

Southern Counterpart to Lewis & Clark: The Freeman & Custis Expedition of 1806. Edited by Dan L. Flores. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002. xxi + 386 pages. Paper \$19.95.)

First published in 1984, *Southern Counterpart to Lewis & Clark* (edited by noted historian of the West Dan Flores, a professor of history at the University of Montana), tells the story of Thomas Jefferson's failed southwestern expedition that was completely overshadowed by the celebrated successes of the Corps of Discovery headed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Although originally intended as a true southern counterpart, Thomas Freeman and Peter Custis "failed even to achieve [their] last-minute, more limited objective of exploring the Red River only," being turned back by a superior Spanish army. This timely new paperback edition includes, of course, the original 1806 reports and Professor Flores's insightful, ninety-five page introduction, "Probing the Southwestern Wilderness."

Blood of the Prophets: Brigham Young and the Massacre at Mountain Meadows. By Will Bagley. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002. xxiv + 493 pages. Cloth \$39.95.)

Overland Trail enthusiasts especially will be interested in historian Will Bagley's account of the massacre at Mountain Meadows, "the first serious investigation" of the September 1857 atrocity in more than fifty years. "The story of the most violent incident in the history of America's overland trails remains among the West's most controversial historical subjects, yet even students of the American West have nearly forgotten the event," writes the author. "Most Americans, including many Utahans, have never heard of it." Bagley seeks to remedy this situation with an impressive volume that includes thirty-six black and white illustrations, an appendix listing of the "Victims of the Massacre" (one-hundred-plus men, women, and children), copious notes, and an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

It Happened Here: Stories from Marshall County, Kansas. By Oretta Ruetti. (Marysville, Kans.: Marshall County Historical Society, 2002. xii + 484 pages. Cloth \$45.00.)

Based on the author's long-running, weekly *Marysville Advocate* column, "It Happened Here," this handsome local history contains a dozen chapters or themes: agriculture; daily life; early days; towns and ghost towns; memorable places; business and industry; building a community; grim realities; the old schoolhouse; celebrations, games, gatherings; Oretta's own story; and people and families. The columns were published over a twenty-five-year period beginning in March 1977, and the book contains an appendix listing of "all columns included in whole or in part . . . with their original title."

Danes in America: Kansas and Nebraska. Translated by Ninna Engskow, edited by John W. Nielsen. (Blair, Neb.: Lur Publications, Danish Immigrant Archives, 2002. xii + 126 pages. Paper \$16.50.)

First published in 1908 and 1916 as part of the two-volume *Danske i Amerika* (or *Danes in America*), this second volume in a projected multivolume series by Lur Publications (the first was

Danish Lutheranism in America) makes the Kansas and Nebraska material available for the first time in English. The Kansas portion of the book covers the first thirty pages and provides some important information about late-nineteenth-century Danish settlements and settlers in the Sunflower State. "In these pages," writes editor John W. Nielsen, "one encounters the hardships of life on the prairie . . . but almost always expectation for the future and determination to succeed give even the accounts of these events hopeful undertones."

First to Fight. By Henry Mihesuah, edited by Devon Abbott Mihesuah. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. xviii + 104 pages. Cloth \$26.95.)

First to Fight is the story of a member of the Quahada band of Comanches who grew up on a farm near Duncan, Oklahoma, and returned, after service as a Marine during World War II and several years in California, during the last decades of the twentieth century to fight for that farm and against racism in his native state. It is based on interviews conducted by Henry Mihesuah's daughter-in-law, Devon Abbott Mihesuah, a professor of applied indigenous studies and history at Northern Arizona University and editor of the *American Indian Quarterly*.

Magnificent Failure: A Portrait of the Western Homestead Era. By John Martin Campbell, introduction by Kenneth W. Karsmizki. (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2002. xiv + 183 pages. Paper \$29.95. Cloth \$60.00.)

Although no Kansas images appear among the seventy black-and-white plates that make up the heart of this volume, readers of *Kansas History* may well find much of interest in author and photographer John Martin Campbell's coverage of "the Western Homestead Era, that period beginning around 1885." Stark landscapes, abandoned cabins and dugouts, and long neglected farm equipment support the author's tale of the relatively brief success and ultimate failure of so many a western settler's dreams. In the words of Kenneth W. Karsmizki, associate curator for history and archeology at the Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University, Campbell offers "not the niggling little details of the history of public land laws. Instead, he embraces the emotion and texture of individual people and places."

Santa Fe: The Chief Way. By Robert Strein, John Vaughan, and C. Fenton Richards Jr. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002. 131 pages. Paper \$24.95.)

Using numerous wonderful images, many from the collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, the authors of *Santa Fe: The Chief Way* offer the reader or viewer a sense of how the Santa Fe "profoundly impacted New Mexico and the Southwest" and how the Southwest and its people "profoundly influenced the railway." The illustrations selected for this book really do convey "the excitement and romance of streamlined train travel on the Santa Fe" in the 1940s and 1950s, and as a whole the volume "provides a look at how the railroad used the landscapes and Indian culture of the American Southwest to promote travel on its famous trains."