

Little Business on the Prairie: Entrepreneurship, Prosperity, and Challenge in South Dakota. Prairie Plains Series. By Robert E. Wright. (Sioux Falls, SD: Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, 2015. x + 340 pp. Illustrations, map, charts, table, notes, bibliography, index. \$16.95, paper.)

From the title, I expected this book to explore how a single business survived and even thrived in the wilds of South Dakota. Instead, I discovered it to be a sweeping economic history of the state in the context of Robert E. Wright presenting his “entrepreneurship growth model” (p. 8). Basically, this model states that with more freedom comes more innovation and growth, and Wright sees South Dakota as the exemplar of freedom: “it is a free port in a sea of high taxes, ubiquitous regulatory shoals, and pirates both public and private” (p. 6). To him, South Dakota’s political economy “drives prosperity and even happiness” (p. 4).

After setting up his argument, Wright breaks the book into three parts. The first section reviews settlement patterns, establishing the arrival of entrepreneurship and the development of the state’s system of political economy. Starting with Native Americans, Wright hints that they may have been entrepreneurial, but institutional deficiencies, such as a lack of secure property rights, prevented it. Euro-American settlers then set up the economic system and, according to Wright, “only the most enterprising and freedom loving came to the state” (p. 5). Here they cultivated a meritocracy, which led to today’s political culture. Even hardships such as the Great Depression reinforced the state’s entrepreneurial spirit, as only the “toughest” and “most innovative” stayed (p. 70). This meant that the state government remained “relatively small” while entrepreneurship stayed strong (p. 109).

In the second section, Wright examines four broad areas of modern entrepreneurship:

food production, manufacturing, recreation, and the service sector. In each area, he incorporates numerous examples to reinforce his growth model. Wright then closes the book with an analysis of the state’s ten biggest challenges, with the spreading of the state’s “entrepreneurial spirit and institutions to the rest of the nation” as the most important (p. 221). If that does not happen, he believes the national economy will drag South Dakota down with it.

This book covers a lot of ground and, naturally, some errors and omissions exist as well as points that could be disputed. For instance, Wright states that Rapid City’s 1972 flood destroyed 40 percent of the city’s buildings, which it did not. As far as omissions, one of the state’s most prominent entrepreneurs is T. Denny Sanford, and his name barely appears. Some people will wonder about Wright’s defense of the state’s low wages, especially for teachers. While the book contains much good information, it is not for everyone. Economic historians may find it worthwhile, as will those who study South Dakota businesses. But those who see it as state boosterism will turn away.

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Wyoming Revisited: Rephotographing the Scenes of Joseph E. Stimson. By Michael A. Amundson. (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2014. xiv + 386 pp. Illustrations, map, table, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Unquestionably, Joseph Elam Stimson (1870–1952) delighted in photography. Over the span of sixty years, Stimson took over 7,500 photographs of Wyoming. He was a promotional photographer for his state, as evidenced by his *Catalogue of Wyoming Views* (1903), a portfolio of 500 prints prepared for

the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. He also worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, promoting it as he had his home state. He processed most of his photographs on 8-x-10-inch glass plates, which rendered beautifully detailed prints.

A self-described benchwarmer for the University of Wyoming basketball team, Michael A. Amundson became enthralled with the work of sports photographer Mark Junge, who had published a biography of Stimson. Junge's reproduction of Stimson's photographs of Wyoming fascinated Amundson. Influenced by the rephotographic work of Mark Klett, Amundson decided to apply the same techniques to Stimson's collection. So, beginning in 1987, he began an odyssey of more than two decades, resulting in this volume of 117 rephotographic views of some of Stimson's best work.

Amundson, a professor of history at Northern Arizona University, has an extensive publication record focused on the history of Wyoming. Prior to this volume, he published versions of his rephotography of Stimson's work, but this current work is a culmination of all of his earlier research and photography. Essentially a self-taught photographer, Amundson perfected his craft in duplicating Stimson's scenes with a high degree of accuracy. In the end, Amundson provides a visual, as well as historical, interpretative understanding of the vast changes to the built and ecological landscape of Wyoming.

Amundson's photographs include many iconic images of Wyoming, such as Yellowstone geysers and waterfalls, Devil's Tower, and the Grand Tetons. But he seems most focused on the built landscape of former towns, current cities, and buildings. Over the time span of this project, Amundson rephotographed Stimson scenes more than once—in the late 1980s and another prior to 2010. As a result, he provides both long- and short-

term historical interpretations of the changes reflected in the photographs. Amundson is much more comfortable and thorough in his analysis of economic, architectural, and social history, as opposed to ecological change, over time. And to a degree, some of his captions resemble summer vacation travelogues as much as historical interpretation. That aside, Amundson's work is a masterful, visual compilation of historical change accompanied by an understanding of place and time by an author who is truly at home in Wyoming. His is an enjoyable book to both read and see.

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The Mapmakers of New Zion: A Cartographic History of Mormonism. By Richard Francaviglia. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2015. xv + 272 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

Richard Francaviglia has produced an important volume relating to the Mormon experience for scholars and those historically minded individuals interested in the Mormon experience. He starts by explaining how and why place and space are so important in understanding all religions. Each religion began in a specific place and developed a cosmos in which certain places were seen as sacred for one reason or another. With the sanctification of certain places (formally or informally) came the creation of cartographic representations in the form of both mental maps and more traditional maps drawn on a variety of mediums. While to most Christians and Jews, Jerusalem is the centerpiece of those maps, Mormons transpose the center place from which beliefs diffuse to the United States, specifically Missouri. The balance of the volume explores the ways in which maps and other cartographic evidence illustrates