

## Immigrant Women in the Settlement of Missouri

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carelessness. The large type for the footnotes gives the book a clumsy look, while the bibliography seems inaptly small. That said, we welcome the advances of German American history in Iowa, given here in the best tradition of Schleswig-Holstein descendant and State Historical Society leader William Petersen.

*Immigrant Women in the Settlement of Missouri*, by Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering. Missouri Heritage Readers. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2005. xiii, 137 pp. Illustrations, reading list, index. \$12.95 paper.

Reviewer Betty Bergland is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She is the author of several articles about Norwegian immigrants and curated a Vesterheim exhibit, "Frontier Encounters: Native Americans as Portrayed by Norwegian-American Artists."

Authors Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering begin their introduction to *Immigrant Women in the Settlement of Missouri* with Elise Dubach. Born in 1842 in Switzerland to tenant farmers, Elise described relative contentment in her family's rural life, which was suddenly disrupted in 1856 when her father received a letter from his brother depicting a "better life" in America. The Dubach family migrated when Elise was 12. The story of her life in Missouri reveals many patterns in nineteenth-century migration to the Midwest: primarily rural, essentially economic, invariably a family matter, migration evoked a "chain," as relatives followed relatives, inspired by "America Letters." Women, an integral part of the journey, only recently appear as critical to the story, and much of that history draws on women's letters, diaries, and neglected memoirs, such as Elise's, *Sunbonnet Days*, used throughout the book.

This history, focused on migration to one state and emphasizing women's experiences over time, illustrates the many complexities of migration still requiring a telling. An introduction for young adult readers, this work should also appeal to a wide audience. In 17 chapters—effectively illustrated with photographs, contemporary sketches, and extensive quotations taken from letters, diaries, memoirs, and autobiographies—the authors trace the shifting patterns of migration from the early eighteenth-century French settlers along the Mississippi (for lead mining); through the nineteenth-century Scotch-Irish, second-generation migrants from the East; to the significant German migration starting in the 1830s; and, finally, to the industrial migration from eastern and southern Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Such progressions of European migration are replicated

throughout the Midwest, but focusing on one state and its female settlers permits greater detail in the geographic and gendered dimensions of migration often overlooked in larger studies of national or regional migration.

Moving chronologically, the authors provide a topical focus in each chapter, such as the early French female settlers in colonial St. Louis, life on the frontier, women and the church, women in religious orders, women and the Civil War, farm families, town life, immigrant neighborhoods in St. Louis, and women and work. Women's experiences varied depending on their ethnic, class, and religious backgrounds, their age and marital status, and when they migrated. Most came as part of a family, as children or wives, but some also came single, separated, or widowed. Each group faced common problems—especially those associated with childbirth, disease, homesickness, and loneliness—and all were vital to their immigrant communities. Some women, such as eighteenth-century migrant Marie Therese Bourgeois Chouteau, became influential and wealthy; other women founded religious orders and schools, established businesses, and became active in labor unions.

Rich detail on individuals makes this history engaging, while significant historical contexts make the narrative coherent. Because the work focuses on one state, it invites comparisons with others, especially bordering states such as Iowa: both experienced a strong German presence and the influence of the Mississippi River, for example; yet Missouri, a slave state with a warmer climate, also developed different settlement patterns from Iowa, with fewer Scandinavian immigrants, for example. Undoubtedly, this useful and readable book will draw many readers into the fascinating world of migration studies.

*Women's Wisconsin: From Native Matriarchies to the New Millennium*, edited by Genevieve G. McBride. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2005. xxii, 486 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$37.95 paper.

Reviewer Barbara McGowan is professor of history at Ripon College. Her areas of interest include U.S. political, social, and women's history.

*Women's Wisconsin* is a collection of material on women drawn from 350 issues of *Wisconsin Historical Magazine* from 1917 to the present. Selections include excerpted or complete essays by historians and others, and primary source materials ranging from memoirs by nineteenth-century Irish immigrants to oral history interviews with Wisconsin women on their experiences during World War II. The book is divided into eight sections, beginning with "The First Wisconsin

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