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ABSTRACT

The major purposes of this study are (1) to determine the past geographical circumstances of the Swiss Community at Highland, Illinois; (2) to characterize the geographical characteristics of the community within the framework of its Swiss culture during the period 1831-1930. By examining land ownership patterns it has been determined that the community (i.e., the area of Swiss influence) encompassed most of the territory within a radius of five to six miles from Highland.

Norman C. Bettis

The Highland Swiss were remarkably successful in preserving their cultural distinctiveness during the study period. It is concluded that this characteristic is mainly the result of the successful transfer of numerous traditionally Swiss social institutions and economic activities from Europe to the Highland Community.

An Abstract of a Thesis  
Presented to the Department  
of Geography-Geology of Western Illinois University  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Arts

which differentiated it from surrounding areas was the development of commercial agriculture. However, the most striking reflection of Swiss culture in the community was in the types of industry developed during the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Embroidering, brewing, shoe manufacturing, pipe organ construction, and, most significantly, evaporated milk production were major Highland industries transferred from Switzerland.

Macomb, Illinois

July, 1968

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## ABSTRACT

The major purposes of this study are (1) to determine the past geographical circumstances of the Swiss Community at Highland, Illinois, and (2) to determine and characterize the geographically significant changes of the community within the framework of its Swiss culture during the period 1831-1930. By examining land ownership patterns it has been determined that the community (i.e., the area of Swiss influence) encompassed most of the territory within a radius of five to six miles from Highland.

The Highland Swiss were remarkably successful in preserving their cultural distinctiveness during the study period. It is concluded that this characteristic is mainly the result of the successful transfer of numerous traditionally Swiss social institutions and economic activities from Europe to the Highland Community.

The earliest change in the economy of the community which differentiated it from surrounding areas was the development of commercial agriculture. However, the most striking reflection of Swiss culture in the community was in the types of industry developed during the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Embroidering, brewing, shoe manufacturing, pipe organ construction, and, most significantly, evaporated milk production were major Highland industries transferred from Switzerland.