

## Civil War Eyewitnesses: An Annotated Bibliography of Books and Articles, 1986-1996

David Hudson

ISSN 0003-4827

Copyright © 2001 State Historical Society of Iowa. This article is posted here for personal use, not for redistribution.

---

### Recommended Citation

Hudson, David. "Civil War Eyewitnesses: An Annotated Bibliography of Books and Articles, 1986-1996." *The Annals of Iowa* 60 (2001), 205-206.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.10472>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

## Book Notices

*Wend Your Way: A Guide to Sites along the Iowa Mormon Trail*, by L. Matthew Chatterley. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 2000. xviii, 99 pp. Maps, illustrations, bibliography. \$12.95 paper.

Reviewer Loren N. Horton, of Iowa City, Iowa, retired as the State Historical Society of Iowa's Senior Historian in 1996. He has given public presentations and written articles about the Mormon Trail in Iowa.

The movement of Mormons from Nauvoo to the Salt Lake Basin is one of the best-known episodes in Iowa history. Many people have written about aspects of the experience. This brief guide is a welcome addition to the literature. The material is logically organized to follow the sequence of the journey itself. The division by counties makes it easy for readers to locate specific sites, and the directions to the sites are extraordinarily clear and complete.

Several features of this book are especially commendable. The maps are clear and appropriately placed. The illustrations actually portray scenes from the text. Additional historical sites in each county are noted. The text is concise and focused. The contents of the book fulfill the expressed goal stated at the beginning. All of these features make this a useful as well as interesting book.

Only two corrections need to be made, remarkably few considering the vast amount of detail contained in the book. On page 47, the park at the Garden Grove site is west, not north, of the settlement site. On page 63, it is a crushed rock road, not a dirt road, that leads to the Mount Pisgah site.

This book will be helpful to any traveler in southern Iowa, as well as anyone interested in the Mormon Trail, or in the histories of the U.S. frontier, Iowa, or the Mormon church. I enthusiastically recommend it.

*Civil War Eyewitnesses: An Annotated Bibliography of Books and Articles, 1986-1996*, by Garold L. Cole. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2000. ix, 271 pp. Index, bibliography. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer David Hudson is acquisitions librarian at the State Historical Society of Iowa. He is the co-compiler of *Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published Between 1952 and 1986* (1989) and compiler of *Iowa in the Past: A Bibliography of Materials Published Before 1952* (forthcoming, 2001).

Civil War buffs, historians, and others who share an interest in America's defining conflict should be very grateful to Garold Cole for his latest bibliography. *Civil War Eyewitnesses* is a compilation of 596 works published between 1986 and 1996. These works comprise letters, diaries, memoirs, and other writings, all by participants in or observers of the conflict. These writings either had never been published before 1986 or were previously published only in the nineteenth or early twentieth century in editions that have long been unavailable. Like Cole's previous bibliography, which covered similar writings published between 1955 and 1986, this work casts a wide net, including not only books but also articles from state and local historical society journals and national journals specializing in the Civil War.

Cole provides much more than a mere listing of publications. His often extended annotations provide valuable information for researchers. The annotations identify individuals, summarize their activities, and offer a glimpse of the writers' feelings and attitudes about the war and themselves. It is puzzling, however, that while many annotations are very full and helpful, others are very brief and of almost no use whatsoever. The arrangement of the main body of this work is simple and not too helpful, but a very full index that lists items by state troops and battles, as well as by author, editor, title, and subject largely makes up for the rudimentary classification of the main list.

For those interested in Iowans in the Civil War, this bibliography will unfortunately provide fairly meager fare, as it includes only 13 items pertaining to 11 Iowa regiments. All in all, though, this is a significant contribution to the ongoing task of Civil War bibliography and will be a valuable tool for anyone seriously interested in the Civil War.

*Letters of a German American Farmer: Jürnjakob Swehn Travels to America*, by Johannes Gillhoff, translated by Richard L. A. Trost. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2000. xvi, 180 pp. Illustrations, index. \$32.95 cloth, \$16.95 paper.

Reviewer Linda Schelbitzki Pickle is head of the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies at Western Kentucky University. She is author of *Contented among Strangers: Rural German-Speaking Women and Their Families in the Nineteenth Century American Midwest* (1996).

For more than 80 years a minor classic among German speakers, the letters of the fictional composite figure Jürnjakob Swehn have now been translated into English. The letters are based on the actual correspondence that Johannes Gillhoff's father, a Mecklenburg schoolmaster, received from more than 200 former pupils who emigrated to America.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.