

## Book Notices

*Letters from New France: The Upper Country, 1683-1783*, translated and edited by Joseph L. Peyser. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992. xv, 248 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JAMES W. OBERLY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

Joseph L. Peyser has collected a set of documents and letters written by French settlers, traders, and officials in the western Great Lakes region, or the "pays d'haut." Many of the documents come from the editor's work with historic Fort St. Joseph near present-day Niles, Michigan. The focus of the book, however, extends beyond the relations between the French and their Miami and Potawatomi neighbors on the St. Joseph's River. Several of the letters shed light on the war against the Mesquakie, a topic of interest to readers of this journal. A separate chapter contains letters that illuminate the war between the French and Miamis and the English-allied Chickasaws over control of the lower Mississippi River.

Peyser provides each chapter with a brief introduction. Each letter or document also contains an annotation, as well as a footnote showing the source for the document. The volume very much lives up to the standards expected of documentary editing today. The letters in this volume can also be read with profit in conjunction with Richard White's recent *The Middle Ground*. Several of the themes outlined in White's volume can be seen in the documents that Peyser has prepared.

*The Wedding Dress: Stories from the Dakota Plains*, by Carrie Young. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1992. 126 pp. \$16.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ELIZABETH HAMPSTEN, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Births, deaths, marriages, a murder, bachelor farmers, seamstresses, midwives, farm workers, high school kids at a dance—the stories from the thirties and forties that Carrie Young tells in *The Wedding Dress* are the sort that linger in the memories of families and com-

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