

This reviewer confesses an inability to make a content summary in allotted space. The book contains loosely connected pieces valuable to both professional and lay audiences, showing American alienation from the later British colonial practices, inconclusive western fighting, and the shifting postwar settlement to 1787. How the West influenced its destiny is debated still. This anthology does show that the grand systematizing writers of the quantitative, ethnic, feminist, or psychohistorical persuasions have not taken over Old Northwest history. Remarks about lack of pertinent secondary literature are puzzling given the extensive bibliography. The original articles show that some primary matter is yet unused.

In sum, experience teaching undergraduates and putting regional books into lay hands raises doubts that many will read through this challenging compilation uncoerced. Confronted by the specialized and diffuse, most will continue opting for fiction, television, or drink, all for under \$21.50. If so, American and regional history—pronounced of declining influence in a falsely pragmatic and determinedly sensate society with weakening local bands, but continuing to ignore the need for clear public statements of their purpose and substance—will lose another skirmish.

Milwaukee, Wis.

Paul Woehrmann

Finding the Grain: Pioneer Journals, Franconian Folktales, Ancestral Poems. By Norbert Krapf. (Jasper, Ind.: Dubois County Historical Society and Herald Printing, Inc., 1977. Pp. 120. Illustrations, maps. Paperbound, \$4.00.)

Here is a random collection of material that for the most part has merit, but in this particular arrangement does not quite work together. Norbert Krapf's title is clever and well chosen, but the three distinct and only vaguely related sections of the book do not form the strong whole that the title suggests.

Part I, containing pioneer journals, is a valuable collection of the writings of John L. Betz, August Betz, and Herman Philipp Gerdemann, plus a letter from Christian Dupps to his wife. All these people were part of the hardy German transplantation in Dubois County, Indiana, during the middle years of the nineteenth century. Some of the journal entries were made in the old country and give explicit dates of important family events. This material will be invaluable to genealogists. Gerdemann's journal is particularly interesting for its accounts of his ocean voyage and his trek across the American continent to Cincinnati.

It is in Part II where this reviewer feels the author went astray. Part II is merely a collection of German fairy tales which Krapf has copied from volumes he picked up while traveling in Germany searching his family roots. He gives their texts in both English and German, but readers find no assurance, or even a suggestion, that any of these tales were ever told in Dubois County, or that the Dubois County settlers came here with any knowledge of them. This space might have been used to much better advantage by including here a collection of the old yarns and stories that were told in front of the Dubois County firesides. There must be many of these anecdotes still being passed around among the descendants of those first families.

Part III includes a superb collection of seventeen original poems by Krapf, inspired by his growing up years in Dubois County. He makes use of such mundane and unpoetic subjects as skinning a rabbit and butchering hogs. Some of his imagery is a bit explicit but nonetheless provides an excellent contemporary touch to conclude the volume. Krapf is a better poet than historian. For instance, on page twenty-nine he asks: "And where is Springelsburg, the town where the previous owner of his land lived?" Almost every southern Indiana historian knows that Sprinkelsburg was the old name for what is now Newburgh in the adjoining county, Warrick.

On the back cover of the volume is the Dubois County Historical Society's comment: "Hopefully, more pioneer journals and letters will surface as a result of this book. . . ." Many readers will devoutly wish that this will come to pass and also that Krapf will make available more of his fine poetry.

Evansville, Ind.

Kenneth P. McCutchan

Folk Songs out of Wisconsin. Edited by Harry B. Peters. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977. Pp. 311. Illustrations, index to song titles. Paperbound, \$6.95.)

During the 1920s and 1930s virtually no home in midwestern America—and perhaps in the entire United States—which had a piano in its parlor lacked an ubiquitous sing-along book called *Twice 55*. So close in spirit to that collection is *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin* that it is difficult to imagine that there is not at least an indirect connection between the two books. And, indeed, there probably is, for the songs that are printed in *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin* were collected in that state from the early 1920s through the late 1940s by Franz Rickaby,