

finished writing this book; as a result, readers will not discover his reaction to White's attack on dependency theory. Bieder has written *Native American Communities in Wisconsin* for the informed general public, but it is also particularly appropriate for college students because it offers such thoughtful overviews and conclusions about Indian and white relations in the upper Mississippi Valley.

The 1849 California Trail Diaries of Elijah Preston Howell, edited by Susan Badger Doyle and Donald E. Buck. Emigrant Trails Historical Studies Series, No. 1. Independence, MO: Oregon-California Trails Association, 1995. xxiii, 181 pp. Maps, notes, appendixes, indexes. \$24.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY J. THOMAS MURPHY, WACO, TEXAS

On Sunday, May 6, 1849, Elijah Preston Howell, along with his brother and seven male neighbors, left Gentry County, Missouri, and joined thousands of overland emigrants traveling to the gold fields of California. The same day, he began a diary of the trip and recorded daily entries until arriving at Lassen's Ranch in California on September 26. Writing to a brother who stayed in Missouri, Howell recounted events by using his diary. Family members copied his entries and subsequently deposited them in the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The whereabouts of the original document is unknown, but beginning in 1872, Howell rewrote his diary and a typewritten copy was given to the California State Library, Sacramento. These versions of Howell's account are published in a parallel format in this volume, first of a series sponsored by the Oregon-California Trails Association that will make primary source material about the overland trail accessible to general readers.

Born in 1803, Howell was not a youthful adventurer, but a respected merchant and Democratic officeholder lured to a new territory as much by the prospects for economic opportunity as by excitement over gold fever. Never returning to Missouri, Howell married a widow and raised a family, began another business career, and lived an unassuming life. As a forty-niner on the Oregon-California Trail, however, Howell participated in an event ennobled for its drudgery and uncertainty, and his record evokes these characteristics very well.

Howell noted daily mileage and landmarks, observed the interaction of fellow emigrants, and voiced concern about dangers along the way. Indians, while rarely a threat, worried him, and he mentioned each encounter. The diaries portray Howell as a conscientious and level-headed traveler who fretted about every detail of trail life—the con-

dition of his oxen, the accuracy of guidebooks, and the availability of potable water. Cholera posed the greatest danger for emigrants in 1849, and Howell witnessed its devastating effects as an epidemic followed wagons westward. Because of such dangers and the weariness of trail life, Howell expressed relief upon reaching California, but remarked that overland travel was "not so bad as we had anticipated" (157).

In presenting Howell's diaries, the editors wisely juxtaposed each entry so readers could compare his original version with the rewritten one. As a result, the parallel entries present a complete picture of his trail experience and offer a glimpse of Howell's memory of events after twenty-three years. On June 21, 1849, for example, he seemed distressed that his company of emigrants had decided to separate, but in retrospect, the breakup assumed an expression of independence that he represented as "every man his own Captain" (32).

Howell was a thorough and thoughtful chronicler of life on the trail, and anyone interested in the overland experience will be fascinated by his narrative. The diaries also supply information about other emigrant companies and locations of various cut-offs. To enhance Howell's story, the editors provide an introduction, maps showing each segment of his trip, and helpful footnotes that demonstrate a superb knowledge of trail lore and western history. If subsequent volumes published by the Oregon-California Trails Association are done as well as this one, the Emigrant Trails series will be a success.

To Appomattox and Beyond: The Civil War Soldier in War and Peace, by Larry M. Logue. American Way Series. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 1996. xiv, 168 pp. Bibliographical essay, index. \$22.50 cloth.

Soldier Boy: The Civil War Letters of Charles O. Musser, 29th Iowa, edited by Barry Popchock. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1995. 260 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY KENNETH LYFTOGT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Larry M. Logue's *To Appomattox and Beyond* and Barry Popchock's *Soldier Boy* represent two methods of understanding the people of an earlier time: the analysis of events and characters within their historical context and the presentation of primary sources.

To Appomattox and Beyond is a bold attempt to explain just about everything about the Civil War soldier from enlistment to life in the old-age military hospitals. Such an attempt carries with it a certain futility. Is it possible to explain everything from motivation to conduct? Obviously not. All one can do is present and defend certain key theses. This Logue does very well, hitting the reader with one

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