In This Issue

RALPH SCHARNAU, who teaches history at Northeast Iowa Community College, Peosta, describes the emergence of a working class in Dubuque between 1835 and 1855. He focuses on the workplace conditions and living standards of workers especially in lead mining (in the first decade) and later in lumbering. He also addresses the beginnings of organized labor among Dubuque printers.

CHAD W. TIMM, assistant professor of education at Grand View University in Des Moines, tells the story of the prisoner of war (POW) camps at Algona and Clarinda during World War II, focusing especially on the employment of POWs on Iowa farms and in local businesses. It is a story, Timm argues, of coming to grips with reality: POW labor enabled Iowans to meet wartime food production goals, see the true face of the enemy, and learn that even amid the terror and destruction of war, humanity prevails.

TRAVIS NYGARD reviews a new biography of Grant Wood by R. Tripp Evans.

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German prisoners of war from Camp Algona and Camp Clarinda and their branch camps were employed in Iowa businesses, such as canning factories, as well as on Iowa farms during World War II. For more on German and Japanese prisoners of war at Camp Algona and Camp Clarinda and the work they did on Iowa farms and in Iowa businesses, see Chad Timm’s article in this issue. Photo from State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.

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