

In *Indians of the Northeast*, Elisabeth Tooker surveys the historical and anthropological literature of the tribes "from Newfoundland to North Carolina and from the Atlantic Coast to the Upper Great Lakes" (p. 1). Unfortunately, the region is so large and the number of tribes so great that Tooker is forced to omit many important references. Her discussion of anthropological literature—especially those references focusing upon the New England tribes and the Iroquoian speakers—seems adequate, but her coverage of monographs and articles about the central Algonquian tribes needs more development. Due to the breadth of the study, Tooker mentions or briefly describes a reference but often fails to analyze it. It seems questionable if an adequate survey of the historical and anthropological literature of such a vast area can be capsulized in thirty-eight pages.

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*The John Hunt Memoirs: Early Years of the Maumee Basin, 1812-1835.* Edited by Richard J. Wright. (Maumee, Ohio: Maumee Valley Historical Society, [1979]. Pp. viii, 94. Illustrations, maps, notes. Clothbound, \$11.20; paperbound, \$7.40.)

The early development of the Maumee Valley and southeastern Michigan is so often viewed through official documents that a personal history is always a worthwhile find. When properly edited and purged of errors in details and dates, the reminiscences of an early citizen can add depth, color, and a wealth of appealing anecdotes to the history of a region. So it is with the memoirs of John Elliott Hunt (1798-1877). Hunt, son of a prominent military officer, touches upon events relevant to northern Indiana, Ohio, and southeastern Michigan. While his greatest emphasis is on the War of 1812, the author also describes the later peaceful development of the lower Maumee.

The memoirs have been carefully edited by Richard J. Wright of Bowling Green State University. His notes are copious, especially for the earlier years. Hunt's memory for details had dimmed somewhat by the time he put his remembrances on paper in the early 1870s. Despite Wright's corrections, Hunt comes across as a man with vivid memories of a youth which coincided with that of the region.

The anecdotes are particularly enjoyable. Hunt traveled with Brigadier General William Hull's army and spent much of

the War of 1812 in British-occupied Detroit. After the war he settled in Maumee, Ohio. He was deeply involved in the Indian trade and was well liked by the local tribes. Hunt's memories of American and British officers give the reader a lively view of their personalities. His adventures when forced to seek lodging with a Canadian cutthroat named Ward are hair raising. Throughout his narrative, Hunt is generally sympathetic to the Indians. Other parts of his memoirs reveal more common frontier attitudes to native Americans. There is pathos, however, in his scenes of the rapid deterioration of their culture after the War of 1812.

The book is attractively printed. The many illustrations are generally well-chosen, but the color plates do not seem to have reproduced particularly well. A few errors have crept in, such as the identification of a sketch of William Whistler as his father, Major John Whistler (p. 47). These are few, however, and the publication is a worthwhile addition to the literature of the early Maumee Valley and Detroit.

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*The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-60.* By John D. Unruh, Jr. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1979. Pp. xviii, 565. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.50.)

For more than a century, Americans have been fascinated by the romance, the drama, the poignancy, of the epic overland adventure of the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s. The overland experience has been traced in hundreds of trail diaries and reminiscences and in a number of popular and scholarly trail histories. But, as John D. Unruh points out in his introduction, there are few "comprehensive analytical and interpretive" accounts of the trail and its impact on American life and character (p. 4). Unruh has sought to fill that void for the California-Oregon trail. In this exhaustive study, begun as a doctoral dissertation at the University of Kansas, he has structured a comprehensive synthesis that moves far beyond earlier studies and hypothesizes a "concept of change through time" (p. 27) that offers new insights and perspectives about the overland emigration.

It is impossible to summarize this impressive work (over 500 oversize pages of text and notes) in a short review. Every aspect of the overland trail has been covered. Beginning with a