

Book Notices

Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West, by Harriet Rochlin and Fred Rochlin. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1984. 243 pp. \$17.95 cloth.

Pioneer Jews is a person-by-person account of the Jews who settled from the Rockies to the Pacific (plus west Texas and the Black Hills of South Dakota) from the sixteenth century to 1912. The coffee-table size book contains 180 impressive historical photographs and representative ephemera. Authors Rochlin and Rochlin divided the book into eight chapters which are both chronological and thematic.

Pioneer Jews begins in the sixteenth century with a description of the lives of Iberians of Jewish descent in the Spanish New World. Chapter two, "Gold and Other Discoveries," is a chronicle of Jews who went west during the California Gold Rush. The middle four chapters illustrate how Jewish pioneers dealt with problems of family, sectarianism, romance, business, and politics. The most entertaining chapter, "Humdingers," relates anecdotes about unique characters in the West such as: Wyatt Earp's Jewish wife who witnessed the shoot-out at the O.K. Corral; Emperor Norton I, the self-proclaimed monarch of the United States and protector of Mexico; and "Jew Ida," a madame in Butte, Montana. The final chapter describes the development of religious leadership and institutions, including burial associations, mutual aid societies, and places of worship. The growth of social and cultural institutions is also portrayed. *Pioneer Jews* concludes with an epilogue entitled "1912," the year the territorial period ended when New Mexico was granted statehood.

Pioneer Jews reads like a well-annotated family photograph and ephemera album. Like a family album, however, it has no footnotes, and it contains no analysis of the subject. On the other hand, it is indexed and written with the warmth of a family document which has many interesting anecdotes. This book is recommended for those who are interested in local as well as Jewish history.

It should be noted that published in the same year was *We Lived There Too: In Their Own Words and Pictures—Pioneer Jews and the Westward Movement of America 1630-1930* by Kenneth Libo and Irving Howe (New York: St. Martin's). This is an unindexed collection of pho-

tographs, unpublished diaries, contemporary newspaper articles, memoirs, and letters. Libo annotated the selections, and the book concludes with an epilogue by Howe. It is hoped that the publication of these two works will lead historians to analyze published and unpublished documents and place them in historical perspective.

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Journals of John D. Lee, 1846-1847 and 1859, edited with annotations by Charles Kelly. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1984. vii, 251 pp. Introduction, notes, index. \$17.95 cloth.

Originally published in 1938 in a small edition of 250 copies, *Journals of John D. Lee* makes readily available to scholars key documents written by one of the most articulate and controversial Mormon leaders of the nineteenth century. The first journal deals with events that took place near Omaha, Nebraska, between 1846 and 1847, involving the Mormon Battalion, plural marriage, and other esoteric religious practices, and the work of Brigham Young in moving the church to Utah. A fragmentary journal for 1859 deals with a period when the author was in hiding following the Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857, a brutal incident in which he had played a key role. A final section contains letters from Lee to a daughter, Amarah, written prior to his execution by federal authorities in 1877 for his part in that massacre.

This edition of the *Journals of John D. Lee* is a commendable addition to the literature of Utah Mormonism and a credit to the growing list of titles published by the University of Utah Press on the subject. The value of this book was heightened by Charles S. Peterson's introduction, providing new perspectives on editor Charles Kelly. One can analyze this book from at least three angles. First, it is one among many accounts describing an important chapter in the settlement of the West. Second, it describes poignantly the faith, ideals, fears, and horrors of a significant individual on the Mormon frontier of Utah. Finally, the editor offered a perspective on anti-Mormon rhetoric, as Kelly frequently used the document as a base from which to launch into attacks on Mormonism in his annotations. Each perspective has certain virtues and liabilities, and a mix of these with others is undoubtedly necessary to appreciate this book fully. Regardless of one's personal inclinations, however, all will be impressed with this work. It is a valuable resource long unavailable to all except those frequenting a few specialized libraries.

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