

such as home ownership, higher education, and care for the aged. Sex role distinctions have softened, affecting adults and the treatment of children. The percentage of women employed outside the home has doubled, although they still bear the principal burden of housework. Parent-child conflict appears no greater and kinship ties seem stronger than in the Lynds's time. Despite talk of sexual revolution, Middletown III questions its extent. Premarital sexual experience is common but limited and unconventional relationships rare. The quality of marriage has improved substantially in Muncie during the past half century, Middletown III concludes. Family life is happy and fulfilling for most, while the acceptability of divorce and remarriage offers hope to the exceptions.

This return to Middletown may disappoint some readers. Middletown III lacks the Lynds's rich descriptive detail and their tight focus on Muncie. It attempts to answer several questions with information from other communities rather than obtaining fresh data about Muncie. At least one chapter, a discussion of holidays, relates to neither Muncie nor any other specific community. The Lynds's great achievement was to present a full, rounded portrait of one community, eschewing national generalizations. The Middletown III project will enhance its already considerable contribution if its remaining volumes more closely follow their remarkable example.

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On the Illinois Frontier: Dr. Hiram Rutherford, 1840-1848.

Edited by Willene Hendrick and George Hendrick. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1981. Pp. xxv, 155. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$19.95.)

Hiram Rutherford, a mid-nineteenth-century Illinois physician, gained prominence as an abolitionist rather than as a doctor. He is best remembered as a participant in the Matson slave case, a controversial trial in which Abraham Lincoln defended a slaveowner. Editors Willene Hendrick and George Hendrick present in this slender volume Rutherford's letters and writings as well as their own interpretation of his role in the Matson slave case. The editors' intention is not to present a complete biography of Rutherford, but to illustrate "vivid and illuminating fragments of his life and times in Illinois" (p. 143).

On the Illinois Frontier is divided into three sections. The first contains all of Rutherford's extant correspondence from

1840 to 1848. Most of the letters were written by Rutherford to John Bowman, a Pennsylvania merchant. Rutherford's purpose in writing Bowman was to convince him to emigrate to Illinois so he could marry Bowman's sister. The second section consists of articles by Rutherford about life in early Illinois, written in 1877 for a local newspaper. The editors justly claim these articles are "notable for their sense of time and place, for their humor, for their characterizations, and for the picture they give of an educated physician observing the people and events of a newly settled area" (p. 70). While most reminiscences are notorious for their praise of a town's first settlers, Rutherford's articles are remarkably candid. These articles, as well as Rutherford's letters, appear well edited and are adequately annotated.

The final section of the book details Rutherford's involvement in the Matson slave case. Although their account is informative, the editors have ignored important primary sources in reconstructing the events of the case. Considering its brevity, inclusion of this section in the introduction would have been more appropriate.

The editors succeed in presenting interesting facets of Rutherford's early life, but they have perhaps misunderstood the significance of his writings. The introduction emphasizes Rutherford's medical training and the general practice of medicine in the period. Not only is their introduction inadequately researched, it is inappropriate to the documents presented. The major portion of Rutherford's correspondence and articles pertain to the citizens, institutions, trades, and industry of Illinois. Rutherford's account books and medical school lecture notes, while utilized, are not fully exploited. Rutherford's letters and articles are only tangentially important to the medical historian.

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Frontierswomen: The Iowa Experience. By Glenda Riley. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1981. Pp. xv, 211. Map, illustrations, tables, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$18.95.)

Unlike most political and economic historians, earlier generations of frontier historians did not ignore women. But the women they included are not the stuff of common humanity. Based on Hamlin Garland or Ole Rølvaag, these portraits showed women either crushed or sanctified by the frontier.