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*John Mack Faragher*

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**John Mack Faragher : Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie (The Lamar Series in Western History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie (The Lamar Series in Western History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Top NotchBy Gail S.Written like the gentleman was from Sangamon County. I was surprised to find out that he wasn't. Very enjoyable reading. Written with respect and reverence. Have checked this book out several times at the local library. Just purchased a copy so I can share it with my friends and family.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful look at family and community life.By CustomerA very useful look at early Illinois history that apples no just to Sangamon County but to that whole area of the midwest. This really fleshes out the family and community life of rural Illinois.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A bit long....By Elena Del TioA bit drawn out, but I managed to get through it. History of Illinois.

The fascinating story of the birth and development of a rural American community from its origins at the turn of the nineteenth century to the years that followed the Civil War. Drawing on newspapers, account books, and reminiscences, the author of the prize-winning *Women and Men on the Overland Trail* vividly portrays the lives of the prairies' inhabitants—Indians, pioneers, farming men and women—and adds a compelling new chapter to American social history. "This is a book for anyone who has ridden down a country road and, hearing the wind whistle through the cornstalks, wondered about the Indians and pioneers who listened to that sound before him."—Ron Grossman, *Chicago Tribune* "Every chapter, almost every page, contains new ideas or throws new light on old ones, by means of a wealth of detail and clarity of thought which brings the past alive again."—Hugh Brogan, *The Times Literary Supplement* "A notably successful example of the new work being done on the social history of rural America... Faragher has constructed a vivid portrait of everyday life as well as an analysis of how the community developed and changed."—George M. Fredrickson, *New York Review of Books* "Here, succinctly set out, is the American prairie experience."—*Publishers Weekly* "Sugar Creek is a major new interpretation of America's rural past."—Howard R. Lamar, *Yale University* Winner of the 1986 Society for the History of the Early American Republic Award John Mack Faragher is associate professor of history at Mount Holyoke College.

From *Publishers Weekly* The author chronicles the development of a rural prairie community from settlement (in 1817) through its first six decades; from the egalitarian conditions of the frontier to classes of owner-operators, tenants and

hired laborers. Faragher, associate professor of history at Mount Holyoke College, has written an engaging social history of Sugar Creek in Sangamon County, Ill. Early emigrants found the prairie a threatening environment and settled at the edge of woodlands; within 20 years they had created a distinctive rural landscape. The author examines the family and kinship network in a patriarchal society and the nature of community life; he traces the progress of agriculture, from subsistence to commercial, and the decline of home industries. The sustaining elements of rural community, he finds, are local governance, churches and kinship. Here, succinctly set out, is the American prairie experience. Illustrations. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This is a pleasantly written study of rural life in Sangamon County, Abraham Lincoln's neck of the woods. Concentrating on the first half of the 19th century, Faragher skillfully interweaves social, economic, and cultural history into a whole that is local history at its best, but, because of multiple implications, is much more than the history of a locality. Using many sources, he covers Indian-white relations, the establishment of towns, childbearing patterns, changing family life, the move from a barter to a cash economy, the alteration of the landscape, and the vicissitudes of agriculture for farm owners, tenants, and employees. This innovative book can fit into collections on family, agriculture, frontier, social, and women's history. Recommended for most college and university libraries. Joseph G. Dawson III, History Dept., Texas AM Univ., College Station Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover This is the fascinating story of the birth and development of a rural American community, from its origins at the turn of the century to the years that followed the Civil War.

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