

primarily at his strong urgings that young Winfield and his family journeyed west.

The family left their home in northeastern Missouri, traveled northwest to join the Mormon Pioneer Trail across southern Iowa, crossed the Missouri River at the middle ferry, and traveled west along the various segments of the Oregon Trail. Although many others traveled with the Ebeyes from time to time, the core of the train was always the Ebey family.

The journey was not unusual for such trips in the 1850s, but young Ebey kept a highly accurate daily account of events filled with incidents of trail life, from gathering wood (then cow chips), to rain and wind storms, dust, mud, hunting, and Indian threats. Ebey shows an unusual interest in and an uncommon perception of individuals but approaches events and relationships on the trail in a realistic and positive manner.

Ebey's very thorough and highly visual account of activities, events, weather, relationships, and individuals elevates his diary well above most similar accounts by untrained observers and diarists. The bottom line is that Ebey's diary is interesting reading for any trail buff—and especially for those from the Midwest.

Six Weeks in the Sioux Teepees: A Narrative of Indian Captivity by Sarah F. Wakefield, edited by June Namias. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997. xi, 173 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$27.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY SHARON BLOCK, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Upon learning that I was reviewing a modern edition of a nineteenth-century captivity narrative, a colleague told me of his difficulties teaching such narratives without expertise in Indian-white relations and the captivity narrative genre. June Namias's edition of *Six Weeks in the Sioux Teepees* solves such problems by making Sarah Wakefield's 1864 captivity narrative accessible to everyone. The volume is well conceptualized, with a forty-two page introduction, a chronology of Wakefield's life and the Dakota War, and extensive annotations of Wakefield's text.

Namias's introduction traces the history of United States-Dakota interactions, gives a brief ethnohistory of the Dakota, and discusses the captivity narrative genre. She provides background to Wakefield's life, explores why she wrote the narrative, and analyzes its major themes. While I might disagree with some of Namias's analysis of

women as a "moral force," her clear question-and-answer style acquaints readers with the multiple influences on and meanings of Wakefield's narrative.

Wakefield's story itself covers her settlement in Minnesota, her family's capture and treatment by the Dakota, and her unsuccessful efforts to save her Mdewakanton Dakota protector, Chaska, from execution. The narrative provides rich material on white women's role in cross-cultural interactions, Victorian notions of family and religion, and Wakefield's changing ideas about the "savages" who treated her less savagely than she had expected. June Namias's edition of *Six Weeks in the Sioux Teepees* will be both entertaining and enlightening to anyone with interests in Native American history, women's history, or midwestern history.

Hardship and Hope: Missouri Women Writing about Their Lives, 1820–1920, edited by Carla Waal and Barbara Oliver Korner. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1997. x, 315 pp. Notes, bibliography. \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JANICE BRANDON-FALCONE, NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Private writings, especially of those who have not been permitted much of a public life, offer interesting glimpses into worlds that are usually shaped by the delineations of politics and war. *Hardship and Hope* is just such a book. It is a collection of the private writings of women in Missouri from 1820 (when Missouri was about to enter the Union) to 1920 (when the suffrage amendment finally passed). Some of the women represented are well known—such as Carry Nation, Fanny Hurst, Kate Chopin, and Laura Ingalls Wilder—and their work appears elsewhere. Others—such as Elizabeth Keckley, a Missouri slave woman who gained her freedom and became dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln during her four years in the White House—are unknown but worth getting to know.

Many of the women represented in this collection could also represent women in Iowa, Illinois, or Kansas and their experiences in homesteading, schoolteaching, pioneering, leaving on the Overland Trail, or being left by husbands during the Gold Rush or the Civil War. However, the majority of the writings and women found in this volume reflect a particular Missouri experience: living in St. Louis, being a governor's wife, and especially living in a bitterly divided state during the Civil War. These experiences are peculiar to Missouri and

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