

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIES OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



ILLINOIS



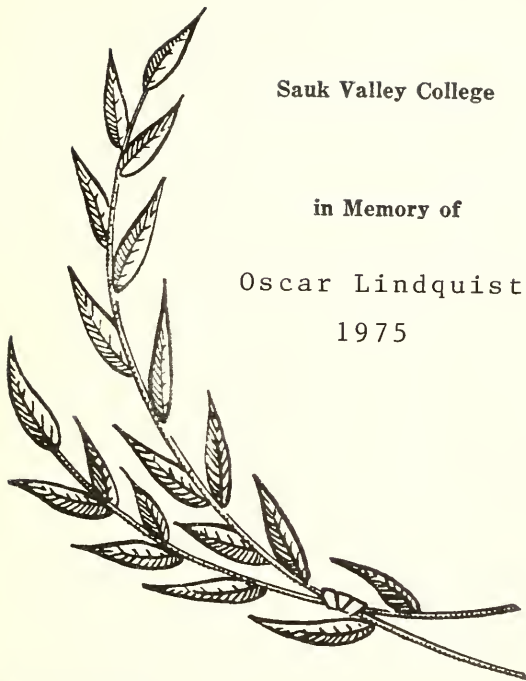
DOUGLAS C. RIDGLEY

Sauk Valley College

in Memory of

Oscar Lindquist

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THE GEOGRAPHY OF ILLINOIS

By

DOUGLAS C. RIDGLEY



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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The geography of Illinois as a state has received treatment in the past only in the state supplements of the geography textbooks. A large amount of material bearing directly on the geography of the state has been published, however, in numerous bulletins and reports of the various state departments as indicated in the bibliography given in this volume. The geography of selected areas has been presented in full detail in the educational bulletins of the State Geological Survey. The reader will find among the references listed in the bibliography a wealth of material with which to continue a study of the state and its resources as fully as may be desired.

This volume attempts to present the geography of Illinois as a whole so that the reader may appreciate the resources of the state and understand how man has used them. The natural features and natural resources of the state are treated in some detail. The great occupations of mankind—agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, and trade—are discussed with sufficient fulness to give an adequate idea of their development and present importance within the state. The population census of 1920 for Illinois is treated in a final chapter. The book is designed to be of interest to the busy citizen who wishes to know his state as a unit in its present-day activities; to teachers and pupils who would know Illinois well enough to interpret other regions in comparison with the home state; to all who wish to learn the reasons for the high rank of Illinois in many lines of human endeavor.

Copy for the maps and graphs was prepared and the pictures selected by Miss Eunice R. Blackburn under the direction of Dr. Goode, the editor. The Index is the work of Miss Mabel Crompton.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to the various departments of the state government, the local United States Weather Bureau office at Springfield, the Agricultural College of the University of Illinois, and the Bureau of the

United States Census for recent data furnished for use in the various chapters. Numerous maps, graphs, and recent facts of the volume are due to their cordial interest and co-operation.

Acknowledgment is also due to Mr. Robert Ridgway for the use of photographs of southern Illinois which he has accumulated through a long series of years; to Dr. Wellington D. Jones for the use of photographs gathered in his field studies of northeastern Illinois; to the Keystone View Co. for photographs taken throughout the state; and to numerous friends who have contributed through photograph, or letter, or personal conference to the preparation of the volume.

The work has been prepared under the guidance and direction of Dr. J. Paul Goode, editor of the series of "Regional Geographies of the United States of America," of which this is the first volume to appear. His kindly assistance and helpful advice in the preparation of the manuscript are gratefully acknowledged.

DOUGLAS C. RIDGLEY

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