

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

outline of a tale which Longley fleshes out with dialogue, accurately detailed descriptions of daily life in early Grinnell, and interpretations of events which one suspects were part of his family's oral heritage.

The resulting novel spans the years 1855 to 1864 in Grinnell, Poweshiek County, or of Goodell, Powhatan County, as it is called in the narrative. It deals with the settlement of the Bartlett (Barrett) family in Grinnell, the marriage of Eliza Ann (Ann) to Benoni Howard (Ben Howe), and of Eliza Ann's joyless life which abruptly ends with her death at age 36. Longley wisely resists the temptation to blame the family's problems on the harsh environment of frontier Iowa, but instead shows how the personality and decisions of each person affected the outcome of his or her own life. Eliza Ann, for example, is a calm, loyal, hard-working person who shortcuts her own happiness through the choice of an unsuitable marriage partner. Her younger sister, on the other hand, was totally negative about the family's migration to Iowa yet ultimately adjusts herself to conditions, and flourishes as a result. Similarly, Eliza Ann's brother Emery and his wife Hannah come to terms with each other and with life on the prairie thus producing a workable marriage as well as an economically solid life-style.

Longley, an Iowa farmer before his retirement to Florida, researched this account of the Bartlett's fortunes in the Grinnell College Library and the State of Iowa Archives in Des Moines during the 1950s. When he lost his eyesight in 1963 he abandoned the project, letting the unfinished manuscript sit untouched in his agent's New York office for years. In 1974, his wife, Julie L. Longley, decided to finish the book for him. The manuscript, subsequently published in 1976, was first marketed by the Grange in Iowa as a Bicentennial project. The Longleys, now in their eighties, have also aided the publication of Emery Bartlett's memoirs (*The Annals of Iowa*, Fall, 1978) and the eventual publication of Eliza Ann's diary. They are to be commended for their efforts to preserve one small portion of Iowa's history.

Glenda Riley
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA

The Cherokee Indian Nation: A Troubled History. Edited by Duane H. King. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1979. pp. xx, 256. \$12.50.

Occasionally a collection appears in which the individual selections exhibit a uniform high quality of scholarship. Such is the case with

Book Reviews

this collection. Thematic in the sense that the book focuses upon the Cherokee Indian Nation, the twelve essays deal with widely varied topics sprinkled across a broad Cherokee chronology ranging from prehistoric times to the present.

The first six essays deal with the pre-removal period. Roy S. Dickens, Jr., presents a balanced archaeological analysis of the "Origins and Development of Cherokee Culture," followed by John Phillip Reid's "A Perilous Rule: The Law of International Homicide," a fascinating discussion of the intricate Cherokee concept of retribution for murder. Reid describes the manner in which this formalized vengeance imperiled the Cherokee's existence by perpetuating intratribal and intertribal violence. Betty Anderson Smith offers a cartographic analysis of the location of Cherokee villages in "Distribution of Eighteenth-Century Cherokee Settlements." William C. Sturtevant's "The Cherokee Frontiers, the French Revolution, and William Augustus Bowles" is an overly-long, albeit interesting, biographical vignette of white interloper Bowles's meddling in Cherokee affairs during the 1790s in America, England, and France. This essay reflects the pivotal Cherokee importance in nascent expansionism in turn-of-the-century America. The illustrations for this essay, particularly the striking oil portrait of Bowles, were unsatisfactory in black and white reproduction, even with the detailed descriptions which were provided. "Early Nineteenth-Century Cherokee Political Organization" by V. Richard Persico, Jr., provides a cogent discussion of Cherokee political evolution from sovereign status to a collective, tribal organization with elected leaders as a direct response to white contact. Persico's analysis would have been enhanced by examining the papers of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (held by Harvard University's Houghton Library) which contain illuminating references to Cherokee tribal life and internal politics during the period. Theda Purdue's "Cherokee Planters: The Development of Plantation Slavery Before Removal" is an excellent discussion and analysis, based upon praiseworthy utilization of primary sources, of a complex subject.

The obligatory essay dealing with the removal period happily does not cover the well-plowed ground of physical removal (i.e., *The Trail of Tears*), but rather "Chaos in the Indian Country: The Cherokee Nation, 1828-35." In this essay, Kenneth Penn Davis offers a superb narrative and analysis, again based upon extensive use of primary sources such as the *U.S. Serial Set*, to describe the confusion, dissension, and violence which sprang from forced governmental removal. This is one of the finest essays of the collection.

THE ANNALS OF IOWA

The post-removal era is introduced by Gerard Reed's "Postremoval Factionalism in the Cherokee Nation." His essay is followed by editor King's own "The Origin of the Eastern Cherokees as a Social and Political Entity" which dispels the erroneous conception that "today's Eastern Cherokees are descendants of those who fled to the mountains and eluded federal troops in 1838 . . ." (p. 176).

The final three essays discuss the numerous Cherokee problems encountered in the post-removal period. In "William Holland Thomas and the Cherokee Claims," Robert W. Iobst chronicles Thomas's ten-year struggle to secure promised federal compensation for Cherokee property lost through removal. This essay is most enlightening as it exemplifies the long-term, frustrating, and usually futile attempts undertaken by many individuals and groups to compel the federal government to live up to its treaty obligations. The general decline of the Eastern Cherokees brought about by the disruptive effects of removal is treated in John Witthoft's "Observations on Social Change Among the Eastern Cherokees." The final essay by Albert L. Wahrhaftig and Jane Lukens-Wahrhaftig, "New Militants or Resurrected State? The Five County Northeastern Oklahoma Organization," demonstrates that the concept of Indian "militancy," at least among this group of Cherokees, was actually a logical outgrowth of a traditional value system and cultural thought processes. The authors' essay is enhanced by first-hand field observation and personal involvement with this organization.

This is an excellent book.

Ronald Rayman
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL

The Potawatomis: Keepers of the Fire, by R. David Edmunds. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978. pp. 275. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$19.95.

This volume, printed in *The Civilization of the American Indian Series*, is a well researched narrative account of the Potawatomis from the early seventeenth century through their removal from the Old Northwest in the decade of the 1830s. The story of the Potawatomis follows a predictable pattern of contact and alliance with the French colonial empire, eventual shift of allegiance to the British, and gradual

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.