

why and how the stories of men like Quantrill, the James brothers, and “Bloody Bill” Anderson eventually entered the public consciousness. This discussion includes an account of the twists and turns of their stories over time and the manner in which their images and reputations run the gamut from unprincipled bushwhackers to respected social bandits.

Overall, *The Civil War Guerilla* is a nice addition to Civil War scholarship that covers and opens up new areas of inquiry into an understudied area. It adds layers of discussion to a subject

that in the past has been oversimplified by terribly blurred lines between fact and fiction. Anyone interested in Civil War or military history will benefit from reading this work.

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Part of Our Lives: A People’s History of the American Public Library

By Wayne A. Wiegand

(New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Pp. 331. Illustrations, notes, index. \$34.95.)

Indiana has more Carnegie library buildings than any other state (165), and they receive their share of attention in this bottom-up study of American public libraries. Author Wayne Wiegand cites Howard Zinn as a model for this approach, which focuses on the voices of public library users. Wiegand claims that generations have turned to libraries for useful information, public spaces for the development of civic society, and “stories” that help readers make sense of their worlds. He contrasts local citizen and civic group perspectives with the dominant, elite culture of professional librarians and library institutions, such as the American

Library Association (ALA)—what one might call “Big Library.”

The public, in this narrative, has a strong interest in fiction (“stories” rather than literature) and clashes repeatedly with Big Library over reading material. Since the days of Benjamin Franklin, librarians have emphasized “useful knowledge” even as fiction consistently accounts for 70 percent of books borrowed. At the Warsaw (Indiana) Public Library, Theodore Dreiser followed the librarian’s recommendations, but then turned to romances for the “impossible sentimentalism which my nature seems to crave” (p. 67). Librarians removed titles they deemed unworthy and cir-

ulation plummeted. They used book reviews (from Big Library sources) to justify the purchase of “better” fiction, required patrons to borrow one non-fiction book with each work of fiction, and provided lists of recommended literature and biography. Wiegand demonstrates that time and again the reading public worked around librarians’ attempts to direct their reading.

Following the Boston Public Library’s example, many other libraries created a librarian-controlled place to restrict access to offensive materials, such as “sensationalist novels...works on Mormonism, Christian Science, socialism, anarchism, and Communism” in 1905 Los Angeles (p. 86). Sex was a prime target—from medical textbooks to the Kinsey Reports to Madonna. Wiegand criticizes Big Library for its absolutist stance against censorship. In practice, librarians negotiated a balance to fit community preferences. Until the 1980s, librarians in Fort Wayne labeled children’s and young adult books for sexual content. The Roanoke (Indiana) Public Library had a closed shelf for novels that used the words “hell” or “damn,” but when these moved to the general collection in 1979, their circulation fell dramatically.

Generations of immigrants entered mainstream America with the support of the library’s commitment to literacy and reading. The obvious omission of blacks from this self-proclaimed *public* space became evident when leaders such as W. E. B. Du Bois objected to being taxed to support the Atlanta Public

Library while at the same time being prohibited from using its books. By the 1950s, most librarians who spoke out or acted against segregation were still harassed, so that the majority of public libraries continued to acquiesce to racist local standards, even while attempting to make progress on terms that would include the entire community. By the 1960s, some public libraries were working to recognize and serve their multiracial communities. In 1966, for example, the public library in Gary, Indiana, hosted a talent contest where the Jackson Five competed (although they did not win). In the 1970s, one library in California sponsored a mariachi band to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and another presented a judo and karate exhibition. Gradually, and like society generally, libraries have become open to more diversity in race, sexual orientation, and culture. However, Wiegand holds librarians accountable for the slow pace of library integration, noting the absence of the ALA from court cases challenging library segregation.

People do not have to use public libraries, Wiegand observes, which has given library users considerable leverage in how the institution has developed and prospered. Despite periodic claims of its demise, the people it serves continue to support the public library’s ongoing evolution. Wiegand’s commitment to libraries and his extensive grounding in American library history make this people’s perspective account particularly useful for scholars and others

interested in librarianship, cultural studies, and American history.

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Sensing Chicago: Noisemakers, Strikebreakers, and Muckrakers
By Adam Mack

(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015. Pp. xi, 161. Figures, notes, bibliography, index. \$85.00.)

During the last few decades, the field of social history has considerably broadened its interest in the way individuals—as human bodies—have encountered and interacted with the environments that surrounded them. The literature on food has exploded, while studies of various body parts and functions (including even smiles and baldness) have inspired us to look at history in hitherto unimaginable ways. Historians, prepare to reshuffle your notes!

Sensing Chicago plunges directly into the sensory assaults of the nineteenth-century city. We are all familiar with the fact that cities had districts that concentrated every possible unpleasantness. Those who could afford it left town when they could, or otherwise retreated to districts free of the din and smell that seemed an inevitable part of city life.

While its title almost implies a general history of Chicago's nuisances, this book moves in a surprising direction. Mack adopts an interesting historical sampling method, building each chapter around a particular civic

problem during a limited time period. Some readers will welcome the author's distillation of such larger issues as class and power into his discussion of sensory assaults; others may feel that they are shifted from topic to topic as if they were bouncing around in an intellectual pinball machine.

Sensing Chicago begins with a capable examination of the pre-Fire morass of garbage, stockyards offal, street muck, and a river that was little more than an open sewer. The poor workers and residents who were most directly affected by the mess complained the least; unpleasantness also meant a job and survival. At the same time, their refusal to give in to the assault on the senses contributed to the definition of social class, a theme that recurs in the book. Mack also examines the idea that the sensory problems growing out of urbanization always seemed to be a step ahead of the technologies that solved them.

The second sensory event was the Great Fire, an overload of all the senses that was bigger than anyone imagined: too bright to look at di-