

of communities seemingly (but understandably) left the authors a bit frustrated in their desire to analyze Illinois municipal finance and recommend solutions or specific courses of action. Analysis beyond such broad concepts as "decisions which produce 'proper' levels of service and reasonable distribution of cost" (p. 197) apparently became increasingly difficult. For somewhat the same reasons, the authors apparently found it difficult to associate "good" or "poor" municipal finance with "good" or "poor" municipality services and environments. This indecisive treatment of how-to-do-it solutions is not necessarily a criticism of the book: it doubtless reflects the complexity and diversity of municipal finance problems. Responsible persons in other states could benefit from a comparable inquiry.

Complexities notwithstanding, the reader of *Illinois Municipal Finance* will yearn for more evidence that the authors fully applied their judgments on such questions as "Is 'sound' municipal finance really important to an area?" "How might bond issues be made more attractive?" "How have some Illinois municipalities achieved an improved financial structure?"

This timely study and report on Illinois municipal finance should be considered required reading for students of the subject, for responsible municipal and higher level government officials, and for responsible minded lay citizens whose democratic influence in large measure will determine "municipal finance" in respective communities.

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Lawrence E. Kreider

Black Swamp Farm. By Howard E. Good. ([Columbus]: Ohio State University Press, 1967. Pp. ix, 304. Illustrations. \$7.00.)

Conscientiously, in his wish to make this a complete album of the farming area around the Maumee Valley in northwestern Ohio, Howard Good starts back in the geologic longago, the ice age, the glaciers, the forming of a soil that was no longer a swamp when he lived there as a farm boy. This makes for a slow start, and Good's style is not essentially fast moving anyway; but once this is accomplished (end of Chapter 1) he is ready to take on the pioneer settlers and their forest-clearing and dangers.

From then on the Black Swamp area becomes a distinct and engaging personality in this readable genealogy. Good's talent lies less in sparkling humor and story telling than in minute, almost loving observation and honest reporting. The reader with a farm background or one who cherishes the land will find many occasions when he would like to lean forward and clap an appreciative hand on Good's shoulder, as a farmer would do in face-to-face conversation. To mention a few: the boots that irritatingly pulled the socks down into themselves; the scratchy new unbleached towels; filling the straw-tick; trading a fodder chopper for a parlor organ; heavy farm menus that produced no fat farmers; games the school boys played; old-fashioned names for parents; superstitions farmers believed in; colloquialisms they spoke in;

how the land restores itself when left alone to do so. Also one appreciates the mention of early farm practices: adding crushed limestone to the gummy soil; feeding skimmed milk to pigs and calves; warming the bits before bridling the horses.

Events in which the Good boy participated most are fully told: wheat threshing, the county fair, spring housecleaning, butchering. The Chautauqua is skimmed. There are delightful glimpses into farm living: the cooking, the bread baking, quilting, a description of the family parlor. Good knew the bleaknesses of farming—such as planting corn by hand—and wisely does not omit nor gloss them over; but he states a viable philosophy: “Being kept busy and having a limited amount of money was a good thing. One learns to make good use of time; tends to become resourceful, improvises to provide diversions” (p. 154). He goes on to a fine description of modern farming in the area, giving both advantages and disadvantages. In the end he is optimistic as farmers have always had to be to remain farmers. “The Valley remains unchanged, its immense drift sheet . . . characteristic topographic features and inherent qualities essentially the same as they have been for thousands of years” (p. 304).

Black Swamp Farm is a worthy contribution to a literature concerned with the land, a book to read and keep if you are interested in the ecology and philosophy of farming. Brenda Olson Sutherland’s interpretative black and white illustrations are just right for the text.

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Rachel Peden

Expansion and American Indian Policy, 1783-1812. By Reginald Horsman. (Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1967. Pp. 209. Index. \$5.75.)

This short study of American Indian policy for the years between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 has as its theme the dilemma facing United States officials of reconciling national interest with national honor. Accepting expansion as inevitable and desirable, the policy makers sought means by which it would also be peaceful and culturally beneficial to the Indian. Such a policy proved impossible to achieve. By 1811 the Indians had rejected the governmental efforts, white settlers had ignored them, and Washington acquiesced by abandoning them.

At first, from 1783 to 1786, the United States temporarily scrapped the previous British policy of recognizing Indian claims to land ownership and pursued a policy based on physical occupation which ignored the Indian title to territory east of the Mississippi. Too weak militarily and economically to evict the tribes at will and troubled by the moral inconsistencies which naked aggrandizement posed for a nation which had ascribed to the principles set down in the Declaration of Independence, the United States soon returned to the old British policy, with modification.