

*Paths of the People: The Ojibwe in the Chippewa Valley*, by Tim Pfaff. Eau Claire, WI: Chippewa Valley Museum Press, 1993. 100 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$12.95 paper.

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Tim Pfaff, curator of Public Programs at the Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, has put together a very useful book on the Ojibwe Indians of the Chippewa River Valley in northwest Wisconsin. Using a variety of archival sources, interviews, more than seventy illustrations and maps, and material gathered for a museum exhibit of the same name, Pfaff tells of the paths that the Lac du Flambeau and Lac Court Orielles Ojibwe have taken in the three centuries they have occupied this area.

Fleeing westward from the Iroquois wars, these two societies of the Ojibwe migrated to this area in the seventeenth century. Using sources such as Native American oral histories and early trader and missionary accounts, Pfaff shows how the Ojibwe developed complex trading and subsistence patterns in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Land cession treaties in the nineteenth century cost them much of their land, and what remained was often stripped by white lumbermen in their hunger for pine. Such important topics as Indian education, the allotment of Ojibwe lands, self-government, and treaty rights are also covered. Pfaff gives government Indian policy its due, but the focus throughout the book is not on policy itself, but on how policies affected people. A strong theme of the book is that although the Ojibwe were often under considerable white pressure to change, adapt, or give up their traditional ways, their tribal identity endures.

Comprehensive coverage of three centuries of history in so few pages is, of course, impossible. What Pfaff provides is a brief overview of some of the dynamics of Ojibwe history. As he shows, much has changed, yet much has also been retained. Historically, these Ojibwe occupied an important place in upper Midwest Indian history because of their ties to the eastern Dakota and as trading partners with many tribes along the Mississippi River. As the largest Indian group in Wisconsin today, they deserve more historical attention. Pfaff's work does not answer all the questions about the Ojibwe, but with its interesting text, many illustrations, and excellent annotated bibliography, it is a fine starting place for further study.

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