

throughout the Midwest, but focusing on one state and its female settlers permits greater detail in the geographic and gendered dimensions of migration often overlooked in larger studies of national or regional migration.

Moving chronologically, the authors provide a topical focus in each chapter, such as the early French female settlers in colonial St. Louis, life on the frontier, women and the church, women in religious orders, women and the Civil War, farm families, town life, immigrant neighborhoods in St. Louis, and women and work. Women's experiences varied depending on their ethnic, class, and religious backgrounds, their age and marital status, and when they migrated. Most came as part of a family, as children or wives, but some also came single, separated, or widowed. Each group faced common problems—especially those associated with childbirth, disease, homesickness, and loneliness—and all were vital to their immigrant communities. Some women, such as eighteenth-century migrant Marie Therese Bourgeois Chouteau, became influential and wealthy; other women founded religious orders and schools, established businesses, and became active in labor unions.

Rich detail on individuals makes this history engaging, while significant historical contexts make the narrative coherent. Because the work focuses on one state, it invites comparisons with others, especially bordering states such as Iowa: both experienced a strong German presence and the influence of the Mississippi River, for example; yet Missouri, a slave state with a warmer climate, also developed different settlement patterns from Iowa, with fewer Scandinavian immigrants, for example. Undoubtedly, this useful and readable book will draw many readers into the fascinating world of migration studies.

Women's Wisconsin: From Native Matriarchies to the New Millennium, edited by Genevieve G. McBride. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2005. xxii, 486 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$37.95 paper.

Reviewer Barbara McGowan is professor of history at Ripon College. Her areas of interest include U.S. political, social, and women's history.

Women's Wisconsin is a collection of material on women drawn from 350 issues of *Wisconsin Historical Magazine* from 1917 to the present. Selections include excerpted or complete essays by historians and others, and primary source materials ranging from memoirs by nineteenth-century Irish immigrants to oral history interviews with Wisconsin women on their experiences during World War II. The book is divided into eight sections, beginning with "The First Wisconsin

Women" and ending with "Never Done: Women's Work from the Wisconsin Centennial into the New Millennium." Each section begins with a detailed, analytical essay by Genevieve G. McBride, a historian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The essays alone provide an interesting and original history of female experience in Wisconsin and, by extension, much of the Midwest. In addition, McBride's editing is deft and unobtrusive, as she has the good sense to realize that many of the secondary essays are themselves primary documents revealing how historians and other commentators viewed women's history and related issues at the time they were written. The result is an anthology that rewards readers on many levels and creatively arranges disparate materials and approaches.

The book's strength is that, unlike many more textbook-like anthologies, it allows both professional historians and general readers to learn a lot more about specific developments and particular groups and individuals without being constantly reminded of every extant historical interpretation. The book provides many topics and perspectives and allows readers to experience a broad range of approaches. For example, the first section of the book contains a brief biography of a mixed-blood fur trader, a memoir by an early female settler of pioneering experiences in Illinois and Wisconsin, and a 1927 article by a descendant of an early settler providing her interpretation of her ancestor's experience. The chapter on the mid-nineteenth century treats many topics that have national as well as statewide implications, and yet the local approach deepens understanding. Mrs. W. F. Allen's account of the treatment of women students at the University of Wisconsin in the late 1860s gives new meaning to the term "separate spheres": "the girls were taken only on sufferance . . . so tolerated in classes by themselves. But woe to the girl who dared walk on the boys' side of the hill, or be seen speaking to a boy on campus" (155). Readers whose knowledge of the perils of rural life comes from *Wisconsin Death Trip* will appreciate Jan Coombs's well-researched essay on the health of central Wisconsin residents in 1880. She provides information and analysis beyond the anecdotal and sensational to give a much fuller picture of maternal, infant, and family health and relates her findings to historiographical arguments about the relative health and safety of rural versus urban environments. The materials on the twentieth century are equally useful, treating topics as diverse as the career of Belle Case La Follette and the work of Milwaukee women in the WPA.

Women's Wisconsin is an impressive achievement that can be used as a reference book, a commentary and source for studying women's history or midwestern history, or a satisfying overview for the inter-

ested general reader. Its only limitation is that, by definition, it only uses materials that previously appeared in the magazine. As a result, there is no comprehensive coverage of topics over time, and there are some obvious trends in coverage—such as relatively little on African American women and an overemphasis on prominent personalities. But McBride makes up for these deficiencies in her strong synthetic introductions. The book as a whole reflects respect both for the contents of the magazine and for the interests of professional historians.

Arrow Rock: The Story of a Missouri Village, by Authorene Wilson Phillips. Missouri Heritage Readers. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2005. xi, 164 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Thomas M. Spencer is associate professor of history at Northwest Missouri State University. He is the author of *The St. Louis Veiled Prophet Celebration: Power on Parade, 1877–1995* (2000) and editor of *The Other Missouri History: Populists, Prostitutes, and Regular Folk* (2005).

In recent years, the village of Arrow Rock, Missouri has become a tourist attraction, especially for those interested in the period before the Civil War. In *Arrow Rock: The Story of a Missouri Village*, Authorene Wilson Phillips recounts the history of the town, starting with the first known references to the impressive flint rock formation for which the town was named in the 1700s. An introduction and eight chapters treat the history of the town from the eighteenth century to the present. The epilogue, subtitled “www.arrowrock.org,” provides short biographies of the prominent citizens who helped to transform the town into a historical tourist attraction over the past two decades.

The book does not offer a comprehensive history of Arrow Rock and its development, but it does provide insight into the major historic figures who were born and raised in the town during the nineteenth century and went on to make a name for themselves. Arrow Rock ultimately produced several prominent midwesterners, including three governors of Missouri and the well-known “Missouri River artist” George Caleb Bingham.

This book is intended for general readers who want a brief history of Arrow Rock, probably before making a visit. If viewed on those terms, the book successfully provides a quick history of this scenic town and the major figures who have passed through Arrow Rock at some point during the past two centuries.

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.