

Response to Readings: The German Immigration Experience in American Culture

Readings:

Timothy G. Anderson, "The Creation of an Ethnic Culture Complex Region: Pennsylvania Germans in Central Ohio, 1790-1850." *Historical Geography* 29 (2001): 135-157.

Part II (Chapters 4, 5, and 6) in: Malcolm J. Rohrbough, *Trans-Appalachian Frontier: Peoples, Societies, and Institutions, 1775-1850*. 2nd ed. (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1990).

Part Two (pp. 221-284 only) in: D.W. Meinig, *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History*, Vol. 2: *Continental America, 1800-1867* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993).

Response:

Choose ONE (1) of the following questions and write a one to two page, double-spaced, typed, response to the readings:

1. What are some examples of the ways that migrant groups, such as German, Yankee, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern, left their cultural imprint on the landscape? Are there any of these that are particular to the geographic area from which your students come?
2. Compare the approach to the past of historical geographers Anderson and Meinig with that of historian Rohrbough. What are the differences between the two disciplines in terms of such things as sources, the issues they focus on, the sorts of changes (or continuities) they address and the way they explain change over time. Does the individual historical actor have a greater role in one discipline or the other?