

ing of economic facts. That is a pleasant idea, offering a sharp contrast between Iowans and the victimized southerners described by Roger L. Ransom and Richard Sutch in *One Kind of Freedom* (New York, 1977). Racism and poverty clouded reason and freedom in the South; nothing, save a degree of cultural preference for ownership over renting, dulled them in Iowa. Resting on a few letters, farm journalism, and inferences from behavior, that idea is less demonstrated than assumed in this study. The assumption takes nothing from the book's real merits. Modest and concise, solid and clear, it advances the study of farm tenancy in the Midwest.

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Family and Population in Nineteenth-Century America. Edited by Tamara K. Hareven and Maris A. Vinovskis. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978. Pp. xiv, 250. Notes, tables, index. Clothbound, \$25.00; paperbound, \$9.75.)

Books resulting from state-of-the-art conferences face a particular set of pitfalls. The most critical of these is that the book will take so long to appear that the field will have undergone sufficient changes so that what was once avant-garde is out of date before publication. Such is the fate of Tamara Hareven's and Maris A. Vinovskis' *Family and Population in Nineteenth-Century America*. The essays appearing in the volume were first presented in 1974 at a seminar sponsored by the Mathematical Social Science Board (MSSB) to explore the uses of quantitative methodologies in American family and demographic history. At the time of the conference, the topics raised and arguments advanced stood at the forefront of American family history. By the time of publication, however, research on similar questions had so refined and advanced the level of scholarship that the book's contribution is substantially lessened. This phenomenon is most evident in the volume's lead essay by Richard A. Easterlin, George Alter, and Gretchen Condran. Certainly their hypothesis regarding the relationship between fertility and recency of settlement is an important one. The reception of the argument when it appeared in Easterlin's *Journal of American History* article in 1976 proved that point. By the publication of this volume in 1978, however, their findings seem dated.

More serious is the book's weakness in providing exemplary methodologies for American family history. Several other volumes in the MSSB/Princeton series have clearly served that

function, most notably Leo Schnore's volume on urban history and Charles Tilly's on European fertility. The Hareven and Vinovskis volume falls far short of the standards set in those collections. In fact, the underlying methodological theme in *Family and Population* is perhaps best encapsulated in a footnote found in Howard P. Chudacoff's "Newlyweds and Family Extension." In it Chudacoff explains "I suspect that multiple classification analysis, at this point unfamiliar to me, may more firmly establish the effects of origin, class, and other variables in marriage age" (p. 188). Laurence Glasco's essay on migration to Buffalo, New York, seemingly fails to control for the effects of age, grouping the small children of migrants with the parents in at least part of his calculations (p. 172). Given the acknowledged importance of age in migration patterns, the reader might well expect that such a control would have been used. Even the most methodologically sophisticated of the articles, John Modell's "Patterns of Consumption, Acculturation and Family Income Strategies in Late Nineteenth-Century America," shows methodological problems; his tables reverse the dependent and independent variables proving that money spent on alcohol significantly affected the number of children in a household.

Despite these failings, the essays in the volume are suggestive of new areas being developed in family history. Stanley Engerman's preliminary paper on black demography between 1880 and 1940 illustrates the importance of seeing changes in black fertility as part of a broad national trend not related to a particular urban disintegration; his tables further suggest the possibility of a reverse trend appearing in the industrialized Northeast. Hareven and Vinovskis outline a life course framework and argue for its potential usefulness, as does Chudacoff. Modell's budgets show convincingly how cultural norms and economic realities overlap and shape each other in the familial context.

Within these limitations, *Family and Population in Nineteenth-Century America* is well worth perusing. From it, the reader can gain some sense of where quantitative family history has been, how far it has come, and how far it still has to go.

The Newberry Library, Chicago

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