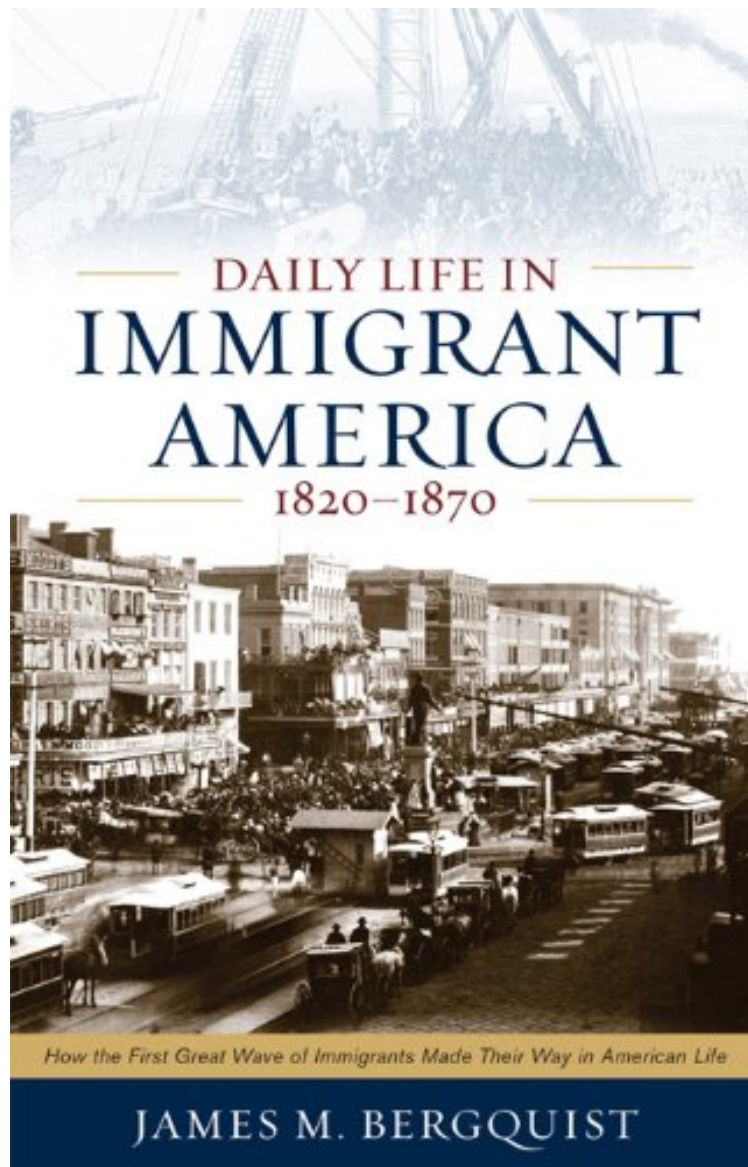


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Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820-1870: How the First Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America

James M. Bergquist

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James M. Bergquist : Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820-1870: How the First Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820-1870: How the First Great Wave of Immigrants Made Their Way in America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy KDNyDr. Bergquist has provided us with a richly informative and beautifully written account of American immigrants and their lives during this time period. I had the privilege of taking several of his courses in graduate school. He is an outstanding scholar whose work informed my teaching for four decades.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Examining our pastBy Robin WelchInteresting book, smooth transaction. Recommend.0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great StuffBy IrishI write about people in the 18th 19th century this book has a wealth of information in it.

Early-nineteenth-century America experienced the first "wave" of immigration after Independence, when Germans, Irish, English, Scandinavians, and, on the West Coast, even Chinese began to arrive in significant numbers. These new settlers had a profound impact on such national developments as westward expansion, urban growth, industrialization, city and national politics, and the Civil War. James M. Bergquist's chronicle of the early immigrants' experiences describes where they came from, what their journey to America was like, and where they entered the new nation, and where they eventually settled. He highlights immigrant contributions to American life as well as their struggles to gain wider acceptance by the mainstream culture. The approach, similar to David Kyvig's highly successful *Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940* (published by Ivan R. Dee in 2004), presents history with an appealing immediacy, on a level that everyone can understand.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . With calm authority and unfaltering clarity, Bergquist has written the best history ever of his subject: immigration into the United States after its colonial settlement and before the great surge through Ellis Island. What marks this book is its mix of the necessary facts (laws, policies and numbers) with deftly-told stories of individual immigrants, whose experiences offer glimpses into the struggles that most new Americans faced. The book covers the entire nation, taking into account Chinese laborers as well as Europeans. At the story's center, Bergquist brings to light the Germans—a group as prominent as the Irish yet whose diversity and divisions often relegate it to the shadows. While none of this is new, Bergquist, professor emeritus of history at Villanova, conveys it with an uncommonly easy touch. The necessary analyses don't overwhelm the story, while relevant tales of hardship, adaptation, and triumph give appealing texture to the larger picture. The perfect history for those who want to learn more about the peopling of the US. (An accompanying volume, by June Granatir Alexander, covering the years 1870-1920, is being published simultaneously.) *Daily Life in Immigrant America, 1820-1870* examines the crucial period in which mass immigration to the United States began of large numbers of persons almost exclusively from Western Europe into America. Mr. Bergquist, by explaining when so many were willing to leave home for a new land, describes in detail the gradually improving conditions of travel as an age of sail became an age of steam. In a clear exposition he shows how the immigrants, largely German and Irish, settled on Midwestern farms and eastern and Midwestern cities, from Boston and New York to St. Louis and Chicago, as well as the beginnings of organized anti-immigrant movements and the contributions of immigrants in the Civil War era. . . . It contains many features helpful to the student, including a chronology, a glossary, detailed, topically organized bibliography, and listings of videos and useful internet sites. (Roger Daniels, University of Cincinnati)In a masterful compilation that manages to achieve both depth and breadth, James M. Bergquist gives not only the Irish, Germans, and English but also smaller groups from Europe and Asia their due. Enriched by a transatlantic perspective and enlivened by individual examples, the book offers insights into social, religious, economic, and political developments as well as the cultural clashes and eventual accommodations that ensued during America's first era of mass immigration. (Walter Kamphoefner)Bergquist provides a thorough history of the immigrant experience during the 1820-1870 period. He captures the immigrants' tumultuous movement into American life while also offering a detailed account of major events in U.S. history during this time. This book is well worth reading for students of American immigration and ethnicity. (Ronald Bayor)With calm authority and unfaltering clarity, Bergquist has written the best history ever of his subject: immigration into the United States after its colonial settlement and before the great surge through Ellis Island. . . .The perfect history for those who want to learn more about the peopling of the US. (Publishers Weekly)About the AuthorJames M. Bergquist is professor emeritus of history at Villanova University and has written widely on American immigration. He is also editor of the Immigration and Ethnic Society newsletter. He lives in Philadelphia.