

Five Catholic Churches of Clinton, Iowa, by Mary Ellen Eckelberg. Clinton: Clinton Catholic Heritage Association, 1999. 24 pp. Illustrations.

REVIEWED BY JOYCE BARRETT, IOWA HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

This 24-page booklet devotes a chapter to each of five historic Catholic churches in Clinton: St. Irenaus, St. Boniface, St. Mary's, Sacred Heart, and St. Patrick's. Because much of the research was conducted with nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in mind, the chapters have a parallel format, covering each building's architecture and historic significance. Several historic black-and-white photographs of the churches and the priests who were instrumental in their construction complement the text. Each chapter could stand alone as a guide to the individual churches' character and history. The chapters also complement each other, with the recurrence of characters in the growth of the Catholic church in Clinton, such as Father Frederic Cyrille Jean, or the history of the American Protective Association under the leadership of Henry Bowers. The story behind the buildings offers several mysteries about the relationships between competing congregations and aspiring clergy. Changes in church priorities from Vatican II to contemporary big-box churches have threatened the future of these five churches.

Eckelberg, who has also written an unpublished biography of Father Jean and a published article about the American Protective Association in the *Social Justice Review*, has produced a publication that will contribute to the resources available on Clinton's history. The book may also add to the growing interest in historic church architecture.

Frederick Manfred: A Daughter Remembers, by Freya Manfred. Midwest Reflections: Memoirs and Personal Histories of the People of the Upper Midwest. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1999. xiii, 197 pp. Photographs, map. \$24.95 cloth, \$15.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JOHN PRICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Freya Manfred has written an intimate and moving portrait of her relationship to her father, the late Frederick Manfred (a.k.a. Feike Feikema), one of the most significant Plains writers and author of such classics as *Lord Grizzly* and *The Golden Bowl*. The narrative opens at Manfred's funeral in 1994, moves back to the author's early memories of her father, and works its way forward to the final, difficult weeks of his life. Along the way, we get a portrait of a strong-willed but dedicated father whose commitment to his craft and homeland often came

at great personal cost. Predominant, however, is the evolution of his relationship to his daughter from doting dad to literary mentor and friend to elderly dependent.

This book will be of particular interest to those interested in Plains literary history. Manfred, born near Doon in northwest Iowa, lived most of his life in southwestern Minnesota. Most of his books are set in what he called "Siouxland," an area roughly defined as the borderlands of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Manfred's dedication to both living in and writing about this area represents a unique literary regionalism in which, to paraphrase Wendell Berry, the life of the author is as important as his literature. Freya Manfred provides important insights into such a "grounded" literary life, both its rewards and costs. In addition, those interested in reading about caring for elderly parents in rural areas will find this narrative full of moving and, at times, informative observations.

Flight Dreams: A Life in the Midwestern Landscape, by Lisa Knopp. Singular Lives: The Iowa Series in North American Autobiography. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1998. xi, 286 pp. \$22.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY SUZANNE BUNKERS, MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Flight Dreams is an engaging, thoughtful, and well-written memoir that interweaves personal observation and experience with critical analysis. Like *Field of Vision*, Knopp's earlier collection of 16 personal essays, *Flight Dreams* takes readers along on a journey based on close examination and analysis of the world around them. In his foreword to the book, Albert E. Stone links Knopp's autobiographical work to the *Tao Te Ching*, noting that "Knopp's life story is here re-created as a vivid series of changes and reversals, not a straight Way" (xi).

Flight Dreams incorporates a number of previously published essays as well as new memory pieces that recall and reconstruct Knopp's growing-up years in Burlington, her young adult years in Iowa City, and her graduate school years in Lincoln, Nebraska. Knopp, who currently teaches writing at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, records her journey from the dual perspective of student and teacher. As a writer of memoir, Knopp takes seriously the writer's responsibility to work in good faith, striving to bring past events and individuals into the present through the interaction of her memory and imagination. *Flight Dreams* is honest, poignant, meditative. It adds an important perspective to the burgeoning field of autobiographies and memoirs written by midwestern writers.

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