

*Ke-ma-ha: The Omaha Stories of Francis La Flesche*, edited by James W. Parins and Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995. xli, 134 pp. \$25.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL HOBBS, NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

James Parins and Daniel Littlefield have put together an intriguing selection of mostly unpublished fiction written by Francis La Flesche in the early 1900s. La Flesche, after publishing one book of "narratives about his childhood experiences in mission school on the Omaha Reservation" (xi), began work on another collection that was never published. In *Ke-ma-ha*, Parins and Littlefield have gathered eighteen of the stories that La Flesche would likely have included in his second book. Aside from the stories, which alone would make this book worth reading, the editors have provided an excellent introductory sketch of La Flesche's life as well as a textual history of his intended collection.

The stories are grouped into three parts: "Stories of Boyhood and Youth," "Stories of Tradition," and "Stories of the Recent Past and the Reservation." Of the three, the first two provide the most satisfying reading, especially for those interested in depictions of the Omaha tribe's oral tradition of storytelling and its folkways. In the last part, "Hal Baker" will interest readers studying the clash between whites and American Indians. Baker, a cattle rancher, represents the white man's arrogant dismissal of American Indian culture when he says, "Perhaps we can find some way of helping our dusky brethren here toward a better way of living, although they seem to be perfectly contented to live in their own simple way" (116). Thanks to the editors' skillful arrangement of the stories, *their own simple way* resonates with a bitingly angry irony, since La Flesche's preceding stories provide a portrait of the Omaha Indians that is anything but "simple."

*Those of Little Note: Gender, Race, and Class in Historical Archaeology*, edited by Elizabeth M. Scott. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1994. xiv, 215 pp. Illustrations, graphs, notes, index. \$45.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY BETH L. SAVAGE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Those of Little Note* is a stimulating collection of essays concerning the inextricable interrelationship of gender, race, and ethnicity and the implications for revising approaches to historical archeology research accordingly. While analysis of class and ethnicity have a well-heeled record of study in historical and archeological investigations, the introduction of gender into the mix is a relatively new phenomenon. The authors included here claim that this development is absolutely

necessary to further clarify the significant roles of those groups who have been largely excluded from or severely underrepresented in scholarship thus far because of their political, sexual, or socioeconomic dominance by others. This research highlights the integration of archival, oral, historical, architectural, material culture, and archeological methods to answer innovative questions about the influences of gender and its ramifications in our past, present, and future interpretations of the daily lives of those who came before us.

This series of concise, clearly written essays is accessible to the archeologist and the nonarcheologist as well. Although none of the essays deal directly with the Midwest, the subject matter holds potential for parallel studies in Iowa and throughout the region. The essay topics range widely conceptually and geographically and include Native-American and African-American communities, all-male and predominantly male communities, and working women in urban communities. The universality of the social constructs of gender, race, and ethnicity—however they may be manifested in all varieties of communities—and the absorbing research and interpretation issues suggested herein make this anthology engaging to a broad audience.

*The Collected Short Works, 1907–1919*, by Bess Streeter Aldrich; edited by Carol Miles Petersen. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995. xiii, 244 pp. Notes. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY RODNEY L. SMITH, UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE

Family values? Should you wish to read popular short stories whose rural or small-town settings and limited characters represent Scotch Presbyterian, middle-class Iowa life between 1900 and 1918, the short (sometimes 700–800 words) magazine pieces collected here are for you. Bess Streeter Aldrich (using the pen name Margaret Dean Stevens) wrote these popular magazine stories to illustrate her affection for small-town Iowans. She admired their courage, integrity, religious convictions, and belief in the dignity of family and community life. These words appear in the titles of the twenty-six stories: *House, Husband, Wife, Grandpa, Best Man, House of Dreams, Family*. Bess Streeter Aldrich wrote of what she knew and kept her focus on simple pleasures: "Sentiment doesn't lie in soil, or in climate, or latitude, or longitude. It lies in the hearts of people. Wherever there are folks who live and work and love and die, whether they raise hogs in Iowa or oranges in California . . . there is the stuff of which stories are made" (xiii).

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