Given the breadth and depth of Naugle's expertise in the field, the winnowing process for this book must have been especially difficult. While it is easy enough for an interested observer to identify topics that beg for more detailed coverage and analysis (such as the displacement of Native Americans or the long-term effects of the Homestead Act, to name just two), nitpicking of that sort is unfair and almost completely irrelevant in evaluating this volume. The book's brevity is actually its greatest strength. Naugle's goal here is to whet rather than to satisfy readers' appetites. Viewed from that perspective, the book can only be judged a success. Indeed, one of the most remarkable aspects of the author's work is not what he has been forced to leave out, but rather what he has been able to include. In less than 150 total pages, and using chapters that rarely exceed three or four pages each, Naugle introduces a truly impressive array of themes, topics, events, and personalities, ranging from the prehistoric geology of the Midwest and Great Plains to the rural-urban dichotomies that help to shape the state's current social, political, and economic dynamics. The author's analysis of these topics is perceptive but necessarily brief. Like the Platte River valley that has itself been so central to Nebraska's history, the treatment is, by design, "a mile wide and an inch deep."

Written in a lively, conversational, and accessible style and enhanced by well-chosen illustrations and maps, this is a book that meets its intended purpose and should find its intended audience. Academics, specialists, and advanced students will need to look elsewhere for the interpretive scrutiny, sourcing, citations, and footnotes that their interests may require. But for newcomers to the state, younger students, and anyone seeking a brief and highly readable introduction to Nebraska's colorful and sometimes controversial past, Naugle's volume will fill the bill splendidly.

Gabriel Renville: From the Dakota War to the Creation of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation, 1825–1892, by Gary Clayton Anderson. Pierre: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 2018. xi, 220 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. $29.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Linda M. Clemmons is a professor of history at Illinois State University. She is the author of *Conflicted Mission: Faith, Disputes, and Deception on the Dakota Frontier* (2014) and the forthcoming *Dakota in Exile: The Untold Stories of Captives in the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War.*

Gary Clayton Anderson has written an important biography of Gabriel Renville, a Dakota man whose life intersected with the major events in Dakota history from the 1820s until the late nineteenth century. This

project adds to Anderson's previous works that also focus on the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, including a biography of Little Crow and *Through Dakota Eyes*, a primary source reader that offers Dakota viewpoints on the war. In this biography, Anderson can be commended for writing about a Dakota man who has received relatively little public attention.

The book is organized into eight chronological chapters, beginning in 1825 with Renville's birth at Lac qui Parle in southern Minnesota to Victor Renville and Winona Crawford, both of European and Dakota descent. Anderson notes that while he grew up in a trading family, Renville also "was steeped in Dakota tradition," especially the Medicine Society, as well as gift-giving and polygamist marriage practices (6–7). Through family ties, Renville also interacted with Joseph Brown, a white trader, land speculator, Indian agent, and government official in charge of scouts. Brown and Protestant missionaries guided his early education; however, while he learned to read and write, it was in the Dakota language, not English. Renville also never truly accepted Christianity.

Although he remained ambivalent about Christianity, from early on Renville accepted government treaties and assimilationist policies. For example, he supported the Treaties Traverse des Sioux and Mendota (1851), which led to the cession of all Dakota lands in Minnesota. After the treaties, Renville worked as a farmer and a land speculator and held a government farming position. During the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, Renville rescued white settlers; after the war, he served as a Dakota scout in the military's punitive expeditions in Dakota Territory. Thus, Renville was called a "friendly Indian" at the time, because he consistently demonstrated his "loyalty to the government" (35).

In part as a reward for his loyalty during and after the war, Renville, Anderson argues, was instrumental in obtaining a homeland for the Sisseton-Wahpeton people in 1867—the Lake Traverse Reservation in present-day North and South Dakota. Once located on the reservation, Renville did not support the faction who practiced Christianity, but he did endorse government education, farming, and allotment. He also worked as a diplomat, traveling across the plains "trying to convince these Indians to accept government rule" (109). Thus, in both his early life and on the reservation, Renville, Anderson argues, "demonstrated that is was possible to be loyal to his people, to advocate traditional values, and at the same time, be a friend to the white man" (153).

Anderson notes that he has written "a biography not quite like any other in the field," as Renville belonged among the "few who were peacemakers, diplomats, entrepreneurs, and builders during the time of strife and conflict in the American West" (xi). Certainly

Anderson shows that Renville was a complex man who attempted to navigate a tragic period of upheaval and strife. However, it is important to note that many Dakota at the time—and since—have criticized Dakota like Renville for their close ties with traders like Brown, the United States military, the scouts, and government officials. Anderson neglects to cite historians who differ in their interpretations of so-called "friendly Indians." Some scholars, for instance, have called those who sided with the government and government policies "traitors" to their people. It is important to acknowledge—as Anderson has done in his other work—the negative and lasting legacy of conquest, settler colonialism, and government assimilationist programs, even if Renville tried to do what he thought was best for his people.

Finally, while Anderson can be commended for finding numerous written sources that give a complete account of the major events of Renville's life, by the end of the biography his personality remains elusive. I never felt like I could hear Renville's voice explaining why he made the choices he did and how others reacted to those choices. Despite these caveats of interpretation and presentation, Anderson's biography of Gabriel Renville sheds light on a man who lived through a tragic period in Dakota history. Renville often made contradictory and controversial choices that he hoped would ensure his, and his people's, survival. Those choices reverberate into the present day.

Interrupted Odyssey: Ulysses S. Grant and the American Indians, by Mary Stockwell. The World of Ulysses S. Grant Series. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2018. 256 pp. Maps, illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. $34.50 hardcover.

> Reviewer Scott L. Stabler is professor of history at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. He is the author of "Ulysses S. Grant and the 'Indian Problem'" (*Journal of Illinois History,* 2003).

The process of revamping Ulysses S. Grant's reputation has been ongoing for a few decades, but has just reached the mainstream historical audience. After the popular tomes by Ronald C. White (799 pages) and Ron Chernow (1,104 pages) and another more historical approach to Grant's presidency by Charles Calhoun (720 pages), Mary Stockwell's 256-page work on President U.S. Grant's Indian policy is more manageable and more focused. Because no one has so thoroughly addressed Grant's Indian policy, Stockwell's work is vital for a complete picture of Grant. She covers a complex topic with a narrative that flows well and clarifies the story of postbellum Indian policy.