

## Barns of Wisconsin

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sperses his own family story with horses, as well as other oral histories, with a more general discussion of the use of draft horses in America.

*Horse-Drawn Days* is an engagingly written, very interesting volume, useful to anyone concerned with the rural and agricultural history of the Midwest. It is also worth picking up just to look at the beautiful illustrations, drawn largely from the collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Apps has chosen an intriguing selection of images, some photographs of horses at work, some advertising art featuring draft animals and implements to be used with them. Particularly interesting are full-color ads from McCormick-Deering, the Johnston Harvester Company, and International Harvester. The book is well worth a look and a read.

*Barns of Wisconsin*, by Jerry Apps, with photographs by Steve Apps. Places along the Way Series. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2010. xvi, 208 pp. Illustrations (most in color), map, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer James R. Shortridge is professor of geography at the University of Kansas. His many publications include *The Middle West: Its Meaning in American Culture* (1989) and "Kansas Barns in Time and Place" (*Kansas History*, 1999).

Coffee-table books that celebrate elements of the past are common fare. Most of these are beautifully designed, but lack informative commentary. *Barns of Wisconsin*, a collaboration between a professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin and his photographer son, is a delightful exception. A reader's eye is drawn initially to more than a hundred color photographs nicely reproduced on quality, 8"x10" paper. Jerry Apps's words are arguably even more valuable. They occupy about half the book and provide historical and cultural context that brings the photographs to life.

The quality of *Barns of Wisconsin* derives in part from experience, for the book first appeared in 1977, with Jerry Apps providing captions for sketches and drawings done by Madison architect Allen Strang. The original book was modest, but successful, and inspired Apps to expand the project after Strang's death. Four of the earlier sketches reappear in the new edition (pp. 56, 73, 121, 145), but photographs now carry the visual message. Supplementing the contemporary shots by the junior Apps are several dozen historical ones drawn from the files of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Each contains a full caption, providing specific locations and insights.

The book includes twelve chapters and two appendixes. Opening essays discuss the significance of barns and their major forms (ethnic

and pioneer, two-level bank, and circular designs). Then come chapters on roof types, building materials, timber framing, decoration, and unique creations. Finally, the scale expands with discussions of silos, farmstead layout, and preservation. Each chapter is short (about 14 pages) and well balanced between text and illustration. Each also includes a half-page sidebar about a particular related issue such as the stovewood barns of Door County, precut kits available from Sears, and preference for the color red. One appendix lists barns on the National Register of Historic Places. The other maps these structures plus those shown in the contemporary photographs.

Jerry Apps is an impressive author. He knows his material through personal experience and academic training and possesses a graceful, storyteller's voice. The book offers no original research on the distribution of barn types or the success of preservation efforts, but is trustworthy on details of construction and use. The stress always is on the classic structures of the past rather than modern equivalents such as canvas-walled dairy buildings and plastic-tube silos. Some readers may question this orientation, but it allows space to explain many nearly forgotten aspects of rural life. I learned, for example, how builders installed hayforks early in the construction process so as to lift shingles easily to the roof; how an African American, Algo Shivers, built most of Vernon County's famous round barns; and how the assembly of bents for a typical barn might take a crew three or four weeks.

Iowans will find this book useful. Iowa's barns are similar, and the text can help residents better interpret them, including the ones beautifully photographed by Michael P. Harker for *Harker's Barns* (2003).

*Birth Control on Main Street: Organizing Clinics in the United States, 1916–1939*, by Cathy Moran Hajo. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2010. xi, 251 pp. Maps, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$75.00 cloth. \$25.00 paper.

Reviewer Rose Holz is a historian and assistant professor of practice in women's and gender studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She is the author of *The Birth Control Clinic in a Marketplace World* (forthcoming).

Before I begin, I need to come clean: Cathy Moran Hajo is a friend of mine and because of the similarity of our research interests, we have read much of each other's work. I am delighted therefore that her book has finally come out because Hajo adds new stories to and challenges long-held assumptions about the oft-told tale of Margaret Sanger and the early twentieth-century birth control movement. She