

nature. As one eyewitness declares, "No matter how many people you talk to, you get a different story, because everybody saw it from where they were" (p. 59). Thus *The Tri-State Tornado*, using vivid eyewitness accounts, has made a meaningful contribution to folklore and popular culture through the convenient collection of the many personal stories it reports.

DONALD T. ZIMMER is professor of history, Tri-State University, Angola, Indiana. At present he is working on an up-date of his history of Rush County, Indiana, and an article on the architecture of antebellum Madison, Indiana.

Our Kentucky: A Study of the Bluegrass State. Edited by James C. Klotter. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992. Pp. viii, 350. Maps, illustrations, tables, figures, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$29.00.)

Aimed at tenth and twelfth grade students, this work originated in the efforts of a group of high school teachers to obtain a suitable textbook for Kentucky Studies courses. The Kentucky Humanities Council provided funds to determine how best to approach the creation of such a text. The Kentucky Historical Society gave staff and logistical aid. A committee of nine teachers determined the format of the text, which emphasizes a topical approach, and contacted possible authors. The Kentucky Bicentennial Commission made this their primary educational project. The Ashland Oil Foundation provided funding for publication.

James C. Klotter, state historian and director of the Kentucky Historical Society, edited this volume, which comprises nineteen essays. Most were written by historians and focus on aspects of Kentucky history. These begin appropriately with geography and prehistory and conclude with thoughtful pieces on education and the future of the commonwealth. Essays on government and politics, religion, the performing arts, literature, and architecture are also included. Ample and well-placed maps, drawings, photographs, and tables make this textbook visually appealing. A distinctive feature is a selection of seventeen essays written by high school students on such subjects as the logging boom in the early twentieth century and the impact of illiteracy on the state.

Our Kentucky is an impressive text. It offers no sugar-coated approach, as essays on race relations by George Wright and violence by Robert Ireland, among others, attest. The concluding chapters offer frank insights into a state with a tradition of educational mediocrity and an economy that has been excessively dependent on coal, horseracing, and tobacco—all of which face uncertain futures. The work also attempts to place Kentucky's development in a national context while describing what makes the state distinctive (*e.g.*, Kentucky's tradition of violence and its appeal, as a "place-bound state," to present and former residents).

One might complain that some subjects, such as economics and war, might have been better treated within a chronological framework and that others (for example, the New Deal) need more attention. Those who are responsible for *Our Kentucky* are, however, to be commended for their effort. The youth of the commonwealth will benefit enormously from their endeavors. Indiana leaders might also look at this as a model for a much-needed work on the Hoosier state for secondary school students.

DARREL E. BIGHAM is professor of history and director of the Historic Southern Indiana Project, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville. He is also chairperson of the History Education Committee of the Indiana Association of Historians and is working on a history of Evansville, 1913–1963.

Selected Papers from the 1989 and 1990 George Rogers Clark Trans-Appalachian Frontier History Conferences. Edited by Robert J. Holden. (Vincennes, Ind.: Eastern National Park & Monument Association and Vincennes University, 1991. Pp. iv, 134. Illustrations, notes, tables. Paperbound, \$4.95, plus \$1.50 postage. Order from George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, 401 S. Second Street, Vincennes, IN 47591.)

Regional history conferences offer an important outlet for new historical research. Scholars should therefore be grateful that the Eastern National Park and Monument Association has joined Vincennes University in publishing this set of selected conference papers.

Three of the papers deal with the creation, provisioning, and impact of frontier forts. William L. Otten, Jr., assesses the reasons for the construction of the first Fort Knox in Vincennes, Indiana. His article would have been strengthened by a greater discussion of the fort's impact. Kenneth C. Carstens carefully evaluates the munitions sent to Fort Jefferson near the mouth of the Ohio and concludes that either George Rogers Clark's men carried substantial extra munitions with them or that they were limited to an inadequate sixty-four rounds per man. James E. Westerheider offers an excellent description of Fort Washington near Cincinnati. He concisely discusses the fort's construction, its role in Indian wars, and the daily lives of officers and soldiers.

Three papers review Native American topics. William L. Anderson offers brief sketches of Scots and Irishmen who played a role in Indian affairs but does not discuss the general ethnic origins of frontiersmen, the degree to which officials, soldiers, or traders of English origins played a role on the frontier, or ways in which the origins of Scots and Irishmen had any real impact upon colonial-Indian relations. He also errs in describing Sir William Johnson's birthplace. Robert G. Gunderson's very perceptive essay assesses disease and alcoholism among Ohio Valley Native Amer-