

changes such as new signals and control systems, mechanized maintenance of way equipment, and, most importantly, diesel locomotives are detailed in the next chapter. A concluding chapter puts the previous chapters into a larger perspective, and an afterword takes the conclusions made and extrapolates into policy prescriptions for the future. Each chapter could stand alone, but together they provide a broad and deep understanding of the large-scale economic and political challenges and opportunities railroads faced during the twentieth century. Each chapter is complemented with charts, graphs, maps, and photos that enhance the text and provide additional helpful information. The illustrations are in black and white only but are generally readable and adequately sized. Text boxes with additional information also complement each chapter and allow readers to explore some topics in greater detail than the main text does. The book is extensively researched with ample endnotes and a useful index.

For those looking for information on the social impact of railroads or more information about what great-grandfather did while working for the Milwaukee Road, this book will not answer your questions. The casual reader looking for an easily readable overview of railroad history will likely be put off by the sometimes dense language and technical terminology. However, for those interested in whatever happened to railroads like the Rock Island, or the Burlington, or the Chicago & North Western, this book delivers. An economic, business, and policy history above all, this work will not satisfy those looking for social, cultural, or labor specifics. But social or cultural history is not what this book set out to be. It is a masterful synthesis of an immense amount of information about an essential and dynamic American industry – one that shaped, and continues to shape, not only Iowa and the Midwest, but the country as a whole. This work will likely become the standard reference work on the economic history of American railroads in the twentieth century.

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines 100th Anniversary, 1914–2014: Celebrating a Century of Benevolence. Waukee: Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 2014. 52 pp. Illustrations.

Reviewer Oliver Pollak is professor of history emeritus at the University of Nebraska Omaha. He has researched and written about the history of Jews in Nebraska and Des Moines.

Dubuque witnessed the arrival of Iowa's first Jews in 1833. Jews were in Des Moines as early as 1848. Now, about half of Iowa's 6,300 Jews live in Des Moines. They came from Germany, Russia, Poland, and Lithuania. They maintained religious and communal identity by establishing

houses of worship and cemeteries and fostering Jewish education and a social infrastructure. Jews prayed together in homes in Des Moines as early as 1869 and formed Des Moines's first synagogue, B'nai Jeshuran (Children of Righteousness) in 1873. Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, the unaffiliated, and, since 1978, Chabad, cooperated to improve the quality of Jewish life.

This book memorializes the 100 years since the founding of United Jewish Philanthropies in 1914. Twenty-eight vignettes identify synagogues, economic life, social services, personalities, and the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, established in 1989. The book even includes a section on "Jewish Cooking in Iowa." This showcase of Jewish Des Moines is attractively illustrated. Two maps indicate Jewish residences, businesses, and houses of worship in east and west Des Moines in 1895. This thumbnail history suggests how much more depth could be achieved in a lengthier study.

How Dutch Americans Stayed Dutch: An Historical Perspective on Ethnic Identities, by Michael J. Douma. American Studies. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2014. 238 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$99.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Douglas Firth Anderson is professor emeritus of history and interim reference librarian and archivist at Northwestern College (Iowa). He is a co-author of *Orange City* (2014).

Michael J. Douma's *How Dutch Americans Stayed Dutch* is about ethnic identity historically considered: Who did the Dutch who came to the American Midwest in the nineteenth century think they were, who do they think they have become, and why have their self-perceptions changed from then to now? Douma has a personal stake in his account. When relatives from the Netherlands visited his grandfather in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1993, it "triggered" an "ethnic awareness" in him that he pursued into graduate studies (15). This book is Douma's revised Florida State University dissertation. Rather than rewriting his dissertation, he appears merely to have added to it.

Douma examines various factors that helped shift midwestern Dutch American self-understanding. The Civil War, for example, spurred many new immigrants to commit to American citizenship (chap. 2). The war's aftermath as well as individual African Americans helped immigrants and their children begin to come to terms with America's "whiteness" (chap. 3). Dutch consulates in the U.S. played a role in connecting immigrants to each other and to their former homeland (chap. 5). The native-born second generation, typified by Michigan