

German Settlement in Missouri: New Land, Old Ways

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Book Notices

German Settlement in Missouri: New Land, Old Ways, by Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering. Missouri Heritage Readers Series. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1996. xi, 124 pp. Illustrations, maps, suggestions for further reading, index. \$9.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JON W. STAUFF, ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY

This book, one of a series of books designed to introduce "adult new readers" to the cultural and social history of Missouri, explores that state's German heritage from the earliest German settlements in the St. Louis area in the 1830s to the experiences of German-Americans during World War I. Each of the twenty-seven chapters presents a snapshot of everyday life in Missouri's German-American communities, including life in log cabins, Civil War service, women on the frontier, the Lutheran church, eating and drinking customs, and arts and leisure.

Students seeking more scholarly accounts about the Germans in Missouri should consult the short annotated bibliography in this volume for guidance. (Linda Pickle's recently published *Contented among Strangers: Rural German-Speaking Women and Their Families in the Nineteenth-Century Midwest* [1996] will interest students of Iowa history. The authors also cite the work of David Detjen, Audrey Olson, and Walter Kamphoefner.) *German Settlement in Missouri* would be appropriate for school media centers and public libraries, as it provides an accurate overview of the German experience in Missouri and enhances a general knowledge of American history.

The Diary of Elisabeth Koren, 1853-1855, translated and edited by David T. Nelson. Northfield, MN: Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1955. Reprint. Decorah: Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American Museum, 1994. xviii, 381 pp. Maps, illustrations, index. \$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY VICKIE LOCK, MIDDLE AMANA, IOWA

The account of Elisabeth Koren's journey from her home in Larvik, Norway, to the Iowa frontier in 1853 is exceptionally rich in detail. A bride of three weeks, Elisabeth left the sheltered, comfortable life of her youth and accompanied her husband, Ulrik Vilhelm Koren, to his first Lutheran congregation in northeast Iowa, near present-day Decorah.

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