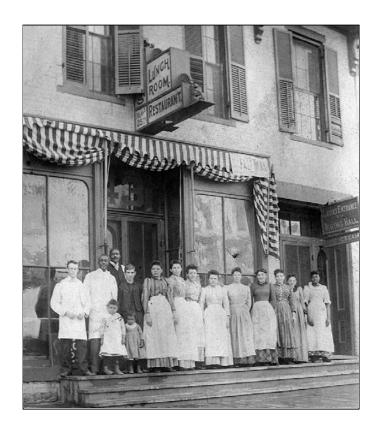
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In This Issue

BRIE SWENSON ARNOLD, assistant professor of history at Coe College, offers an account of an unsuccessful effort by seven African American women in Cedar Rapids to break the color line at a garment factory in 1897. Arnold sets that effort thoroughly in the context of the experience of African American and Bohemian American working-class women in the city at the turn of the twentieth century.

PAM STEK, a doctoral candidate and graduate instructor in history at the University of Iowa, provides a detailed account of another instance of labor activism in Cedar Rapids at the turn of the twentieth century, a strike by women workers at the American Cereal Company in 1898. Stek argues that the strike is illuminating for several reasons: it reflects the experience of the vast majority of working women who did not join unions; it was a rare instance when local newspapers took the strikers' cause seriously; and the strikers were able to prevail against ethnic discrimination and powerful company resistance to their efforts to shape the conditions of their employment and to gain recognition as competent and serious workers.

Front Cover

Marshall and Louisa Perkins (center, in doorway) are pictured with their children and staff, circa 1900, in front of Marshall's Restaurant, one of the few racially integrated workplaces in turn-of-the-century Cedar Rapids. From the collection of the African American Museum of Iowa, Gift of Harriet Perkins. Both articles in this issue are devoted to the experiences of working women in Cedar Rapids at the turn of the twentieth century.

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Contents

- 101 An Opportunity to Challenge the "Color Line": Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Women's Labor Activism in Late Nineteenth-Century Cedar Rapids, Iowa Brie Swenson Arnold
- 142 The 1898 American Cereal Company Strike in Cedar Rapids: Gender, Ethnicity, and Labor in Late Nineteenth-Century Iowa

 Pam Stek
- 177 Hollywood in the Heartland: A Review Essay Barbara Ching
- 183 Book Reviews and Notices
- 215 Announcement

Review Essay

177 MARTY S. KNEPPER AND JOHN SHELTON LAWRENCE, The Book of Iowa Films Leo Landis, curator, Hollywood in the Heartland by Barbara Ching

Book Reviews and Notices

- 183 JOHN L. RILEY, The Once and Future Great Lakes Country: An Ecological History, by Kevin C. Brown
- 185 ROGER L. NICHOLS, American Indians in U.S. History, by Donald L. Parman
- 185 DEREK R. EVERETT, Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands, by William E. Lass
- 187 WILLIAM E. LASS, Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries, by Derek R. Everett
- 189 ALEX BEAM, American Crucifixion: The Murder of Joseph Smith and the Fate of the Mormon Church, by Todd M. Kerstetter
- 190 THOMAS P. MCKENNA, From Vicksburg to Cedar Creek: The 22nd Iowa Infantry in the Civil War, by Kenneth L. Lyftogt
- 192 JOSEPH R. REINHART, ED., Yankee Dutchmen under Fire: Civil War Letters from the 82nd Illinois Infantry, by Paul Fessler
- 193 WILLIAM A. BLAIR, With Malice toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era, by Victoria Bryant Stewart
- 194 JARED PEATMAN, The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, by Stacy Pratt McDermott
- 196 DAVID B. DANBOM, Sod Busting: How Families Made Farms on the 19th-Century Plains, by Jeff Bremer
- 198 SUSAN ELMORE, Nameless Indignities: Unraveling the Mystery of One of Illinois's Most Infamous Crimes, by Jeffrey S. Adler
- 199 Greta Nettleton, The Quack's Daughter: A True Story about the Private Life of a Victorian College Girl, by Jane Simonsen
- 201 KENNETH J. BINDAS, ED., The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve, 1933–1939, by Angela Sirna
- 202 M. M. HELM, *Prairie Boys at War: Korea*, volume 1, *June–October 1950*, by Paul M. Edwards
- 203 MARILYN IRVIN HOLT, Cold War Kids: Politics and Childhood in Postwar America, 1945–1960, by Jennifer Robin Terry
- 205 J. L. Anderson, Ed., The Rural Midwest since World War II, by Coreen Derifield
- 208 DIANE JOHNSON, Flyover Lives: A Memoir, by Zachary Michael Jack
- 210 JOHN HILDEBRAND, The Heart of Things: A Midwestern Almanac, by Barbara J. Dilly
- 211 MIKE HOEFT, The Bingo Queens of Oneida, by Kathleen Ratteree
- 213 LAURENCE GONZALES, Flight 232: A Story of Disaster and Survival, by Frank Durham