

ed by Christopher Carr and Troy Case (2005), is a far better investment of time and money for those readers seeking the state of the art in Hopewell studies.

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Ohio's First Peoples

By James H. O'Donnell, III

(Athens: Ohio University Press, 2004. Pp. ix, 176. Maps, illustrations, notes, works cited, index. Clothbound, \$36.95; paperbound, \$17.95.)

Understanding what happened in Ohio in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century seems crucial to understanding the expansion of the American frontier and the development of the nation. Understanding what happened in Ohio is also crucial to understanding American Indian history and the dispossession of Native peoples across the continent. It is important, therefore, that the editors of the state's bicentennial series have included a book on Ohio's Indian peoples, one written by an historian with long-standing expertise on the period when the contest over Indian lands was at its height.

Ohio's First Peoples opens with a short chapter on the ancient woodland cultures and the apparent depopulation of the region in the seventeenth century. But the narrative hits its stride when Delawares, Shawnees, Wyandots, and other Indian groups reassembled in Ohio by the mid-eighteenth century, just as European competition for control of the region was coming to a head. In a

clear and concise style, O'Donnell traces the military and diplomatic struggles for the Ohio Valley in the French and Indian War, Pontiac's Revolt, Lord Dunmore's War, and the Revolution. He then traces the development of a northwestern Indian confederacy that repulsed two American armies before going down to defeat at Fallen Timbers and ceding most of Ohio at the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. With most of Ohio's native peoples displaced to Indiana, another movement of united Indian resistance arose in the first decade of the nineteenth century, led by Tenskwatawa, known as the Shawnee Prophet, and his brother Tecumseh. But by the 1840s, defeated in battle and dispossessed by treaties, most Indian people were gone from Ohio.

This is a well-worn story that has been related by many authors, but it remains so central to the history of Ohio and the nation that it merits telling many times. O'Donnell does not offer new interpretations, but his short book provides an accessible history, spiced with plenty of detail and

based on a deep familiarity with the documentary sources.

Inevitably, the narrative trails off considerably toward the end of the book. The story of Ohio's First Peoples has to be traced elsewhere as they moved, or were removed, to new homes west of the Mississippi. But the Indian people who remained, and remain, in Ohio deserve more attention than they receive in the brief "bicentennial afterthought" that closes the book. The statements that there are "only a few thousand" Native Americans in Ohio who identify themselves as such to the U.S. Census Bureau, and that there are "none who are readily visible Native Americans" (p. 127) do not square with the census figures from 2000 (when 24,486 Ohioans self-identified as American Indian, and a further 51,589 self-identified as American Indian in combination with some

other ethnic category), and cause one to wonder "visible to whom and by what criteria?" Portraying Ohio's Indians so strongly as people who left, and left few traces, tends to perpetuate a nineteenth-century myth of disappearance and limits the book's scope and effectiveness. With portraits of Ohio Indians available, it is also unfortunate that the publisher chose for the cover a portrait of Joseph Brant, a Mohawk from New York.

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Kings

The True Story of Chicago's Policy Kings and Numbers Racketeers An Informal History

By Nathan Thompson

(Chicago: Bronzeville Press, 2003. Rev. ed. Pp. 506. Illustrations, appendices, index. Paperbound, \$27.00.)

Kings is, as the book's second subtitle says, a truly informal history of the shady businessmen who ran "policy wheels," or underground lotteries, on Chicago's South Side in the first half of the twentieth century. Nathan Thompson details their business prac-

tices and philanthropic works, as well as the violence that routinely accompanied the enterprise.

According to Thompson, the policy industry was the largest African-American-owned business in the country, with up to \$100 million cir-