

Reichstein concludes that it took three generations for assimilation to occur. His expertise falters, however, in the final chapter, where he discusses migration from psychological and philosophical perspectives. Almost Nietzschean in interpretation, he asserts that the *frontier* is not simply a geographical concept, but should be recognized as "the will to change what is bad, to strive for the better" (219). Despite this lapse, this is a careful and thorough examination of the German migration that helped form midwestern society. The research model wed genealogical work with academic analysis, and the bibliography is an excellent starting point for those interested in the scholarly discussions of assimilation, acculturation, and the frontier.

Danes in America: Danish-American Lutheranism from 1860-1908, edited by Peder Kjolhede, Peter Sorensen Vig, and Ivar Marius Hansen. *Danske I Amerika (Danes in America)* 1. Blair, NE: Lur Publications, 2001. xx, 186 pp. Illustrations, glossary, appendix, index. \$22.50 paper.

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Throughout American history, immigrants have struggled to "translate" the religion of their homeland into a new and often strange American idiom. This was especially true of the Danish immigrants who settled in Iowa and the Midwest. The words and stories of these settlers are often locked into the immigrant languages of the past and inaccessible to historians and general readers. In this volume, the religious world of Danish Americans is unlocked by the efforts of skilled translators, so that we can hear their stories firsthand.

Danish American immigrants divided into two separate Lutheran denominations, and for many years the community was influenced by their struggles for identity. This volume translates parts of a much larger work, dating from 1908 to 1916, in which historians of both denominations told their stories and offered their own perspectives on the divisions within the immigrant community. In places, readers are able to see both sides of a conflict, with each group trying to explain and defend its own position. A wealth of illustrations and tables help to clarify the various groups and their leaders.

This is an interesting work of immigrant religious history, carefully translated and explained by the editors. It enhances our understanding of nineteenth-century immigrants and the religious organizations they established.

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