

than growing North-South tensions or Whig-Democratic divisions. Eastern congressmen, northern and southern, supported bounties; westerners opposed them, holding out for homesteads. Ironically, many veterans opposed homesteads because of their impact on the cash value of land warrants. Overall, broad changes in federal land policy rather than the lure of speculation moved the land bounties through Congress.

*Sixty Million Acres* is particularly important for Iowa history. Coinciding with the wheat boom of the 1850s, one-fourth of all bounty warrants were located in Iowa, encompassing almost twice as much land—fourteen million acres—as in the nearest competitor, Wisconsin. During the peak year, 1856, warrant holders located three million Iowa acres. Oberly charts the movement of warrant redemptions across the state's eleven federal land offices, from Dubuque and Iowa City in the east, through Des Moines, and to Council Bluffs and Sioux City in the west.

This detailed look at the land bounties—their origins in Congress and their administration—examines new sources, sheds light on older interpretations, and tells an interesting story. The book unfortunately slights ideological considerations and therefore says little about the partisan transformation of the land question before the Civil War. Oberly wisely disclaims the primacy of the veterans' bounties in provoking the "sea change in party positions" (2) but then neglects this important ideological transformation that involved both free soil before the Civil War and Republican political economy for the rest of the century. Slighting party positions, Oberly also interprets the shift from cash sales to free land as national policy rather than Whig and Republican policy: Democrats simultaneously retreated into opposition to free land. While too narrowly focused in this respect, *Sixty Million Acres* is a finely crafted and crisply written account of the veterans' land bounties.

*Whitestone Hill: The Indians and the Battle*, by Clair Jacobson. LaCrosse: Pine Tree Publishing, 1991. 120 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes. \$8.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY HERBER T. HOOVER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The focus intended in this volume is a summertime expedition led by General Alfred Sully during the Minnesota Sioux War. Mislabeled the conflict the "Minnesota Sioux Uprising," the author reviews some contents in Sioux treaties and describes military reactions by non-Indian forces under the commands of Henry Hastings Sibley and

Sully in defense of immigrant settlements that recently had come into place. More than 70 percent of the text passes the reader's view before a chapter about *Whitestone Hill* appears.

Most of the narrative on the battle, which took place in the James River basin against Yanktonais with Hunkpatinas, includes an analysis of non-Indian records suggesting that "Indians started the battle by firing first" (94). An Indian pictograph based on a report by Takes-His-Shield, interpreted by the sympathetic Episcopal Rev. Aaron McGaffey Beede twenty years after its composition, tells of callous brutality by white troops while Indians attempted to lead their families to safety. Twenty cavalymen died and thirty-eight took wounds while an unrecorded number of tribal men, women, and children perished—from one to three hundred according to various accounts—and 156 were taken prisoner. More unconscionable than this, Sully's troops destroyed Indian food and equipment, leaving all survivors to starve or freeze to death during the following winter. The only flaw in the general's military performance was his failure to meet Sibley in a pincer movement that might have ended in the near annihilation of the Indians. Sully played a central role in the eventual surrender of the Dakotas, the end of the war, and the confinement of four tribes around agencies that soon governed permanent reservations.

The force of some 2,200 troops from Iowa, Minnesota, and Dakota Territory had done its job at *Whitestone Hill*, and proceeded with the attempt to further intimidate Yanktonais as well as Lakotas through a scorched earth attack at *Killdeer Mountain*, followed by some saber rattling from new military establishments along the upper Missouri. In the end, "The battle of *Whitestone Hill* was a pivotal encounter in a cultural clash" with eastern and middle Sioux tribes during which "there was no compromise solution" (119).

Like so many narratives about military confrontations between Sioux people and white forces, this one devotes a majority of its pages to a scissors-and-paste account about the origins of Sioux people, their tribal structure, and their diversified economy, followed by a text shot through with errors in the absence of appropriate context regarding the fur trade, treaty making, and the onset of war. Similarly, an epilogue is inadequate for a paucity of detail or context. As a result, it is hard to say whether this account, overall, further clarifies or further distorts the image of nineteenth-century Sioux-white relations.

That segment devoted to *Whitestone Hill* is a contribution, nevertheless; it provides the reader with a better understanding of the processes of combat on the western fringe of the Minnesota Sioux War. It also provides a vivid profile of the significance of Sully's forces, and

offers additional substance for use by both Native Americans and non-Indians as they continue their cultural healing processes some thirteen decades later.

Despite its obvious faults, Clair Jacobson's study merits recommendation. Military buffs especially will appreciate those pages devoted to the preparation and implementation of combat strategies. Tribal members will find in it further evidence regarding the perils of their relatives in the past. Sioux Country's history is served by the supply of a missing component in the sequence of wars over territory and cultural confrontation that lasted from 1854 to 1903.

*Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities*, by W. B. Stephens. *The Sources of History: Studies in the Uses of Historical Evidence*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991. xviii, 558 pp. Notes, index. \$75.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY TIMOTHY WALCH, HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

It is unusual in the annals of book publishing—even scholarly book publishing—that the prose on jacket flaps accurately describes the contents of new books. As might be expected, all but the most modest publishers are given to hyperbole in describing their new publications. Not surprisingly, readers and reviewers alike discount such descriptions as little more than advertising. But after reading this new book by the English historian W. B. Stephens, I am pleased to report that on occasion, jacket copy can be an accurate! This book, notes the flap copy on *Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth Century Communities*, "will prove a valuable work of reference to a wide range of university and college students, to libraries, archivists, family historians, and schoolteachers, and to many interested amateurs who wish to pursue seriously the study of their region or community, neighborhood or family, or some particular aspect of the American past." I agree wholeheartedly with that claim. In fact, I think the editors at Cambridge University Press were too modest in proclaiming the worth of Mr. Stephens's accomplishment.

At the very least, *Sources for U.S. History* is unusual in American historiography. One can count on the fingers of one hand the books that focus on historical sources as a *subject* for study. Commentary on source materials is usually confined to the back of historical monographs, little more than analytical afterthought. But Stephens turns this historical order upside down by mastering the broad, diverse, and growing body of source material on the early history of American communities. In 550 highly readable and densely packed

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