

routes and ultimate location of towns and cities? Considering the rigors and low profit margin implicit in the enterprise, why were so many persons engaged in tavern keeping? Why—and this may be a question for the social psychologist—did early travelers “put up” at taverns when accommodations at many of them were decidedly worse than their own traveling conveyances or the open night air? Exactly who were the “wagoners” who patronized the taverns in such large numbers, and just how significant was their part in the prerailroad transportational pattern of America?

Perhaps the widest use of *Taverns and Travelers* will be as a bountiful source of colorful anecdotes. (Example: “A taverner in Tennessee in the 1830’s assured his guest that the only previous occupant using the present linen had been ‘governor Polk, and he had merely lain down on the bed without taking his clothes off,’ ” pp. 151-52.) Most certainly this book deserves a place on student reading lists at both the college and high school levels.

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Diary of Howard Stillwell Stanfield: Overland Trip from Indiana to California, 1864 via Virginia City, Montana Territory and Sea Voyage from San Francisco to New York, 1865 via Panama. Edited by Jack J. Detzler. *Indiana University Social Science Series*, Number 25. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1969. Pp. viii, 232. Illustrations, maps, bibliographical notes, bibliography, appendices, notes, index. Paperbound, \$6.75.)

In the spring of 1864 young Howard Stanfield began a great adventure. An epileptic, plagued by general poor health, Stanfield was unable to join the army, and apparently in compensation, his father permitted him to go west. Stanfield set out from South Bend, Indiana, with an acquaintance and eventually joined other emigrants from his home town. This group followed the north bank of the Platte River as far as Fort Laramie, and then guided by John M. Jacobs, who had helped blaze the Bozeman Trail, followed a new road to the west of the Big Horn Mountains which was just being opened by Jim Bridger. The uneventful passage brought them to Virginia City, Montana, which Stanfield found a “dreadful dirty place.” It was a “port which I hope never to see again” (p. 73), he noted, as he departed in a makeshift stagecoach for Salt Lake City and eventually California.

Stanfield enjoyed his stay with relatives in California and even did some placer mining, but in the spring of 1865 he decided to return home via Central America. Thousands of people had made similar

journeys before, but Stanfield discovered that conditions in steerage class apparently had improved little over the years. The ship was overcrowded and food was terrible. The salt pork was rotten, and Stanfield complained: "If I had a dog that would eat such trash I would shoot him and here I have to do it or starve" (p. 114). At times drinking water was condensed from the steam of greasy machinery while on another occasion it consisted of water, sand, and "wobble tails" which had to be strained between the teeth before it was swallowed. "I suppose this could truly be called living waters," he commented, "although I doubt if it be the kind to which David refers in his psalm for he would not have sang so sweetly of it" (p. 127). Despite such disagreeable conditions, Stanfield survived and returned safely to South Bend.

Although the Stanfield diary includes some graphic descriptions of the West, it lacks the color, detail, or significance of reports by travelers such as J. Ross Browne or Samuel Bowles. It has the flavor of a tourist's journal, which indeed it was, and there is no indication of any awareness of the Indian situation on the plains and only a brief hint of tensions between the Mormons at Salt Lake City and the troops stationed in nearby Camp Douglas. Despite shallow descriptions and lack of analysis the document is of some interest, for there are relatively few published diaries of overland travel during the Civil War. It is augmented by valuable supplementary material supplied by Jack J. Detzler who thoroughly searched for published and unpublished contemporary journals. The excellent bibliographical notes include the editor's evaluation of this material and help place the Stanfield diary in historical perspective.

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Maurice Thompson: Archer and Author. By George A. Schumacher. (New York: Vantage Press, 1968. Pp. 205. Illustrations. \$3.95.)

The author of this book has apparently succumbed to a very familiar impulse. A manuscript that has been lying around for many years, waiting to be rewritten and worked up to date, has had nothing done to it. So the author just up and publishes it the way it is to get the thing off his hands. Lovers of Indiana lore cannot entirely regret that this material has been made available, for it is basically primary and valuable stuff. But the book illustrates in almost every imaginable way why such an impulse must be resisted.

The author makes no pretense of professionalism, either in scholarship or style. His sources—letters, newspapers, court records