

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

the family, community, economic, and institutional history of women. The stories of her own family members help provide the everyday details that make the story personal and real. The stories of her research trips through the area illustrate the processes of a historian at work and show the importance of leaving one's desk to see firsthand the places subjects inhabited. That Jensen did not really know her own family's places until relatively recently lends a special poignancy and immediacy to the story. This is not an autobiography, however, but a solid, scholarly work that uses family experiences, as well as the experiences of those Jensen "met" in her research along the way, as entrées into the complex stories of different groups as their world changed over time.

Jensen divides the book into three sections: Building Economies, Protecting Families and Communities, and Making a New Home. The first section, Building Economies, includes migration stories, the lumber economy and the transition to agriculture, especially dairying, and the places that Native women filled within these changing circumstances. The segment titled Protecting Families and Communities includes a wide range of topics, including health, and "caring," which includes manners and mores, elder care, poor houses and other elements of community values and institutions. Other chapters include the stories of schools at all levels, churches and spiritual practices, customs, and politics. The final section, Making a New Home, details the migration away from the region that so many women undertook as they searched for a different life in urban areas. Each segment has to untangle and interpret the stories of several different cultures. The category of Native women, for example, includes women from three tribes with three different cultures and three different interactions with the federal and state governments, all of whom were facing marginalization as settlers came to the region and developed their own economies and institutions. Among the settlers, Polish Catholic immigrants lived differently than Germans or Danes or native-born Americans. Nuns provided different kinds of institutions and fought different kinds of battles with their hierarchy than did Methodist women. The differences as well as the similarities are carefully detailed, told as often as possible through the experiences of specific women.

One of the best features of the book is the depth of context provided for each story. When her female relatives migrated into Minnesota's Twin Cities to find work during the first two decades of the twentieth century, for example, their story introduces a discussion of the difficulties of living on female wages, as documented by the Minimum Wage Commission, the passage of new laws to protect women

workers in Minnesota, and the circumstances of the labor movement of the time. Jensen maintains this commitment to full context throughout the book with every subject that she introduces. The notes for each chapter testify to the extensive research each segment and sub-segment required. The result is impressive and the information encyclopedic. *Calling This Place Home* will serve not only as a good history well told, but as a reference work of much value to students of women's history, midwestern or Wisconsin history, and the story of rural life and culture.

In the introduction, Jensen sets her work within the New Western revisionist school of interpretation, with its multicultural view and its utopian demand for justice or "it should have been" about past events and behaviors. Certainly, many of her stories are those of struggle, poverty, loss, and constant change. Jensen's sorrow and frustration at the circumstances and at injustices many of the women of north central Wisconsin suffered comes through. Yet those women also laughed and danced; raised families; preserved their cultures; built their churches, schools, and hospitals; served their communities; and created lives that mattered within the context of their own times. It is all here, the complete story, the tragedy and the joy.

Investing in Iowa: The Life and Times of F. M. Hubbell, by William B. Friedrichs. Des Moines: The Iowan Books, 2007. ix, 224 pp. Illustrations, appendix, notes, index. \$18.95 paper.

Reviewer Eric J. Morser teaches history at the University of Florida. His research and writing have focused on the interrelated histories of business, labor, gender, and politics in nineteenth-century La Crosse, Wisconsin.

In this concise and well-researched biography, William B. Friedrichs surveys the life of Frederick M. Hubbell, an early booster who helped transform Des Moines into a thriving western city and who eventually became one of the wealthiest men in Iowa. Like so many tales of settlement, Hubbell's western story began in the East. In 1855 a teenaged Hubbell and his father left their Connecticut home and trekked west in search of fame and fortune. Soon after they arrived in Des Moines, the younger Hubbell embarked on a commercial journey that would keep him in town for the better part of the next 75 years. He quickly found a job working as an office boy in a Des Moines land office, where he mingled with speculators and became familiar with the business of property. From that point on, Hubbell focused his energies and acquired his wealth. He made waves buying and selling local real estate but quickly moved into other ventures. By the 1860s he had invested in urban transportation and services and founded Iowa's first