

*Germans in Minnesota*, by Kathleen Neils Conzen. The People of Minnesota Series. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2003. ix, 101 pp. Illustrations, notes, suggested readings, index. \$13.95 paper.

Reviewer Eleanor L. Turk is professor of history emerita at Indiana University East. She has published a number of articles on German Americans in Kansas.

Minnesotans who read this fifth book in The People of Minnesota series may be surprised to learn that people of German ancestry, not Scandinavian, are the state's most numerous and widespread population. Unlike the highly visible Scandinavians, however, the Germans blended into the mainstream in the twentieth century, losing their earlier high visibility.

Kathleen Neils Conzen, one of the nation's preeminent immigration scholars, has long studied the Germans in Minnesota. Her collaboration with the Minnesota State Historical Society on this book makes it an important and welcome addition to the history of German immigration to the United States. Highly readable, it offers a model that should encourage other states and ethnic groups to research and appreciate their heritage.

The narrative starts with a brief introduction to the conditions Germans faced in Europe that led some to choose immigration to the United States and to Minnesota. With interesting examples of individual settlers and lavish use of photographs and illustrations from Minnesota Historical Society files, the main part of the study focuses on life in the communities these emigrants established: their churches and schools, their choices of livelihood, and their celebrations. Conzen also points out how their culture was diluted over successive generations. The book closes with the delightful personal account of George Kulzer, who settled in Stearns County in 1856. Recommendations for additional readings are included.

Based on diaries, letters, census data, and scholarly sources, this slim volume offers much to its readers.

*Fanatics and Fire-Eaters: Newspapers and the Coming of the Civil War*, by Lorman A. Ratner and Dwight L. Teeter Jr. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2003. The History of Communication Series. xiii, 138 pp. Notes, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Mark Wahlgren Summers is professor of history at the University of Kentucky. He is the author of many books and articles about Gilded Age politics, including *The Press Gang: Newspapers and Politics, 1865-1878* (1994).

A pack of political prostitutes and tub-thumpers, nineteenth-century editors were always ready to lie for their country. From a safe distance,

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