the 1930s. Robert P. Letcher's fiddle playing harmonizes with Chandler's singing, and James Garrard's whiskey distillery juxtaposes interestingly with James D. Black's prohibition crusade. Also notable are the large number of related chief executives and the inordinate time consumed by election campaigns.

Any collection of essays has problems, and this one is no exception. The jarring effect of several prose styles is a minor weakness. More serious is the tunnel vision revealed in some biographies; occasionally governors lack comparative reference to predecessors and successors. One myopic example claims that "little else was going on in the commonwealth" in 1825 beyond a judicial squabble in Frankfort (p. 27). The book's format requires excessive repetition because many biographies overlap. The four governors who served two separate, divided terms create another unavoidable problem. Both administrations for these men are combined, which is biographically appropriate, but chronologically disruptive.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that "there is properly no history; only biography," an exaggeration of course. This book is good evidence, nevertheless, of how successfully Kentucky history comes alive through its governors. Other states should be blessed with a comparable compendium of gubernatorial history.

George T. Blakey
Richmond


When completed this work will become a landmark in the study of American dialects. From its founding a century ago the American Dialect Society made a dictionary a prime objective. The project took concrete form under Frederic G. Cassidy in the 1960s and with the help of government agencies, foundations, and numerous volunteers is now reaching publication. The work uses source materials assembled by many scholars, but the core of the research consists of interviews conducted with 2,777 informants in 1,002 communities nationwide. Ingenious computer-generated maps display the regional variations of specific words. While not as exquisitely detailed as traditional linguistic atlases, the maps add to the basis for understanding American language development. This first volume readily provides proof of its worth as a standard reference for linguists, historians, and students of American folk culture, but the ordinary lay reader
may also find much to enlighten and to divert. The elaborate scholarly apparatus is fairly easily penetrated with the aid of the lengthy introduction, which discusses the problems, sources, and methods of dialect study.

“American Regional English” is perhaps too limiting a description. There are general Americanisms here, and words that derive from class, ethnic, and occupational origins. The reader quickly becomes aware that the nation’s language expresses its history as well as its geography. For example, American Marines earlier in this century returned from the Philippines speaking of the boondocks (backcountry areas). Later, other United States soldiers would return from Korea with the expression bug out (to retreat in haste). Other historical origins are less clear, and the reader is left to ponder them. Why should people in the upper Midwest call a jelly-filled sweet roll a Bismarck (and what would the Iron Chancellor think)? Why should a hapless beetle be dubbed in different regions box elder bug, Canadian soldier, democrat bug, McKinley bug, and Populist bug?

The word-maps certainly confirm Indiana’s place as a crossroads of dialect (and culture) streams. Here babies may comfortably ride in either an eastern carriage or a western buggy. Indiana farmers of northern background may go out at chore time and husk corn before calling “so-boss” to get the cows in; their southern neighbors will shuck their corn at feeding time and call “sook-cow.”

Entries include quotations illustrating the historical use of words. Rustic backwoods southerners have been called crackers at least since 1766. Southern backwoodsmen who arrived in the Ohio Valley as early as 1823 found themselves called buckeyes. As for the latest word on hoosiers, one must await (and eagerly) forthcoming volumes of this set.

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Anthony Wayne was a capable if second-rank American general who won fame as the victor at the battles of Stony Point (1779) and Fallen Timbers (1794). Wayne’s historical reputation, however, has long been dogged by the nickname of “Mad Anthony” given him by Continental soldiers in 1781. Paul David Nelson’s major goal in this solid biography is to correct the