

*American Indians in U.S. History*, by Roger L. Nichols. The Civilization of the American Indian Series, vol. 248. Second edition. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. xxiv, 191 pp. Illustrations, maps, chronology, suggested readings, index. \$24.95 paperback.

Reviewer Donald L. Parman is retired from Purdue University. He is the author of *Indians and the American West in the Twentieth Century* (1994).

This book, concisely covering the history of American Indians from pre-history to the present, was first published in 2003. (I reviewed it in the Spring 2004 issue of this journal.) For this second edition, the author has retained the earlier chapter structure while promising to put greater stress on Indians' social and cultural issues and to correct factual errors and omissions. One new feature of the second edition is the addition of six biographical sketches of notable Indians: Molly Brant, Sequoyah (George, Giss, or Guess), Sara Winnemucca, Carlos Montezuma (Wacaja), Alice Lee Jamison, and Ada Deere.

Comparing the texts of the two editions reveals mostly minor changes, such as different word choices and occasionally adding new sentences. In dealing with the Spanish in Florida, Nichols wrote a paragraph covering events after the De Soto expedition. He made numerous changes in the chapter covering the period from 1970 to the present, discussing several topics that have been resolved since 2003 and summarizing new issues that have arisen in more recent times.

What has not changed in the new edition is the author's goal of writing for nonspecialists. He does not provide footnotes or a bibliography but does offer a list of suggested readings at the end of each chapter. The book remains an excellent introduction to Indian history.

*Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands*, by Derek R. Everett. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. xvi, 302 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$29.95 hardcover.

Reviewer William E. Lass is professor emeritus of history at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He is the author of *Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries* (2014).

Anyone seeing only the title of this book could easily make some mistaken assumptions about its nature. "American West" can and does mean different things to different people. The West considered by Everett is the trans-Mississippi West, so for the purposes of this study Iowans are westerners. Furthermore, many would-be readers might assume that the book deals with all state boundaries in the region west of the Mississippi River. Instead, Everett devotes six of his eight chapters to specific boundaries — western Arkansas, Missouri-Iowa, Oregon-

Washington, California-Nevada, New Mexico-Colorado, and North Dakota-South Dakota. These were apparently selected for detailed treatment because they were either controversial or unique in some way.

In aptly noting the significance of state boundaries, Everett observes that "the creation and evolution of western state boundaries represented the single most important method of transforming a naturally anonymous landscape into a functional part of the United States" (4). In other words, state boundaries define a legal entity that is part of the federal union and clearly distinct from adjoining states. Iowa and Missouri neighbors who live across a road from each other obviously have similar cultures and share a climate. But one has to look to Des Moines and the other to Jefferson City to determine such things as how fast they can drive and taxation, inheritance, and marriage laws.

Everett concludes that state-making in the trans-Mississippi West was influenced by precedents from America's colonial and early national periods. The boundaries of the 13 colonies were a combination of natural (which Everett calls geographical) and artificial (latitudinal and longitudinal lines or geometric to Everett). The Ordinance of 1785, which provided for a land survey system with square townships and square sections helped solidify the notion that boxlike-shaped states were the most logical legal entities. Everett notes that geometric boundaries were ultimately the usual practice in the trans-Mississippi West. This sometimes resulted in the division of very homogeneous peoples, such as in the case of Colorado and New Mexico.

As an alternative to straight-line boundaries, Everett mentions the advocacy of the American explorer John Wesley Powell for each state to be limited by its natural drainage areas. While artificial boundaries have created some problems, it is difficult to imagine that Powell's scenario would have been an improvement. In the nineteenth century, when most of the western states were formed, their creators could not comprehend the future impact of such forces as rapid population growth, industrialization, and urbanization.

The final shaping of a state was determined in part by the preference of its residents, but Congress had the ultimate authority. Usually a territory aspiring to statehood was already partially limited by the earlier admission of adjoining states. Iowa Territory from its 1838 founding was bounded on the east by the Mississippi River and on the south by the state of Missouri.

But during its territorial period (1838–1846) Iowa became embroiled in a vitriolic border war with its southern neighbor. The contention was sparked by Missouri's decision to claim and survey a northern boundary about ten miles north of its original one. That shift was justified

on the grounds that such a line would conform to its statehood act provision that the northern boundary had to be on the latitude of the Des Moines River rapids. Iowa Territory officials charged that there were no rapids in the Des Moines River and Missouri was only promoting an illegal land grab. Contention peaked in 1839. An acerbic war of words between Missouri Governor Lilburn W. Boggs and Iowa Territorial Governor Robert Lucas led to the activation of rival militias. Despite their bombast, the governors and their supporters realized that the dispute could only be resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court—the final arbiter of interstate boundaries. Finally in 1849 the court ruled that the Iowa-Missouri boundary had to be the one that existed before Missouri attempted to adjust its northern boundary.

The Iowa-Missouri boundary dispute has been covered previously to varying degrees in Iowa's histories. Nonetheless, it is certainly worth retelling, and Everett's well-documented and entertaining description should be of great interest to anyone concerned with Iowa's history. [See also Everett's article on this topic in the Fall 2008 issue of this journal. — Ed.]

I highly recommend this excellent book to anyone specifically interested in the development of Iowa's southern boundary as well as those who are curious about the political evolution of the trans-Mississippi West.

*Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries*, by William E. Lass. Saint Cloud, MN: North Star Press of Saint Cloud, 2014. x, 230 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$16.95 paperback.

Reviewer Derek R. Everett is adjunct professor of history at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He is the author of *Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands* (2014).

In this comprehensive and enthusiastic explanation of how the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes came to be, the dean of Minnesota history turns his attention to the invisible bounds of the North Star State. William E. Lass incorporates vital events and issues of local, regional, national, and even international importance to create a thorough and well-contextualized story, illustrating well the complicated process by which Minnesota took shape.

Drawing on a blend of his previous scholarship as well as new research, Lass leaves no stone unturned in his quest to depict the physical creation of Minnesota. He organizes the work chronologically as well as geographically, focusing on each of Minnesota's boundaries as it emerged through factors both near and far from the future state. First,