

Amana Colonies, 1932-1945

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particular, his keen grasp of the role of Iowa and the Midwest in these past debates makes *Planning Democracy* a must-read for historians of the New Deal, regionalism, policy, and politics generally.

Amana Colonies, 1932–1945, by Peter Hoehnle. Images of America Series. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2016. 127 pp. Illustrations, bibliography. \$21.00 paperback.

Reviewer Abigail Foerstner is co-coordinator of the science journalism specialization at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She is the author of *Picturing Utopia: Bertha Shambaugh and the Amana Photographers* (2000).

Cedar Rapids photographer John Barry captured Lucille Schaefer Kraus dressed for church in the 1930s. Her floor-length calico, with a black shawl, apron, and cap reveres the legacy of her past as she gracefully embraces the new world of the Great Change in the Amana Colonies. Communal societies historian Peter Hoehnle, an Amana native, draws on photographs by Barry, trusted Amana leader William Noé, West Amana brothers Rudolph and Paul Kellenberger, and others to tell the story of the critical and often overlooked reorganization of life for people in the Amanas. In grand American fashion, the Great Change transformed their communal religious utopia into a for-profit corporation, designating ownership shares to colonists for their years of service and offering wages for farming, carpentry, baking, factory work, and all of the other colony jobs—10 cents per hour at first, as Hoehnle tells us.

Hoehnle's book documents in text and photo portfolios the rapid-fire pace of the Great Change from 1932, when Amana residents overwhelmingly voted for it, to 1945. The book shows how the colonies quickly offered a high school education to children for the first time and opened the doors to private businesses, scout troops, modern dress, and Amana's first newsletter. From a national perspective, the book fills a gap in the Midwest's depression-era history. We see the sweeping force of social and economic change and the faces of people who met it with dignity, courage, and determination to build a brighter future during one of the darkest periods of American life.

Anyone who visits the Amanas for family-style dinners and hand-crafted goods soon learns how the Community of True Inspiration fled religious persecution in Germany in the 1840s and, in the 1850s, settled on 26,000 acres along the Iowa River to establish the seven villages of the communal Amana Colonies. Community kitchens fed the body, and 11 church services every week nourished the spirit.

Kraus's portrait and many other images in the book capture the blend of revered traditions with fresh opportunities. Amana's centuries-old Pietist religion remained alive and well, headed by a separate Amana Church Society. The ethereal light sifting through a room of plain wooden benches for daily prayer services shown in a Paul Kellenberger photo suggests an allegory of faith flowing strong. Still, the Great Change streamlined religion, too, as the mandatory 11 services dropped to one on Sundays.

Hoehnle's chapters cover religion, farming, industry, crafts, schools, tourism, the home scene, and several other topics. Captions carry additional details of everyday life preserved in lyrical compositions and lively snapshots such as one of two little girl sitting atop a Ford. "The first large purchase made after the reorganization by many Amana families was an automobile," Hoehnle reports (84).

True to the mission of recovering this lost era, Hoehnle painstakingly identifies every person shown in the photos, thanking more than 30 people for their assistance with this momentous effort. The photo-essay format for chapters offers a front-row seat to history and is a signature of Arcadia's Images of America series.

Manhood on the Line: Working-Class Masculinities in the American Heartland, by Stephen Meyer. The Working Class in American History Series. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2016. xiii, 247 pp. Notes, index. \$95.00 hardcover, \$28.00 paperback.

Reviewer Dennis Deslippe is associate professor of American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Franklin & Marshall College. He is the author of *Protesting Affirmative Action: The Struggle over Equality after the Civil Rights Revolution* (2012) and *Rights, Not Roses: Women, Industrial Unions, and the Law of Equality in the United States, 1945-1980* (2000).

When automobile union leader Walter Reuther was elected president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1952, *Life* magazine published a photograph of the labor leader, cigar in hand, taking a swig of beer. A buzz went through the crowd: "The 'red head' drinks beer!" Reuther, who abstained from alcohol and tobacco, cut an unlikely figure in the rough-and-tumble world of factories, union halls, and picket lines.

Although Stephen Meyer does not discuss Reuther's celebratory drink, his richly detailed *Manhood on the Line* joins a growing list of studies on twentieth-century working-class masculinity. Meyer, a sure-footed labor historian whose long list of publications includes a study of Henry Ford's "five-dollar day," captures the raw and often violent way white male workers constructed and maintained their masculine