

Viola tracked down King's personal collection of his works to the Redwood Library in the artist's native city of Newport, Rhode Island. Unfortunately—indeed, almost catastrophically—the Library, after holding the collection for more than 100 years, fell on hard times and auctioned the paintings in 1970. The collection is now scattered, although the Gulf States Paper Corporation managed to buy several canvases. Some originals made their way abroad in the nineteenth century, and several others ended up in the White House. The portraits assembled by McKenney were ultimately transferred to the Smithsonian and destroyed in the Institution's 1865 fire. This book, then, represents the best gathering of King's important works. In addition, Viola discovered among King's heirs a group of charcoal sketches, apparently preliminary work for the oil paintings, which add a great deal to understanding the portraits themselves.

Iowa readers should be particularly interested. The years of King's activity coincided with the most important events on the Indian frontier of Iowa. Several delegations of Sauk and Mesquakie, of Ioway, and of Sioux were depicted by the artist. These portraits are among King's finest—including not only pictures of Black Hawk and Keokuk, but lesser-known paintings such as the magnificent full-figure of Nesouaquoit (a Mesquakie) that graces the dust jacket.

This is a book worth the purchase. Well-researched, well-written, well-designed, and well-printed, it will strengthen the library and grace the coffee table of anyone interested in the history of Native Americans, or painting, or both.

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The Iowa Northern Border Brigade, by Marshall McKusick. Iowa City: Office of the State Archaeologist, 1975. pp. ix, 172. Illustrations.

Samuel Johnson liked to recite, from memory, a chapter of a book called *A Natural History of Iceland*. The chapter, entitled "Concerning Snakes," went in its entirety as follows: "There are no snakes to be met with throughout the entire island." Such, with only minor alterations, is about the best that can be said of this book by Marshall McKusick. But the reader's relief at having met no snakes in the book does not overcome his or her sense of having wasted time in reading it.

McKusick's tale is about the organized response in Iowa to the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862. After years of enduring the standard white treatment of Indians—duplicitous, theft, and starvation—a group of Santee Sioux in southwestern Minnesota spontaneously revolted. This convulsive, unorganized uprising resulted in the deaths of several hundred whites before it was

brutally suppressed. Iowa's Governor Kirkwood, responding to the panic in the northwestern part of the state, established the Iowa Northern Border Brigade. The Brigade set up a line of forts and stockades from Sioux City to Spirit Lake to protect Iowa's frontier. Although some of these soldiers served on detached service in Minnesota, they saw no action in Iowa. The Brigade was disbanded in 1864.

The important part of this story, and the neglected one, is the *unorganized* response in Iowa. Although there were no battles or deaths reported here, exaggerated news of the uprising spread rapidly across the state's thinly-populated northwestern frontier. Already skittish after the Spirit Lake Massacre, these pioneers were stampeded. In a short time, this section of the state was virtually deserted. Some of the settlers left permanently, others stayed away for months, and settlement of the area was retarded for years.

What little space McKusick devotes to this part of the story contains no new evidence or conclusions. In fact, much of the book is a restatement of secondary sources. In his Preface, McKusick says, "The sources themselves shaped this book." He is not proposing the inductive approach, here, as much as he is admitting to sloppiness. The book has an uneven, asymmetrical quality to it, a lack of balance. Odd and random bits of information receive some emphasis, while more important areas are neglected. This, as well as the poor organization and a general lack of precision, appear to be the result of McKusick's failure to clearly state (or understand) this theme. There is no coherent conceptual structure or set of carefully formulated questions. The book cries out, in places, for conclusions or generalizations.

Even the worst book can find some redemption in good writing. But, unhappily, McKusick is not a good writer. His observance of the laws of grammar and logic runs from amphilbous to atrocious. One example will suffice:

Allamakee County settlers in the extreme northeast corner of the state became uneasy, Ellison Orr remembering that the "news of the outbreak traveled like wildfire, and many of our neighbors were badly scared, though I do not remember that father was."

McKusick, who was State Archaeologist when the book was written, is obviously most comfortable in his attempts to reconstruct the physical form of the forts themselves. Using evidence obtained from maps, official reports, documentary materials from the State Archives, and from an archaeological dig at Cherokee, McKusick persuasively discusses the probable structure of the various forts and stockades. He did this research well, and there is a minimum of verbal floundering.

But even here, the reader is forced to ask, "So What?" There was apparently nothing remarkable or unusual about the architecture, and almost none of it is extant. The Iowa Border Brigade saw no action, and it had no demonstrable influence on the social or economic development of the area. The study of its formation and existence seems to provide no insights into what was going on in Iowa during the Civil War—always a neglected topic—nor can we extract any generalizations from it about the frontier experience. So, why was it written?

As if all of this were not enough, the book is poorly designed and was apparently published without copyediting. It is full of typographical errors. Some of the information is contradictory, such as two different dates assigned to the same event. There is uneven spacing between sub-chapters, and some paragraphs are inexplicably set off with triple spacing. Quotation marks do not always come in pairs, and the ellipsis is misused. The illustrations are generally good, but they could have been placed more closely to the relevant text.

Ironically, the acknowledgements contain the names of most of those we know and love (and respect) in the profession of Iowa history. Come on, folks! We can do better than this.

—Timothy N. Hyde
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The University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, A History, 1916-1976, by Hilda R. Carter and John R. Jenswold. Eau Claire, Wisconsin: Eau Claire Foundation, 1976. pp. xiii, 162. Illustrations.

It is expected that any college celebrating its golden anniversary would produce its own remarkable history. The authors for this sixty-year history have extended their tale from an excellent inscription which honored the semicentennial of Eau Claire's institution of higher learning. The monument of the original fifty years was crafted by Laura E. Sutherland, and the more recent authors have placed her record in their own literary frame, carefully superimposing the most recent decade upon her work, now embracing the same school as a mature sexagenarian.

The fifty-plus-ten feature of the book's present writing is only one of several "unusual" aspects of this tome concerned with another of the hundred of grown-up normal schools. One other remarkable feature of the Eau Claire institution is that in a day when the average tenure of a college president is less than five years, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has had only three presidents (now called chancellors) since its inception in 1916. The triplet of presidencies is matched against the succession of three titles acquired by the present school. In the order familiar to other teacher training institutions, it moved upward from normal school to teachers' college to university. Long after other state campuses came to the Wisconsin scene, Eau Claire was carved from the bluffs above the Chippewa River; no other state schools were to be established in Wisconsin until 1969.

Are there other unusual features that mark this mid-Wisconsin institution? Despite its recent, bureaucratic bulge which characterizes so many of our tertiary-level institutions of the seventies, the Eau Claire complex has retained a small-college atmosphere with a happy relationship with its hosting town. Although it has spread its campus to the other side of the river, it remains a compact and friendly place, with a snug, person-to-person relation-

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