

Moulton approaches the subject in a fast-paced and engaging style that she honed through years of newspaper reporting. Her interest in the handcarts grew in part out of her husband having handcart pioneer ancestors and from her own long-standing interest in overland emigration. The book is at its best when she draws upon her strengths, including her own expertise regarding the trail and trail narratives, and allows individuals to speak for themselves and tell their own stories. In allowing these voices to be heard, Moulton presents themes long associated with the handcart story—faith, devotion, sacrifice, heartache, tragedy and triumph. These themes are at the heart of why thousands of Latter-day Saints each year push and pull handcarts in multi-day reenactments known as the “trek.”

German Americans on the Middle Border: From Antislavery to Reconciliation, 1830–1877, by Zachary Stuart Garrison. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2020. xiii, 232 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$30.00 paperback.

Reviewer Petra DeWitt is an assistant professor of history at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. She is the author of *Degrees of Allegiance: Harassment and Loyalty in Missouri's German-American Community during World War I* (2012).

German Americans on the Middle Border takes a geographic approach to evaluate the place of German immigrants during the American Civil War and Reconstruction. Zachary Stuart Garrison focuses primarily on German immigrants who settled on what he calls the Middle Border, the area along the Ohio River, from its confluence with the Mississippi River northward to the Mississippi's confluence with the Missouri River. This natural line in the midwestern landscape divided freedom from slavery and represented the intersection of northern, southern, and western political ideologies.

Taking this spatial view allows Garrison to update the traditional historiography of German immigrants' inherent opposition to slavery due to their beliefs in civil liberties and their European experiences. The author sees a more complex picture and convincingly argues that not all German Americans held abolitionist views. Instead, the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 and its threat to the survival of the United States inspired German immigrants to overcome their own ideological differences and briefly unite in opposition to slavery as an institution that not only limited individual freedoms but also restricted the advancement of society as a whole. When the Civil War broke out,

they joined the Union in order to save the nation and as Radical Republicans supported war aims such as emancipation and political rights for freedmen. During Reconstruction, Germans living on the Middle Border realized that their American-born neighbors, even those living in free states, viewed Germans as foreigners attempting to change the American way of life. Pragmatic Germans thus broke away from Radical Republicans by focusing more on reuniting the country instead of assuring racial equality. Consequently, ideological and social divisions within the ethnic group resurfaced.

Garrison begins this intellectual history by tracing the arrival of the Dreissigers in the 1830s and the Forty-Eighters in the 1850s, and evaluating their political ideologies within the context of the increasingly contentious debates over slavery in the United States. The author expertly analyzes two important transitions within the German community: the change from opposition to slavery as unnatural in a free society to the ideology of free soil, free labor, and gradual emancipation, and the slow move by German voters from the Democratic to the Republican Party. As Garrison points out, even during the 1860 election Germans were not yet united behind Lincoln or abolition. Secession, however, convinced them that slavery had to be abolished immediately in order to protect the nation. Defining this stance as a war aim turned them into political radicals along the Middle Border and brought them to the attention of pro-slavery advocates, in particular bushwhackers in Missouri, who viewed German Union soldiers as foreign invaders. Garrison is at his best when he discusses the role of Germans in assuring that Missouri stayed in the Union and the repercussions they experienced at the hands of conservative Unionists and Confederates. The narrative ends with an analysis of how disagreements over the punishment of the South and the number of civil rights freedmen should receive contributed to Liberal Republicans, concerned with reuniting the country and protecting individualism, and Democrats, focused on economic development, breaking away from the briefly united and radical political block.

This concise study based on excellent research in the appropriate primary and secondary sources is a delightful read. It offers the personal thoughts of a sizeable number of German immigrants including such notables as Gustav Körner, Friedrich Hecker, Henry Boernstein, and George Thilenius. This reinterpretation of the role of German immigrants in the American Civil War has been long overdue and will appeal to general readers as well as scholars interested in the history of the American Midwest.

Yet, one is also left wondering whether the geographic focus on the Middle Border overlooks the large populations of German Americans

who made Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin their home. Did Germans in Iowa not as eagerly participate in the discourse over slavery as their neighbors in Missouri? Did they not as willingly fight for the Union because they did not live in close proximity to the South? Did Germans in Iowa experience ethnic unity as Radical Republicans during the Civil War? Did they too revert to various interest groups at the end of Reconstruction? Historians should conduct such an important comparative study and find answers to these questions because discovery of differences in ideology would not only underline Garrison's argument but also substantiate the argument that German Americans were more divided than united as an ethnic group despite American perceptions to the opposite.

Living by Inches: The Smells, Sounds, Tastes, and Feeling of Captivity in Civil War Prisons, by Evan Kutzler. Civil War America Series. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. xii, 195 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 paperback.

Reviewer Patrick G. Bass is professor of history at Morningside College in Iowa. He specializes in European involvement with the U.S. Civil War.

Author Evan Kutzler has performed exhaustive research to put together his contribution to the relatively new field of the history of senses in his *Living by Inches: The Smells, Sounds, Tastes, and Feeling of Captivity in Civil War Prisons*. The book is, in fact, organized by these senses, as the author systematically pursues and then recounts prisoner perceptions of sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste, in that order, during their captivity. Indeed, he pursues even greater specificity, as each chapter emphasizes but one or two aspects of the sense involved. For example, both sight and smell are explored by the limits of those senses (sight at night, and as anosmia takes over); then Kutzler explains touch through the ubiquity of lice, and the prisoners' battle against the pests, and hearing through both noise and silence (even noting the impacts of the absence of some sounds, such as church bells). The chapter on taste focuses on food as a key prisoner preoccupation and the search for wholesome food as key to survival—efforts, usually in vain, to avoid the scourges of prisons, diarrhea and dysentery.

This work is another addition to the recent renaissance in studies of Civil War prisons and prisoners of war. Unlike other works in this field, however, Kutzler's aim is to organize and record the subjective responses of both Union and Confederate prisoners of war to their sensory environment. His aim focuses on the subjective past as noted by individuals,