

Book Reviews and Notices

The Lewis and Clark Journals: An American Epic of Discovery, edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. lxii, 413 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Ryan Roenfeld is a museum guide at the State Historical Society of Iowa's Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs. His primary interests relate to various developments in the Missouri River valley.

With new Lewis and Clark ephemera nearly as abundant as the Missouri River's infamous "musquetors," the clear choice for both learned scholars and instant experts of the 1803–1806 expedition is the recently released abridgment of the 13-volume Definitive Nebraska Edition of the Lewis and Clark Journals. Gary Moulton's 42-page introduction alone renders most previously published summaries all but obsolete, while the carefully selected journal entries thoroughly summarize the varied diplomatic, geographic, and ecological aspects of the journey to the Pacific Ocean and back. Although the Corps of Discovery spent only a few weeks in what later became western Iowa, the journals detail two key events: the preparations for the explorers' first meeting with the Indian Nations of the Great Plains at the "Council Bluff" and the death of Sergeant Charles Floyd south of present-day Sioux City. The journals also illustrate the diverse wildlife the Corps encountered in the Loess Hills and river bottoms of western Iowa. Highly recommended, this volume will surely remain the standard reference concerning Lewis and Clark long after the upcoming bicentennial celebrations have been forgotten.

The Indian Frontier, 1763–1846, by R. Douglas Hurt. Histories of the American Frontier Series. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002. xvii, 300 pp. Illustrations, chronology, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.00 cloth, \$23.95 paper.

Reviewer John P. Bowes is a lecturer in history at the University of California–Los Angeles. His recently completed dissertation is "Opportunity and Adversity: Indians and American Expansion in the 19th-Century Trans-Mississippi West."

In *The Indian Frontier*, R. Douglas Hurt discusses and analyzes the interactions of Indians, Europeans, and Americans over the course of nearly one hundred years and multiple frontiers. From the end of the

Seven Years' War to the beginning of the Mexican-American War, these diverse populations traded, negotiated, and fought over the lands of the present-day continental United States. Hurt argues that, in encounters encompassing both violent and peaceful relations, Indians, Europeans, and Americans operated out of self-interest to determine who would control the land. Ultimately, the Indians could not match the power of the Americans, who by 1846 had assumed sovereignty over much of the territory once claimed by the Indians as well as the British, the Spanish, and the French.

Hurt sets the tone for this historical synthesis in the preface, where he carefully defines his use of the term *frontier*. He emphasizes that the book aims to be an introduction to the topic of Indian-white relations for both general readers and students, and as such covers material that is "admittedly selective, even impressionistic"(xi). But Hurt also presents a clear explanation of the frontiers he covers in the text. He relies on the contemporary use of the word, in large part because his work uses the perspectives of the actors who participated in the multiple and simultaneous cultural interactions that occurred in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. More important, he writes the narrative of Indian-white relations as a cross-sectional analysis, thereby discarding the description of the frontier as a single line gradually moving westward.

The organization of the nine chapters validates Hurt's decision to move beyond viewing the frontier as a simple linear progression. He begins with a discussion of British America, explaining the impact of the American Revolution on the Indian populations of the Ohio Valley and laying the foundation for the troubles that would follow in later years. But before he continues that narrative, he moves readers in the next two chapters to the Spanish Southwest and Alta California. Even as the American colonists struggled for independence in the East, Spanish governors and Franciscan priests used trade goods, military force, and missions in an attempt to establish some control over the northern edges of their land claims. From that point, the book takes readers to the Pacific Northwest, back to the Ohio Valley, down to the Southeast, north to the Great Lakes, and finally returns to the West by crossing the Great Plains and entering the Far West. With each new chapter and geographic location, Hurt presents multiple actors and viewpoints, as different Indian leaders and nations peacefully and violently negotiated with the growing populations of traders, soldiers, and settlers. Although there may not have been a linear movement in terms of geography, each cultural encounter revealed a gradual progression toward American dominance. By the late 1840s, the Americans

had abandoned former notions of inclusiveness and turned the frontiers into "exclusive regions for their own use and determination" (247).

Overall, Hurt's synthesis accomplishes the goal set out in the preface. In roughly 250 pages of text, he skillfully introduces readers to a number of different encounters that complicate generally held notions about the American frontier experience. Admirably, Hurt also makes a concerted effort to present a balanced narrative that details the brutal treatment of Indians throughout the continent while also concluding that "neither Indians nor whites had a monopoly on morality and virtue" (246). Hurt does make some debatable assertions, most notably when he concludes that the church proved to be a savior for Indians in California. He also fails to discuss the midwestern frontier and the experience of the Ohio Valley Indians who settled in present-day Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas in the 1820s and 1830s and had their own cultural encounters with western tribes. Such critiques should not overshadow the strengths of this text. In a very readable and comprehensive fashion, Hurt has crafted a synthesis that successfully introduces a complex series of frontiers where Indians, Europeans, and Americans worked with and against each other in efforts to achieve their objectives.

"Neither White Men Nor Indians": Affidavits from the Winnebago Mixed-Blood Claim Commissions, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, 1838-1839, edited by Linda M. Waggoner. Roseville, MN: Park Genealogical Books, 2002. vi, 127 pp. Tables, map, bibliography, index. \$25.00 paper.

Reviewer Lucy Eldersveld Murphy is associate professor of history at Ohio State University, Newark. She is the author of the Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award-winning book, *A Gathering of Rivers: Indians, Métis, and Mining in the Western Great Lakes, 1737-1832* (2000).

The 1837 treaty with the Winnebago (Ho Chunk) Indians that forced their removal from east of the Mississippi included a provision allocating \$100,000 for the biracial relatives of members of the tribe. *"Neither White Men Nor Indians"* includes transcripts of testimony taken by commissioners sent by the federal government to determine who should receive these awards. Historians as well as genealogists will find that these fascinating statements provide a glimpse into the social lives and economic patterns of oft-neglected frontier people during a period of demographic transition.

For each of the sixty cases, sworn testimony and correspondence provided information about individual claimants and their families, seeking to explain their kinship to the Ho Chunk tribe and to evaluate the amount of service to both the Indians and the U.S. government

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