

Republicans promoted him for vice president in 1884 and president in 1888, but he dissuaded supporters from sending him to the “gilded prison” (297).

Emerson’s depth of research, with endnotes and bibliography covering 180 pages, is impressive. Yet one might question whether Robert Lincoln’s achievements merit a 421-page biography. In Emerson’s own words, Lincoln’s time as Secretary of War was “a record of unexciting administrative duties,” and his tenure in Britain “was not extraordinary” (236, 334). Emerson believes that Robert Lincoln deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as “Carnegie, Rockefeller, Morgan, and Pullman” (421), but that contention is not effectively supported. Emerson’s attempts to interpret favorably labor and race relations during Robert’s presidency of the Pullman Company are also not entirely persuasive. He credits Robert with being simultaneously concerned with “the company’s bottom line” and also “the health and well-being of his employees” (364). All things considered, Emerson has produced a definitive, informative, and engaging biography of a man often marginalized because of his father’s status. It will appeal to Lincolnphiles, but also to students, scholars, and lay readers of Gilded Age and Progressive Era history.

Land of Promise, Land of Tears, by Jerry L. Twedt. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2012. 451 pp. Notes, bibliography. \$25.99 cloth, \$20.90 paper, \$2.99 e-book.

Reviewer Marvin G. Slind is professor of history and head of the History Department at Luther College. His research interests focus primarily on Norwegian immigration history. He is the translator and coeditor of *Linka’s Diary: An Immigrant Story in Word and Pictures* (2008).

Land of Promise, Land of Tears is a historical novel that traces the lives of a Norwegian immigrant family through much of the year 1869. Ole and Helena Branjord and their children settled near Fairview (now Story City). Their experiences illustrate the rapid developments in American—and Norwegian American—society following the Civil War. While their story is generally told in the third person, there are also short sections that comment on events from the perspectives of different characters in the novel. The result is a moving account of the ordeals of pioneer life, such as the difficulties of harvest work, food preparation and preservation, personal tensions within the immigrant community, disease and health care, and immigrants’ religious concerns (including controversies that contributed to the splintering of the Norwegian Lutheran church into many disparate synods). In his

concluding notes, Twedt relates the fictional characters to the historical figures from whose lives the story is drawn.

The novel is based primarily on a number of regional and local histories, as well as stories preserved by the author's own family (which included the historical Branjords). Twedt also consulted more broadly focused works related to immigration history, as well as the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah. *Land of Promise, Land of Tears* provides a clear description of the kinds of hardships Scandinavian immigrants experienced when they settled in Iowa. The creation of Norwegian American society involved a complex mixture of old and new, Norwegian and American. The difficulties of that process are described well in this novel.

Main Street Public Library: Community Places and Reading Spaces in the Rural Heartland, 1876–1956, by Wayne A. Wiegand. Iowa and the Midwest Experience. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2011. xi, 244 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.95 paper.

Reviewer Jean Preer is professor emerita at the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science–Indianapolis. She is the author of *Library Ethics* (2008).

Combining traditional historical research with an analysis of library accession records, Wayne Wiegand examines public library development and collections in four rural towns in the upper Midwest, an area known for its active civic life. The communities shared similar demographics but enjoyed distinct identities. Sauk Centre, Minnesota, was the birthplace of Sinclair Lewis; Osage, Iowa, named for its pioneer settler, Orrin Sage, was the boyhood home of Hamlin Garland; Lexington, Michigan, attracted the summer tourist trade; and Rhinelander, Wisconsin, supported manufacturing, attracted immigrants, and elected a socialist mayor. Using a wealth of local records, Wiegand provides detailed accounts of each community, exploring the dual role of the library as a source of reading matter and as a public space.

Beginning his study in 1876, Wiegand depicts the various ways public libraries got their start. In Sauk Centre and Lexington, local literary associations provided impetus and collections for public libraries. Local philanthropists played an important role. In Osage, Orrin Sage deeded land to cover construction of the Sage Public Library and created an endowment to cover operating expenses. In Lexington, the daughters of Charles H. Moore used their inheritance to build a library in his honor. Sauk Centre, Osage, and Rhinelander