

Making the Heartland Quilt: A Geographical History of Settlement and Migration in Early-Nineteenth-Century Illinois, by Douglas K. Meyer. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 2000. xvii, 332 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth.

Reviewer James R. Shortridge is professor of geography at the University of Kansas. He is the author of *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* (1995).

Anyone interested in regional culture soon comes to appreciate studies of population origin. Birthplace information for early settlers provides the best measure available for migration patterns. It also has proved important in understanding past and present variations in agricultural practices, architecture, political behavior, and even the growth of cities. Douglas Meyer, a geographer at Eastern Illinois University, has devoted his scholarly life to tabulating and interpreting heretofore unpublished birthplace data from the 1850 Illinois census. We should be grateful for his efforts.

The jacket cover calls this publication an atlas. Such a description is not quite accurate since the format is that of a standard monograph and the text is extensive. Still, maps are central to the presentation. Meyer has 62 in all, including series on the expansions of the state's road networks and settled areas. These are followed by original, county-level depictions of the settlement patterns for 23 native-born and 10 foreign-born groups. Several other maps outline overall culture regions.

Meyer organizes his text into nine chapters. The first five, taking up slightly less than half the book, provide background material. One is on place images as depicted in guidebooks; a second interprets the ebb and flow of the migration process. Two others focus on transportation—roads and rivers—while the fifth examines the patterns of settlement for each decade. The original material from the census study is presented in the final four chapters. These are organized geographically, with entries on southerners, New Englanders and New Yorkers, Midland peoples, and Canadians and Europeans.

What emerges from this detailed study, not surprisingly, is a more complicated picture of Illinois settlement than commonly described. Instead of having three distinct bands of immigration with sharply defined edges, the transitions were broad. People from many different origins lived together, not only in the larger cities, but also in the state's most highly publicized rural regions: the Sangamon Country around Springfield and the Military Tract between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Cultural pluralism in these latter two areas, Meyer implies, was important in creating a distinctive midwestern persona.

The elusive line between northerners and southerners, traditionally drawn in Illinois along the old St. Louis-Vincennes Trace, turns out to be much farther north. Kentuckians, including Abraham Lincoln, pushed deep into the Sangamon Country and the Military Tract south of Quincy. New Yorkers, the other major contributors to Illinois's settlement, entered at Chicago and spread in a compact block south to a line approximated by Kankakee, Peoria, and Monmouth. Because of these two pincer movements, Ohioans and other Midland peoples were able to dominate a much smaller portion of central Illinois than commonly thought and, even there, faced competition from other groups. Finally, foreign-born peoples, about 13 percent of the total in 1850, formed the largest group in 11 counties, including the Irish in the lead-mining Jo Daviess County and the Germans in Cook and Adams Counties and a cluster near St. Louis. For Iowans who wonder about extensions of the Illinois patterns on to the west, Meyer's findings do not change the expectations much. The Yankee-Midland divide would cross the Mississippi near the border between Louisa and Des Moines Counties.

Meyer is a dogged scholar. His bibliography is exhaustive and his knowledge detailed. Readers should be aware of three limitations of his work, however. First, as the title implies, the treatment ignores Indian settlement and covers the early French colonies only in passing. Second, and less explicably, he offers few examples of how the old migration patterns affect current life. Finally, Professor Meyer is not a gifted writer. His text, although logically organized, is extremely mechanical.

Germans in Wisconsin, by Richard H. Zeitlin. Revised and expanded edition. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2000. 72 pp. Illustrations, map, graph, document, index. \$5.95 paper.

Reviewer John D. Bunker is professor of history and ethnic studies at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He is the author or editor of a dozen books, including *Multiculturalism in the United States*; *Wisconsin: The Progressive Era*; and *Immigration and Ethnicity: A Guide to Information Sources*.

What is the major ethnocultural characteristic that Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa all have in common? They are the only states in the Union where more than one out of every three residents claim German ancestry. Moreover, the German-American communities of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota are generally of the same vintage: they were established originally by the immigrant wave of the 1840s and 1850s and evolved along similar lines over the past century and a half. For many Iowans, therefore, the

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