

main isolated and cohesive in the face of "modernizing influences" (186). He argues that the later settlers to the community—the "New German" Catholics and their Yankee neighbors—brought processed consumer goods, a secular school system, and a cash economy to the town. The traditional Germans, who were members of the United Brethren of Christ, tried to ward off the influences and values of the newcomers; they continued to speak German and even listed their Iowa-born children as "German" on public birth certificates. In the end, however, the old settlers were unable to resist the conveniences and benefits of the changing American economic and cultural environments. The rapidly expanding mercantile economy offered new consumer goods and demanded tax payments, both of which required cash interactions within the community. The children of the old settlers were particularly susceptible to the romances of the modern world because they went to school with their new neighbors and learned to read and write in the English language. Wueschner's argument is convincing, although he is not altogether successful in proving that the "Old Germans" resisted the changes that took place in late nineteenth-century Ormanville; the information that is available on the community may not be sufficient to prove that the old settlers were not active participants in the implementation of those very changes.

Overall, this a very well-researched, well-written, and useful book. It is a compelling story of one frontier community that might be used to illustrate larger trends in American economic and social development in the late nineteenth century. It would have been more appealing to scholars of American history if it had included a map that located the town in the state of Iowa. And the professional community would have been better served if the author had employed a more rigorous footnoting style, giving the sources of his information on both the general and specific facts of his study.

*To Reap a Bountiful Harvest: Czech Immigration Beyond the Mississippi, 1850–1900*; by Štěpánka Korytová-Magstadt. Iowa City: Rudi Publishing, 1993. xxiv, 179 pp. Illustrations, maps, charts, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY NELLIE W. KREMENAK, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

This study represents a welcome step in further documenting the history of a small but culturally significant midwestern ethnic group, the Czechs. Although the signposts of their rich communal life remain around us in the Czech halls, the tiny country Bohemian cemeteries, and churches named for St. Wenceslaus, only a few studies of their

role in the settlement of the Middle West have been reported. Documentary resources locked away from most historians by the intricacies of the Czech language remain to be tapped. Štěpanka Korytová-Magstadt, with facility in English, Russian, and Czech languages, and now living in Nebraska, may provide a key to those resources.

Korytová-Magstadt began her higher education in Prague, her birthplace, and continued it at the University of Southampton in England, where she received a B.A. degree. In 1982 she emigrated to the United States and began her study of Czech immigration to the Middle West as part of a Ph.D. program at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The great political changes in eastern Europe in 1986 made it possible for her to return to Prague, where she was able to draw on Czech archives to complete her work, receiving her doctorate from Charles University in 1991. Her dissertation, a study of Czech immigration and settlement in rural Nebraska, based on information drawn from the Nebraska manuscript census for 1885, became the foundation for this book.

Drawing on Czech language documents in regional and national archives in the Czech Republic and in Austria as well as in the United States, along with several master's and Ph.D. theses on Czech settlement in Nebraska, and a large secondary literature in both English and Czech, Korytová-Magstadt has constructed a composite picture of Czech immigration and settlement in rural America, including Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas. She outlines the political and economic conditions in nineteenth-century Bohemia, a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, that led many Czech farmers to leave their homeland for the United States. Ironically, liberalization of laws regulating the sale of land in the late 1860s resulted in conditions that tended to squeeze out the farmer with medium-sized holdings. Large landowners increased their holdings while smaller holdings were often fragmented through inheritance patterns into parcels that were too small to support a family. As a result, emigration increased, particularly from the less fertile regions. Czechs migrated to the United States between about 1850 and the early decades of the twentieth century (although Korytová-Magstadt's study covers only the period to 1900). The peak of the emigration came in the 1880s.

Korytová-Magstadt's descriptions of agricultural practices and village life provide welcome detail on what those immigrants left behind. She characterizes their lives in their new homes in the United States in somewhat less detail. She only touches on the rich cultural life of Czech freethinkers in the American Middle West, a topic well deserving of further research. Her understanding of American politics as it affected the newcomers is somewhat naive, but her portrayal of

the mixed emotions of the immigrants responding to the challenges of bringing wild lands into cultivation and to the anguish of leaving old homes behind is poignant.

Korytová-Magstadt's bibliography and her brief essay on researching Czech ancestors will be helpful to both historians and genealogists. A glossary of Czech terms and several useful maps are also included, although readers might wish for a more detailed map of the various regions of nineteenth-century Bohemia.

This book will be of interest to historians with an ethnic focus and especially interesting to persons with Czech family backgrounds.

*Centennial West: Essays on the Northern Tier States*, edited by William L. Lang. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991. ix, 290 pp. Maps, tables, index. \$30.00 cloth, \$17.50 paper.

REVIEWED BY MARY ELLEN ROWE, CENTRAL MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

*Centennial West* is a collection of the best papers submitted for the 1989 Centennial West Conference, celebrating one hundred years of statehood for the six Northern Tier states (Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota). The essays' topics are diverse, spanning the hundred years between 1850 and 1950.

William Robbins's historical overview portrays the West of 1900 to 1940 as an economic colony of the East. His analysis is supported by John C. Hudson's conclusion that the transcontinental railroads integrated the West into the national economy as a producer of raw materials and a consumer of manufactured goods, thus reinforcing the region's colonial status.

Is the Northern Tier a distinctive region? John Wunder finds evidence of a "distinctive legal culture" in the laws passed by Northern Tier territorial legislatures, while Roland DeLorme's statistical analysis of territorial crime rates finds the region not "dramatically more violent" than the East, though law enforcement was hampered by the vast distances and inadequate funding.

William Lass's description of the first attempt to organize Dakota Territory recalls the optimism and relentless boosterism that characterized nineteenth-century western development. That optimism and sense of common purpose faded in the twentieth century, however. W. Thomas White's comparison of the 1894 Pullman Boycott and the 1922 Shopmen's Strike finds northwestern communities increasingly fragmented by economic class and conflicting ideologies. Perhaps the region's brief history and rapid changes have not permitted a clear sense of identity to emerge, as it has experienced succeeding genera-

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.