
BOOK NOTES

Pecan America: Exploring a Cultural Icon. By John Gifford. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2019, 208 pages, cloth \$26.95.)

Explores the history and culture of the American pecan in the context of the growth of the industry that surrounds it. As an important U.S. agricultural crop (with a recent annual crop yield as high as 280 million pounds), American pecans have now garnered worldwide demand. This changing dynamic has impacted not only the industry but also growing methods, consumption patterns, and cultural significance.

Opulence, Kansas. By Julie Stielstra. (Emporia, KS: Meadowlark Books, 2019, 177 pages, paper \$9.95.)

In this young adult novel, Katie Myrdal is invited to spend a summer on her aunt and uncle's Kansas farm after the passing of her father. Leaving her home in Chicago, Katie travels to Opulence, Kansas, and initially struggles to become accustomed to farm life. Soon, however, she begins to create lasting friendships and finds romance. Katie also becomes immersed in the history and folklore of the town. As she delves deeper into her own family's history in Opulence, she stumbles upon secrets as well as riches. After a summer of love, excitement, and mystery, Katie flies back to Chicago with not only a better understanding of her father but also a newfound love for Opulence, Kansas.

The Earth Memory Compass: Diné Landscapes and Education in the Twentieth Century. By Farina King. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2018, 288 pages, cloth, \$24.95.)

King's "autoethnography" is a compelling analysis of Diné students and their diverse experiences with Navajo boarding schools from the 1930s to the 1990s. Even though these institutions tried to distance students from their homes, families, and customs, King demonstrates how natural landmarks served and continue to serve as a compass for the Diné. *The Earth Memory Compass* consists of four chapters that correspond to the Four Directions, East, South, West, and North, and how the Navajo have persisted as people within (post)colonial structures. This study is recommended for anyone who wishes to learn more about this form and embodiment of Indigenous knowledge.

A Most Splendid Company: The Coronado Expedition in Global Perspective. By Richard Flint and Shirley Cushing Flint. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2019, 464 pages, cloth \$95.00.)

In this encyclopedic, prosopographical study, the authors argue that Coronado's expedition was not an ill-conceived search for fame and fortune. Instead, it was a "money-making venture" within a three-pronged plan

to establish trade routes between Asia and New Spain (p. 328). Drawing heavily on archival sources in Spain and Mexico, they center the experiences of everyday expedition members. Rather than providing a narrative of events, they organize their research into four chronological periods and address key themes within each section. These include specific components of the expedition—clothing, tools, weapons, medical care, and other provisions—in addition to extensive discussion of both European and New World social and political organization, local economies, mobility, disease, funding sources, and religious fervor, with a focus on African, Indigenous, and lower-class participants who are largely absent from the historical record. The book includes maps, figures, a detailed glossary, and appendixes with biographies and social rankings of expedition members.

Echo of Its Time: The History of the Federal District Court of Nebraska, 1867–1933. By John R. Wunder and Mark R. Scherer. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019, 392 pages, cloth \$45.00.)

Intertwined, shaping, defining—these are all terms used to characterize the influence of a judicial system on a state's historical development. As narrated and analyzed here, the range of notable and controversial legal matters that came before the first four judges of the Federal District Court of Nebraska, from its inception in 1867 to 1933, reflected the pressing concerns and interests of the state's residents as well as divisions among them. On the dockets of judges Elmer Dundy, William Munger, Thomas Munger, and Joseph Woodrough were cases involving homesteaders and cattle ranchers, laborers and corporate entities, reformers and business interests. In addition, they adjudicated important Native American cases, including *Standing Bear v. Crook*. This is the first of two planned volumes.

Albert C. Ellithorpe: The First Indian Home Guards and the Civil War on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier. Edited by M. Jane Johansson. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2016, 280 pages, cloth \$45.00.)

Reveals the compelling Civil War campaign experiences of Albert C. Ellithorpe, a white Union Army officer who commanded the First Indian Home Guards regiment. These soldiers were mainly refugee Muscogee Creek and Seminole Indians, as well as African Americans, fighting chiefly in Arkansas and the Indian Territory. The accounts are based upon Ellithorpe's journals, articles he wrote for the *Chicago Evening Journal*, and some correspondence. Among the insights offered here are the role of a multiracial Union regiment serving in the western theater and the realities of waging brutal guerrilla warfare and contending with internal regimental problems.