

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

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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.

During 1819 and 1820, Long, on his most important venture, unsuccessfully tried to utilize a steamboat on the Missouri River before heading west along the Platte. This expedition included a botanist, zoologist, geologist, and artist to complement the military personnel. With little formal education in their fields, the scientists devoted themselves to gathering, identifying, and classifying specimens. Long ignored Calhoun's order to locate the source of the Platte and Arkansas rivers but headed south to the headwaters of the Red River before abandoning that search as well. Plagued by poor supplies and trade goods and by Long's desire to hurry, the expedition suffered throughout the trip, and the scientists had little time to gather specimens. The increasing hardship affected their interpretation of the experience and the data gathered on the Plains.

This volume concentrates on Stephen Long as a promoter and leader of frontier exploration in the decade following the War of 1812. Roger L. Nichols, professor of history at the University of Arizona, has written widely in western history, especially various military activities. Historian at South Dakota's Northern State College, Patrick L. Halley's primary connection with the topic is a thirty-year-old dissertation. The organizational nature of the collaboration is not explained. The authors believe that Long served American exploration in two ways, as leader of several expeditions and as promoter and publicist encouraging the federal government to renew large scale exploration. In accomplishing these goals, he established the practice of using competent scientists as a legitimate corollary of military mapping and survey projects.

The authors are most intent upon disproving all previous condemnation of Long's efforts. They lament that he "received so little credit and so much criticism" (p. 16). Nichols and Halley conclude that "all commentators have given inadequate, if not incorrect, descriptions of what occurred" (p. 158). The central target of historical criticism has been Long's failure to find the headwaters of the Red River and his designation of the central Plains as desert. He did not create the myth of the desert, but he surely substantiated it. "Certainly, the unanimous labeling of that region as desert came from their difficulties with heat, sand, lack of vegetation, and a shortage of food and water" (p. 136). But Long's conclusions were correct based on knowledge available at that time. In fact, he painted his desolate view in a positive light by proclaiming that the Plains would limit settlement and protect the nation from expanding beyond the reasonable limits of the political system.

In the final analysis, the authors are most disturbed at criticism offered by Hiram Chittenden and Ray Billington. On the other hand,

they are in essential agreement with the conclusions reached by the more recent studies of W. Eugene Hollon and William Goetzmann. They all agree that Long disregarded orders, failed to achieve some of his assigned tasks, and usually hurried his men so they could not do competent work. The authors adopt Goetzmann's distinction between a discoverer who finds things more by chance than design and an explorer who searches for particular objectives in an organized, planned manner. For Nichols and Halley, Stephen H. Long is the classic early nineteenth-century example of an explorer doing a little discovery work.

This is an attractive, readable account of a short phase in the career of a prominent western figure. It is not an attempt to write a full scale biography; that has already been accomplished in admirable fashion by Richard Wood. The text is enhanced by three maps that delineate the route of Long's major expeditions and by several portraits and sketches. The notes and bibliography indicate the authors' use of a substantial volume of both primary and secondary sources, including an appendix listing of the papers, books and articles that included material gathered during Long's trips. There are, however, several interesting omissions, particularly Francis Prucha's *Broadax and Bayonet*, Nichols' own article about Long in *Nebraska History* (Spring 1971) and *The Northern Expeditions of Stephen H. Long*, edited by Lucile Kane, June Holmquist, and Carolyn Gilman. Those interested in western history and the integration of scientific exploration with military expansion should enjoy this book.

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Grant, A Biography, by William S. McFeely. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1981. pp. xiii, 592. Photographs, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$19.95.

A new, one-volume biography of Ulysses S. Grant is a worthy addition to studies of nineteenth-century America. Because of its quality, McFeely's book is doubly welcome. A personal biography that emphasizes the man rather than the events with which he was associated, this latest effort to explain the Grant enigma offers a well-conceived and mainly convincing evaluation of his life and personality.

McFeely is well qualified for such a task. He has taught at several English and American schools. He has also authored a previous study of another Civil War general, Oliver Otis Howard. His sources on Grant cover an impressive number of manuscript collections and an adequate range of published, mostly secondary, works.

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