

of Indians and the United States and in handling the growing native unrest in the years before and during the War of 1812. What this book does provide is useful vignettes of life on the upper Mississippi in the early nineteenth century and a sharper picture of Clark and his family that calls for a new biography. Coming as they do within years of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, these letters cannot fail to excite interest.

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*Tennessee Frontiers: Three Regions in Transition*. By John R. Finger. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. Pp. xxiii, 382. Illustrations, maps, essay on sources, index. \$39.95.)

*Tennessee Frontiers* is one of the volumes in the History of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier series from Indiana University Press. Some readers might question the wisdom of a series devoted to the study of American frontiers in this post-Turnerian age, and University of Tennessee historian John R. Finger addresses this issue head on, making a good case for the utility of a frontier framework for understanding the Anglicization of the region now encompassed by the state of Tennessee. Finger finds some of Frederick Jackson Turner's insights, "especially his suggestion of certain recurring patterns in the sequence of settlement zones," useful in explaining the transition of the Tennessee area from American Indian dominance to Euro-American control (p. xviii). According to Finger, Tennessee experienced several overlapping frontiers between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, with those of "land taking" and "market making" (the development of a market economy) being of particular importance. Finger argues two major themes: that opportunity in the form of land drove settlers into the region and that a marked tension between local autonomy and central authority characterized Tennessee in this formative period.

Finger, the author of two monographs on the eastern Cherokees, incorporates Indians into the story throughout the book and emphasizes that "Native American adaptability and creativity amid changing circumstances is one of the great underappreciated themes of frontier history" (p. 7). Indians such as the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Shawnees are portrayed by Finger as real people, who disagreed with one another while sometimes impeding Euro-American expansion and sometimes assisting it through warfare, treaties, and trade. Finger also pays notable attention to the diverse physical environment of Tennessee and the ways that nature shaped human actions while simultaneously being altered by settlers.

The bulk of the book follows a narrative format, with chapter-length excursions into the "social fabric" and the "frontier economy"

of late eighteenth-century Tennessee, and the key events of colonial and early national Tennessee are highlighted. Topics appearing in prominent roles include treaty negotiations between Indians and Euro-Americans, land cessions by Indians, the American Revolution, violent conflicts between Indians and settlers, land speculation and political intrigue, the development of a market economy, the transition to statehood, settlement of the western district bordering the Mississippi River, and American hegemony created by Indian removal in the 1830s. The expected characters of early Tennessee history make frequent appearances, and Finger is to be commended for bringing these people to life and demonstrating how the choices they made affected the eventual outcome and development of the region.

Although the book does not include endnotes and is meant primarily for a general and undergraduate audience, there is a helpful essay on sources at the end of each chapter. Numerous illustrations and maps add to the work's usefulness as a reference. Readers will find *Tennessee Frontiers* to be free of academic jargon yet analytically sophisticated. Students of the Tennessee region or the Old Southwest will do well to start their research with this book.

GREG O'BRIEN is associate professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, and recently published *Choctaws in a Revolutionary Age, 1750-1830* (2002).

*Changing Works: Visions of a Lost Agriculture.* By Douglas Harper. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. Pp. xi, 302. Illustrations, tables, notes, references, index. \$35.00.)

Sociologist Douglas Harper has created a sensitive portrait of what he calls a "lost agriculture," a cooperative, animal-powered, craft-based mode of farming that flourished in the middle decades of the twentieth century and that has now been eclipsed by an individualistic, industrialized farming. Echoing many critics of contemporary agriculture, he finds the "changing works" culture superior to modern farming in many respects, especially environmentally and socially. His is one more voice in a growing chorus of critics who call for a reassessment of the direction being taken by today's corporate, increasingly large-scale agriculture.

Harper's methodology stems from the discipline of sociology, not history, so for historians (this reviewer included) it is difficult to evaluate. Using such concepts as "photo elicitation," he constructs "visual narratives" using the rich archive of the Standard Oil of New Jersey (SONJ) photo collection. (Though it is clear that the SONJ archive is superb, it is not clear why only this collection was used.) The geographic focus is on the dairying country of northern New York State. Harper showed the SONJ photos to about a dozen people who began farming in the 1930s and subsequently lived through the transition, and asked them how the old system worked.