

Beltman's approach is solidly quantitative, but he carefully incorporates individual and family accounts along the way. Further, in part two, he focuses on selected individuals and connects their experiences to the larger sociohistorical processes he discusses. First, he analyzes E. J. G. Bloemendaal (Sioux County, Iowa), then he turns to Ulbe and Maaïke Eringa (Bon Homme County, South Dakota).

Self-publishing brings its own editing challenges. The book cover is a pen-and-ink sketch of a farmscape, but, without any title or attribution, it seems tenuously tied to the topic. Some of the maps are a bit blurry and hard to read, and attributions are scarce. There are no illustrations, either of individuals or buildings or towns discussed. Beltman ties his material to larger discussions of immigration, migration, ethnicity, and region. Nevertheless, his discussions at times can seem perfunctory or dated, such as "market and community" and region. Regarding region, he is more keyed to connecting his material to the West than to the burgeoning discussion of the Midwest.

The book's weaknesses are minor, however. Beltman's writing is clear. His analysis is carefully stated and balanced. He blends quantitative material and personal accounts effectively. He describes in detail how and why Dutch American colonies in Iowa and South Dakota were made and persist: "Ethnic persistence is strongly linked to ethnic territoriality" (342). To the same point, Sioux County colonist E. J. G. Bloemendaal was more colorful in his 1911 memoir: "America is a good land! . . . [Still,] the more Hollanders come, the better I like it, and the better they fare, the more pleased I will be" (288). This is now the best book with which to begin to understand the midwestern Dutch experience west of the Mississippi River.

*Equality at the Ballot Box: Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains*, edited by Lori Ann Lahlum and Molly P. Rozum. Pierre: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 2019. xii, 410 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Pam Stek earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Iowa. Her dissertation was titled "Immigrant Women's Political Activism in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, 1880-1920."

The essays in *Equality at the Ballot Box* analyze the politics of woman suffrage in the Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming territories and the four states admitted from those territories. In the Northern Great Plains, the debate over women's rights intersected with westward expansion, settler colonialism, and changing ideas of citizenship and nationhood. Strategies employed by suffragists and their opponents reflected and

influenced conceptions of European immigrants, American Indians, and rural communities. As the authors in this anthology argue, a study of the Northern Great Plains suffrage movement sheds light on evolving ideas about democracy and national belonging in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The volume contains three thematic sections. The chapters in part one provide overviews of the suffrage debates in each of the four states. Jennifer Helton argues that the commitment to woman suffrage in Wyoming, the first state in the nation to grant women full voting rights, must be considered in the context of Reconstruction-Era politics and Radical Republicans' vision for expanding westward the doctrine of equality. In contrast, as Barbara Handy-Marchello points out, North Dakota Republican Party bosses resisted woman suffrage in order to maintain the loyalty of German-Russian voters and to ensure legislative support for the powerful railway lobby; that opposition was a key factor in North Dakota women's inability to gain full voting rights until the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Jennifer J. Hill focuses on the work of three prominent Montana women whose personal influence and years of suffrage activism came to fruition in 1914 when Montana enfranchised women. In Paula M. Nelson's analysis of the many setbacks endured by South Dakota suffragists, she highlights the influence of anti-suffrage organizations whose efforts helped delay the passage of woman suffrage in the state until 1918.

Part two contains four case studies that help illuminate the regional women's rights movement: the role of South Dakota's school suffrage laws in normalizing women's political participation; the impact of local and national suffragists' differing views of ethnic minority support for women's rights in South Dakota; the ways South Dakota's referenda for woman suffrage and American Indian voting rights revealed racialized and gendered conceptions of citizenship and property; and suffragists' at times frustrating and unexpectedly drawn-out campaigns to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment in the Northern Great Plains states, the site of some of the suffrage movement's earliest and most visible successes.

The chapters in part three focus on the lives and contributions of prominent suffragists: North Dakotans Cora Smith Eaton and Kate Selby Wilder and Blackfeet activists Helen Piotopowaka Clarke and Virginia Billedeaux. Smith Eaton and Wilder leveraged their organizational connections to advance their suffrage activism while Clarke's and Billedeaux's support for woman suffrage emerged from a broader agenda of civil and political rights for American Indians.

Interspersed between the three main sections are several short "Suffrage Snapshots" that highlight prominent local suffragists and probe

other elements of the regional movement's development, such as activists' use of automobiles in suffrage campaigns, the intertwined support for temperance and woman suffrage in Norwegian American communities, and woman suffrage content in German-language newspapers.

*Equality at the Ballot Box* represents a valuable contribution to woman suffrage scholarship. The essays included provide a thorough account of suffrage activists' successes and failures in the region and present compelling analyses of the forces that helped or hindered suffragists' efforts. Especially welcome are chapters that address the perspectives of ethnic communities and of American Indian women. However, as the editors note, additional research on the political activism of American Indian women and women of color is needed to provide an even more complete picture of women's concerns and strategies in the Northern Great Plains. Also, although the collection includes research on European immigrants, the perspective of immigrant women is missing. Several of the contributing authors note that many immigrant men opposed women's enfranchisement, but the essays fail to consider how immigrant women responded to debates over women's political equality.

This volume also offers important comparisons to the women's rights movement in other parts of the nation. The states of the Northern Great Plains shared a number of social and economic characteristics with other midwestern states: primarily rural populations, local economies dependent on agriculture and the connections railroads provided to distant urban markets, and relatively large numbers of European immigrant settlers. Given these similarities, the essays in this work suggest additional areas of research and points of reference that could shed further light on the suffrage movement in the Midwest. *Equality at the Ballot Box* provides a compelling history of woman suffrage in the Northern Great Plains and enhances our understanding of how the politics of woman suffrage influenced regional and national conceptions of democracy and citizenship.

*A Life on the Middle West's Never-Ending Frontier*, by Willard L. "Sandy" Boyd. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2019. xix, 362 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Michael S. Hevel is associate professor of higher education at the University of Arkansas. His research and writing focus on student life at colleges and universities, including an article in the *Annals of Iowa* in 2011 on the role of literary societies in early Iowa higher education.

"I was one of the few World War II veterans who experienced the promised land of California but opted to return to the heartland to live my