

and country constitution. Their rivalry continued for many years, with most federal appointments going to court men who in time became Republicans, while the country party turned Federalist.

The author skillfully defends her use of "party," rightly anticipating the criticism she has received. Her usage seems legitimate enough, for the word was certainly often employed in the controversies she so carefully elucidates. She knows well that "politics in Kentucky was largely a matter of personal friendships and antipathies" (p. 156), frequently involving the quarrelsome Humphrey Marshall, although these relationships were at times obscured. Perhaps if she had used the phrase "court interest" in the eighteenth century British fashion, those who worry so over "party" would study more carefully the valuable substance of this work, which is based solidly on painstaking examination of scattered and sometimes sparse sources. They should also heed her warning that Kentucky attitudes simply do not fit the liberal and conservative categories cherished by so many observers of the frontier. Kentucky politics, Watlington concludes, were never conventional—or as Judge Mulligan put it so long ago:

Thunder peals the loudest,
The landscape is the grandest,
And politics—the damndest—In Kentucky.

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A History of Missouri. Volume II, 1820 to 1860. By Perry McCandless. *Missouri Sesquicentennial History*. Edited by William E. Parrish. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1972. Pp. ix, 325. Notes, maps, essay on sources, index. \$9.50.)

In this second volume of *The Missouri Sesquicentennial History*, a five volume series being published in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Missouri's statehood, Professor Perry McCandless traces the story of Missouri and its people through the formative years between statehood and the Civil War. The author has developed a concise and sound synthesis based on extensive research in both primary and secondary sources, and the result is a well balanced history

that describes and analyzes the social, political, and economic growth of the state. Because the format of the series calls for a general survey of each chronological period rather than a highly detailed study, footnotes have been limited to explanatory matters.

McCandless is at his best when dealing with political history. Effectively using the career and personality of Thomas Hart Benton to connect Missouri's history with that of the nation, he details the state's political development and the role it played in both regional and national history. Benton looms as a giant on both the state and national levels, and a thorough and sound knowledge of his life permits McCandless to write a masterful account of Missouri's place in national politics during the first half of the nineteenth century.

The treatment of social and cultural history in this study does not measure up to the standards of the discussion of politics. For example, German culture in Missouri, especially as regards German newspapers and the theater, could have been more thoroughly analyzed. There are also weaknesses in the handling of religious history, where, for one thing, McCandless inaccurately states that the cooperative Plan of Union between the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists in Missouri "was discarded" in 1840 (p. 209). Actually, the Plan of Union continued until 1857 when the New School Presbyterian Church split over slavery. On the other hand, McCandless' discussion of education in Missouri is both complete and accurate.

McCandless focuses his volume primarily on Missouri's involvement in the sectional issues which ultimately led to civil war. In 1820, when Missouri was at the center of the rising sectional controversy, he finds a homogeneous people "united in their demands for statehood without restriction on slavery." In 1860, McCandless sees Missouri "torn internally" by the sectional issues involving slavery in the nation. He considers that the primary reason for this change was the growth of cultural diversity, a result of immigration from Europe and migration from the North which brought diversification of the economy and new ideas that challenged the social system of the old sectional ties (pp. ix, 289).

Missourians organized and directed the trans-Mississippi

fur trade as well as the Santa Fe trade, and McCandless clearly delineates the advantages and importance of the state's key geographical location as the gateway to the Far West. Its unique geographical position determined that Missouri would play a significant role in both southern and western history.

As represented by this volume, *The Missouri Sesquicentennial History* is a useful contribution to both local and national history. It sets a standard of balance that could well be followed by similar projects in other states.

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Victor B. Howard

Illinois: A History of the Prairie State. By Robert P. Howard. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972. Pp. xxiv, 626. Illustrations, notes, maps, appendices, bibliography, index. \$10.95.)

It has been fifty years since anyone undertook to write a comprehensive history of Illinois. In that sense Robert Howard's book was long overdue, but it was worth the wait. *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* ranks as the definitive account of an important subject in American state and local history and as a model of the state history genre.

The author, a veteran journalist and resident of the state capital in Springfield, exercised both head and heart in a task that took more than six years. His twenty-five page bibliography reflects exhaustive knowledge of the published literature, and his narrative incorporates the most recent findings and interpretations. At the same time, Howard was motivated by "a deep affection for the state and its people" (p. xxiv) acquired during a full career of travel and work throughout the state. That attachment is evident in his attention to colorful details and personalities in the story but not in his assessments, which are honest and critical.

Howard refrains from any grand design or majestic themes; three hundred years of history and the lives of millions of citizens are not susceptible to such simple generalization. Neither does he advance many fresh or revisionist interpretations; this book necessarily rests upon the published monographs and specialized studies of other historians.