Introduction to Special Issue on Midwestern History

Louise E. Fleming
Ashland University

Kathleen A. Murphey
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

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Introduction to Special Issue on Midwestern History

Guest Editors:
Louise E. Fleming, Ashland University
Kathleen A. Murphey
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

This issue is devoted to current work in the field of educational history. We have specifically sought out new researchers in the field of educational history, i.e., graduate students, recent graduates, and previously unpublished scholars whose work has focused on underrepresented groups, such as those defined by race, ethnicity, gender, and class. We have also targeted educational history of the Midwest, for we feel there are few outlets for research about this region.

The first two selections by Karen L. Graves and Joseph Watras respectively, focus on aspects of midwestern educational history related to race. Graves researches curricular choices of African American women in the high schools of St. Louis, Missouri, early in this century; Watras studies the effects of federal intervention programs on desegregation in Dayton, Ohio, in the late 1960s.

Jana Nidiffer leads us to the realm of higher education. By researching the career development of four women, Nidiffer chronicles the evolving profession of deans of women students at the turn of the century in Midwestern universities. With Louise E. Fleming we look at one-room country schools and their consolidation as experienced by several students and teachers in Asland, Ohio. James L. Green’s work centers on the founding of a children’s international summer camp in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the 1940s.

Finally, we have included a piece by Elizabeth K. Johnson and Lucy F. Townsend, which speaks to the concept of listening historically to other voices. The authors critique the current emphases of educational history and make a plea for more variety of form in historical writing. They especially encourage life-writing, or biography.

As a group these historical writings offer a wide range of method, scope, and perspective. We applaud the researchers’ efforts, as well as the initiative of the Mid-Western Educational Researcher, for generating this special forum on educational history of the Midwest.

The Guest Editors

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