Grady McWhiney and Forrest McDonald. Keller maintains that the Scotch-Irish had been assimilated into a dominant Anglo-American culture by the turn of the nineteenth century. MacMaster argues that there was no ethnic basis to the cattle breeding business of western Virginia. The cattle traders were not "Celtic herdsmen" but innovative, profit-oriented businessmen. Blethen and Wood trace the career of one Scotch-Irish Carolina merchant, James Patton. There are essays on Germans in Frederick County, Maryland, by Elizabeth A. Kessel, land policy and its effect on the settlement of the northern Shenandoah Valley by Warren R. Hofstra, politics in Appalachian Virginia by Van Beck Hall, the cooperation between the New England settlers at Marietta and earlier residents by Andrew R. L. Cayton, and the construction of log houses in eastern Tennessee by John Morgan. The book closes with three essays, two focusing on Kentucky, which attempt to explain the economic development of the region. Tyrel G. Moore argues that eastern Kentucky was not an agrarian region invaded by foreign industry after the Civil War but possessed industry in the antebellum era. Mary Beth Pudup and Paul Salstrom provide fine articles on class and economic development and the relation between agriculture and economic dependency.

The book has a few proofreading errors which would not be worth noting except that large pieces of transposed text render three pages of Pudup's article on southeast Kentucky unintelligible.

On the whole, this is a worthwhile collection of essays of interest to those concerned with a variety of issues in Appalachian social, economic, and political history.

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Fertility Change on the American Frontier: Adaptation and Innovation. By Lee L. Bean, Geraldine P. Mineau, and Douglas L. Anderton. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990. Pp. xiii, 295. Figures, tables, appendix, notes, references, index. $40.00.)

As its title indicates, this book addresses two basic questions: first, what impact did the frontier have on fertility and, second, which concept best explains the decline of fertility—adaptation (modification of fertility behavior to fit changing conditions) or innovation (adoption of the small family as a new social norm among urban middle classes and diffusion of that norm to lower classes and rural areas).

Analyzing the extensive Utah family genealogies housed in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the authors conclude

that fertility on the frontier increased to levels not entirely explained by women marrying at younger ages and that married women migrating to the frontier, despite marrying at later ages, bore as many children as Utah-born women by persisting in childbearing to older ages. In addition, the authors argue that adaptation was responsible for the subsequent transition to smaller families.

The authors' individual-level data covering more than a century and their analytical methods provide a consummate picture of initial fertility increase on the Utah frontier and subsequent decline as settlement progressed. The degree to which the conclusions apply to other frontier populations is less clear. Earlier marriage on other frontiers was an important factor in high fertility, but in Utah, although not recognized by these authors, the practice of polygamy suppressed women's average marriage age by creating a high demand for wives. Moreover, Mormons' pro-family and millennialist beliefs encouraged a high birth rate. Utah patterns of fertility may perhaps be similar to those elsewhere, but explanations for those patterns may differ.

Nor may the authors' rejection of innovation as an explanation of fertility decline be regarded as conclusive, because they make only rudimentary urban-rural, not socioeconomic, distinctions. Consequently, whether lower fertility emerged early among Utahan nonagricultural families and town dwellers, as it did on the Indiana frontier, remains unknown. Nevertheless, Utahans' taking various paths to limited fertility—older ages at marriage, longer intervals between children, and/or cessation of childbirth at earlier ages—mirrored the diverse means of fertility decline among residents of the northern states in 1860. It is, however, uncertain whether this similarity points to adaptation or to alternate strategies for achieving the new social norm of a small family.

Changing patterns of Utah fertility may be similar to those elsewhere in the United States, but to determine that, further research is needed. This book serves as both a challenge and, in general, a model for such research.

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Western Rivermen. 1763–1861: Ohio and Mississippi Boatmen and the Myth of the Alligator Horse. By Michael Allen. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990. Pp. xiii, 261. Notes, maps, illustrations, appendix, bibliographical essay, index. $25.00.)

After earning his masters degree and before entering his doctoral program, Michael Allen worked as a towboat deckhand and