

*Illinois: A History in Pictures*, by Gerald A. Danzer. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2011. xi, 264 pp. 170 photographs, other illustrations, charts, maps, bibliography, notes, index. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Jane Simonsen is associate professor of history and women's and gender studies at Augustana College, Rock Island. She is the author of *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860–1919* (2006) and essays on Alexander Gardner's photographs of the Kansas prairies and on twentieth-century photographs of Sauk descendants of Black Hawk.

Understanding history through images demands active engagement from viewers willing to mine the arguments these documents offer. Gerald Danzer's pictorial history of Illinois illustrates this principle, inviting readers to appreciate the state's rich legacy while urging them to grapple with claims about economic prospects, social relationships, and civic identity that lie beneath the pictures' surface. Claims offered by images are often implicit, but this book's overarching argument is that Illinois history has been shaped by its denizens' interactions with the land, from the mounds of Cahokia to the mirrors of Millennium Park.

Chapters range from geologic history through early indigenous settlement and encounters before 1700, pioneer settlement, railroad development and the consequent growth of Chicago, industrialization, and postwar suburbanization. Each chapter begins with a timeline charting landmarks in Illinois history alongside world events and, later, Chicago history. Brief chapter overviews set the context for 15–20 images accompanied by substantive captions. Many of these helpfully invite readers to make comparisons with other images. For example, a lithograph of U. S. Grant's postwar return to Galena is tellingly different from the photograph it was based on; the caption for a 1922 deco-style pamphlet cover featuring a steamer plowing between skyscrapers toward Lake Michigan refers us back to a lithograph of the simple Du Sable trading post that once occupied that site.

Danzer's focus on the state as it has been defined and remade over time is a refreshing departure from "people and events"-style state histories. Images provoke critical readings of space and push perspective into the foreground. Plat maps, stylized farmstead lithographs from the mid-nineteenth century, and journalistic efforts to depict events by collapsing time all reveal the power of images to project ideals, convey their makers' values, and manipulate reality in ways that contest the notion of "pure" documentary. As such, the book could be an invaluable tool for investigating the interplay between midwestern lands and social forces.

But the focus on geography sometimes comes at the cost of social history. Captions often lack artists' names, and images are organized

by events depicted, not when they were made, which downplays perspectives of myth and memory. There is also the inevitable shift toward Chicago, particularly in state histories that privilege geography. Finally, while Danzer includes class struggles, African Americans and women are generally sidelined. Racially motivated violence in Alton, Springfield, and Cicero between the 1840s and the 1950s is not mentioned; the land- and society-altering Great Migration appears only in a timeline. The book does include an image of the oft-ignored 1982 ERA march on Springfield; the caption notes that ERA opponent Phyllis Schlafly hailed from Alton, but neglects Schlafly's rival, Peoria native Betty Friedan.

The celebratory tone is in keeping with the author's intention to usher in Illinois's 2018 bicentennial, and the book thoughtfully presents a visual narrative of state history for a general audience. For scholars and teachers interested in teasing out the limits of perspective and memory and in questioning the intentions of image makers, the book would be fruitfully paired with textual studies of the state's environmental history and social geography.

*Atlas of the Great Plains*, by Stephen J. Lavin, Fred M. Shelley, and J. Clark Archer. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011. xvi, 335 pp. Maps, tables, graphs, illustrations, bibliography. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Molly P. Rozum is associate professor of history at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. Her dissertation (University of North Carolina, 2001) was "Grasslands Grown: A Twentieth-Century Sense of Place on North America's Northern Prairies and Plains."

Perhaps it says something essential about the Great Plains that an encyclopedia devoted to its history and culture inspired a hefty atlas. The entries in the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains* (2004) generated "mapping ideas" (xv) now beautifully rendered by the hundreds of maps in this volume's eight chapters. The cultural impulse to map suggests the region's residents' longstanding preoccupation with space. Chapters on land and environment, history, population, rural settlement and agriculture, urban settlement and economy, politics and government, recreation and services, and social indicators show "a Great Plains that has integrity as a region" (1). That conclusion is reinforced by the inclusion of Canada's Prairie Provinces and the rise of a distinct Great Plains region out of "midcontinental North America" (1).

The colorful, meticulous maps are all compelling. One of the most stunning is "North America and the Great Plains at Night." The map charting "Census Year of Maximum Population" shows that many