

*"Hurrah for My New Free Country!"* by Leon Charles Fouquet, edited and compiled by Rosalie Fouquet Davis and Mathilde Fouquet Ruggles, with a foreword by Daniel D. Holt. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990. xxiv, 212 pp. Illustrations, map, appendixes, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY KEVIN NEUBERGER, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

In 1868 eighteen-year-old Leon Charles Fouquet left his native France and settled near Wichita on the Kansas frontier. *"Hurrah For My New Free Country!"* is Fouquet's narrative of his life on the Great Plains as edited and compiled by his granddaughters and accompanied by a foreword by historian Daniel D. Holt. The account offers a rare first-hand description of French immigrant life in the Midwest.

Fouquet's work in Kansas as a military freighter and buffalo skinner brought him into frequent contact with Native American groups. He also worked as a ferryman, postmaster, shopkeeper, and farmer. In 1875 Leon married another French immigrant; together they had twelve children—five of whom died in infancy. After his marriage, Leon moved his family to Oklahoma Territory and ran a tent store during the Cherokee Strip land rush. Later in his life he operated a nationally recognized fruit farm near Chandler, Oklahoma.

Fouquet's narrative will appeal to western history enthusiasts captivated by the stereotypical "cowboys and Indians" frontier story. On a deeper level his story offers an excellent first-person account of various aspects of life in midwestern frontier and "settled" rural communities. The importance of freighting in the rural economy is well illustrated. Readers will see the "composite" nature of large portions of rural economic life as they follow Leon from job to job. His narrative also suggests the need for further research on the midwestern frontier. Is his depiction of the tensions and open hostilities between married and single homesteaders accurate? If so, did such tensions spatially segregate homesteaders according to marital status, and what did this mean for rural society? Scholars interested in midwestern rural life will find this book a useful primary source.

*Looking in Windows: Surprising Stories of Old Des Moines*, by George Mills. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1991. viii, 272 pp. Illustrations, index. \$24.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY BARBARA BEVING LONG, FOUR MILE RESEARCH COMPANY

George Mills's book consists of a collection of stories about Des Moines. They are grouped chronologically, beginning with Indian

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