

Forgotten Fights: Little-Known Raids and Skirmishes on the Frontier, 1823 to 1890, by Gregory F. Michno and Susan J. Michno. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 2008. xxviii, 384 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, bibliography, state index, general index. \$28.00 cloth.

Reviewer Michael L. Tate is professor of history and Native American studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The author of *Indians and Emigrants: Encounters on the Overland Trails* (2006), he is working on a book about Oregon and California Trail narratives.

Gregory and Susan Michno's study graphically reminds modern readers that the western states and territories often constituted a violent setting during the nineteenth century as American Indian and white interests clashed. The authors also demonstrate that in an era of misguided revenge, innocent people on both sides were frequent victims, and cycles of violence were self-perpetuating.

To document specific incidents of bloodshed in an encyclopedic format, the authors deal with lesser known episodes than were treated in Gregory Michno's earlier book, *Encyclopedia of Indian Wars: Western Battles and Skirmishes, 1850–1890* (2003). The entries are arranged chronologically, beginning with an 1823 fight between Texas settlers and Karankawa Indians and ending with an 1890 skirmish at Salt River Canyon, Arizona, between Apaches and troopers of the Tenth Cavalry. Most entries receive two pages of coverage, which is ample detail to relate the main features of each story. Sixteen maps identify the location of every skirmish that is discussed, and a special index places each of the combats within a list arranged by state names. Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, and Nevada claim the largest numbers, while, surprisingly, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Nebraska support the fewest incidents. Iowa is not considered in the book's intended coverage.

Researchers will find this to be a helpful reference work, but it cannot stand alone as a summary of the Indian wars. Most important, it does not include Indian perspectives about the background causes of much of the interracial violence. American Indians occupy leading roles within each of the profiles, but mostly as nameless marauders. Although the authors have wisely included skirmishes involving fur trappers, Texas Rangers, civilian militias, and regular soldiers, they are overly trusting of some of the sources. Notable in this regard are frequently criticized books by J. W. Wilbarger, A. J. Sowell, John Henry Brown, and James DeShields that overestimated Indian casualties and Texas Ranger accomplishments.