields is woven into the thirty-one page chronology of
*The Russians in America, 1727-1975*. The documents section,
which makes up most of the book, contains largely extracts
from a variety of articles. A short bibliography is followed
by lists of organizations, periodicals, and schools offering
courses in Russian studies. The Russian alphabet and a few
Russian proverbs are also thrown in.

*The Chicanos in America, 1540-1974*, which is in painful
need of proof reading, has only twenty-one pages of chrono-
logy. Only the year is usually given, and many of the entries
are so amorphous (or so cryptic) that even to specify a year
is cutting it a bit fine. But exact dates could be given far
more often than they are. There is no outline history, no list
of organizations or of individuals. The documents section
makes up the rest of the book, except for the bibliography.
It includes seven articles, most taken from United States
government publications, and a few assorted statements. The
bibliography, however, is relatively good.

The uneven quality of these volumes makes it difficult
to select from the series with any confidence. The Chicano
volume is a notable disappointment. The volumes on blacks
and Indians are probably useful although the updating is
skimpy. The Russian volume is well done but by its nature
of more limited usefulness. The series is a good idea which
could have been well executed with a little more editorial
attention.

*Indiana University, Bloomington* Nancy C. Cridland

*Three Generations in Twentieth Century America: Family,
Community, and Nation.* By John G. Clark, David M.
The authors of this unusual textbook attempt to show how "urbanization, industrialization, expansion, bureaucratization, and their effects upon family structure, occupations, social stratification, and demographic patterns . . . [affected] the lives of three previous generations of American families existing in various socioeconomic-geographic situations" (p. ix). To do this they "sought out a number of families and reconstructed their lives from 1900 to 1975." The families chosen, although "not statistically typical . . . comprised a rough cross-section of the population in 1900 and . . . continue to reflect this relative balance while also evoking many of the changes that have occurred since 1900" (pp. ix-x).

This textbook should be especially interesting to Hoosiers because it includes two Vanderburgh County families and provides some valuable insights into southwestern Indiana history. It also illustrates the new social history approach—i.e., history from the "bottom up." The authors declare that they will describe American history which was "directly relevant to the lives of 'our' families," analyze "the quality of life for these families," and place "their lifestyles in the context of social and cultural trends" (pp. x-xi).

Problems of methodology and conception, however, prevent the attainment of these goals. For example, the criteria for selection and analysis of families are vague. Of the thirteen families cited, some (the Japanese-American Kuriharas) are treated cursorily; others are in effect dropped after World War II (the Irish-American O'Reillys); and still others (the Hispanic-American Navas and Martinezes) appear only after World War II. The names of all the families cited, moreover, are fictitious. This practice makes analysis of the evidence impossible. There are also no footnotes.

In addition to the use of fictitious names, factual errors tend to cast doubt upon the reliability of the evidence. For example, the Evansville Täglicher Demokrat was forced to close in April, 1918, not May, 1917; its demise was in part the work of a German-American mayor (p. 128). Evansville's congressman after World War II was Winfield, not William, Denton (p. 435). The impact of Bendix-Westinghouse upon Evansville's recovery in the 1960s was negligible (p. 486). Jimmy Carter does not have a Ph.D. (p. 429), and local bi-
centennial committees did not have the luxury of being forced to look for ways to spend federal funds (p. 430).

More serious are the conceptual limitations revealed by the assertion that these families were selected “principally to illustrate and explain various themes of our study” and that “countless other families would reveal as much ...” (p. x). Instead of including more “typical” families—e.g., southern Italians and potato famine refugees from Ireland—the authors chose descendants of a skilled worker from northern Italy and of an Irish immigrant of 1892. Why a German Catholic family which settled in southwest Indiana was not selected is also questionable. The assumptions, or themes, moreover, are dubious. For instance, is there something pernicious about the view that private property and home ownership promote good citizenship (p. 73)? Should Americans find the ideal of legal equality and the existence of social inequality irreconcilable (pp. 103, 503)? Had Americans learned by 1975 that “they were tied to one another by unbreakable bonds” (p. 503)?

The most obvious theme is that only one family “ever enjoyed real power. Though most had entered the middle class by the 1950's, none had achieved complete economic security. They were aware that they had little access to the centers of power ... . But they accepted passively the right and superior wisdom of a small, self-perpetuating elite ...” (pp. 502-503). More careful selection of families and more attention to the structure of elites would have weakened this assertion considerably. For example, Evansville's poor of 1900, the German Catholics, wielded substantial power by 1975. Both candidates for mayor in 1971 and 1975, moreover, were Roman Catholic. Such a situation would have been unthinkable in 1900. It is also doubtful that “complete economic security” existed anywhere in the America of 1975.

The new social history is essential, and family history is a useful teaching tool. The scholarship of this textbook, however, leaves much to be desired. Whether it will interest students in history remains to be seen.

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Two Centuries of American Agriculture is the sixth in a series of anthologies published by the Agricultural History