

If there is a criticism, it is that the evaluation of sources might have had a sharper edge. Much that has been written about the Shawnees is unreliable. For example, Thomas Wildcat Alford's description of the responsibilities of the different divisions of the Shawnee tribe is not applicable to the eighteenth century. The Mekoche division, not the Chillicothe or Hathawekela, managed tribal affairs, and Alford's much repeated errors (pp. xix-xx) have led to serious misinterpretations of Shawnee politics. To his credit, Noe usually cautions readers about questionable sources, and some notorious examples of fraudulent writing have wisely been omitted altogether.

Quibbles aside, this conscientious, wide-ranging, and valuable volume is a mandatory first stop for any student of the Shawnee. What we now need is a balanced history of the tribe—that one hopes Noe will undertake—and the restoration of these people to their rightful place in American history.

JOHN SUGDEN, Cumbria, England, is author of *Tecumseh, A Life* (1998) and *Blue Jacket, Warrior of the Shawnees* (2000).

A Fragile Capital: Identity and the Early Years of Columbus, Ohio.

By Charles C. Cole, Jr. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2001. Pp. xi, 292. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.00.)

A Fragile Capital offers a broad description of the origins and forty years of development of the capital city of Ohio. In addition, it describes the process of creating a new city to serve as the capital of the state. Unlike most local historians, Charles C. Cole, Jr., does not just follow a chronological description of the happenings in Columbus from 1812 until 1850. Rather, the book is organized by topic, including business, politics, education, religion, the arts, transportation, and the press. This arrangement opens the possibility of penetrating the background in depth, which the author accomplishes.

Cole relies on primary sources such as letters, diaries, legal documents, and newspapers, rather than depending, as so many local historians do, on folklore and other informal sources. While the use of primary sources tends to emphasize white male leaders, the author has also worked to uncover evidence about the role of women and the antislavery efforts in political activity.

Change is the theme of the capital city's first four decades. The impact of the improvement in highways and railroad building and their effect upon the mobility of the people of central Ohio is explored. Cole analyzes the increase in writing and publishing and illustrates that cultural opportunities in Columbus expanded during this period, by mid-century attracting internationally known performers such as Swedish soprano Jenny Lind.

The number of Columbus residents who were abolitionists was very small, but Cole conducts distinctive research in this area, offering a detailed analysis of the antislavery issue's influence on politics in Columbus and the state of Ohio.

Indiana readers will note many similarities between the pioneer period in their own state and that of their Ohio neighbor: both were settled by westward migration on the Ohio River; both established early capitals in the southern part of their territory; and later both chose a more central location for their state's capital city. Cole's use of the term "fragile capital" reflects the political compromises required to create a new city for the state capital and the turbulent changes in the pioneer period that threatened its permanence.

This book should be attractive to the general public as well as professional historians. Teachers and librarians seeking a reference on early nineteenth-century life in what was then considered "the west" will appreciate Cole's in-depth descriptions of specific areas as well as his more general discussions. Cole's work reflects an extended period of research and will be appreciated by lay readers as much as by professional historians.

ROBERT W. MCCORMICK, professor emeritus at Ohio State University, pursues research in agricultural, military, Ohio, and local history. With his wife, Virginia E. McCormick, he coauthored *New Englanders on the Ohio Frontier: The Migration and Settlement of Worthington, Ohio* (1998).

Midwestern Landscape Architecture. Edited by William H. Tishler. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000. Pp. ix, 256. Illustrations, notes, maps, figures, index. \$37.50.)

Have you ever driven the leafy boulevard, Fall Creek Parkway, along the White River as it winds its way through downtown Indianapolis? Or maybe you enjoy quiet pastimes or ball games in the park and parkway systems of Indianapolis, South Bend, or Fort Wayne? Did you attend or have you visited Indiana University in Bloomington and strolled through Dunn's Woods, admiring the forested setting of the Old Crescent historic district? If you have enjoyed any of these places, then you have experienced the work of pioneers in the practice of landscape architecture in the Midwest: George Edward Kessler designed the park and parkway systems of the three Indiana cities, and the Olmsted Brothers firm was responsible for the campus development of the 1930s that adjoins the Old Crescent. Percival Gallagher, the Olmsted Brothers designer responsible for the firm's work at Indiana University, single-handedly saved Dunn's Woods from development! Kessler, the senior Olmsted, and the Olmsted Brothers are included in *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*, edited by William H. Tishler, who is a member of the department of landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin.