

meaningful but would have been more valuable if presented elsewhere in the book. This miscalculation does not detract from the overall integrity of *Women Elders*, however. The book is an honest, elegant contribution to American Indian scholarship. Note to researchers: be sure to read the preface. Summers's respectful approach to gathering data in a tribal community is commendable. *This* is the way to conduct research in Indian Country.

*Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild*, by Michael Forsberg with Dan O'Brien, David Wishart, and Ted Kooser. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. 260 pp. Photographs (many in color), maps, bibliography, list of resources, index. \$45.00 cloth.

Reviewer Molly P. Rozum is associate professor of history at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. Her dissertation (University of North Carolina, 2001) was "Grasslands Grown: A Twentieth-Century Sense of Place on North America's Northern Prairies and Plains."

Hope edges pessimism in this compelling study of North America's grasslands ecology. Part photographic narrative, part history, with interludes of personal essay, mapping, and fieldwork journaling, this book is as "mixed and complicated" as "the people of the Plains" (253). Forsberg's absorbing photographs form the core in chapters on "The Northern Plains," "The Southern Plains," and "Tallgrass Prairies," the last of which includes significant discussion of Iowa's historic grasslands. Images of buffalo grass, a "ghost" playa lake, snow geese taking flight, a snow squall, redbelly daces swimming, and black-tailed prairie dogs greeting one another reveal the "lingering wild" of the Plains and the authors' reasoned concern for "ignoble destruction" (19). Kooser introduces, and historical geographer Wishart provides a general overview, citing important regional scholarship. Novelist O'Brien's personal essays — "Water," "Wind," "Lion," and "Cemetery" — demonstrate his and Forsberg's different understandings of the environment, yet similar deeply rooted feelings for the place.

The authors advocate a "new Great Plains land ethic," one "scientific and practical" (254), notably already at work upon the region, as represented by the U.S. Conservation Reserve Program, the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, pheasant hunters, ranchers, and philanthropists. Extinction and depletion continue by irrigation, methane gas production, wind "farms," and corn-based ethanol development. Hope resides nevertheless in individuals with diverse motivations to preserve, restore, and reconnect what at times seems a hopelessly fragmented place. For Iowa restoration is key.

Unique in interdisciplinary presentation, scholarly and accessible, the winner of two prizes — a gold medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards for the Best Mid-West Regional Non-fiction Book and the Distinguished Book Prize from the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln — *Great Plains* poses questions “emblematic of the world at large” (18).

*Voices from the Back Stairs: Interpreting Servants' Lives at Historic House Museums*, by Jennifer Pustz. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2010. x, 244 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$27.00 paper.

Reviewer Barbara J. Howe is the former director of the Center for Women's Studies at West Virginia University. She is the author of “The Historic Role of Women in the Nineteenth-Century Historic Preservation Movement,” in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation* (2003).

Who were the servants? What did they do? Where did they live? How did they interact with their employers? These are questions that historic sites, especially historic house museums, across the country should address to provide the most complete interpretation of the lives of all who lived and worked on the premises, but it is easy to make these people invisible because the sites may think they lack relevant artifacts and sources. Jennifer Pustz has drawn on her experiences working at Brucemore in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Historic New England (formerly the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities) to address these questions and to suggest examples and resources for others to use. To add broader context to her own experiences as an employee and visitor at sites, she sent out a survey to 691 historic house museums other than “pioneer homesteads and log cabins,” which would not have had domestic servants, in all but two states and the District of Columbia to ask how they interpreted domestic service. The survey is included as Appendix I. She had a response rate of 53.5 percent (358 surveys) and incorporates some of the examples from the survey in the narrative, including sites in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Pustz states that her goal is “to help historic house museum staff reach the objective of telling the whole history of their sites through interpretation of domestic servants in a rich and complex fashion that favors the ‘real’ over the ‘ideal’” (12). The first chapter includes some interpretation of the domestic work of enslaved people at sites such as Montpelier and Monticello, but the focus of the book is on the period from 1870 to 1920. Chapter two provides an overview of the results of