

Book Reviews

life of a field officer, for all its hardships. In return, he found possibilities for advancement in the Civil War army that had not existed for Jewish Americans in the old army; and Marcus Spiegel understood his opportunities. "I am a Soldier," he declared, "and desire to be treated as such."

These two books are valuable sources, furthering our understanding of the relationship between social and military history, a subject of growing importance. The influence of social factors on military affairs has been explored in the 1980s by works such as John Keegan's *Six Armies in Normandy*, which considers the national character of each of the armies that fought in the D-Day campaign, and the studies of Grady McWhiney and Forrest McDonald, which show how the ethnic heritage of the Old South influenced Confederate military policy and, moreover, all of southern history. *Your True Marcus* and *A German in the Yankee Fatherland* are intelligently edited volumes that add to our knowledge of America's military and cultural past.

USAF HISTORY PROGRAM

PERRY D. JAMIESON

Swedish Place-Names In North America, by Otto Robert Landelius. Translated by Karin Franzén; edited by Raymond Jarvi. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1985. xvii, 372 pp. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

Swedish Place-Names in North America is a comprehensive, scholarly, and interesting volume of almost 1,400 items, arranged by states in the United States and by provinces and territories in Canada. The entries vary in length from a few sentences to detailed descriptions which present valuable biographical, geographical, and historical information. The author's aim "has been to present a portion of Swedish cultural history on North American soil based on the Swedish place names that are or have been found there" (xiii). He accomplished that goal and far more in a volume that evaluates the modest amount of previous material on this subject and enlarges and enriches the scope through creative and thorough assessment of the vast array of printed sources.

Otto Robert Landelius, a native of Gothenburg, traces his interest in Swedish North America to boyhood days when he saw from his home the stream of emigrants converging on shipping offices and the harbor of his native city. Extensive study tours in the United States and Canada in 1919-1920 and 1929 provided insight into the life and history of Swedish immigrants and their descendants. He was a correspondent for Swedish and German newspapers; a staff member of the

National Society for the Preservation of Swedish Culture Abroad, Gothenburg; and a freelance journalist. Landelius began gathering material about Swedes in North America early in life. It grew into a large collection that is now at the Emigrant Institute, Växjö. His excellent volume, *Amerikabreven* (America Letters, 1939), with a foreword by Vilhelm Moberg, is a highly prized publication of 115 letters from Texas immigrants accompanied by scholarly introductory and explanatory materials. A biographical note by Thea Andréasson, née Landelius, provides valuable biographical information. The translation by Karin Franzén and editing by Raymond Jarvi are of high quality.

Landelius explained, "As a rule only those place-names have been included, the Swedish origin of which can be considered verified or supported by given positive information or can be assumed because of other circumstances" (xvii). The total number of such names in North America is 1,395 (1,152 in the U.S. and 243 in Canada). Landelius expressed great appreciation for the work of Vilhelm Berger; Landelius cited 216 of the 280 place-names listed in Berger's study in the periodical *Namn och Bygd*.

Landelius identified two principal sources of place-names: the settlement of Swedish immigrants or their pioneer work in other respects, which constitute the majority of the entries; and names given by official bodies, institutions, and private persons (xiv). Townships, small towns and communities, lakes, mountains, and other geographic features are the major topics. Names of streets, churches, schools, institutions, and private estates appear only rarely. Hundreds of small towns are included; only three cities with more than ten thousand population are listed. Townships number 78, with 45 of those in Minnesota. Bremer County, Iowa, named after the famous author, Fredrika Bremer, who toured the United States in 1850, is believed to be the only county with a verifiable Swedish place-name. Lakes provide the greatest number (144) from nature.

Famous Swedish and Swedish American persons have furnished place-names, including authors Fredrika Bremer, Esaias Tegnér, Johan Ludvig Runeberg, Z. Topelius; singer Jenny Lind; inventors John Ericsson and Alfred Nobel; scientists Carl von Linné, Anders Dahl, and Pehr Kalm; arctic explorer A. E. Nordenskiöld; Governor Prinz in the colonial period, and John Morton and John Hanson in the era of the American Revolution; Admiral John Dahlgren, Civil War; and aviator Charles Lindbergh. The Swedish royal family have also left their marks on the map of North America. Among them are Gustavus Vasa, Queen Christina, King Oscar I, King Oscar II, King Carl XIV Johan, Crown

Prince Gustaf (King Gustaf V), Prince Gustaf Adolph (King Gustaf VI Adolph), and Princess Ingeborg.

Christian and family names are the source of many entries. The former include Alma, Anders, Axel, Emma, Gunnar, and many others throughout the alphabet. Family names rank high, ranging from Ahlen to Widforss. Ericson and its variations in spelling rank at the top with thirty, but other names—Carlson, Larson, Olson, and Peterson—have more than twenty each. The largest number of place-names use "Swede" in a variety of forms. More than sixty towns, townships, lakes, etc. are presented in this category. Six towns are named "Sweden" although that designation for a Missouri community is incorrect because the postal department made an error in recording the name "Sweeten."

A comparative study of the Landelius volume for selected states shows how much the knowledge of Swedish place-names has been enriched. The spotty knowledge of Iowa place-names and the description in George R. Stewart, *Names of the Land* (1970) has made only limited information available (xv). Vilhelm Berger identified only thirteen of Swedish origin, including three churches. Landelius presented thirty-three and generally provided detailed information. Towns and cities in Iowa with direct Swedish antecedents are Boxholm, Kalmar, Galva (Gävle), Dalby, Mantorp, and Stockholm. Family and Christian names furnished the origin of Bremer County and the towns and communities of Bremer, Fredrika, Freeport, Halland (not the county in Sweden), Johnsonville, Linnburg, Lundgren, Manson (Månsson), Munterville, Nyman, and Wallin. New Sweden, Svea City, Swedesburg, Swede Bend, and Swede Point are self-explanatory. The data for Iowa's neighboring states is as follows: Minnesota 308; Wisconsin 94; Illinois 19; Missouri 6; Nebraska 23; and South Dakota 14.

The broad scope of Swedish place-names in Landelius is illustrated by a comparison with the comprehensive volume by Warren Upham, *Minnesota Geographic Names* (1969). Landelius describes 308 in Minnesota, of which 149 are not in Upham's book. Illinois, which ranks in the same general category as Minnesota in the number of Swedish immigrants and their descendants, has only 19. Folke Hedblom, Uppsala, in *Namn och Bygd* (1966) pointed out that an important factor in this disparity is the dominant rural character of the Swedish element in Minnesota in contrast with the urban concentration in Illinois (129).

This superb, scholarly, and attractive volume is more than a source for place-names; it also provides reliable historical information about individuals, communities, and geographical factors. Extensive field work, which was not possible under the circumstances, would

have enriched its content. Nevertheless, this fine study will be the authoritative source far into the future. Librarians will find it a valuable reference volume. Individual purchasers will have a well-organized and easy-to-read book that is a splendid source for interesting information and recurring pleasure.

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EMORY LINDQUIST, EMERITUS

American Travels of a Dutch Hobo, 1923–1926, by Gerard Leeflang. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1984. xii, 163 pp. Ink sketches by the author. \$15.00 cloth.

Even before Gerard Leeflang wandered ashore in 1923 New York, his eyes were open wide, and they stayed that way for the three years he spent in America, indeed, for sixty years. Looking back he called himself a hobo, but that does not fit, for wherever he went he worked. Jobs seemed easy to find, and employers and coworkers liked him for good reason: such zest as he displayed is all too rare. Everything was an adventure. No matter that his American travels came to a rude ending, his fondness for the land endured. Writing in his homeland, he gave his readers an engaging description of life in the twenties as no one else could have lived it. Occasionally his choice of words and style of phrasing ("I could easily and fastly reach my garage" [143]) gave his account an accent that adds to its appeal.

Leeflang's odyssey began with a shore leave from the Dutch vessel he served as a young seaman. First he was entranced by the skyscrapers, and then, in turn, by Coney Island, a baseball game at Yankee Stadium, and the Brooklyn Bridge. Recalling the bridge, he penned a sketch of it, one of two dozen in the book. On his fourth day of adventuring, Leeflang took in Central Park, Chinatown, and the Bowery. Greenwich Village would have to wait—but not for long. The temptation to jump ship was irresistible, even though it meant that as a runaway he could never again find employment on a ship of Dutch nationality.

Because he could speak English, Leeflang made his way quite well. A temporary job as a streetcar motorman in New York gave him some money and he found a place to live, but working and daily routines did not keep him from absorbing with wonder the life around him. The average American, he concluded, "lives dynamically, even though his thinking is directed at facts and money, at films and popcorn, at cars and root beer" (31). Mesmerized by the American dream, the loss of his job as a motorman left him undaunted. It was time to move on anyway. En route to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where he put

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