

Looking at History: Indiana's Hoosier National Forest Region, 1600 to 1950. By Ellen Sieber and Cheryl Ann Munson. ([Washington, D.C.]: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1992. Pp. 131. Illustrations, maps, figures, tables, notes. Paperbound. Free upon request from Wayne-Hoosier National Forest, 811 Constitution Ave., Bedford, IN 47421.)

Looking at History is a broad, short, social history of Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, and Perry counties—the nine counties that contain the Hoosier National Forest. It is a companion volume to *Looking at Prehistory*, a book covering the same area of Indiana from 12,000 B.C. until roughly 1600 A.D. The book is designed both to inform the public about the past and to stimulate interest in historic preservation.

The work is divided into three sections corresponding to three historical periods and a short concluding section on how the book's readers can become involved in identifying and preserving historical sites and artifacts. After a brief summary of the geography, flora, and fauna of the region, the authors describe the location and material culture of the area's Indian tribes and their interactions with whites during 1600–1800, the period before white settlement took place.

The second period from 1800 to 1850 was the region's pioneer era. The authors describe settlement patterns, building designs and other material culture items, the economy, and everyday life. The focus of this section is on the upland southern whites who predominated among the early settlers, but some attention is also given to the significant German immigrant and black southern migrant populations.

The third section of the book covers the period from 1850 to 1950. The authors attempt to chronicle the changes that took place in the region as it was brought into ever more contact with the outside world. The changes they describe came very slowly: agriculture remained largely unmechanized until the 1940s; few industries besides the limestone quarries and Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center located in the area; and the region's towns remained small. The authors tend to meander a bit in this section rather than rigorously detailing how the various patterns described in the earlier period changed. For example, they fail to describe the region's population during the twentieth century and how it did or did not change with the advent of the quarries and other alterations in the economy.

Although the authors want their work to be a broad social history, it is obvious that their overriding interest is in material culture and historic preservation. The authors seem quite knowl-

edgeable of and at home with books and articles on material culture. They appear much less conversant with many standard secondary and written primary historical sources.

The book is useful as a primer on the material culture of southern Indiana, but not as a short social history of the region.

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The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of the Civil War. By Bruce Levine. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992. Pp. xiv, 378. Tables, figure, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

In this attractive volume Bruce Levine presents a well-researched and highly detailed study of the German-American community during the sectional crisis which ended in the American Civil War. German immigrants represented a sizeable proportion of the large-scale migration entering the United States in the late 1840s into the critical decade of the 1850s. Historians have long contemplated what role this impressive immigrant population played in the economic and political conflict of the antebellum era, especially in the rise of Republican power. Levine's work contributes tantalizing new details about this and other long-debated questions.

After a careful overview of the social and economic factors spurring immigration from Germany, Levine reconstructs the place German immigrants took in American society. Although much previous scholarship has focused on the liberal intellectuals of the Forty-Eighter generation, Levine's attention is devoted most of all to those of more plebian origins, whose politics could be somewhat more radical. He devotes special emphasis to the German craft workers, particularly their labor concerns and organizations. As his subtitle indicates, the author develops how the often clashing economic interests among laborers, craftsmen, and proprietors affected the political conflict of the antebellum era.

Levine's careful research provides essential new information about the critical role German-Americans played in the political crisis of the 1850s. Although his methodology does not necessarily produce more specific knowledge about German-American voting patterns, his analysis does verify his thesis that the German community was divided on the eve of the Civil War. Beyond the traditional conflict between the immigrants of the 1830s (the *Dreissiger* immigration) and the Forty-Eighter generation, Levine demonstrates quite effectively how the opposing viewpoints of the work-