

The Routledge Historical Atlas of the American Railroads, by John F. Stover. Routledge Atlases of American History Series. New York: Routledge, 1999. 144 pp. Maps, illustrations, graphs, tables, chronology, bibliography, index. \$17.95 paper.

Reviewer Kevin B. Byrne is professor of history at Gustavus Adolphus College. His research and writing have focused on military history and the history of technology and railroads.

This brief atlas by John Stover, dean of American railroad historians, brings together text, maps, and other illustrations exploring the field Stover knows so well. Its 54 entries fall into either of two categories: two- to four-page treatments of issues related to railroad history, or two-page snapshot histories of 26 major lines. The former cover a plethora of engaging topics—a comparison of Lincoln's itineraries while traveling between Illinois and Washington, D.C., in 1849 and 1861, for example, and standard subjects such as land grants and the creation of national time zones. A final chapter on "Railroads in the 1990s" plus a chronology and bibliography complete the book.

Stover's thumbnail sketches employ important and occasionally colorful detail, and his judgments demonstrate a sympathetic but not uncritical understanding of his subject. What distinguish this volume, of course, are the full-color maps that accompany each entry, along with related charts, photos, posters, advertisements, and such. They provide a highly useful visual dimension that enhances the accounts and allows readers to peruse the evidence.

Midwestern readers will find much to interest them here. They may appreciate, for instance, Stover's pithy description of how railroads forged ties between the midsection and the Northeast, cementing that alliance for the Civil War. And they can learn why nineteenth-century Grangers agitated for rate regulation. Concise histories of James J. Hill's Great Northern and of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, among others, will be welcome, too. In short, author Stover, series editor Mark Carnes, and the publisher have done a favor for anyone interested in exploring briefly this essential facet of the nation's past.

Victorian Architecture of Iowa, by William Plymat Jr. Des Moines: Palladian Publishing Co., 1997. 144 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$45.00 cloth, \$25.00 paper.

Reviewer Jan Olive Nash is co-principal of Tallgrass Historians L.C. In that capacity, she has visited and studied the history of Iowa communities for ten years. She is also working on a Ph.D. dissertation at Loyola University Chicago on the survival patterns of small midwestern communities.

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