

ways the national pastime expressed the state's identity and its diverse communities of African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans. Baseball clubs embodied the businesses, churches, schools, military units, and prisons that made up these towns' societal structure, as they wrestled with the complexities of rural and urban formation.

*Kansas Baseball* is well researched. Eberle immersed himself in local and regional newspapers, county and city archives, and recent websites to provide a balanced and nuanced account of the teams and ballparks, many of which are still in use today. In 1893, for example, the first baseball grounds were constructed on the site that housed Hibbs-Hooten Field in Sellers Park in Wellington, Kansas. By 1909, Wellington hosted a minor league team in the Class D Kansas State League. In 1964 the Wellington community built a concrete grandstand, with wooden benches and a metal roof at a cost of roughly \$35,000. Today the ballpark is the summer home of the Wellington Heat of the Jayhawk Collegiate Baseball League.

Eberle's narrative would have been stronger if he had provided a more definitive examination of how these towns and teams addressed the complex interplay of how urbanization affected U.S. sporting patterns. In 1820 the United States had no baseball or even any modern sport culture in general. By the 1860s, however, several forces interacted to devise the modern sporting culture. Simultaneously, the United States underwent a transformation from a rural society to an urban one. Since the overwhelming focus has been on the urbanization process and the rise of the metropolitan city, Eberle missed an opportunity to show how this phenomenon played out in the rural towns of the Wheat State.

Nevertheless, *Kansas Baseball* makes a significant contribution to scholarly research on the national pastime specifically and U.S. society in general. Eberle has uncovered a forgotten world of the history of baseball in the United States. It is an enjoyable and interesting book.

*We've Been Here All Along: Wisconsin's Early Gay History*, by R. Richard Wagner. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2019. 431 pp. Illustrations, table, notes, index. \$28.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Christopher Hommerding is an independent scholar and public historian in Minnesota. His article, "As Gay as Any Gypsy Caravan: Grant Wood and the Queer Pastoral at the Stone City Art Colony" appeared in the *Annals of Iowa* (2015).

*We've Been Here All Along: Wisconsin's Early Gay History* is the first of two volumes by R. Richard Wagner exploring the LGBTQ history of Wisconsin. In this volume, Wagner presents an expansive array of Wiscon-

sin's LGBTQ past, stretching from the late nineteenth century to the decades leading up to the 1969 Stonewall riots, which mark the emergence of the Gay Liberation Movement. Using a wide variety of sources – including, but not limited to, newspapers, court documents, manuscript collections, literature, medical studies, student records, bar guides, and physique magazines – Wagner shows how (primarily) gay men navigated shifting social, legal, medical, and political views of homosexuality during this period. He argues that pre-Stonewall LGBTQ Wisconsinites developed communities and cultivated identities that counteracted the dominant narratives of homosexuality as criminal, diseased, and immoral and that, as the title suggests, LGBTQ people have been in Wisconsin from the beginning.

Organized chronologically, the book follows a fairly standard historical narrative of dominant ideas about homosexuality. The first chapter traces the reaction of the Wisconsin press to the Oscar Wilde trials of the 1890s, showing how the trial shaped public discourse of homosexuality at the end of the nineteenth century. The second chapter follows the Progressive Era criminalization of homosexuality. Here Wagner reads criminal records and sociological studies for the agency, resistance, and networking of gay men. Subsequent chapters expand on the development of LGBTQ networks before and during World War II. These chapters argue that travel, literature, poetry, theater, the arts, and academia all served as venues for LGBTQ people to articulate a sense of identity and community. Following the work of Alan Bérube and others, Wagner sees World War II as an important turning point in LGBTQ history, as the vast mobilization of men and women created opportunities for community at the same time that the concurrent medicalization and pathologization of homosexuality offered an equally important threat. The final chapters of the book examine the moral panics that developed out of this medicalization and pathologization during the Cold War. Here, focusing on state politics and purges of gay men at the University of Wisconsin, Wagner examines how politicians, political organizations, and queer individuals themselves resisted the dominant narratives of McCarthyism that viewed homosexuality as a threat to national security and national morality.

Wagner, a politician and gay rights activist in the city of Madison and at the state level since the 1980s, seems most comfortable when writing about politics. Those sections of the book are some of the most engaging. Particularly striking throughout the book, however, are the attitudes of agency, pride, and resistance found in the personal letters and records of pre-Stonewall LGBTQ individuals. One would expect such attitudes and sources to be found in other states as well. Although

this book is focused exclusively on Wisconsin, Wagner's methodology could be replicated for similar studies of LGBTQ history in Iowa or other midwestern states.

The strength of Wagner's book lies in the vast amount of material he presents to readers. Every chapter covers multiple individuals, places, and archives. In doing so, however, the text often reads as a collection of discreet examples that fit his overarching narrative about evolving ideas of homosexuality. A deeper engagement with more current secondary sources on LGBTQ history (Wagner touches on a handful of classics) might have led to a more robust analysis of the fascinating individuals, places, and archives he examines. Doing so might also allow him to forgo the unnecessary apologia in the introduction, asking forgiveness for focusing so heavily on queer men. The book has numerous examples of queer women and gender nonconforming individuals as well as people of color, but those examples fade into the background without an analysis of race and gender that an engagement with more current scholarship could provide.

Readers will find Wagner's book accessible, engaging, and enlightening. They will no doubt be impressed by the large amount of research he presents in 363 pages and the opportunities for further scholarship he uncovers. He proves beyond a doubt that, yes, queer people have been here all along. Readers of this volume will undoubtedly eagerly anticipate the second volume.

*Germans in Illinois*, by Miranda E. Wilkerson and Heather Richmond. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2019. xi, 218 pp. Illustrations, graphs, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.50 paperback.

Reviewer Alison Clark Efford is associate professor of history at Marquette University. She is the author of *German Immigrants, Race, and Citizenship in the Civil War Era* (2013).

By surveying the German immigrant experience in Illinois, Miranda E. Wilkerson and Heather Richmond have performed a valuable service. Germans contributed heavily to the distinctive economic, political, and cultural mix of the Midwest in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and now a reliable and engaging book summarizes their experience in one significant state. Complete with informative maps and images, *Germans in Illinois* stands out as an appealing synthetic study that should attract a wide readership.

Wilkerson and Richmond's thematic chapters advance their narrative, beginning with the context of European emigration in the 1830s and 1840s and concluding with the twenty-first-century legacy of German