

Tenancy, cash-grain farming, hybridization, and mechanization have helped farmers pay the single largest cost of production—interest on land (191). Today, high yields are maintained on highly valued land by the application of agricultural chemicals. Is it sustainable? Probably not.

In addition to his wide-ranging description of the landscape of the Middle West, Hudson contributes understanding of the human hands that shaped the landscape. Native Americans, Upland Southerners, Yankee merchants, tenants, railroaders, and corporate merger specialists have all had an impact upon the land. The Middle West has been a laboratory of experimentation and innovation; it was not so much a gift from nature as an environment pried from the hands of an earlier culture. Whatever enterprise is taken up on the land in the twenty-first century will be taken up on land shaped by our use.

Tennessee Farming, Tennessee Farmers: Antebellum Agriculture in the Upper South, by Donald L. Winters. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994. xiv, 240 pp. Maps, tables, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY DAVID E. SCHOB, TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

Donald L. Winters, a familiar name to students of Iowa's agricultural heritage, argues that agriculture served as the driving force for Tennessee's settlement and development until the Civil War. The upland South served as a geographical zone of transition between southern patterns of tobacco and cotton production and northern grain and livestock raising. An examination of Tennessee's agricultural production helps to explain why one-third of the state's rural-based population opposed secession and the Confederacy.

Winters is a keen observer of how geography, marketing, and crops influence regional agricultural patterns, especially in terms of agricultural self-sufficiency. Tennessee farmers moved toward economic security through ownership of land and avoidance of debt. Although grain, corn, and pork were important early commodities in East Tennessee, the state's central region witnessed its first commercial cotton cash crop in the 1780s. Over the decades, cotton expanded westward, accelerated by Indian removal. Winters underlines the growing importance of cotton to the state's economy by discussing the enactment of a state inspection labeling act. Tennesseans cleared away another impediment when they declared their willingness to license the cotton gin, remit royalties to Eli Whitney, and avoid legal quagmires.

Tobacco, as the second major staple crop, also was regulated with state inspection standards. Winters conducts a masterful analysis of the commodity marketing of tobacco and cotton. The commercialization of

these crops expanded with the outside buyer system, warehouse auctions, and commission agents. Both tobacco and cotton expanded the state's infrastructure in the form of roads, rivers, and railroads.

Tennessee was a major producer of wheat and corn; grain sometimes replaced cotton as a crop when price levels fluctuated. In addition, Tennessee's livestock values ranked sixth in the nation in 1860. Farming was, therefore, reasonably diversified by the eve of the Civil War. The degree of diversified farming in the state, Winters argues, resulted in relatively low enslavement rates—25 percent of the state's population was enslaved. East Tennessee farmers, who mainly produced grains and raised livestock, had even lower enslavement rates, leading them to be even less enthusiastic in their defense of the Confederacy. Winters credits Tennessee farmers' willingness to embrace innovative technology for the state's economic sophistication.

In summary, Winters's treatment of Tennessee farming is well researched and written in an absorbing manner that will guarantee its niche as the definitive analysis of the state's agricultural heritage prior to the Civil War. Winters dramatically demonstrates the upland South's geographical demarcation from the lower South. Students of the Civil War will now better appreciate Tennessee's economic strengths as well as its wavering commitment to the Confederacy.

Ghost Settlement on the Prairie: A Biography of Thurman, Kansas, by Joseph V. Hickey. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995. xxii, 322 pages. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$27.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY SILVANO A. WUESCHNER, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Joseph Hickey's *Ghost Settlement on the Prairie* provides the reader with an anthropological view of community building and transformation in a frontier environment. Hickey examines the process of frontier settlement and Thurman's transition from small-scale farming and cattle raising to modern agribusiness. Like a host of authors before him, Hickey seeks to use this community study to offer generalizations concerning rural adaptation in the Central Plains, the West, and possibly other regions of the nation. While this work does not contain a bibliography, Hickey examined newspapers, census returns, church and school records, other public records, and, to a great extent, secondary sources to make his case. His emphasis on secondary sources may explain why the reader learns less about Thurman than its neighboring communities.

Hickey offers a well-written work, though one that is far less detailed in its analysis than Robert Dykstra's *Cattle Towns* or John Mack Faragher's *Sugar Creek*. Further, it provides few new insights into

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.