

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# The Annals of Iowa

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Volume 71 | Number 2 (Spring 2012)

pps. 186-188

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## Atlas of the Great Plains

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ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

Rozum, Molly P. "Atlas of the Great Plains." *The Annals of Iowa* 71 (2012), 186-188.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.1630>

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by events depicted, not when they were made, which downplays perspectives of myth and memory. There is also the inevitable shift toward Chicago, particularly in state histories that privilege geography. Finally, while Danzer includes class struggles, African Americans and women are generally sidelined. Racially motivated violence in Alton, Springfield, and Cicero between the 1840s and the 1950s is not mentioned; the land- and society-altering Great Migration appears only in a timeline. The book does include an image of the oft-ignored 1982 ERA march on Springfield; the caption notes that ERA opponent Phyllis Schlafly hailed from Alton, but neglects Schlafly's rival, Peoria native Betty Friedan.

The celebratory tone is in keeping with the author's intention to usher in Illinois's 2018 bicentennial, and the book thoughtfully presents a visual narrative of state history for a general audience. For scholars and teachers interested in teasing out the limits of perspective and memory and in questioning the intentions of image makers, the book would be fruitfully paired with textual studies of the state's environmental history and social geography.

*Atlas of the Great Plains*, by Stephen J. Lavin, Fred M. Shelley, and J. Clark Archer. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2011. xvi, 335 pp. Maps, tables, graphs, illustrations, bibliography. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Molly P. Rozum is associate professor of history at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. Her dissertation (University of North Carolina, 2001) was "Grasslands Grown: A Twentieth-Century Sense of Place on North America's Northern Prairies and Plains."

Perhaps it says something essential about the Great Plains that an encyclopedia devoted to its history and culture inspired a hefty atlas. The entries in the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains* (2004) generated "mapping ideas" (xv) now beautifully rendered by the hundreds of maps in this volume's eight chapters. The cultural impulse to map suggests the region's residents' longstanding preoccupation with space. Chapters on land and environment, history, population, rural settlement and agriculture, urban settlement and economy, politics and government, recreation and services, and social indicators show "a Great Plains that has integrity as a region" (1). That conclusion is reinforced by the inclusion of Canada's Prairie Provinces and the rise of a distinct Great Plains region out of "midcontinental North America" (1).

The colorful, meticulous maps are all compelling. One of the most stunning is "North America and the Great Plains at Night." The map charting "Census Year of Maximum Population" shows that many

Great Plains counties reached population highs in 1900 and 1920, not surprising for typical perceptions of the region, but John Hudson, who wrote the volume's introduction, argues that the atlas corrects the region's "steady depopulation" myth (7). Many people left the land, but not the region. The ways people have moved across grasslands spaces provide one base of the regional integrity the atlas celebrates.

The midcontinental swath of territory in which the Great Plains is set ensures that Iowans will enjoy the atlas. Although not considered part of the region, Iowa appears on every map with the same statistical representation. Textual explanation rarely mentions Iowa details unless the state bears some vital relationship to the theme mapped. Iowa leads in hog and soybean production nationally. Lower annual precipitation and the loss of soil fertility where corn once grew on the plains resulted in ground lost to Iowa producers over the twentieth century. Corn and soybean production translated to Iowa's leading role in the biodiesel and ethanol industries. More telling for mapping the region are the "substantial numbers of 'Great Plains'-named businesses in . . . Iowa" (162).

The atlas is full of thought-provoking detail. Only 20,000 purebred bison exist today on four preserves (three in the United States and one in Canada). Who knew that once these "large animals often refused to leave tracks and would delay trains for hours or even days" (54)? A Volga German beef-onion-and-cabbage-stuffed sandwich carried to Nebraska from Russia inspired a fast-food restaurant (established in 1949) called Runza (Iowa has four). Iowa also appears to have more franchises of the fast-food chain called Taco John's than Wyoming, where the restaurant was founded in Cheyenne in 1968. The authors reveal that "at least twenty" Walmarts serve every million Iowans, although the accompanying map indicates that Iowa has only between 15 and 19 stores per million (185)—a rare plotting incongruity. The text amplifying the production map of Canola (short for "Canadian oil, low acid"), now "related to turnips, cabbage, mustard, and brussels sprouts," recounts the breeding of the rapeseed plant in the 1970s (154).

The authors' decision to map the Great Plains as a North American region constitutes "a breakthrough not often achieved in previous atlases" (1). "Canada's portion has a flat to rolling topography and deserves the 'plains' label as much as any portion of the United States," says Hudson, but he notes that Canadians prefer to refer to their nation's share by its vegetation: prairies. The observation suggests, but the atlas does not explore, two different national cultures developed across the international boundary to defy the continuous "geologic structures" (3) and common ecology of one Great Plains re-

gion. The authors successfully overcame statistical barriers—different methods of collecting data (counties versus census divisions, for example)—to form appropriate points of comparison, but additional historical context would have increased their value. At least two thumbnail sketches of U.S. incorporation of its share of the Great Plains are provided, but no similar history of British/Canadian annexation was attempted. The 1848 U.S. treaty with Great Britain establishing the northern border from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast is mentioned, but not the 1818 agreement that settled the 49th Parallel boundary west across the grasslands to the Continental Divide. Canada's 1867 independence is acknowledged alongside a map of "Military Forts and Trading Posts, 1865–1900," but Canadian historians might take issue with the notion that "many of these forts were established in order to protect settlers from possible Native American attacks" (70). The authors explain the place French ancestry has in Canadian history but without regard to the métis population of mixed native and French ancestry, a distinct Canadian population category especially important to the grasslands. Still, the highly pleasurable "breakthrough" of this collection of insightful maps is not diminished by the user's desire for more.

*Store Per: Norwegian-American "Paul Bunyan" of the Prairie*, by Peter Tjernagel Harstad. Lakeville, MN: Jack Pine Press, 2011. xiv, 240 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Kathleen Stokker is professor of Scandinavian studies at Luther College. She is the author of *Remedies and Rituals: Folk Medicine in Norway and the New Land* (2007).

In *Store Per*, professionally trained historian Peter Tjernagel Harstad presents a well-documented and charmingly told tale of his great-grand-uncle, Peder Larson Tjernagel, more familiarly known as "Store Per" (Big Pete) because of his strength both in body and (as the story shows) character. In 1852 he emigrated from Norway to America at the age of 26. "A devout Christian and public spirited man," says Harstad, "he participated in the founding of a school and a church, built roads that intersected with Indian trails, and served as township trustee [thereby giving] notice that Norwegians were ready to assume responsibilities in their adopted country" (192–93).

Tracing Per's life from birth on Norway's west coast beside the Bomlø Fjord (halfway between Bergen and Stavanger), Harstad shows Per's realization as a young man that the life he wanted to live as an independent farmer and member of a church rooted in spiritual guid-