

Fish and a new management team compete with Durant and Henry Ford.

The Studebaker traditions were not forgotten. Albert R. Erskine, who ran the company in the 1920s, invoked the Studebaker name as a symbol and as a memory of good will and good labor relations. The Great Depression devastated Studebaker, and the company went into receivership; when Paul G. Hoffman and Harold Vance took over and made Studebaker profitable again, they used the company tradition of good employer-employee relations to deal effectively with the automobile unions.

Studebaker, as Critchlow shows, flourished during World War II but fell into decline in the 1950s. The company failed to modernize and lost its market share to the Big Three—Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler. Studebaker merged with Packard in 1954, but this only delayed the inevitable. The company shut down in 1963, one of the last of the independent automakers.

Critchlow's book is a useful history of an important American company. The history of Studebaker provides a useful look at why it is so hard for successful entrepreneurs to perpetuate their success from generation to generation and new technology to newer technology.

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The Ohio Frontier: Crucible of the Old Northwest, 1720–1830. By R. Douglas Hurt. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. Pp. xv, 418. Maps, illustrations, bibliographical essay, index. \$35.00.)

The proliferation of research on early Ohio during the past two decades has prompted several scholarly reassessments of the role of the state in the development of the Old Northwest and the trans-Appalachian frontier generally. These works have explored such issues as cultural interchanges, the contest for empire, republicanism, and the market economy. While touching on similar themes, *The Ohio Frontier* occupies a slightly different niche in this genre. It is intended to be a popular account and is based almost entirely on recent secondary works. It thus does not include footnotes, but readers can find the references in an excellent and comprehensive bibliographical essay.

The first five chapters grapple with the relations among the native inhabitants of the Ohio country, the French, the British, and the Americans before 1795. Hurt sees the well-known episodes of the early frontier as a series of complex accommodations among natives and Europeans in their mutual struggle for control. It is gratifying to find this more recent interpretation in a popular account, but some

readers may still be left with the uncomfortable impression that all that mattered in the end was Anthony Wayne's triumph at Fallen Timbers and the 1795 Treaty of Greenville that opened much of Ohio to American settlement.

The American occupation of Ohio is covered in the next five chapters, which include accounts of surveying, the founding of selected towns, farm practices and products, merchant trade, and religion, all based closely on familiar recent scholarship. The separate sections are generally interesting and lively, but analysis that might forge useful links and integrate them into a single smoothly flowing narrative is missing. More importantly, gaps and omissions sometimes actually distort the early history of Ohio and make it difficult to understand underlying issues.

Chapter ten on the religious frontier is a case in point. The author includes a general discussion of the Methodists but covers Presbyterians only from the study of a single town. He pays considerably more attention to the numerically smaller Shakers, Quakers, and Separatists at Zoar. Two of the most important denominations—the Congregationalists and the Baptists—are hardly mentioned. These omissions and the failure to explore the implications of denominational friction are unfortunate because religion provides an important context for understanding migration to the frontier, settlement patterns, social and cultural relationships, and political divisions.

The final three chapters return to the struggles between the native inhabitants and the Americans during the War of 1812, contain more material on market-oriented farming, and finally discuss the emergence of manufacturing and the canal movement. Tiny sections on women, foreign settlers, and persons of African descent are insufficient, even given the relatively small amount of scholarship on these subjects. Hurt ends his account abruptly and without any attempt to draw conclusions about the Ohio experience or to provide a greater context for understanding its role in the development of the Old Northwest. *Ohio Frontier* provides excellent summaries of recent scholarship in a chronological framework but fails to incorporate the recent secondary literature into a truly integrated account of Ohio's early years.

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Wisconsin in the Civil War: The Home Front and the Battle Front, 1861–1865. By Frank L. Klement. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1997. Pp. vii, 141. Illustrations, maps, select bibliography, index. \$30.00.)

This work had its first appearance in the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, 1962 as "Wisconsin and the Civil War," written by Frank L. Klement