with an interest in Hollywood and film censorship. Its only weakness is that one does wish to hear a bit more about how Catholic and Jewish forces viewed and interacted with their Protestant counterparts as they also sought to guide the direction of the American film industry. Scholars in film studies, religious studies, law, and American cultural studies will all find this book a truly rich and rewarding work of revision.

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On Holy Ground

First Presbyterian Church
Ironton, Missouri

The First Presbyterian Church of Ironton was the first church erected in this southeastern Missouri town, and the first Congregational church built west of the Mississippi River. The Russell, who migrated to the area from Connecticut, built a two-story wooden building on their property around 1841. The first floor of the wooden building was used as a school and the upper floor as a church. This new church belonged to the Congregational denomination. It would remain a Congregational church until the 1850s, when Presbyterian preacher Rev. William Paxton came to preach one Sunday a month. In 1855, Rev. Paxton persuaded the congregation to become Presbyterian. It joined the Presbyterian of Potosi.

When Iron County, Missouri, was officially formed in 1887, the congregation moved to the new county seat of Ironton. The original church on the Russell property remains standing today. The congregation began construction of a new church building in 1860. Not long after, when the Civil War broke out, the church and surrounding town found themselves under occupation by Union troops. The Union Army used the basement of the church as a hospital during the war, and it was in the First Presbyterian Church that Union troops and the community celebrated the first official Thanksgiving in 1863.

The original church basement is still in use today, but the building structure has gone through several renovations over time. The congregation razed the old church building in 1899 and erected the current one-story, white brick construction in 1901. It was remodeled in 1965, and expanded with an addition in 1993. Ironton Presbyterian Church is an important fixture of local history, as one of the first churches in the Arcadia Valley in southeastern Missouri.

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