

state New York to western Nebraska in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Clark has used his rare sources well, crafting an interesting narrative of a courtship and a long and reasonably happy marriage, set within a framework of constant economic struggle.

Warren Clark and Ada Harris, natives of Oswego County, New York farms, married in 1877 and began a search for economic security that would occupy their long lives. Warren worked as a farmhand in New York; the couple followed friends to western Iowa, in search of elusive land ownership. After six years as tenants on various farms, the growing family followed their dream to the semiarid plains of western Nebraska, where Warren filed on a homestead and at last owned land. After seventeen years of struggle, the family sold out for three hundred dollars and began sixteen years of itinerancy until Warren's death in 1918. Ada, penniless, lived with a son and his family until her own death in 1939.

The strengths of this book are also its weaknesses. Chock full of details about daily life, work, and social activities, it will fascinate those interested in farm life and westward migration. Some readers, however, may find themselves lost in the "dailyness" of the narrative; at times a more general summary and analysis of events rather than the daily chronicle would quicken the pace. For most, *Rain Follows the Plow* will provide a compelling drama of work, faith and struggle.

The Prairie Schoolhouse, by John Martin Campbell. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996. xvi, 150 pp. Illustrations, map, bibliography. \$60.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY KATHY PENNINGROTH, A & P HISTORICAL RESOURCES

John Martin Campbell's haunting, starkly beautiful black-and-white photographs of the crumbling remains of prairie schoolhouses are testimony to a bygone age of homestead settlement of the American West. These structures, set amidst the spare and unforgiving landscapes of the shortgrass prairie areas of states from New Mexico to North Dakota and as far west as the eastern regions of Washington and Oregon, affirm the value that struggling homesteaders placed on education.

In his introductory text, Campbell describes the geographical characteristics of the region, the provisions of the 1862 Homestead Act that opened the land for settlement, the ethnic backgrounds of the pioneers who poured into the land beginning about 1885, and the physical attributes of the homesteads, towns, and transportation systems that soon followed. Campbell's description of the schools concentrates on their architecture and settings, but he also touches on their governance by

local school boards, the teachers and their training, and the curriculum, complete with examples of questions from the two-day examination that students took to earn an eighth grade diploma. The schools in the photographs show no signs of human habitation, but Tony Hillerman's introduction infuses them with pupils and the passion of baseball toward the end of their era in the 1930s.

These prairie schoolhouses and the values that they embodied are a sequel to the settlement of Iowa and the beginnings of its educational system. Indeed, the parallels are striking—the architecture and siting of schools and their governance, teachers, and curriculum. Strikingly different from Iowa, however, are the landscapes surrounding the schools, and those landscapes are the appeal and the strength of this book. Fittingly, an exhibit of the photographs will appear at the Family Museum of Art and Science in Bettendorf, Iowa, from June 5 to July 18, 1999, provided by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures, by Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995. ix, 222 pp. Maps, illustrations, appendixes, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY PATRICK NUNNALLY, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

As agricultural practices evolve, the rural landscape changes; and nostalgia grows for the buildings and patterns that reflect the "old ways." Coffee-table books on barns have proliferated over the years, along with a number of good histories, material culture studies, and regional studies that scrutinize the material dimensions of America's agricultural past. *The Old Barn Book* is a welcome addition to this literature, as it combines scholarly insight with the format of a field guide to create an eminently usable book.

The authors are both geographers, and their disciplinary perspective is manifest in the book's arrangement. They consider the spatial distribution of different barn types, describe salient features of individual structures that may guide field identification, and briefly examine other types of farm properties such as corn cribs. Yet the treatment is primarily descriptive and diagnostic, not analytical, and questions of how particular forms emerged over time, and why, are not addressed. Noble has written more detailed treatments of the history and diffusion patterns of barn types in *Wood, Brick, and Stone* (1984), which should be seen as a more scholarly treatment of this book's subject.

The book's focus is primarily the Atlantic Seaboard and the eastern Great Lakes region, which reflects the scholarship on the subject.

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