

Contents

List of Illustrations ix

Preface

Picturing History xiii

Acknowledgments xvii

Introduction

"I Can Read Pikturs to a D—n" 1

Part One The Literature of the Unlearned

The Emergence of the Visual, 1840–1861

1 "An Aid to the Imagination"

*The Pictorial Mode and the Rise of
Illustrated History* 9

2 "Pictures on Memory's Wall"

*Visual Perspective and the Pictorial Field
Books* 39

3 "Vulgar and Strict Historical Truth"

*Giftbooks, Sentimental History, and the
Grand Manner* 65

Part Two The Pictorial Turn

Realism and Visual Literacy, 1861–1890

4 "Eyewitness to History"

Challenges to the Sentimental Form 99

5 "A String for the Pearls"

*The Centennial Celebration and
Humanizing History* 127

Part Three The Tyranny of the Pictorial

Challenges to the Visual, 1890–1900

6 "Colors That Do Not Fade"

*Chromos and the Professional Attack on
Illustrated Histories* 161

7 "The Subjective Eye and the

Conventionalizing Hand"
Photography and Realism 207

Epilogue

Endings 237

Notes 245

Index 267