

The Editor's Perspective

Compiling a cumulative index provides an occasion to reflect on what has occupied the pages of the journal over the years the index covers—in this case the 1990s. The last time I finished a cumulative index, ten years ago, I wrote and published an article reflecting on the changes in the journal over the much longer time span covered by that index (1947–1991).¹ Significant change was less evident as I compiled this index.

Instead, I have been reflecting on whether the journal has begun to address some of the topics and concerns I called for prescriptively in another historiographical essay I wrote in 1996 as the introduction to my *Iowa History Reader*.² There I called for more attention to the history of education at the grass roots, to immigrant and ethnic experience, to cultural and religious history, and to material culture. I'm pleased that the index of the past decade reflects at least some attention to all of these issues.

David Reynolds's 1999 article is perhaps the most significant example of a focus on education at the grass roots. But entries referring to Pamela Riney-Kehrberg's article on farm children, María Bjerg's on Danish immigrants, and Peter Hoehnle's on Amana's Great Change give insights into the everyday experience of education.³

The latter two articles also reflect increased attention to immigration and ethnicity, along with a more sophisticated approach to the topic. Bjerg's comparative look at Danish immigrants in Iowa and Argentina yielded insights that are not

1. Marvin Bergman, "The Annals of Iowa, 1947–1992 and Beyond: An Editor's Reflections," *Annals of Iowa* (hereafter assumed, so only volume and page numbers are given) 52 (1993), 79–87.

2. Marvin Bergman, ed., *Iowa History Reader* (Ames, 1996), 1–18.

3. David R. Reynolds, "The Making of Buck Creek: Country Life Reform, Religion, and Rural School Consolidation," 58:351–87; Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, "Helping Ma and Helping Pa: Iowa's Turn-of-the-Century Farm Children," 59:115–40; María Bjerg, "A Tale of Two Settlements: Danish Immigrants on the American Prairie and the Argentine Pampa, 1860–1930," 59:1–34; Peter Hoehnle, "Community in Transition: Amana's Great Change, 1931–1933," 60:1–34.

available without the comparative lens she used. Béla Vassady's article on Hungarian Forty-eighters, Michael Bell's on Jews, and Brian Beltman's on Dutch Americans in northwest Iowa showcased ethnicity. Even when it was not the focus of their article, authors used ethnicity as an analytical tool.⁴

Cultural history was still lacking, but religious history made appearances in articles on Billy Sunday and on Henry A. Wallace's spiritualism, and in David Reynolds's analysis of the role of a local Methodist church in a struggle over rural school consolidation at Buck Creek.⁵ In the most significant departure, the index entries for Mesquakie costume, county courthouses, farmhouses, and handywork reflect a welcome new interpretive approach to the very stuff that surrounds us all.⁶ At the same time, the *Annals* has not overlooked more traditional elements of Iowa history, as reflected in more than a page of entries devoted to some variation on the word *farm*, but also in articles on James F. Wilson, Iowa's antebellum political culture, and the contest over commission government in Des Moines.⁷

All in all, it's been a good decade for the *Annals of Iowa*. Explore its ins and outs by looking for your favorite topics in the cumulative index included in this issue.

4. Bjerg, "A Tale of Two Settlements"; Béla Vassady, "New Buda: A Colony of Hungarian Forty-eighters in Iowa," 51:26-52; Michael Bell, "'True Israelites of America': The Story of the Jews of Iowa," 53:85-127; Brian W. Beltman, "Ethnic Persistence and Change: The Experience of a Dutch-American Family in Rural Iowa," 52:1-49; idem, "Ethnic Territoriality and the Persistence of Identity: Dutch Settlers in Northwest Iowa, 1869-1880," 55:101-37. For ethnicity as an analytical tool, see, for example, Wilson J. Warren, "Evangelical Paternalism and Divided Workers: The Nonunion Era at John Morrell and Company in Ottumwa, 1877-1917," 56:321-48; Jo Ann Manfra, "Hometown Politics and the American Protective Association, 1887-1890," 55:138-66; and Francesca Morgan, "'Regions Remote from Revolutionary Scenes': Regionalism, Nationalism, and the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, 1890-1930," 56:46-79.

5. Robert F. Martin, "Billy Sunday and the Mystique of the Middle West," 55:345-60; Mark L. Kleinman, "Searching for the 'Inner Light': The Development of Henry A. Wallace's Experimental Spiritualism," 53:195-218; Reynolds, "The Making of Buck Creek."

6. Ruth B. Phillips, "Clothed in Blessing: Meaning in Mesquakie Costume," 51:1-25; Wesley Ivan Shank, "The Demise of the County Courthouse Tower in Iowa: A Study of Early Twentieth-Century Cultural and Architectural Change," 51:337-62; Fred W. Peterson, "Tradition and Change in Nineteenth-Century Iowa Farmhouses," 52:251-81; Michael Lewis, "Stitching Together Meaning: Sarah Jane Kimball's Fancywork, Class, and Consumption in Late Nineteenth-Century Iowa," 59:141-64.

7. Leonard Schlup, "Republican Loyalist: James F. Wilson and Party Politics, 1855-1895," 52:123-49; Robert Cook, "The Political Culture of Antebellum Iowa: An Overview," 52:225-50; Robert E. Bionaz, "Trickle-Down Democracy: The Commission Government Contest in Des Moines, 1905-1908," 58:241-72.

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