

*Factories in the Valley: Neenah-Menasha, 1870-1915.* By Charles N. Glaab and Lawrence H. Larsen. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1969. Pp. ix, 293. Notes, map, illustrations, essay on sources, appendix, index. \$6.00.)

Historians tend to be drawn to the metropolis, and even increasing interest in urban history has largely bypassed the smaller city. There are exceptions, of course, such as the New England factory towns, the importance of which in the first phases of American industrialization has been the subject of excellent studies. Still, the industrial communities of the Midwest which emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century and which failed to make it big have needed to rely on the amateur interested usually in pageantry for their histories. The authors' intention here as stated in their preface is "to use Neenah-Menasha as a case study in the dynamics of urbanization and industrialization in small cities in a Midwestern setting" (p. viii).

Neenah-Menasha—two cities which are in all ways but political organization one community—face each other across the lower Fow River in northeastern Wisconsin. Started on the assumption that water power and favorable location would combine to insure growth and eventual urban greatness, the towns soon became important flour milling centers. However, important milling interests with the risk capital needed to transform the industry centered in Minneapolis and forced the Wisconsin communities to turn to paper manufacturing in the 1870s. The success of this industry in Neenah-Menasha is underscored by the fact that one of the early firms was Kimberly-Clark.

The authors are excellent in describing and analyzing the many factors involved in economic development: entrepreneurial activity of the boosters, rivalry with neighboring towns, and relations with the financial and industrial interests of Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Chicago. All of these factors are fully integrated into the broad context of regional development and industrial change.

By the 1890s the early expectations of great growth and prominence had altered. Why this occurred provides one of the book's more arresting themes. Nineteenth century booster mythology stressed the overwhelming importance of location and to a lesser extent entrepreneurial zeal and skill as explanations for urban growth. In reality the context needed for growth was more complex, and many of the important factors could not be accounted for or controlled by the community. Furthermore, the paper manufacturers who dominated Neenah-Menasha by the century's end were not boosters. Financially, and even philanthropically, their interests extended well beyond the borders of the towns. Indeed growth and the bringing in of new industry was thought to mean a more competitive and turbulent

labor market. They were satisfied that Neenah-Menasha remain small, stable communities where influence could be easily exerted.

The last several chapters treat the social life of the various elements in the community and their relationships. Here the authors were limited by a paucity of sources and, perhaps, the lack of a conceptual frame of reference. Thus they provide interesting detail but not an adequate analysis of the social order. Cautious and careful in their research Glaab and Larsen have indeed provided us with a well written case study of a midwestern industrial community. Their work points out the importance of such study but also indicates the need for historians to utilize sociologists such as Warren and Stein in their novitiate efforts to grapple with community structure and its dynamics in the development of sophisticated approaches to the history of the small city.

*Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago*

Stanley Buder

*Benjamin Helm Bristow: Border State Politician.* By Ross A. Webb. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1969. Pp. xiii, 370. Illustrations, notes, critical essay on authorities, index. \$8.75.)

Benjamin Helm Bristow was a "Kentucky bluejay," or supporter of the Union, and he became a Republican by sincere conviction. Professor Webb divides this solidly researched biography into three unequal parts with greatest emphasis on Bristow's years in Washington. Bristow's border state background was of great importance in shaping his thinking, for he was compelled to reconcile within himself the aristocratic ways of his mother's family and the very different ideals of his father. The elder Bristow was a self-made frontier lawyer of strong religious convictions, Whig politics, antislavery beliefs, and staunch unionism. Young Bristow was broadened by his college education in Pennsylvania, after which he returned home to study law. When the Civil War came, he served ably as a militia officer. While away on active service in 1863, he was elected to the state legislature on a "Regular Union" ticket. A strong advocate of emancipation, Bristow was one of the founders of the Republican party in Kentucky.

When the war ended, Bristow became a federal district attorney, and he enforced vigorously the unpopular civil rights statutes. In 1870 he went to Washington to become the first solicitor general and at the same time to promote the fortunes of Republicanism in Kentucky where he openly urged "progress" against "tradition." Webb describes Bristow's successful legal work in some detail but does not clearly explain why he resigned to become chief counsel for the in-