

Inkpaduta—The Scarlet Point: Terror of the Dakota Frontier and Secret Hero of the Sioux, by Maxwell Van Nuys. Denver: Maxwell Van Nuys, 1998. xiii, 479 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index.

REVIEWED BY WILLIAM E. LASS, MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Inkpaduta, a renegade Wahpekute Dakota from Minnesota, is well known in Iowa history as the perpetrator of an 1857 incident that traditionally has been called "The Spirit Lake Massacre." After killing 32 squatters, Inkpaduta and his small band escaped into present-day South Dakota. Van Nuys traces the life of the shadowy fugitive through Indian wars in Dakota Territory and the famous 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana Territory.

With the exception of Doane Robinson's *A History of the Dakota or Sioux Indians*, which was published in 1904, historians have portrayed Inkpaduta as a minor figure. Robinson, on the basis of rather dubious evidence, contended that Inkpaduta was a significant tactical leader during the 1863–1865 fighting between the Sioux and the United States army in Dakota Territory.

Van Nuys not only endorses the Robinson thesis, but grandly expands it. Thus, without substantiation, he describes Inkpaduta as being a virtual latter-day Pontiac or Tecumseh, whose goal in northwestern Iowa was to block the advance of the white agricultural frontier by forging an alliance with the Omaha and some Sisseton Dakota. In the Dakota Territory campaigns, according to Van Nuys, Inkpaduta was not only the key tactician, but the mentor of Sitting Bull and other chiefs as well.

This work would have benefited immensely from rigorous professional editing. Van Nuys has considerable difficulty ascertaining basic factual information, critically assessing sources, and citing accurately and consistently. Overall, the book does little to enhance understanding of either Inkpaduta or the plains Indian wars.

Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt: A Documentary History, edited by Timothy Walch and Dwight M. Miller. Contributions in American History, no. 182. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1998. xxvi, 221 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$59.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL J. ANDERSON, CLARKE COLLEGE

This collection traces the relationship between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover from 1917 to 1945, with the vast majority of the documents pertaining to the period from 1932 to 1945. An able and

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