

Famous Chiefs of the Eastern Sioux, by Mark Diedrich. Minneapolis, MN: Coyote Books, 1987. vii, 81 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$10.95 paper.

Biographical anthologies of notable Indian leaders have been popular with Americans since the publication of Alvin Josephy's *The Patriot Chiefs* in 1958. R. David Edmunds's *American Indian Leaders*, and *Indian Leadership* by Walter Williams have continued this tradition of writing. Most of these anthologies have concentrated on leaders of national prominence. Only Roy Holt's *Heap Many Texas Chiefs* deals with regional Indian leaders. Mark Diedrich's *Famous Chiefs of the Eastern Sioux* is an attempt to display several leaders of the Dakota and Yanktonai Sioux in a biographical fashion similar to these other works.

Diedrich presents five biographical sketches, each attempting to illustrate a different aspect of chieftainship—hero, partisan, dictator, outlaw, and speaker. Diedrich's "Dakota Hero," Wabasha, was a sachem of the revolutionary war period and a supporter of the British cause who deserves recognition as the foremost Dakota leader of the eighteenth century. Little Crow, the "speaker" of Diedrich's book, led the Dakotas in the Sioux War of 1862. As the most famous eastern Sioux chief, his inclusion is mandatory, but Gary Anderson's biography of him is better balanced and better written. The Yanktonai leader Waneta (a noted fur trade middleman), Red Wing (a war leader of the early nineteenth century), and Inkpaduta (a band chief of the mid-nineteenth century) are lesser known figures. Of these three, Inkpaduta, whom the author dubs the "Dakota Outlaw," was the most important. Having led the Spirit Lake "massacre," he fought in the Sioux war and later joined Sitting Bull.

Diedrich's work is passable for its biographical sketches, but it is hardly a complete portrait of eastern Sioux leaders or of the nature of Indian political practice. As an introductory work, it offers the basis for more intensive studies of Dakota and Yanktonai politics.

MANKATO STATE UNIVERSITY

THOMAS F. SCHILZ

The Rise of the Wheat State: A History of Kansas Agriculture, 1861-1986, edited by George E. Ham and Robin Higham. Manhattan, KS: Sunflower University Press, 1987. xix, 194 pp. Notes, illustrations, maps, bibliographic notes. \$12.00 paper.

The Rise of the Wheat State is a collection of sixteen essays written mostly by faculty of Kansas State University. Most of the authors try to cast their discussion in historical form, but by field three historians are

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joined by two soil scientists, three agronomists, five economists, two grain scientists, two engineers, two animal scientists, and one public information specialist. Each chapter addresses one aspect of the subject, such as soil, historical context, Kansas State Board of Agriculture, development of wheat, other crops, cattle, other livestock, water, mechanization, grain elevators, transportation, export marketing, flour milling, finance, and farm organizations.

The collection does offer detail on the various subjects, but it also suffers the ills of such collections. It is episodic, repetitious, and centered too much on Kansas State University's role in the agricultural history of the state. The quality of the chapters varies widely in usefulness to academic readers. Some have no notes, but most offer a bibliographic note. Homer Socolofsky's discussion of the agricultural heritage to 1875 is very good, as are chapters five on crops other than wheat and nine on mechanization. The chapter on wheat has good charts of plant types and tables of production changes; indeed, the photographs and maps are one of the assets of the book. For those who know little about the history of Kansas agriculture, this is a useful volume.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

JAMES W. WHITAKER

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