

Gardner Sharp, a survivor of the Spirit Lake Massacre and author of *History of the Spirit Lake Massacre and Captivity of Miss Abbie Gardner* (1885) saw him in a considerably different light.

Overall, Beck's heavily documented book is a considerable improvement over Van Nuys's amateurish biography of the chief. However, it is marred by a number of factual mistakes, typographical errors, and some imprecise citations. For example, the Fort Des Moines that immediately preceded Fort Dodge in the 1840s was located not in "eastern Iowa" (36) but at the later site of the state capital in central Iowa. Beck's claim that the Dakota reservations in Minnesota were surrounded by "towns and farms" (55) is only a supposition. The numerous typographical errors probably resulted from careless proof-reading. Consequently, Mary Hawker Bakeman appears as Mary Hawler Bakeman and her publisher as Genealogical Boxes rather than the correct Genealogical Books.

Time will tell if this book is the last word on Inkpaduta. As Beck aptly observes, "because of the lack of sources and documentation, Inkpaduta will likely always remain something of a mystery" (xii).

From Pioneering to Persevering: Family Farming in Indiana to 1880, by Paul Salstrom. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2007. xii, 208 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$23.95 paper.

Reviewer Frank Yoder is an academic advisor at the University of Iowa who also teaches the Iowa history course at the university. His dissertation (University of Chicago, 1999) was "A Rural Kaleidoscope: Property, Mobility, and Ethnic Diversity in the Middle West."

In the preface to this brief history of early Indiana agriculture and family farming, Paul Salstrom makes reference to "easy-entry family farming," which he believes characterized the first years of frontier farm settlement by whites in Indiana. This statement could lead readers to believe they will be getting a narrow slice of Indiana rural history that deals only with family social systems along with a sprinkling of economics. Instead, Salstrom delivers a vast amount of information and analysis in a compact, well-written look at Indiana during the years of Native American agriculture and the transition to a white-dominated agriculture.

Generic white settlement is not at the heart of this story. Salstrom argues that British, American, and northern European settlers brought a distinctive culture to frontier Indiana. It was a culture marked by individualism, violence, private ownership, and antagonism toward Native Americans. This new outlook marked a sharp departure from that of earlier French and Native American settlements.

The shift was not sudden; Native Americans had felt the influence of Europeans and Americans for some time. Steel tools changed American Indian life from a nomadic existence to a more settled, agricultural life style. As Native Americans became enmeshed in the French fur trading system, they increasingly relied on markets and capital for their existence. Ultimately, Native Americans were overrun by whites who settled the land and began the intensive agriculture that continues today.

Farm families on the Indiana frontier benefited from a convergence of transportation developments that created market conditions beneficial to farmers. By 1850, river flatboats, canals, and railroads were competing to transport farm goods: farmers could select among markets as diverse as New Orleans, New York, or Chicago; they could barter locally; or they could preserve farm products for their own consumption. For several decades they prospered in this favorable environment.

Salstrom shows that change was due to factors that were unpredictable and often dramatic. For example, he describes the rapid shift to dairy farming and fresh milk production in northwest Indiana because of Chicago's explosive growth after 1850. When frontier farm families were able to react to these changes, they often did very well with their flexible system of bartering, self-sufficiency, and producing for the market.

National events such as the Civil War spurred crop and livestock production as demand increased after 1860. New technologies such as reapers, steel plows, and threshing machines changed the dynamics of the economy and of local communities. Salstrom is at his best as he describes the connections between local Indiana farmers and distant markets and the ways farmers negotiated among their options.

At the heart of this study is the fate of the family farm. Salstrom argues that "family farm life was . . . prolonged by inventors' failure to devise an efficient corn picker" (106). But that reprieve was only temporary because technology was reducing labor requirements long before the mechanical corn picker appeared. Log clearing parties and other tasks that required farmers to share labor and work together were disappearing by the end of the nineteenth century. The celebrated threshing ring held on a bit longer, but its days were also numbered.

Salstrom concludes with a passionate plea for the family farm, noting that "the past few decades have made ever clearer the reasons why traditional family farming is in a tailspin" (123). He argues that the decline of family farms since 1900 has been harmful for society as a whole. There is no question that the number of farms has fallen, but it is just as clear that even today the remaining farms continue to be

owned and operated mostly by families. They may not look like the family farms of the nineteenth century, but ownership and day-to-day operations of most midwestern farms are still in the hands of families. Decrying the loss of the family farm is an understandable sentiment, but it is not clear why family farms deserve this attention while the disappearance of other family enterprises, such as the local hardware, drug, and grocery store, is ignored.

This work stands alongside that of scholars such as John Mack Faragher who have characterized the early frontier as a time of neighborly assistance, bartering, self-sufficiency, and wholesome communities. As market forces gathered and grew in strength, these idyllic rural communities gave way to agricultural capitalism that marked the end of America's best hope. There is little doubt that market forces did grow and did change the nature of farm communities. But one wonders whether those living through the early settlement years would have described their existence as scholars such as Salstrom have described it. Even Salstrom notes the drudgery of the hard work, the dangers families faced, and the meager existence of many families in those early years.

Arguments over Salstrom's interpretation should not detract from the value of this work. It is a piece of solid research, careful analysis, and rich detail. It offers more substance and complexity than many works of twice the length. Salstrom's efficient style packs a tremendous amount of information into a small number of pages. He negotiates smoothly between local history and broader economic and political history and sets individual farm families within the larger national and international context. This book will be of lasting value to scholars interested in the frontier, the Midwest, and agriculture change.

More Than a Contest Between Armies: Essays on the Civil War Era, edited by James Marten and A. Kristen Foster. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2008. xii, 309 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer William B. Feis is professor of history at Buena Vista University. He is the author of *Grant's Secret Service: The Intelligence War from Belmont to Appomattox* (2002).

Without doubt, the Frank L. Klement Lectures at Marquette University have been a seedbed of new and alternative thinking about all aspects of the Civil War. Named for Professor Frank L. Klement, arguably one of the more innovative historians of the war, the lecture series has become a forum for the best and the brightest in the field to float alternative approaches, new lines of questioning, differing perspectives, and