

bias against the American Indian, rely too heavily on emotion and rhetoric, Trenner's calm narrative has its attractions. Still a soupçon of indignation would make the dish more palatable.

LORAS COLLEGE

TOM AUGE

Strangers in Blood: Fur Trade Company Families in Indian Country, by Jennifer S. H. Brown. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1980. pp. xxiii, 255. Illustrations, map, tables, bibliography, index. \$24.00.

Jennifer Brown has contributed an important, in some ways ground breaking, work to the large body of fur trade scholarship. Her book, *Strangers in Blood*, is a study of the familial patterns which developed in the fur country of the Canadian Northwest during the period 1780 to 1860. Focusing on the differing family relations adhered to by Hudson's Bay Company and North West Company officers, Brown provides an excellent comparative analysis which explicates social conditions in the evolving fur country frontier.

By the end of the eighteenth century, most traders were aligned with native women in unions commonly referred to as "marriages according to the custom of the country." Such unions were regarded by both Indians and whites as socially and economically useful in furthering the fur trade. Previous scholarship has noted the differing social and ethnic backgrounds of the traders who comprised the field officers of the rival Hudson's Bay and North West Companies, but Brown demonstrates these differences held important consequences for the domestic relations that developed in the fur country during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Senior officers of the London-based Hudson's Bay Company were predominantly Englishmen and Lowland Scots. As their unions with native women produced mixed-blood children, they looked to the ranks of company clerks for suitable mates for their daughters. This social pattern was underpinned by the company's apprenticeship system. The Hudson's Bay Company used the apprenticeship system to recruit clerks and junior officers by indenturing young Lowland and Orkney Islands Scots. Since these youths were usually marginal members of society and had few family ties to Britain, the social and economic mobility offered by the fur trade formed them into loyal company men. Frequently, they came under the paternalistic influence of senior officers who could offer career assistance and kinship ties through marriage to native-born daughters. By this method Hudson's Bay Company employees commonly built lasting relationships with their native-born families.

The officers of the Montreal-based North West Company, on the other hand, tended to maintain more casual-exploitative relationships with native women of the fur country. These officers were members of the Highland Scots families that had risen to the forefront of the Canadian fur business after 1763. The tendency of these families to intermarry produced a strong and extensive kinship network within Canada, with family connections being the principal source for recruiting company clerks and junior officers. Since they came to the fur country with strong family ties in Canada, Northwesters were far less likely than their Hudson's Bay Company counterparts to establish lasting relationships with native women.

These differing social relations were sharpened in the first decades of the nineteenth century when the Hudson's Bay Company initiated a program to "civilize" the growing numbers of mixed-blood children. Rudimentary education for both sexes was offered at major posts and apprenticeships were opened to native sons. Moreover, plans for establishing the permanent Red River Colony heightened the expectations of Hudson's Bay Company fathers for the futures of their native-born children and strengthened familial ties. By contrast, the North West Company exhibited no similar institutional concern for the well-being of its mixed-blood offspring, who subsequently slipped into the denigrated *métis* class.

The year 1821 was a pivotal one for fur trade families. In that year the two companies ended their destructive competition and merged under the name of the older firm. The organizational genius which George Simpson brought to the field governorship of the reconstituted Hudson's Bay Company is well known; the story of Simpson's impact on the social status of fur country families is less known. Newly arrived in 1820, Simpson had little understanding of the social network that had developed under the old Hudson's Bay Company. Moreover, his Scottish Highlands background led him to ally with the old fur trade families of Montreal and to implement the North West Company method of recruiting through family connections, causing a general decline in the fortunes of old Hudson's Bay men and their native sons. The new governor's attitude towards native and mixed-blood women also had important consequences for fur country society. Simpson quickly adopted the more casual-exploitative sexual attitudes of the Northwesters, fathering four children by three native women. His marriage in 1830 to a British woman influenced young officers to reject even the more Anglicized mixed-blood women in favor of European and Canadian marriages, further lowering the status of fur country offspring.

This trend toward the racial stratification of fur country society continued through the 1830s. But from the mid-1840s on, native-born offspring began to reclaim their position in northwest society. During these latter years, the mixed-blood descendants of the old Hudson's Bay Company were becoming more Anglicized and better educated through the facilities of the Red River Colony. By mid-century, they were prepared to compete with British and French-Canadians in the larger society rapidly replacing the fur frontier in the Northwest.

Brown, a University of Illinois anthropologist, has written an intelligent, well-reasoned work which deserves to be read by all those interested in the fur trade and Anglo-Indian relations. Her style is clear, though she occasionally introduces wide-ranging anthropological studies which do little to further her thesis. Of special note are the twenty-three plates illustrating fur country families and social life. All in all, an enjoyable, highly informative book.

MOUNT MERCY COLLEGE

DAVID L. FERCH

Stephen Long and American Frontier Exploration, by Roger L. Nichols and Patrick L. Halley. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1980. pp. 255. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$19.50.

During the first half of the nineteenth century the federal government, through the U.S. Army, sponsored numerous expeditions into the trans-Mississippi West. Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Zebulon Pike, and John Fremont expanded American knowledge about the vast territory west to the Pacific. Stephen Harriman Long, perhaps the most highly trained and educated explorer of the period, deserves a place alongside other prominent individuals.

The eldest son of a New Hampshire farm family, Long graduated from Dartmouth College, taught and administered in several public schools, and gained practical experience as a surveyor and skilled mathematician. He accepted a commission as an Army engineer, spent one year on the West Point faculty, and remained an officer the rest of his life. Between 1816 and 1824 Long led several expeditions in the Mississippi River Valley and across the central and southern Great Plains. Two trips into the Old Northwest examined existing military installations, pointed out the need for roads and canals, and analyzed land values and agricultural potential. Long found the Indians holding strong British ties thus supported Secretary of War John C. Calhoun's desire to extend American control up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to Canada.

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