

Essays in Illinois History: In Honor of Glenn Huron Seymour. Edited by Donald F. Tingley. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, for Eastern Illinois University, 1968. Pp. xi, 167. Notes, index. \$5.00.)

A book of essays honoring an historian retiring from teaching sometimes contains much opinion and little, if any, research; is interesting perhaps, but of small value. Fortunately, Professor Tingley has compiled seven essays that make a thoughtful contribution to state history and reflect a national interest. Glenn Huron Seymour, recently retired after thirty-eight years on the faculty of Eastern Illinois University, specialized in Illinois history, particularly Lincoln and Douglas. Written by his colleagues at Eastern Illinois this *Festschrift* honors Seymour, described as the "strolling minstrel of history."

The essays chronologically cover Illinois history from its statehood-frontier era to the Great Depression with emphasis on the post-1865 period. Tingley discusses anti-intellectualism in the first thirty years of Illinois statehood, contrasting this idea with the local histories written at that time. Lavern Hamand recounts Lincoln's little known, devoted crony-bodyguard, and marshal of the District of Columbia, Ward Hill Lamon. Neil Thorburn discusses Governor John P. Altgeld's active concern for higher education, especially at the University of Illinois. John Buenker argues that urban immigrant legislators from Cook County were a key supporting factor in state reform during the Progressive Era. John Keiser recalls the labor activities of John H. Walker, who failed to thwart John L. Lewis' take over of the United Mine Workers' Union. Robert Hennings describes the valiant though unsuccessful efforts of Harold Ickes, "the chief political gadfly of Chicago," on behalf of Senator Hiram Johnson in the 1924 Illinois presidential primary. And David Maurer sums up the problem of Illinois unemployment and relief in the 1930s, a statistical microcosm of the national economy during the Depression.

Drawing upon government records, manuscript collections, pertinent periodicals, and many nineteenth century works, these soundly researched, well written essays demonstrate that the study of state and local history can be of inestimable value to the examination of the larger national scene. To put it another way, state and local history does not have to be an end in itself. To ignore history at this level is to ignore many answers not necessarily found in Washington, D.C. For Illinois history, this work indicates there is more to that state than Lincoln, Douglas, their debates, the Chicago fire, and the Pullman strike. As has become the trend in recent years, note citations are at the end of the book, which is regrettable for they add much information to several of the essays. A notable feature, for a collection of essays, is an index of names and subject matter. One hopes that more *Festschriften* of this quality will appear, studies which are interesting, stimulating, and thoughtful. Professor Seymour has been well honored.

Indiana University, Bloomington

John D. Macoll