

The Oneida Indians in the Age of Allotment, 1860–1920, edited by Laurence M. Hauptman and L. Gordon McLester III. The Civilization of the American Indian Series 253. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. xx, 333 pp. Illustrations, map, charts, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Emily Greenwald is an associate historian with Historical Research Associates, Inc., Missoula, Montana. She is the author of *Reconfiguring the Reservation: The Nez Perces, Jicarilla Apaches, and the Dawes Act* (2002).

The Oneida Indians in the Age of Allotment is the third installment in a four-book history of the Oneida Nation. It surveys Oneida experiences between 1860 and 1920, covering such topics as the Civil War, Indian boarding schools, land loss under the allotment policy, and legal struggles. The editors, Laurence M. Hauptman and L. Gordon McLester III, have compiled oral histories and essays, which they place in context and link together through introductions to each of the book's five topical/chronological parts. The selections offer a range of perspectives from personal to scholarly, and the book as a whole is a fine model of what a Native community and academics can produce through collaboration.

The book highlights the lives of complicated political and social leaders among the Oneida. One of the most interesting and well-developed essays, written by Hauptman, examines the career of Denison Wheelock, a Carlisle graduate who became a bandmaster, composer, and tribal attorney. This and Hauptman's other contributions to the volume—an essay on competency commissions and an essay co-written with McLester—are the book's strongest entries.

The book's other essays vary in quality. James Oberly's essay on Oneida allotment appears to have been written for Wisconsin educators to assist them with teaching the topic. It would have been helpful to have a more penetrating analysis of allotment here, especially given the book's title and the importance of allotment in Native American history. Carol Cornelius's short narrative about the return of a railroad right-of-way to the tribe stands out as a good example of how history and historical records matter in present-day Indian issues.

The oral history excerpts and firsthand accounts add color and make the past more personal. Some were recorded by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s; others were collected more recently. The editors' introductions help connect this personal testimony to the historical narrative in the essays, but some of the entries would benefit from further explanation or analysis.

The book addresses a period of great significance in Native American history, when federal policy aimed to break apart tribes and as-

simulate Indians into the American mainstream as farmers and laborers. Iowa's tribes had largely been pushed from the state by the late nineteenth century, and, like the Oneida, they experienced the pressures of the assimilation policy in places other than their traditional homelands.

Apart from its stronger essays, the book does not quite achieve the depth of analysis or originality that would appeal to academics. General readers will likely find some of the personal accounts and essays compelling. Despite some shortcomings, the book succeeds in providing insight into this important era in Oneida (and Native American) experience. It would be nice to see more collaborative projects of this nature.

Calling This Place Home: Women on the Wisconsin Frontier, 1850–1925, by Joan M. Jensen. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2006. viii, 518 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, note on sources, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Paula M. Nelson is professor of history and chairperson of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Wisconsin–Platteville. She is the author of *After the West Was Won: Homesteaders and Town-Builders in Western South Dakota, 1900–1917* (1986); and *The Prairie Windows Out Its Own: The West River Country of South Dakota in the Years of Depression and Dust* (1996).

One goal of some historians of women over the nearly 40 years of the sub-discipline's existence has been to provide one overarching interpretation of the female experience in the United States. As scholars have undertaken this endeavor, however, they have encountered a difficult truth: there is no single narrative line that can encompass the variety in women's lives. Females shared the biological role of child-bearing, but other life circumstances varied dramatically. Oppression models, for example, that emphasized universal legal, political, economic, and cultural subordination of women could not explain both the circumstances of enslaved women in the South and the plantation mistresses who ruled over them, or the lives of wealthy Gilded Age society matrons compared to those women who labored in the sweatshops of the time, or who bore child after child in the dank tenements of American cities. Women's lives were and are shaped by time, place, culture, gender, race, class, ethnicity, religion, education, luck, and many other factors.

Joan M. Jensen has found a better way to tell the multiple stories of women in the past. In *Calling This Place Home*, she focuses on a region, her own home place, economically marginal north central Wisconsin, and provides a richly detailed, comprehensive examination of