The Kentucky Encyclopedia
subjects on their attitudes and inner feelings about their roles and the community around them. One would also like to hear more from them about the dynamics of their interaction with the surrounding Anglo culture. There are some tantalizing glimpses, but little more. Even if the scholarly reader would ask for more insight, however, we can nonetheless thank Martin for an engaging, readable, and informative preservation of the memories of a generation of women whose lives and contributions will, in fact, not be lost.


REVIEWED BY ROBERT M. TAYLOR, JR., INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The production of this impressive volume by the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission capped the statehood celebration in 1992. The roughly two thousand entries, ranging from one hundred to twenty-five hundred words and written by more than five hundred authors, encompass the state’s history but emphasize the twentieth century. The particulars are made more significant by the lead historical overview by Thomas D. Clark. The editors’ balanced approach allows for general topics, such as “Appalachia,” “One-Room Schools,” “Moonshine,” and “Oral History,” to accompany and enrich the multitude of entries on institutions, personalities, and towns. Appended to each city description are the population figures from the three most recent federal censuses. Most entries give at least one bibliographic source. Readers will appreciate the care granted in detailing and in critically assessing subjects.

In order to keep down the book’s price, the editors omitted photographs, maps, and other graphics from the text. But this deficiency is more than compensated for by the breadth of the undertaking. Although Iowans may find few direct connections—but see, for example, the entries on David Dale Owen and Annie Fellows Johnston—the historical makeup of Kentucky and the migration patterns in the Midwest encourage the study and enjoyment of reference works from states complementary in so many ways. This Kentucky compilation ranks among the best of the recently published state encyclopedias, and it is a model for future similar projects.