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Cincinnati in 1800. Lithograph by Strobridge Lithograph Co. from painting by A.J. Swing. Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Historical Society Library

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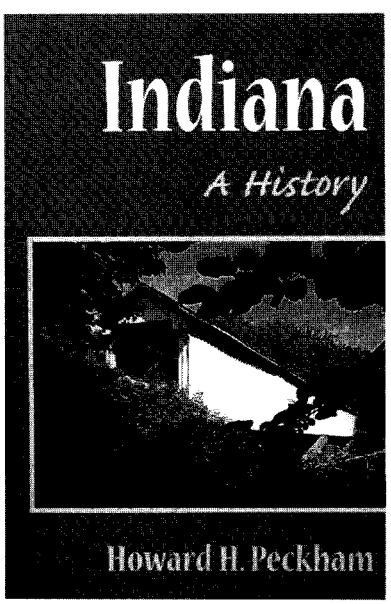
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Book Reviews

Howard H. Peckham. ***Indiana: A History.*** Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003, 1978. 207 pp. ISBN: 0252071468 (paper reprint), $15.95.

What makes Indiana unique? This is the question that the late Howard H. Peckham set out to answer in his book, *Indiana: A History*, which has recently been reissued by the University of Illinois Press. What may surprise readers is that after nearly thirty years, Peckham's readable and witty text remains as accurate an answer as they are likely to find when it comes to the question: what makes Hoosiers tick?



The opening section of the book deals with Indiana's origins. Peckham argues that Indiana is so very ordinary, so very typical of America, that it is often overlooked in favor of places that seem to offer a different take on the country's history. But Indiana has much to offer those seeking a better understanding of the United States. During the pioneer period, the future state was a battleground and witnessed as many triumphs for white settlers (many of which were orchestrated by future president William Henry Harrison) as it did failures. Indiana, after all, was the site of the U.S. Army's worst defeat, when Native Americans routed a force under the command of Arthur St. Clair in 1791, losing through death and wounds 928 of the 1,400 soldiers engaged in the battle. But the state, like the nation, soon passed through this period, and according to Peckham, came to be shaped by the ideas and settlement patterns that came about as a result of freeing itself from the frontier. Early statehood's defining moment came during the Civil War, when Indiana proclaimed itself part of the North and the Union once and for all.

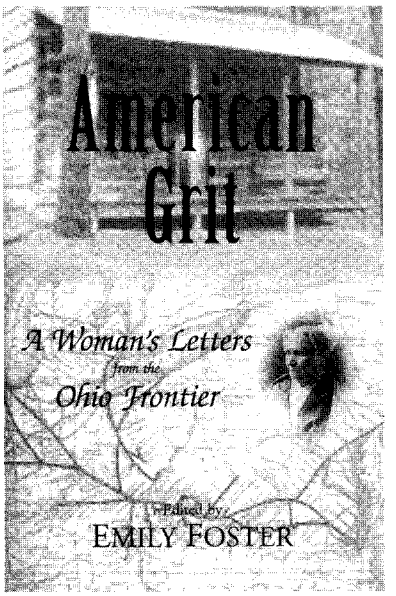
Peckham's second section is a cultural analysis of what happened to Indiana in the wake of the Civil War. Here he discusses religion's role in making Indiana, arguing that perhaps the state's religiosity has contributed to lower crime rates. He also documents the state's struggle to make education a top priority for Hoosiers. Despite becoming an industrialized state, the author believes that Hoosiers never lost their affinity for small town values. Peckham also looks at the love affair that Indiana has had with politics, which culminated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when Hoosiers dominated the national political landscape. The same period also saw Indiana give the nation and world a host of popular artists, musicians, authors, and poets. And then there is the topic of sports, especially the Indianapolis 500 and basketball. In the end, Peckham argues that the evidence he has presented supports the idea that Indiana does not foment revolution, but adjusts to change. Its continuity with the past allows it to embrace the future with fewer problems than many of its fellow states.

After nearly thirty years, some might wonder how well Peckham's thesis has held up. The answer is remarkably well. Indiana has its problems to be

sure, slow at times to deal with issues, even when they have been evident for decades. One thinks, for example of the two decades or more of talk by Hoosier politicians about the need to better diversify the state's economic base, while at the same time courting heavy industry for the jobs it brings to the state, a policy that has made the recent recession particularly hard on the state's finances. Perhaps the biggest change the state has faced since Peckham wrote this book has been the shift to multi-class basketball, which many believe has destroyed the sacred nature of the high school tournament. But in the other areas that Peckham outlined, from religion and education, to the cherishing of small town values, to a love for politics, to a continued growth in the arts, Indiana remains much the same. Readers are not likely to find anything in this book that other, more recent historians, have not written about extensively. But in many ways, their works are variations on Peckham's theme, and his book should find its place along side theirs on the bookshelves of anyone interested in Indiana's place in the world.

Jason S. Lantzer
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Emily Foster, editor. ***American Grit: A Woman's Letters from the Ohio Frontier.*** Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2002. 344 pp. ISBN: 0813122651 (cloth), $45.00.



In 1826, Anna Briggs Bentley and her family left Maryland for a frontier farm in Columbiana County, Ohio. Anna and her husband, Joseph, were by then parents of five living children, a sixth having died before the move. Between 1826 and 1842, the time during which Anna wrote most of the letters collected in *American Grit*, she bore six more children, losing two in infancy and one as a small child. The rest of the letters, some written by adult children, depict the coming of age, marriage, and establishment in independent households of the next generation of Bentleys. Anna Briggs Bentley wrote her last known surviving letter in 1881. When she died nine years later at the age of ninety-four, she had outlived her husband and eight children.

Anna Briggs Bentley was born into a prosperous, socially prominent Quaker family that in her generation fell on hard times. As a part of their financial retrenchment, the Bentleys relocated to Ohio, but the move exacted a heavy physical and psychological toll on the genteel Anna accustomed as she was to having servants around the house and leisure enough for self-cultivation. The move also wrenched her from the bosom of her family. Bentley coped with her deprivations by writing letters on precious scraps of paper that she covered with lines written one way and then overwritten at right angles. She stole time for writing from her sleep, groggily describing her previous day in the wee hours of the next. Always, she tried to show her correspondents, usually her mother or sister, how she and her family lived. In return, she begged them for "all the news" and, occasionally, for material support—money and fabric for clothing. The letters also speak to the twin challenges of the Society of Friends in the early nineteenth century—the Hicksite schism and abolition, both of which claimed the sympathies of Bentley and her family. In sum, Anna Briggs Bentley's letters

comprise a vivid social history of family and community life in early Ohio.

Editor Emily Foster has paved the way for readers to enter Bentley's world. Foster's transcription of the letters is clear, and she has skillfully untangled family genealogies knotted by generations of intermarriage. Her textual annotations, although tending toward the minimal, are helpful. Foster's introductions to the chronologically arranged chapters, and occasional commentaries between letters, help to link the Bentley family's activities to larger political, religious, and economic developments.

She could, however, have done more to provide a historical context for Bentley's writings. Foster makes much less effort to elucidate the domestic circumstances that dominate the letters than she does public matters to which Bentley devoted far less attention. Foster's assumption seems to have been that Bentley's description of her work, the core of her existence as a woman, unlike, say, the abolitionist movement in Ohio, is self-explanatory for modern readers. And although the differences between Bentley's world and ours, beginning with the lack of birth control in hers, appear obvious, at the same time her letters speak to the eternal facts of women's work—cooking, cleaning, and childcare. This paradox—she is not like us, she is just like us—poses a dilemma for any scholar concerned with early American women's writings. How much do readers need to know about Bentley's world to understand her letters? Is the nature of mutual support among women in the Quaker community to which Bentley regularly refers self-evident? What was the relationship, in historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's formulation, between Bentley's private and community lives?

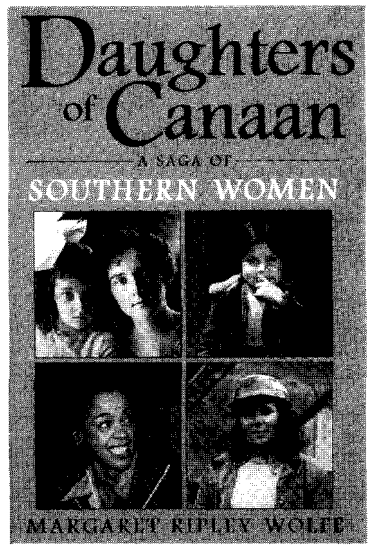
These are difficult questions, and Foster's decision not to pursue them does not detract from her otherwise solid editorial work. Still, in the end, *American Grit* left this reader wishing for just a bit more. Even the title, which evokes the national can-do spirit, does not do Bentley justice. She was not an archetype of a pioneer woman; her life was more than steely determination in the face of adversity. The heart of these letters is the "daily-ness" brought to life by a writer whose talent was as real as it was without pretense. In her steady depiction of the generational cycle that circumscribed her life, Bentley strove to claim the imagination of family far away. Readers today will find that her letters travel across time much as they did a century and a half ago across space. They will also have reason to thank Emily Foster and the University Press of Kentucky for making the letters of Anna Briggs Bentley accessible to them.

Susan E. Gray
Arizona State University

Margaret Ripley Wolfe. *Daughters of Canaan: A Saga of Southern Women.* Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995. 281 pp. ISBN: 0813108373 (paper reprint), $14.95.

Margaret Ripley Wolfe, a professor of history at East Tennessee State University, provides a succinct synthesis of historic and literary portrayals of southern women for the University Press of Kentucky's series, "New Perspectives on the South." As the title *Daughters of Canaan* implies, Wolfe focuses especially on the ways that southern women's historical experience has been affected by concepts of biblical patriarchy. Beginning with European colonization, she discusses how "Patriarchy came to rest on the triad of racism, classism, and sexism." (32) After chronicling the changing parameters of gender identities, roles, and relations over the centuries, she concludes, "patriarchy has been eroded" but not "eliminated." (207) The South may not yet be the Promised Land for southern women, but, in the words of a Baptist preacher, "We ain't what we want to be. We ain't what we gonna be. But, thank God, we ain't what we was." (207)

Wolfe's South is not the mythical landscape of moonlight and magnolias, although she acknowledges the disproportionate influence of the planter aristocracy on southern institutions and attitudes. Her southern women are racially, ethnically, economically, geographically, and socially diverse. Most are indigenous to the region, but others are transplants who make the South their home. Unlike many chroniclers of the South, who concentrate almost exclusively on the Black Belt, Wolfe gives numerous examples from the border states and from the southwestern frontier.



In addition to modern "classics" on the "southern lady" by historians such as Anne Firor Scott, Catherine Clinton, and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Wolfe relies in this book on studies of Native American women by scholars such as Theda Purdue; of black women by scholars such as Suzanne Lebsock, Deborah Gray White, and Jacqueline Jones; and of yeoman women by scholars such as Margaret Hagood and Stephanie McCurry. She seamlessly interweaves contemporary commentaries from diaries, court records, newspapers, and literary works into the historical narrative. As well as the "obligatory" references to oft-cited diarists such as Mary Boykin Chesnut, Fanny Kemble, and Harriet Jacobs, Wolfe gives examples from less renowned women such as the middle Georgia farm woman, Magnolia Wynn LeGuin, whose "diaries gave voice to a life of seemingly incessant childbearing, caretaking, and deprivation." (128) Not all the women who people the pages of *Daughters of Canaan* are "angels" either. Wolfe intersperses tales of racists, prostitutes, and criminals among the stories of ordinary mothers, wives, and daughters.

Because of the dominance of the "plantation mistress" in historiography, authors writing about southern history often have given short shrift to the years after the Civil War. Wolfe does not deny the lingering effect of Old South stereotypes on gender, racial, and class issues in the New South, but significantly she highlights the social activists of Reconstruction, the Progressive era, and the era of civil rights and women's rights campaigns. She also discusses the impact these women and their ideas had on the lives of ordinary women. For instance, Wolfe notes that attorney Sarah Weddington, who argued *Roe v. Wade* (1973) before the Supreme Court, was a minister's daughter who in 1967 had resorted to an abortion in "a dirty, dusty Mexican border town" (200) because the procedure was illegal in West Texas where she lived.

Despite the fact that this book was published in 1995 and therefore lacks references to recent books and articles, *Daughters of Canaan* remains a useful introduction to the history of southern women. Margaret Ripley Wolfe's study especially offers a good overview of the impact that patriarchal ideology and practice has had on diverse groups of women from many parts of the South from the colonial period to the twentieth century. Well written and nicely illustrated, the book would make a good supplementary reader

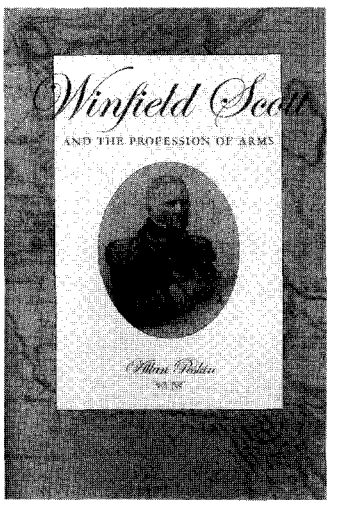


for undergraduate classes in American history and women's studies.

Amy Thompson McCandless
College of Charleston

Allan Peskin. *Winfield Scott and the Profession of Arms.* Kent, Oh.: Kent State University Press, 2003. 328 pp. ISBN: 0873387740 (cloth), $49.00.

In his latest work, Allan Peskin has taken on the formidable task of writing a biography of Winfield Scott, a man whose career in the American military, political culture, and diplomatic affairs spanned over a half century. A self-absorbed man, whose pompous personal characteristics no doubt taxed Peskin, Winfield Scott's importance in his time cannot be denied. Still, since the publication of Charles Winslow Elliott's *Winfield Scott: The Soldier and the Man* that appeared in 1937, few biographies of Scott had been published until the 1990s. In that decade, two scholars took on Scott (John Eisenhower's *Agent of Destiny* and Timothy Johnson's *The Quest for Military Glory*), and now with the addition of this new work Scott certainly has received the attention he deserves.



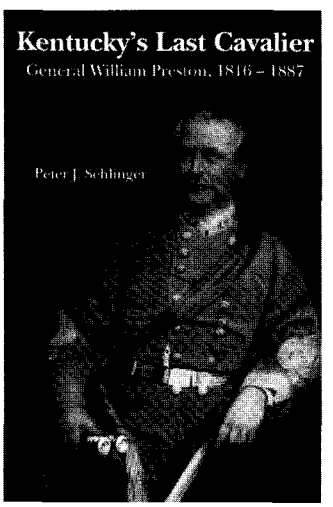
Born in 1786 and raised on a farm near Petersburg, Virginia, Winfield Scott attended the College of William and Mary where he studied law, but in 1807, when tension erupted between the British and the Americans, Scott took tremendous pride in joining a company of volunteers to fight in what became the War of 1812. In part impressed with how he looked in uniform, he made the military his life's profession. After he received a commission as a captain in the artillery in 1808, he soon became known as "Old Fuss and Feathers" for his devotion to military regulations and to his soldiers. As tensions continued and the military expanded to meet the demands of the approaching war, however, Scott came into conflict with superiors, and that led to his suspension for a year just prior to 1812. Still, he went on to fight in that war, was wounded and captured, and eventually he emerged from the fighting with distinction.

In the years following the War of 1812, Scott traveled around Europe as a military observer, married Maria D. Mayo of Richmond, Virginia, had children and, according Peskin, tried to reconcile himself to an army much reduced in size during the 1830s and "trying to justify itself to the nation." (82) He spent a few years in "desk-bound activity" and busied himself with public affairs and the activities of the newly formed Whig party. But when the Second Seminole War broke out in 1836, President Andrew Jackson's Secretary of War, Lewis Cass, authorized Scott to take command of the campaign. Peskin makes a good case that nothing prepared Scott for this kind of conflict, and as a result Scott was eventually reassigned to the frozen tundra of the Canadian frontier to prevent yet another war with the British. In the end, his diplomacy proved more effective than his efforts to professionalize the army. Shortly after returning from Canada, Scott assisted in relocating the Cherokees of South Carolina and Tennessee to Oklahoma.

When the Whigs seized political control of the nation in 1841, the fifty-five-year-old Scott found himself rewarded for his support of the new party and made commander of the nation's armed forces. Although he assumed a position that had been left largely undefined, the 33-year army veteran decided to seize the initiative and professionalize the military. When conflict between the United States and Mexico erupted in 1846, he undertook

the enormous labors of prosecuting a vast and complex war. And despite the fact that a Democrat, James K. Polk, became president in 1844, it was the Whig from Virginia who orchestrated the victory of the Mexican War. Still, according to Peskin, Polk's animosity precluded Scott the honors he deserved as a result of his conduct in the war, and later, unfortunately for Scott, it would be Zachary Taylor who benefited from the victory and who went on to become president. Scott nonetheless garnered enough support from the Whigs in 1852 to secure the nomination for president, but he lost to Franklin Pierce.

When the Civil War broke out, "Old Fuss and Feathers" was nearly seventy five years old, unable to ride a horse, and in charge of a tiny and pathetically armed professional army charged with defending the Union and the seas surrounding it. Although wooed by Confederate authorities to join their cause, Scott remained loyal to the Union and conceived the Anaconda Plan, which Ulysses S. Grant later employed as Federal army's successful grand strategy in 1864. Blamed for the defeat at First Bull Run, Scott was replaced afterwards by George B. McClellan. On October 31, 1861, he requested retirement from the army and for the first time in fifty four years, he donned civilian clothes. Scott died five years later.



In this carefully researched and well written work, Allan Peskin has given readers a balanced and thoughtful biography of a man whose life chronicles a large portion of America's warring past. He has placed one of the military's most pivotal figures in the context of his times and perceptively and convincingly argues that it was Scott who should be considered responsible for the development of the "professional U.S. Army" (265), though he contends that this was scarcely noted among his contemporaries "perhaps because its effects were less tangible and its results less clear-cut" (265) at the time. Like Peskin's previous work on James Garfield, this biography will surely be the standard biography on Winfield Scott and will be read with profit by students and scholars alike.

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Florida Atlantic University

Peter J. Sehlinger. ***Kentucky's Last Cavalier: General William Preston, 1816-1887.*** Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2004. 309 pp. ISBN: 0916968332 (cloth), $33.95.

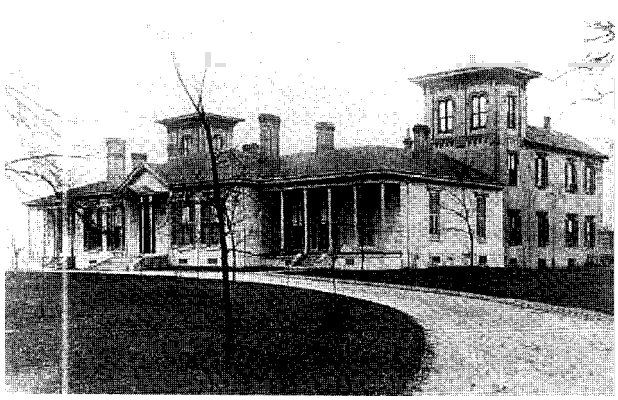
Biographies are back in vogue, as the rash of new best-sellers about John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and Benjamin Franklin attests. While most of these books concern the so-called "great men" or "founding fathers" of our country, studies of lesser-known figures are also important for recovering the nation's past. One example is Peter J. Sehlinger's workman-like biography of General William Preston of Kentucky. In this old-fashioned life and times study, he painstakingly traces the eventful but ill-starred career of General Preston, whom he labels Kentucky's "Last Cavalier," an epithet that first appeared in the *Louisville Courier Journal's* obituary of him. With this biography Sehlinger has produced what should be the definitive work on this important but neglected figure in Kentucky history.

In most respects, William Preston's life does fit Sehlinger's sobriquet. Scion of a prominent if less than distinguished Virginia family who migrated to Kentucky in 1811, Preston enjoyed gentry status in a fledgling state dominated by descendants of Virginia's lesser gentry. As the only

male heir in his family, he inherited considerable property in Louisville, and through a later marriage to Margaret Wickliffe, daughter of Robert Wickliffe, Sr., one of the state's wealthiest planters, he enlarged his already extensive possessions and gained acceptance into Bluegrass society.

Well educated for the time, he acquired the social standing of a gentleman and joined the Kentucky bar after completion of intermittent studies at Yale and Harvard universities. Like his gentry counterparts, Preston was constantly in debt, living beyond his more than modest means due primarily to a penchant for gambling. Like most white southerners, he enjoyed entertaining friends and relatives, was quick to defend his honor, and steadfast in defense of slavery. Finally, the Preston family continually enhanced its position through intermarriage with other gentry. In addition to William's own marriage to Margaret Wickliffe, his relatives also married well. One sister married Albert Sidney Johnston and a cousin became the wife of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri.

Although Preston chose law as his profession, he, like many other Bluegrass lawyers, found politics more attractive According to Sehlinger, the Mexican War changed Preston's life even though he entered the conflict too late to participate in the fighting. Upon returning to Kentucky, Preston, instead of remaining in the army, devoted himself to public service in keeping with his strong sense of *noblesse oblige*. Initially elected to Congress as a Whig, his support of territorial expansion and the Kansas Nebraska Act turned him into a Democrat and an ardent defender of slavery. In return for backing the Democratic ticket in 1856, President James Buchanan named him minister to Spain where he unsuccessfully sought to purchase Cuba even after the Ostend Manifesto debacle. Then, in the election of 1860, he rallied behind cousin John C. Breckinridge's hopeless run for the presidency, and in the aftermath of Abraham Lincoln's victory, Preston endorsed secession and he, along with his brother-in-law Johnston, accepted a generalship in the Confederate Army.

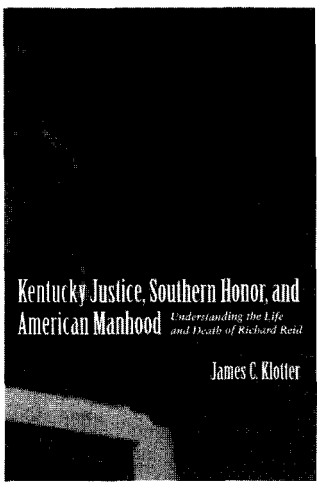


This time, Preston saw significant action, especially at the battles of Stones River and Chickamauga. But his open criticism of the always controversial Braxton Bragg led to a reassignment which effectively removed him from further combat. Late in the war, he accepted a diplomatic mission as Confederate minister to Mexico where he enjoyed no better success than he had in Spain. Defeat of the Confederacy left him a man without a country, and he could never adjust to the changing times. By then his marriage had grown sour, and the once happy couple became estranged if not separated.
One notable strength of Sehlinger's biography is the attention he devotes to Preston and his extended family. And those interested in Kentucky's antebellum and post-Civil War years will find much to praise for the author has made good use of the best secondary sources to describe life in nineteenth-century Kentucky. Furthermore, his research into primary sources is thorough, his interpretations generally sound and even-handed, and the writing is usually crisp and clear. While there is much to admire in this study, Sehlinger nevertheless commits the error common to biographers by falling in love with his subject. He sometimes exaggerates Preston's role in several national events such as the part played in the Compromise of 1887 and in resurrecting the Monroe Doctrine. This criticism aside, there will be little need soon for another biography of William Preston.

Robert V. Haynes
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James C. Klotter. ***Kentucky Justice, Southern Honor, and American Manhood.*** Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2003. 197 pp. ISBN: 0807128570 (cloth), $34.95.

As James Klotter amply demonstrates in this thought-provoking work, Richard Reid was too sensitive for his time and place. Born in Kentucky in 1838, Reid grew up in a society that defined manhood largely in terms of physical strength and aggressiveness, but he suffered an injury as an infant that pained him for much of his life and precluded his participation in almost any kind of physically strenuous activities. Temperamentally emotional and nervous, Reid gravitated instead to the life of the mind, and while he was a brilliant student, a devout Christian, and generally amiable enough to earn the respect of his male contemporaries, he told none of them of his physical impairment and they assumed him to be weak, timid, and somewhat effeminate.



Still, Reid became a successful lawyer, married a woman he adored, was elected a Superior Court judge in 1882, and determined in 1884 to run for a seat on the Court of Appeals, Kentucky's highest court. In the spring of that year, however, a fellow lawyer and fellow church member named John Jay Cornelison summoned Reid to his office, accused Reid of acting secretly to undermine his career and malign his character, and began beating him with a cane and a whip, even going so far as to chase a fleeing Reid down a crowded street before someone stepped in to stop the violence. When Cornelison's accusations proved entirely false, the same principles of honor by which Cornelison justified his behavior dictated that Reid kill Cornelison for his assault. Yet Reid refused, arguing that seeking personal revenge was contrary to his religious beliefs and that it was important for Kentuckians, who lived in a state with a well-earned national reputation for violence and lawlessness, to see that following the law was a more civilized and more appropriate method of punishing criminal actions than acting on an extralegal code of honor.

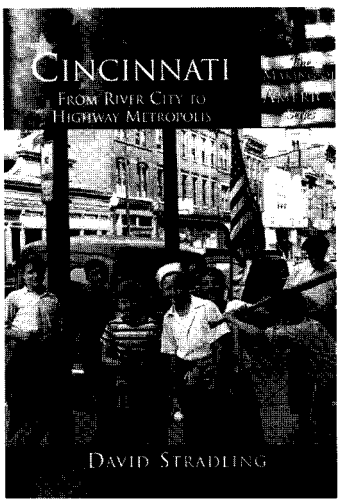
Given Reid's physical limitations, it is questionable whether he could have successfully retaliated against Cornelison even had he wanted to, but in his own way Reid had taken a bold stand by refusing to compromise his principles. His dispute with Cornelison attracted the attention of regional and national media, and there were newspaper editors who saw in Cornelison an exemplar of southern barbarism and viewed Reid's decision to let the law take its course as a courageous one. Far more common, however, were those who found Reid cowardly and unmanly. Reid also found potential voters on the campaign trail divided as to whether they would support a man who refused to defend himself with violence. And Klotter speculates that even Reid's wife may have thought that he revealed himself a weakling. In the end, Reid's fragile disposition equipped him poorly to withstand the intensity of the criticism he faced, particularly when he could not even be entirely sure that his wife supported him. On May 15, 1884, he went to a colleague's law office for a brief meeting and afterward asked if he might lie down in an upstairs bedroom. There, he killed himself with a gunshot to the head. Ironically, Richard Reid was neither strong enough nor secure enough to tolerate dishonor.

Klotter nicely situates Richard Reid's life and death in the shifting cultural sands of nineteenth-century Kentucky, the South, and the United States, demonstrating especially how public debate over the actions of Cornelison and Reid revealed conflicting ideas about how one best procured justice in the

state, about the continuing relevance of honor in the New South, and about how an American man ought to behave if he wanted to maintain his dignity and self-respect. Ultimately, though, Richard Reid's story is relatively insignificant as a matter of history. Reid was not an especially prominent person even in Kentucky, and few scholars have written about him. Moreover, even Klotter concedes that his death, while tragic, was soon forgotten and changed very little about the seeming penchant of Kentuckians for extralegal violence or their insistence on defining manhood in terms of an individual's willingness to retaliate for real and imagined slights by inflicting pain and humiliating others. Nevertheless, Reid's is a moving story well told, and while doing little to alter the historiography of the South, it does force the reader to reflect on our own era and consider whether we value leaders who respect the rule of law or those who believe that honor demands swift and bloody vengeance no matter the costs.

Joshua D. Rothman
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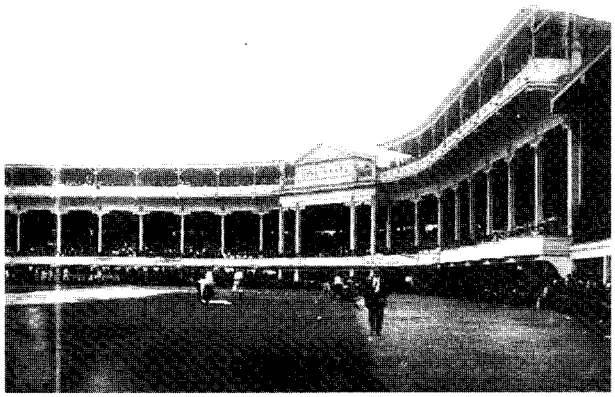
David Stradling. ***Cincinnati: From River City to Highway Metropolis.*** Chicago: Arcadia, 2003. 160 pp. ISBN: 0738524409 (paper), $24.99.



David Stradling, who teaches urban and environmental history at the University of Cincinnati, has written a short comprehensive history of Cincinnati that traces its rise from a frontier community to a commercial emporium in the mid-nineteenth century. He then documents its transformation to a substantial industrial city at the turn of the century followed by its relative decline in the twentieth century to the city it has become today. The author not only attempts to provide a history of the building of Cincinnati by looking at how each generation shaped the city, but he also explores the larger forces at work in the city's history, such as industrialization, wars, and new technologies. The book not only examines the forces and decisions that shaped the city but it also provides short sketches of prominent actors in Cincinnati history such as William Proctor, Powel Crosley, and Theodore Berry.

Although it looks at social, cultural, and political developments, the book concentrates especially on economics and the role of transportation as a way of explaining the city's rapid growth in the mid-nineteenth century as well as its long relative decline since then. The river proves the hero in this story while the automobile emerges as the villain, largely because it, along with what the author describes as anti-urban thinking, helped disperse population away from the urban core. Although the latter part of the book discusses choices by civic leadership that fed the city's decline, especially in regard to planning, the author did not pay enough attention to the role of civic leadership or politics to satisfy this reader. Indeed, after the brief discussion of charter reform in the 1920s, Stradling makes no mention of local politics.

This underscores one of the shortcomings of any effort to provide a comprehensive history in so few pages. Even though the author does a good job of introducing us to a variety of important topics, the attempt to make this a comprehensive overview in one hundred forty-six pages of illustrated text often forces the author to rely on simple causative statements in place of exploring the rich interpretations available of the city's complex history. For instance, in discussing the emergence of city services in the nineteenth century, Stradling disregards the fascinat-



ing arguments made by Alan I. Marcus in his book *Plague of Strangers: Social Groups and the Origins of City Services in Cincinnati,* and simply explains the emergence of city policing and fire fighting as a consequence of a growing population.

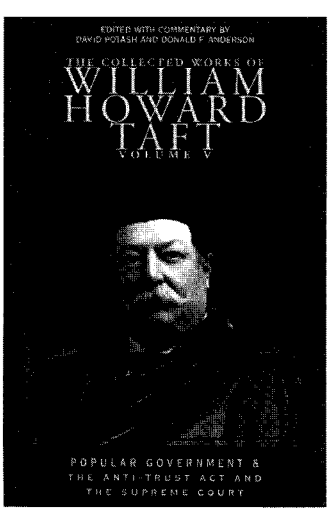
Despite such criticism, it is refreshing to see an academic historian write a book for the general public. Stradling's understanding of urban history makes this a much more insightful effort than many local histories, and allows the book to go beyond the aim of the "The Making of America Series" of which it is a part—to "celebrate individual communities and their unique contributions to our national character." Profusely illustrated with more than ninety photographs and sketches (but no maps), this book draws on the rich scholarship of the city to provide a simple introduction to Cincinnati's history to newcomers or others wanting to know a bit more about the city they call home. Its clear and engaging writing style provides easy access to the city's past and makes for a painless read.

Robert B. Fairbanks
University of Texas
at Arlington

David Potash and Donald F. Anderson, editors. *The Collected Works of William Howard Taft, Volume V: Popular Government and the Anti-Trust Act and the Supreme Court.* Athens: Ohio University Press, 2003. 242 pp. ISBN: 0821414577 (cloth), $49.95.

In matters of persuasion, William Howard Taft was his own worst enemy. His laborious prose obscured some of his best thinking. In both politics and intellectual circles, it is easy to see how Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt overshadowed their contemporary. In the fifth volume of the *Collected Works of William Howard Taft*, editors David Potash and Donald F. Anderson at times do a better job of explaining Taft's positions than the great man himself. Thanks in part to their efforts, his writings from after the split in the Republican Party in the 1912 elections are an excellent primer on the foundations of modern American conservatism.

The editors divided *Volume V* into two sections. David Potash, a history professor and the Associate Provost at Baruch College, edited and provided the commentary for the first section, *Popular Government*. *Popular Government* was a series of eight lectures that Taft delivered at Yale University Law School in the spring of 1913 (these lectures were later reprinted as a book by the same title) following his failed campaign for reelection in 1912. As Potash points out in his introduction, *Popular Government* is significant for its articulation of the values of a conservative Republican Party, namely balancing reform with stability. Taft was critical of demands for more direct democracy, such as the initiative, referendum, and recall. He believed that America's representative government (as opposed to a direct democracy) was one of the



core reasons for the nation's successes over the past century and therefore ought not be tampered with. He worried about an unrestrained majority recalling judges, overruling legislation, and corrupting the nomination process through the direct primary. These steps, Taft feared, would lead inevitably to anarchy. The final chapters of *Popular Government* are based on the purposes of government as outlined in the constitution: "In Order to Form a More Perfect Union," "To Establish Justice (Parts I, II, and III)," and "To Insure Domestic Tranquility, Provide for the Common Defense." In each of these sections, Taft has a reassuring, if anti-democratic, message. He thought the American system worked well, and needed only mild, gradual, reform.

Donald F. Anderson, chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Michigan at Dearborn, introduced *The Anti-Trust Act and The Supreme Court* in which Taft argued that most politicians and the public at large misunderstood both the 1890 Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Supreme Court's decisions regarding that landmark legislation. Unlike many contemporaries who criticized both the Act and the Court for "judicial legislation" in its enforcement, Taft thought the Sherman Act was fully in line with America's common law traditions, and did not need substantial revision in order to be effective. Still, the anti-trust issue was a political hot potato and he acknowledged the political difficulties in addressing the Sherman Act, since "the superlatives of stump oratory have been substituted for a clear statement of the scope and operation of the law." (175) In keeping with his inclination to distrust the impassioned pleas of the majority and his advocacy for incremental reform, Taft argued that the law had worked, was working, and would continue to be an effective tool for justice if properly interpreted.



JOHN HINSHAW

The commentary of Potash and Anderson is smart, concise, and useful. Perhaps both authors could have provided more context for their comments in order to reach a wider audience, but their reluctance to explain every detail is understandable. They know their readers and few non-specialists would pick up a copy of *The Collected Works of William Howard Taft: Volume V.* Still, William Howard Taft, with some clarification from the editors, presents a nuanced version of a conservatism deeply rooted in tradition and based on serious, thoughtful arguments. Anyone interested in understanding the origins of modern American conservatism in the Republican Party should read this volume.

Stephen Tootle
University of North Carolina

John Hinshaw. ***Steel and Steelworkers: Race and Class in Twentieth-Century Pittsburgh.*** Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2002. 348 pp. ISBN: 0791452263 (paper), $25.95.

John Hinshaw's *Steel and Steelworkers* paints a familiar portrait of steelworkers in Pittsburgh who enjoyed a relatively high standard of living even as they were exploited by capital. Like many other workers throughout the twentieth century they struggled to improve working conditions and their lives through unions that were fractured by race, ethnicity and gender. But ultimately with the onset of deindustrialization, neither unions nor labor law could protect either workers or the industry itself. (108)

While both labor and capital played a part in this tragedy, Hinshaw's greatest contribution to labor studies lies in his viewing both parties as operating

within the constrains of a state that dictated both limits and potentialities for labor progress in the Steel City. Specifically, the state gave business free rein to police industry or, acting as a "Fairy Godmother," offered tax breaks to businesses and only limited enforcement of labor laws. It thereby set the stage for growth of big business in Pittsburgh during the first part of the twentieth century and its unprecedented power. (62, 65) In the latter half of the century, ideologies of "consensus" and "the American way of life" muted class conflict by portraying America as a "classless society," at the same time that militancy against racial and gender discrimination were sacrificed on the altar of the Cold War. (108, 173 & 103) Finally, deindustrialization emerged as both a *political* and economic outcome of the government's redirection of funding away from steel and its unwillingness to protect steel in order to increase international trade. It was this that spelled the end of the steel industry as much as business's increasing disinvestment in the mills. (235)

While Hinshaw offers a new perspective on the role of the state in the steel industry and in the lives of steelworkers, his analysis of race and gender in steel is slightly less compelling. For example, although he gives a central place to women and African Americans throughout his narrative, Hinshaw does not so much focus on gender or race in twentieth century Pittsburgh as he does on racial or gender based discrimination. This is not to dismiss Hinshaw's detailed account of the prejudice both groups faced in the steel industry and afterwards in post-industrial Pittsburgh. Rather it suggests that the author might as well have emphasized the role of race or gender as social constructions that shaped the overall nature of the steel industry and the identity of steelworkers. As late as 1971, for example, women represented only .05 percent of skilled steelworkers in Pennsylvania, a fact that meant not only did women face discrimination, but also gender powerfully shaped both labor and capital's idea of who could be a steelworker. (214) Nevertheless, the attention Hinshaw devotes to race and gender does constitute a radical departure from many labor studies done in the past.

While an overabundance of acronyms may discourage some casual readers, Hinshaw's work represents a large step forward in forging a discourse in which "workers' interests define the public interest." (255) *Steel and Steelworkers* therefore should be considered necessary reading for anyone interested in the history of labor, steel or Pittsburgh.

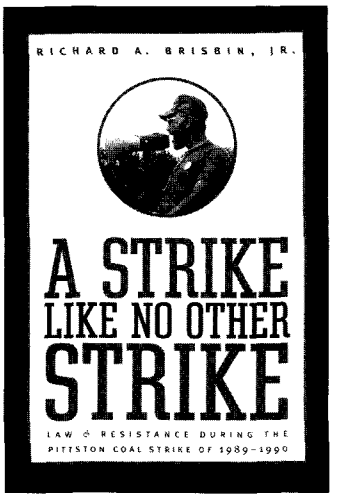
Luther Adams
University of Washington at Tacoma

Richard A. Brisbin, Jr. *A Strike Like No Other Strike: Law & Resistance during the Pittston Coal Strike of 1989-1990.* Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. 350 pp. ISBN: 0801869013 (cloth), $44.95.

In *A Strike Like No Other Strike*, Richard Brisbin asks what impact did the law have on the Pittston Coal strike, one of the largest and most important strikes of the last part of the twentieth century. Since the late 1930s organized labor has been enmeshed in a legal system that recognizes workers right to organize and bargain collectively but at the same time gives primacy to protecting employers' property rights. Under this system, in the postwar period unions made what might be considered a Faustian bargain. In exchange for higher wages and generous benefits, organized labor stepped back from the quest for industrial democracy and renounced the militancy and confrontational tactics that had helped workers achieve the victories of the thirties.

This accord never worked perfectly, especially in the coal industry. Beginning in the sixties, rank and file coal miners, critical of the union leadership's neglect of miners' health and safety and the lack of

union democracy, engaged in a range of resistance strategies, including wildcat strikes. Finally in the 1980s, facing higher costs from environmental and safety regulations and increasing global competition, coal operators sought to break the postwar accord. Encouraged by the more pro-business labor policy of the Reagan administration, operators such as the Pittston Coal Company moved to reduce union power. In 1988, Pittston, for instance, demanded from the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) major benefit concessions, greater flexibility over work schedules, and the right to operate non-union mines.



According to Brisbin, the UMWA recognized that the legal system was tilted against unions in any labor-management conflict. Ultimately the miners chose to "transgress the boundaries of union-management relations law." (130) The struggle against Pittston began with one of the first union "corporate campaigns." The UMWA used public relations tactics, including demonstrations at the company's Connecticut headquarters and informational picketing, to generate public pressure on the firm to settle on the miners' terms. After negotiations failed, the strike, which encompassed mines and processing plants in southwestern Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and southern West Virginia, began in April 1989. Pittston fought to keep the mines open with replacement workers and armed guards who harassed and intimidated strikers. As expected, the courts sided with the company and immediately issued injunctions limiting picketing and assembly on public roads to prevent any interference with production. The UMWA responded with a campaign of civil disobedience that was modeled after the civil rights movement. In the early months of the strike, thousands of miners were arrested as they challenged these injunctions with sit-downs, sit-ins, and rolling blockades. In a move reminiscent of the famous General Motors sit-down strike of the 1930s, ninety-eight miners and a local clergyman occupied Pittston's central preparation plant. When ordered out by a judge, thousands of miners and supporters surrounded the plant to keep out the state police. Finally, frustrated with limitations imposed by the legal system, the miners turned to violence, engaging in rock throwing, tire slashing, physical assaults on strike breakers, and even bombings. Eleven months after the start of the strike, with both sides exhausted, Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole stepped in and secured a compromise settlement.

Influenced by post-structuralist theory, Brisbin is sensitive to the language used by both sides of the conflict, which he describes as a social drama. Pittston and the courts portrayed the UMWA as fanatical and criminal while the miners spoke of their natural rights and social justice and depicted Pittston as a "malevolent, dark and sinful entity." (217) This approach is helpful in understanding the perspectives of strikers and management. At times, however, Brisbin carries this analysis too far. He seems to argue, for instance, that the strike had less to do with class conflict than it did with cultural values. This analysis might surprise miners who were struggling to preserve pensions and some control over their conditions of labor. Still Brisbin makes important points about the "constraints" that face unions within the contemporary legal system and his sympathy for the workers shines through.

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf
West Virginia University

Announcements

Cincinnati Seminar on the City

On Thursday, October 14, the 13th annual Cincinnati Seminar on the City will begin with Brandeis University's Dr. Jonathan Sarna who will discuss *American Judaism in Historical Perspective.* Dr. Sarna's lecture is co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee as one of the many events to celebrate 350 years of American Jewish history. In September 1654 the first Jews to settle in North America arrived in New Amsterdam from Brazil. Yale University published Dr. Sarna'a newest book, *American Judaism: A History*, in February 2004. After his lecture, Dr. Sarna will autograph copies of this book that has been called "comprehensive, thorough and a delight to read ... the definitive book of American Judaism ... a major contribution to American religious history."



THE HEBREW SYNAGOGUE, PLUM STREET.

Seminar on the City is an annual lecture series that focuses on issues, events and trends in urban history—locally, nationally and around the world. Since 1992, the Seminar has been a joint program of Cincinnati Museum Center and the University of Cincinnati Department of History. Lectures are held at 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month from October through May. Dr. David Stradling, UC Assistant Professor of History, assembled the roster of speakers for this season.

Dan Hurley, assistant vice president for history and research at CMC, will discuss The Development of Social Work in Cincinnati: 125 Years of Friendly Visiting and Case Management on November 11. On December 9, Carl Westmoreland, senior advisor with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, will talk about Black Cincinnatians, an Unwanted Presence Since 1802: Their History and Impact on the Present.

The lectures are free and open to the public. Each lecture is preceded by a dinner with the guest lecturer. Reservations for dinner can be made by phone at 513-287-7080. The cost for dinner is $25 per person.

Johnson Investment Counsel is the corporate sponsor for Seminar on the City.



Gertrude Polk Brown Lecture Series presents

Henry Wiencek
An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America

Thursday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Center at Ballard High School
6000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY

George Washington is remembered by most as a Revolutionary War hero and a noble statesman. Yet our nation's first President was also a slaveholder and had helped to create a new world infected by the institution of slavery. In the end, Washington rejected this moral nightmare by freeing his 124 slaves. Something he had seen, something he had done, had changed him to set him radically apart from his peers and family. Henry Wiencek reveals this Founding Father's astounding moral evolution in *An Imperfect God.*

Yale graduate Henry Wiencek is a writer and historian whose works include *The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White,* recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1999. *The Hairstons* has been featured on CSPAN Book TV and 60 Minutes. Wiencek's current work *An Imperfect God* uses previously unpublished documentation and is an original consideration of race and our elusive first President.

Tickets are $10, free for members of The Filson Historical Society.

Send ticket requests with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

GPBL Tickets, TFHS, 1310 S. Third Street, Louisville, KY 40208.

Fellowships and Internships of The Filson Historical Society

The Filson Historical Society invites applications for fellowships and internships.

Applications must be received by October 15, 2004.

Fellowships and internships are funded by a variety of sources. Fellowships encourage the scholarly use of The Filson's nationally significant collections by providing support for travel and lodging. Internships provide practical experience in collections management and research for graduate students. Fellows as well as interns are in continuous residence at The Filson. Applications are reviewed twice a year, February 15 and October 15. Applicants should indicate how The Filson's collections are relevant to their research topics. Fellowship recipients will have the opportunity to present the results of their research to scholars and the general public as appropriate. **For more information about fellowships and internships, application procedures, and to view The Filson's online catalog, please visit www.filsonhistorical.org, or call 502-635-5083.**

The Filson is Kentucky's largest and oldest independent historical society with research collections documenting the history and culture of Kentucky, the Ohio Valley, and the Upper South. The Library and Special Collections include rare books, maps, and 1.5 million manuscripts, forming the best research holdings in Kentucky for the frontier, antebellum, and Civil War eras in addition to extensive collections for the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Continued on page 94

Fellowships

Master's Thesis Fellowships

Eligibility: M.A. candidate at the thesis stage
Tenure of Fellowship: One week
Amount of Award: $500

Note: Full support is available for one-week fellowships to encourage use of Filson research collections by M.A. students developing and researching thesis topics. Partial support is available for students residing in Kentucky who travel from beyond the greater Louisville area.

Filson Fellowships

Eligibility: Ph.D. or equivalent, or doctoral candidate at the dissertation stage
Tenure of Fellowship: One week
Amount of Award: $500

Note: Full support is available for a one-week fellowship period. Partial support is available for scholars residing in Kentucky who travel from beyond the greater Louisville area.

C. Ballard Breaux Visiting Fellowships

Eligibility: Ph.D. or equivalent
Tenure of Fellowship: One month
Amount of Award: $2,000

Note: Full support for post-doctoral scholars living outside of Kentucky is available for a one-month residence. Partial support is available for scholars residing in Kentucky who travel from beyond the greater Louisville area. Applicants for Breaux Visiting Fellowships are automatically considered for Filson Fellowships.

Internships

Filson Interns

Eligibility: Current enrollment in or recent completion of a graduate program in history or a related field
Tenure of Internship: Two semesters
Amount of Award: $1,000 per semester

Note: Interns work with appropriate curatorial staff and faculty advisors in areas of collections management and research.

H. F. Boehl Summer Interns

Eligibility: Current enrollment in or recent completion of a graduate program in history or a related field
Tenure of Internship: One to three months summer residence
Amount of Award: $1,200 per month

Note: Interns work with appropriate curatorial staff and faculty advisors in areas of collections management and research.

Submission Information for Contributors to *Ohio Valley History*

Three paper copies of a manuscript should be sent by postal mail to:

Christopher Phillips or Wayne K. Durrill, Editors
Ohio Valley History
Department of History
P.O. Box 210373
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0373

- Preferred manuscript length is roughly 22 to 25 pages, exclusive of endnotes, on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch paper.
- Please use 11 or 12-point type.
- Double-space text and notes, with notes placed at the end of the manuscript text.
- Author's name and institutional affiliation on title page only.
- Illustrations, tables, and maps that significantly enhance the article are welcome.
- Regarding general form and style, please follow the 15th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style.*
- Please include a working postal address, with telephone, fax, and e-mail information for home or office, as well as for extensive holiday or sabbatical residences.

The refereeing process for manuscripts is blind. Referees are members of our editorial board or other specialists in the academy most appropriate to each manuscript. We have no quotas of any kind with regard to authorship, topic, chronological period, or methodology—the practitioners via their submissions determine what we publish. Authors must guarantee in writing that the work is original, that it has not been previously published, and that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere in *any* form.

Should a manuscript be accepted for publication, the author will be asked to provide a computer disk, clearly labeled with the name of the author, file, and saved in Microsoft Word. We do not have the capacity to translate alternative programs.

Accepted manuscripts undergo a reasonable yet rigorous editing process. We will read the manuscript very closely as to style, grammar, and argument. The edited manuscript will be submitted to the author for consideration before publication.

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