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## Anamosa Penitentiary

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ingly at random for humorous effect. A few chapters lacked coherent organization, and some chapter titles were confusing. And the conclusion provides Taylor's own compelling reasons for writing this history, material that belongs in the introduction.

Yet, Taylor's resurrection of the history of CO resistance to a very popular war in spite of public condemnation is a story that bears telling. In it one finds the beginnings of the mental health profession in the United States, and it shows how the consistency of pacifist ideals of justice played out both politically (against the war) and personally in the care exhibited for the mentally disabled and other oppressed groups.

*Anamosa Penitentiary*, by Richard Snavely and Steve Wendl. Images of America Series. Mt. Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010. 127 pp. Illustrations. \$21.99 paper.

Reviewer L. Mara Dodge is professor of history at Westfield State University. She is the author of *Whores and Thieves of the Worst Kind: A Study of Women, Crime, and Prisons, 1835–2000* (2002).

This slim volume consists primarily of a photographic history of the Anamosa State Penitentiary. The chapters are titled The White Palace (on the prison's construction and architecture), The Keepers, The Kept (including infamous cases), Work, Play, Hearts and Minds (education and rehabilitation), Day by Day, Escapes, Views, and Tailings.

The authors, Richard Snavely and Steve Wendl, were career employees of the Anamosa Penitentiary and helped establish its prison museum, the source for most of the images and stories. The authors begin with the claim, "They just don't build prisons the way they used to. . . [But] over a century ago, in a small town on the Iowa prairie, a beautiful prison was built" (7). This celebratory tone infuses the work, providing both its strength and weaknesses. Indeed, according to Arcadia Press, its Images of America series is designed to "celebrate the history of places, towns and cities across the country."

Each chapter consists of just a single-page introduction to the topic, followed by a dozen, high-quality glossy images. Although the photo captions are extremely detailed and informative, there are no citations, no references to the major works on prison history, and no index. The approach is anecdotal and descriptive rather than analytical. No overall statistics are provided on such topics as the number of prisoners and changing patterns of incarceration over time; average sentences; or the types of crimes for which prisoners were sentenced or how these patterns changed. Nor is there any demographic data on such

factors as prisoners' race, ethnicity, age, or gender. The approach is topical rather than chronological and lacks a comparative perspective. Instead, the authors provide an impressive visual history with intriguing and entertaining accounts that would fascinate anyone interested in the history of this particular prison and town.