

basketball for IU as a freshman, is well-suited to tell readers of his subject's adversities on the way to becoming IU's first black basketball player. Graham and co-author Rachel Graham Cody should be congratulated for the thoroughness of their research and for the book which resulted from their seven-year project.

JOHN MUTKA has worked for the *Kokomo Tribune*, *Frankfort Times*, and northwest Indiana *Post Tribune* over a fifty-year career. He is a member of the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame and a former Indiana Sportswriter of the Year.



Enduring Nations

Native Americans in the Midwest

Edited by R. David Edmunds

(Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2008. Pp. ix, 283. Illustrations, notes, index. Cloth-bound, \$70.00; paperbound, \$20.00.)

Academics have long recognized R. David Edmunds as a leading scholar of the Native American experience in the Midwest. His contacts with other historians enabled him to enlist a dozen specialists for *Enduring Nations: Native Americans in the Midwest*. Their articles focus mostly on Indian and white relations in the western Great Lakes from the later decades of the seventeenth century to the early years of the twenty-first century. One of the book's themes illuminates the role of Native leaders, including métis (people of mixed heritage), as they fought the government's forced removal of Indians to the West during the 1830s. A second thread emphasizes the important economic issues that confronted Indian peoples as they struggled to retain their heritage. This battle continues to this day and promises to accelerate in the future. "Demographers

argue," Edmunds writes, "that if current [intermarriage] trends continue, by 2080 almost 90 percent of all Native American people in the United States will be of less than one-half Indian by lineage" (p. 10). The challenges of these trends, however, pale in comparison to those of past centuries, when Indians lost their children and their lands.

Indian leaders in the western Great Lakes employed various survival techniques while confronting removal. Thomas Burnell Colbert portrays Keokuk as a worthy Sauk chief, even when compared with Black Hawk; he was an accommodationist who surrendered land to the government and enjoyed a positive relationship with federal officials. Bradley Birzer describes Jean Baptiste Richardville, Miami principal chief, as a métis who maneuvered his cultural advantages to acquire great

wealth. Although Richardville eventually accumulated nearly 29,000 acres in Indiana by 1840 while the tribe ceded away its lands, he also used his privately held property to provide sanctuary for Miamis facing removal.

Four contributors examine an especially interesting topic—the essential role of Indian women. Lucy Eldersveld Murphy documents the lead mining activities of Native females in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Susan Sleeper-Smith concentrates on the history of a white captive named Frances Slocum, the “White Indian,” who lived with her Miami relatives for more than sixty years. The Miami used Slocum’s race to avoid removal by presenting their community as essentially white. Considering her experience, Edmunds questions whether “Native American identity is a genetic trait, or . . . a subscription to a certain set of cultural values accepted by other members of the tribal community” (p. 6). Rebecca Kugel looks at gender and class while examining the *métis* of the western Great Lakes and the issue of race during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Finally, Melissa L. Meyer considers the traditional social support function of Anishi-

naabe (Ojibwe) women on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota and follows her topic into the twenty-first century.

The contributors to *Enduring Nations* offer readers stimulating arguments. Alan Shackelford, for example, contends that during the late prehistoric period the Illinois Indian tribe was attracted to the area west of the Mississippi River by the availability of bison, and not driven into the area by the invading Iroquois. Gregory Evans Dowd’s splendid examination of nineteenth-century rumors to examine murder mysteries exemplifies the interpretive dimension of the historian’s craft. Finally, for those more intrigued by the history behind contemporary issues, Brian Hosmer reviews the role played by gaming, accepted by many Indians as the new buffalo, on a Menominee reservation in Wisconsin. *Enduring Nations* belongs in personal, public, and academic libraries; professors should include it in their lists of required reading for American history survey courses as well as for Native American history offerings.

RAYMOND E. HAUSER is an ethnohistorian teaching at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

