

lives of soldiers and others who passed through the area. The color illustrations, black-and-white photos, detailed maps, and visitor information make this a great resource for people who want to stand on the sites where history was made. Although short on analysis, this book will be a helpful reference for anyone writing about western expansion, the trade and economy of the Midwest, the local history of Iowa, or the shifting balance of power between native and non-native groups. Many scholars acknowledge that early Iowa was a dynamic place where native groups hunted, the Sauk and Dakota often clashed, Europeans and Anglo-Americans vied for control, and settlers grew in numbers. By following the trail of forts over time, this book helps us link that history to the physical world that surrounds us.

The Indians of Iowa, by Lance M. Foster. A Bur Oak Book. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2009. xiv, 145 pp. Maps, illustrations, places to visit, tribal contacts, bibliography, index. \$16.95 paper.

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The story of American Indian people in the present-day state of Iowa is one that is both rich and complex. For centuries, the region's diverse landscape and system of waterways have attracted a surprising variety of distinct native cultures. Over time these groups have ascended, declined, evolved, or disappeared, leaving in their wake a saga that spans many cultures and centuries. Making sense of this vast story requires expertise in a broad range of academic disciplines. For this reason, Lance Foster — artist, anthropologist, historian, and enrolled member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska — is a natural choice to bring the pieces together in his new book, *The Indians of Iowa*.

By Foster's count, no fewer than 25 Indian tribes have a historical connection to Iowa. Rather than placing these various groups together in a single narrative, Foster discusses each of the tribes in separate sections. Those with the strongest connections to Iowa, such as the Meskwaki, Sauk, and Ioway, each receive individual chapters. Tribes with only brief residencies inside the state, such as the Osage, Kickapoo, and Ojibwa, are lumped together in a single chapter called "Visiting Nations." Each chapter is divided into three sections: an introduction, a description of each group's traditional culture, and a listing of well-known members of each tribe.

Foster intersperses these chapters with sections that touch on a variety of topics related to American Indian people in Iowa. One of the most useful of these is a chapter on the state's archaeology. In this

section, Foster provides a helpful overview of the various archaeological periods, listing the chronological time frame and fundamental characteristics of each. In another brief chapter, Foster explores one of the most famous conflicts involving native people in Iowa history, the Spirit Lake Massacre, from a native perspective. Lest readers conclude that American Indians existed in Iowa exclusively in the past, Foster includes lively chapters about native spirituality, powwow etiquette, genealogy, and other issues related to Indians in Iowa today. He also includes a list of more than 50 museums and historic sites throughout Iowa where readers can go to learn more about the state's indigenous people.

Finally, Foster has illustrated *The Indians of Iowa* with several of his own striking pen-and-ink drawings. Most of these drawings depict Indian people in traditional dress engaging in ancient activities, but many include small icons of modernity, such as snowplows, airplanes, and tractors, which serve to connect the people, their time-honored cultures, and the world of the twenty-first century.

Indeed, it is this ability to move the story effortlessly between the past and the present that may be the book's strongest asset. Rather than depict Indian people as long-gone artifacts of Iowa's past, Foster presents readers with contemporary people who are working to hold on to their traditions while striving to move their cultures forward. In the process the author helps to break down some of the prevalent myths that non-native people often have about Indians and their traditions.

Some historians and scholars will no doubt argue that *The Indians of Iowa* is too brief and that it paints an incomplete picture of the topic it sets out to explore. Foster's chapters on individual tribes are short, rarely longer than three or four pages, and the list of recommended readings seems a bit subjective. Scholars might also take issue with some of the information Foster has included in the book. For example, the author notes that the name *Ioway* comes from a Sioux phrase meaning "sleepy ones" (6). Linguist Jimm GoodTracks has translated the word to mean "those broken off," a phrase that refers to the Ioway's separation from their relatives the Otoe and Missouriia.

Nonetheless, Foster has clearly written *The Indians of Iowa* for general readers in the hope that it will lead them to seek out more information about this rich topic. "Reading this book is simply one step in your own journey of connecting with the land and the Indians of Iowa," the author tells us in his conclusion (108). In *The Indians of Iowa*, Lance Foster has succeeded in writing a book that will leave readers well prepared to undertake that journey of discovery.