

REVIEW NOTICES

*A Pike County Editor's
Outbasket*
Writings by Beulah B. Gray,
Editor of The Otwell Star
Edited by Ralph D. Gray and
William O. Harris

(Bloomington, Ind.: Gray Matters Press, 2010.
Pp. 188. Further reading. Paperbound, \$17.95.)

Prolific author and eminent Indiana historian Ralph D. Gray has turned his scholarly gaze homeward for this collection of his grandmother's writings. The collection offers readers both a portrait of a remarkable woman and a sense of life in rural Indiana between 1929 and 1944. Gray and his co-editor, William O. Harris, are proud native sons of Pike County. Their subject, Beulah B. Gray, was an expert in the history of southwestern Indiana, often using her post as editor of *The Otwell Star* to discuss the heritage of the area and the legacies left by some of its notable residents. The editors let Beulah Gray speak for herself through letters, historical essays, obituaries, and other newspaper articles, providing just enough context to her writings. Reading these entries is like sitting down

for a cup of coffee with a favorite aunt and catching up on the latest news—a ritual that seems long gone but remains utterly worthwhile.



Nature's Storyteller
The Life of Gene Stratton-Porter
By Barbara Olenyik Morrow

(Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press,
2010. Pp. x, 181. Illustrations, bibliography,
index. \$17.95.)

Before Rachel Carson or Annie Dillard, Gene Stratton-Porter wrote movingly of the natural world surrounding her home in northern Indiana. Her work inspired conservationists and casual backyard bird-watchers alike to value and protect wildlife—and wild lands like the Limberlost Swamp—in danger of quickly disappearing from the twentieth-century landscape. Barbara Olenyik Morrow's accessible biography introduces young readers to the popular Hoosier author, appropriately beginning with her childhood awakening to the natural world and following through to her untimely

death. *Nature's Storyteller* also includes brief excerpts from Stratton-Porter's writings and some of her photographs.



*19 Stars of Indiana
Exceptional Hoosier Men*

By Michael S. Maurer; foreword by Michael A. McRobbie

(Indianapolis, Ind.: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2010. Pp. xvi, 232. Illustrations. \$24.95.)

Michael S. Maurer follows up his 2009 celebration of influential Hoosier women (*19 Stars of Indiana: Exceptional Hoosier Women*) with a readable and insightful collection of biographies of David Baker, Steven Beering, Gerald Bepko, David Carter, William Cook, Mitch Daniels, Jim Davis, Lawrence H. Einhorn, Gebisa Ejeta, Carl Erskine, Eugene B. Glick, Theodore M. Hesburgh, Marvin Johnson, Joseph Kernan, Richard Lugar, Joseph Mamlin, George McGinnis, Angelo Pizzo, and Quentin Smith. The professions of these nineteen noteworthy men range from the scientific to the musical, from the political to the spiritual. Hoosier readers will enjoy learning about Maurer's "stars"—some household names and some not—for each has helped to make Indiana what it is today.



Generations

The Helen Cox Kersting Collection of Southwestern Cultural Arts

Edited by James H. Nottage

(Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2011. Pp. 439. Illustrations, notes, further reading, index. \$75.00.)

First-time visitors to downtown Indianapolis may be surprised to discover in a midwestern city one of the nation's pre-eminent museums of western and Native American art. Founded on the collections of local businessman Harrison Eiteljorg, the Eiteljorg Museum has added a number of impressive collections to its galleries over its two-decade-plus life. This volume profiles the recently acquired collections of one woman, Helen Cox Kersting. The book includes comments from Kersting and from museum president John Vanausdall on how the collection developed and how it came to reside in Indianapolis. The rest of the lavishly illustrated volume focuses on Mrs. Kersting's astonishing collection of southwestern jewelry and pottery (as well as weavings, baskets, and katsinas) crafted by southwestern Native artists across the twentieth century.



Always a River
The Ohio River and the American
Experience

Edited by Robert L. Reid

(Bloomington, Ind.: Quarry Books, 2010. Pp. xxi, 260. Illustrations, selected bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$19.95.)

In October 1811, the steamboat *New Orleans* left Pittsburgh and sailed along the Ohio River to its eponymous destination, reaching the Crescent City in January 1812 and becoming the first steam-powered vessel to successfully make the journey. Released to coincide with the bicentennial of that milestone journey, this update to the 1991 edition (reviewed in the IMH's December 1992 issue) features a new introduction with a historical overview and an up-to-date map to augment essays on the river's history, its geography, its political and economic impact, and its literary legacy. The essays in this volume invite the reader to climb aboard and meditate awhile on the river's considerable impact upon the nation's heartland.



After Tippecanoe
Some Aspects of the War of 1812
 Edited by Philip P. Mason

(Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2011. Pp. xiii, 104. Notes, index. Paperbound, \$19.95.)

After Tippecanoe: Some Aspects of the War of 1812 is a reprint of a collection of lectures given in Windsor, Ontario,

and Detroit, Michigan, during the war's sesquicentennial in the winter of 1961-1962. Distinguished scholars of the day offer their thoughts in chapters titled, "The Coming of the War"; "Sir Isaac Brock: The Hero of Queenston Heights"; "The Contribution of the Canadian Militia during the War"; "Naval Power on the Lakes, 1812-1814"; "The Role of the Indian in the War"; and "Kentucky in the Northwest Campaign." The book's title derives from the argument that the battle at Prophetstown lent a spark to existing U.S.-British tensions (Congress blamed the British for arming Indians), leading to the conflagration of the War of 1812. Though its contents focus on events in Ontario and Michigan, readers interested in the Old Northwest will appreciate the early historical perspectives represented in *After Tippecanoe*.



Tales from Kentucky One-Room
School Teachers

By William Lynwood Montell

(Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2011. Pp. 293. Index. \$24.95.)

One-room schoolhouses, seemingly a quaint relic of the nineteenth century, remained a fixture on Kentucky's educational landscape until well into the 1960s. Their relatively recent demise has enabled folklorist William Lynwood Montell, Professor Emeritus of Folk Studies at Western Ken-

tucky University, to collect the reminiscences of former teachers in an effort to preserve the schools' social, cultural, and educational heritage. The storytellers in this volume reflect on issues ranging from students with special needs to evolving methods of

discipline to students' home lives—even to the topic of school outhouses. Anyone who has ever been a teacher—or a student—will appreciate Montell's valuable compilation.

