

haustible; yet, as greater perspective has been gained over the years on the New Deal at the federal level, historians have turned to an examination of its state and regional impact. In his *Hard Times and New Deal in Kentucky, 1929-1939* George T. Blakey of Indiana University East has provided a valuable contribution to the state studies. Buttressed by impressive research in a variety of primary and secondary materials, Blakey has written a competent, straightforward account of the impact of the depression and the New Deal on Kentucky. He has generally succeeded in producing a well-written and enlightening narrative and in giving his readers a good introduction to the subject. The book is competently edited and well designed; it is enhanced by excellent photographs.

After a brief introduction Blakey presents in the first chapter an overview of the depression in Kentucky. This chapter is followed by six others that discuss the impact of the New Deal in such areas as banking, relief and public works, youth, agriculture, industry, and politics. A brief concluding chapter attempts a survey of the New Deal legacy in the state.

Blakey makes a valiant effort to discuss the human impact of the New Deal while analyzing the economic data; nevertheless, at times the reader is numbed by facts and figures. The chapter on Kentucky youth and the New Deal is the most successful in maintaining a balance between analysis and human interest. At times the author seems to spend too much time discussing the New Deal in general before bringing the narrative down to the state level. The chapter on state politics during the New Deal, perhaps the best in the book, might well have been the second chapter instead of the seventh in order to provide the reader with the political context of events at the outset. Some efforts at analyzing the economic impact by county or area within the state might have helped readers understand the data more clearly.

Reviewers should resist the temptation to criticize authors merely because they have not written their books as the reviewers themselves would have written them. The fact is that, the above reservations aside, Blakey has written a good book that is a significant contribution to twentieth-century Kentucky historiography.

The Filson Club, Louisville

Nelson L. Dawson

A History of Industrial Power in the United States, 1780-1930. Volume II, Steam Power. By Louis C. Hunter. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, for the Hagley Museum and Library, 1985. Pp. xxii, 732. Notes, figures, illustrations, tables, maps, graphs, appendixes, index. \$50.00.)

The death of Louis C. Hunter brought his projected trilogy on the history of industrial power in the United States to premature end with this, the second volume. The first volume, *Water Power*

(1979), was widely hailed as the master work of a mature scholar. Similar words can, and doubtless will, be applied to the volume under review here.

Hunter's scholarly cachet, exhaustive research in a wide variety of primary sources imaginatively synthesized with a dazzling range of secondary sources, is evident here. *Steam Power* is the culmination of a lifetime of research and reflection; together with *Water Power* it will form a lasting monument to the achievement of a great scholar.

The breadth of Hunter's topic poses tremendous problems not only for research but for presentation as well. The development and maturation of steam power in a variety of industries over a century and a half involves many individuals, several types of engines, and a multitude of technical problems. Hunter chose a thematic approach with ten chapters each dealing with a specific topic. Given the complexity of the subject, this is a logical and appropriate solution. While the first chapter, "The Beginning of Steam Power in the United States," serves reasonably well as an introduction to the book, there is no attempt to pull the various subjects discussed together in a synthetic conclusion. Such an essay would have been very useful, given the richness of Hunter's research. Similarly, some explicit linkage of this volume with that on water power and the projected third on electrical power would have been desirable. These essays, of course, may have been planned since for all the richness of the scholarship displayed in the two volumes they are only part of the work he projected. The separate chapters are excellent, richly embroidered essays by a mature scholar reflecting the insights of a lifetime.

Praise is due to the University Press of Virginia and the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation for publishing the book in such a magnificent form. The history of technology requires illustration, and this volume is amply illustrated with period engravings that complement the text beautifully and add to the book's power. Both organizations deserve thanks for a job well done. Their care and commitment to publish this work in its present form has given readers a great scholarly work that is also a beautiful book.

*Clarke Historical Library,
Central Michigan University,
Mount Pleasant*

William H. Mulligan, Jr.

President Washington's Indian War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1790-1795. By Wiley Sword. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. Pp. xv, 400. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95.)

The title of this work is promotional flim-flam, but the subtitle is accurate except that the author rambles through nine chap-