

simplified by an exhaustive calendar, it, like the autobiography, is one-sided, and events are seen only through Wallace's eyes. The danger of overuse of such sources is obvious. A flagrant example concerns the battle of Shiloh in April, 1862. The authors use the autobiography to substantiate Wallace's forty-year claim that he was the scapegoat for U.S. Grant's failure. The episode is by no means as free of debate as the Morsbergers, with their limited source material, imply. Knowing how Shiloh haunted Wallace until the end of his life, they should have been more cautious in accepting his views on the subject.

Despite these criticisms, the book has strong points. It is well organized and very readable. Although the work is arranged topically, one has little trouble following Wallace's myriad and often overlapping activities. When dealing with his governorship of New Mexico, for example, the authors manage to treat Wallace's writing of *Ben Hur*, a large portion of which was done in Sante Fe, without letting that topic interfere with discussion of his territorial rule. *Ben Hur* is saved for the next chapter, where the emphasis shifts from the military and politics to literature. In addition, the authors give excellent critical analyses of Wallace's writings. Finally, although the book is inadequately documented, a check of the sources shows it to be substantially correct in fact and interpretation. In short, this biography, flawed as it is, is an improvement on McKee and more reliable than Wallace's autobiography.

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The Road Taken. By Lee Norvelle. (Bloomington: Indiana University Foundation, 1980. Pp. 349. Illustrations, index. \$10.00.)

The first half of Lee Norvelle's autobiography tells the remarkable story of a northern Kentucky farm kid who resumed grade school at age nineteen—after spending years at home helping his parents farm—and with considerable effort and much help from a number of teachers at Asbury College, Taylor University, and Indiana University (Bloomington), finished his B.A. degree in psychology ten years later. Today's reader must marvel at Norvelle's persistence and willingness to work at a variety of hard jobs in those harder times in order to get the education he sought as a foundation for teaching speech, coaching debate, and producing theater.

The second half of the book is devoted primarily to Norvelle's struggle to establish theater as a legitimate academic field at Indiana University, which now is the home of one of the country's finest university theater programs, largely because of Norvelle's persistence as he fought conservative administrators each step along the way.

This part of Norvelle's story is disappointing, though. We get too much detail about petty bureaucratic squabbles, too many amusing little anecdotes; nowhere are the author's views on theater discussed. For forty years Norvelle was a pioneer in American educational theater. But readers look in vain in this memoir for his views on his life's work, his field, his causes. Why was he so dedicated to university theater? What sorts of theater did he especially love? What did he learn about directing and teaching that he might have passed along to us?

And his publisher should hire an editor; nearly every page contains an ungrammatical construction, a misspelling, a punctuation error, or a typo.

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Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949. By Charles B. Hosmer, Jr. Two volumes. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, for the Preservation Press of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, 1981. Pp. xiii, 1291. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Set, \$37.50.)

Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., states modestly in his introduction to *Preservation Comes of Age* that in this work "there has been an attempt to touch much more than the surface of the story" (p. 8). There can be little doubt of his success in "getting beneath the surface" in chronicling the historic preservation movement during its adolescent years. In this immense opus, which required over fifteen years of research, Hosmer provides a satisfying account of nearly all of preservation's many facets during the second quarter of the twentieth century.

The book begins with John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg, probably the period's single most influential private preservation project, and then describes other towns and villages "assembled" by philanthropists interested in history: Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, Stephen Clark's Farmer's Museum at Cooperstown, New York, and Albert Wells's Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. At the