

temptation to compare and contrast the German-American experience of the Badger State with that on their own side of the Mississippi will doubtless prove irresistible.

Although billing a volume of fewer than 75 pages a "revised and expanded edition" might seem extravagant, the author manages to pack an impressive amount of information, as well as several trenchant insights, into these few pages. After describing the various waves of immigration from Germany to the Badger State, Richard Zeitlin concludes that "in almost all cases, their awareness as 'Germans' developed only after they had reached America" (17). Summing up the complex process of adaptation and preservation, the author asserts that it ultimately produced a new identity of "pan-Germanism, a unique result that is neither German nor American" (42). Wrestling with the knotty problem of "just how German is Wisconsin," Zeitlin contends that it is "the most Germanic state in the Union," but also acknowledges that it is only the first among equals in comparison to many other northern and midwestern states. Moreover, he concedes that "Germans have succeeded more at assimilation and Americanization than have most other nineteenth-century, non-English-speaking groups in Wisconsin," and that "by the early twenty-first century, the state's German majority population is far more American than German" (56-57).

The human interest value of the book is significantly enhanced by two supplements to the text: 16 pages of photographs illustrating the history of Germans in the state from the 1870s through the 1980s; and a document—part letter, part journal—titled "The Long Journey of the Diederichs Family, 1847-1848," originally published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* in 1924.

Army of Israel: Mormon Battalion Narratives, edited by David L. Bigler and Will Bagley. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2000. 492 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewer Richard E. Bennett is professor of church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. He is the author of *Mormons at the Missouri, 1846-1852: "And Should We Die"* (1987) and *"We'll Find the Place": The Mormon Exodus, 1846-1848* (1997).

Recent winner of the Mormon History Association's prestigious award for the best documentary edition in Mormon history published in 2000, *Army of Israel* is a welcome companion to Norma B. Ricketts's recent compelling narrative, *The Mormon Battalion: U.S. Army of the West, 1846-1848* (1996). Far more than just another look at the 2,000-

mile march of the 500-man Mormon Battalion from western Iowa to San Diego as part of the U.S.-Mexican War, "this study seeks to place the larger political and military role of the Mormon Battalion in the context of the history of the American West" (18). Besides carefully selected new documents on the march itself, there also are entire chapters on the battalion's loyal service to General Stephen W. Kearny in California as he laid claim to command, its key role in finding gold at Sutter's Mill in January 1848, the controversies among the sick detachments left back in Pueblo, and the return march of many battalion soldiers to Salt Lake City and, for some, all the way back to Winter Quarters, Nebraska. Along the way are splendid descriptions of new wagon trails, Indian life, Spanish California, gold mining, the discovery of the remains of the ill-fated Donner Party, and much more.

In the best editorial tradition of Juanita Brooks, Bigler and Bagley have incorporated into their panoramic study scores of previously unpublished letters, journal entries, field officer reports, and other mainly contemporary sources of the men (and a few of the women) of the battalion found at the Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the National Archives, and several other repositories. Besides introducing the documents and explaining their overall significance to the battalion's story, the editors copiously footnote and colorfully interpret key issues, controversies, and personalities. Adding a few fine maps and photographs to the mix, they have produced a comprehensive, interpretive documentary edition that is a pleasure to read and is without peer in the study of the Mormon Battalion.

Rebels at Rock Island: The Story of a Civil War Prison, by Benton McAdams. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2000. xiv, 260 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, appendix, index. \$32.00 cloth.

Reviewer William B. Feis is associate professor of history at Buena Vista University. He is the author of *Grant's Secret Service: The Intelligence War from Belmont to Appomattox* (University of Nebraska Press, 2002).

In Margaret Mitchell's classic, *Gone with the Wind*, southerner Ashley Wilkes is captured and shipped to Rock Island Barracks, Illinois, where he endures barbaric treatment at the hands of his Yankee captors. So dreadful was Mitchell's depiction of the Rock Island prison that it earned the title, "Andersonville of the North." To assess whether Mitchell was right, Benton McAdams examines camp life, prison operations and administration, and the role of a local anti-Republican newspaper in revealing and propagandizing the miserable conditions behind the walls.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.