

The Osage in Missouri, by Kristie C. Wolferman. Missouri Heritage Readers. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1997. xi, 119 pp. Illustrations, maps, suggested readings, index. \$9.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT R. ARCHIBALD, MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"They are a splendid race," wrote the Frenchman Etienne de Véniard, sieur de Bourgmont, of the Osage whom he encountered in his travels in the early eighteenth century. Bourgmont was not the first European contact that the Osage experienced, and he certainly would not be the last. In *The Osage in Missouri*, Kristie C. Wolferman examines the effects of such contacts, focusing primarily on this people during their time in what was eventually the state of Missouri. She also offers a background of Osage origins and traditions and an overview of their evolving culture in the historical context of the encroaching Americans.

Wolferman has provided a well-written and reliable overview of the Missouri days of this Indian nation and how its culture was forever altered by the Europeans and Americans who found the Osage homeland so essential to their entrepreneurial endeavors and later to plans for westward expansion. By stated intention, *The Osage in Missouri* is narrowly focused. Written for a popular audience, specifically "new adult readers," it is appropriate for younger readers as well and will be appreciated by readers with a casual interest in midwestern and Native American history. Enhanced with familiar portraits, various illustrations of Osage life, and some pertinent maps, *The Osage in Missouri* is an attractive and appealing addition to the general literature on American Indian cultures.

The 1854 Oregon Trail Diary of Winfield Scott Ebey, edited by Susan Badger Doyle and Fred W. Dykes. Emigrant Trail Historical Studies, No. 2. Independence, MO: Oregon-California Trails Association, 1997. xiv, 247 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, bibliography, indexes. \$27.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY HARMON MOTHERSHEAD, NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY, EMERITUS

Winfield Scott Ebey's 1854 Oregon Trail diary is a personal and sometimes intimate account of the extended Ebey family's journey from Adair County, Missouri, to Whidbey Island, Washington Territory, to join Winfield's eldest brother, Isaac. Isaac had gone to Oregon in 1848, then went to California in 1849, but settled on Whidbey Island in 1850 and was joined by his wife and children in 1852. It was

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

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