

accomplishments, *Flatheads and Spoonneys* provides yet another example of the ubiquitous Turnerian frontier myth in modern North American folk culture.

Flatheads and Spoonneys is a well-researched and important book about a heretofore unexplored midwestern occupational folk group. It obviously is and will remain the best scholarly description and analysis of Ohio Valley fisher folk, and every university library in the trans-Appalachian West should possess a copy. Because it is also a well-written and engaging narrative, many Ohio Valley residents and other interested laypersons will want to order a copy for their local library or purchase one for the bookshelf of their fishing cabin or houseboat.

And, in case you were wondering: A "spooney" is a paddlefish (*Polydon spathula*). "Flathead" is a moniker for the yellow "mudcat," a name that also served to describe (derogatorily) some of those early Ohio Valley folk who feasted on the succulent *Pyloodictis olivaris*.

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Emigration and Settlement Patterns of German Communities in North America. Edited by Eberhard Reichmann, LaVern J. Rippley, and Jörg Nagler. (Indianapolis: Max Kade German-American Center, 1995. Pp. xxxii, [382]. Notes, tables, figures. Paperbound, \$28.00.)

This book consists of twenty-three articles based on papers delivered at a conference held in 1989 to commemorate the founding of the millenarian community in New Harmony, Indiana, by Johann Georg Rapp and his followers 175 years earlier. A keynote address by the late Günter Moltmann, an eminent historian of German immigration to America, is accompanied by a useful introduction by the editors.

The articles range widely within the field of German communal life in America. Grouped somewhat artificially in seven chapters, they treat, for example, religious sects, church-based settlements, secular communities, regionalism in settlement patterns, and the role of socialism. Some are broad in scope, such as an overview of German settlements in Canada; others are narrowly focused, such as the founding of a Lutheran congregation of Osnabrückers in White Creek, located south of Columbus, Indiana.

Two articles deal with immigrants from the Netherlands—one on Dutch, another on West Frisians. One examines music in Bonduel, Wisconsin; another traces the origins of the Amana colonies in Iowa. Only one essay specifically treats the Rappite colony in New Harmony. Although the editors chose not to identify contributors by their academic fields, about half are formally trained in history, the others in German literature, American studies, sociology, political science, and perhaps other fields. About half are German, the rest American and Canadian.

Inevitably in a volume of this kind there is a wide range in the quality of the essays. One wonders what standards, if any, were used by the editors for inclusion. The first article, by Aaron Fogleman, is among the best. Through a careful analysis of statistics, he demonstrates that nearly half of the colonial population at the time of the American Revolution in 1775 was first- or second-generation immigrant. Another useful contribution is the sensibly balanced and clearly organized survey, by Stefan von Senger und Etterlin, of German colonization schemes in the United States, most of which were failures. Agnes Bretting's piece on German-American journalism in New York effectively contrasts bourgeois and socialist attitudes toward women in the late nineteenth century. In a splendidly researched article Bettina Goldberg argues that the language transition from German to English in Missouri Synod Lutheran schools long predated the advent of World War I, a fact well understood but not well articulated by Missouri Synod historians. Through the use of atypical information gathered by a census taker in St. Louis in 1860, Walter Kamphoefner demonstrates the heterogeneity of origin among urban immigrants. Emigrants from southwestern Germany often resided in eastern cities before moving to St. Louis, in contrast to northwestern Germans who more often migrated directly to Missouri.

No doubt the editorial task was daunting, but there is no index, no list of contributors. Awkward usages (*e.g.*, "editress," p. 296) and inconsistent or incorrect capitalization suggest that the publisher failed to employ the services of a professional copy editor. The editors might have strengthened the book notably had they dropped about one-fourth of the contributions—the most ineptly written and filiopietistic. Still, even those essays that treat the most trivial of subjects may serve as building blocks for broader studies of German immigrant societies in the United States.

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