

**Joseph R. Brown: Adventurer on the Minnesota Frontier,
1820-1849**

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Book Notices

Oneota Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future, edited by William Green. Office of the State Archaeologist Report 20. Iowa City: Office of the State Archaeologist, 1995. x, 227 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, graphs, references. \$15.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY SCOTT C. SHAFFER, SHAFFER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONSULTING

Oneota represents a cultural tradition that occupied a large portion of the upper midwestern United States from approximately 1000 to 1700 C.E. The papers published in *Oneota Archaeology* were originally presented at a conference held in Iowa City in 1994. The individual articles document the history of Oneota interpretation, consider the meanings of various Oneota cultural phenomena, and post a series of clear-cut and challenging questions for future research. As suggested by the editor in the preface (vii), the traditional versatility of midwestern archeologists has led to a multitude of research approaches in Oneota studies. This multifaceted approach makes the articles assembled in *Oneota Archaeology* of interest not only to archeologists but to researchers outside the anthropological discipline and to those with a general interest in Iowa's history. Unfortunately, readers outside of the anthropological realm may find many of the graphs and illustrations and much of the textual data difficult. On the other hand, many of the figures, including those depicting the Oneota underworld (106) and hawkmen and thunderbirds (122), will illustrate to any reader the rich and elaborate Oneota culture. *Oneota Archaeology* offers the professional archeologist as well as the general public insights into the prehistoric past of Iowa and the surrounding area of the upper Midwest.

Joseph R. Brown: Adventurer on the Minnesota Frontier, 1820-1849, by Robert Goodman and Nancy Goodman. Rochester, MN: Lone Oak Press, 1996. 343 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MEL PREWITT, SCOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Robert and Nancy Goodman spent more than two decades searching archival records, tracking the exploits of one of the more important

and colorful figures of the upper midwestern frontier. Joseph Brown's remarkable life and career as soldier, fur trader, territorial politician, and more enthusiastic than successful entrepreneur is meticulously narrated by the Goodmans in this first of an anticipated two-volume effort. Although based on extensive and impressive research, which makes for an authoritative biography, the book occasionally regresses into homilies that detract from its real value to academic historians, genealogists, and casual readers. The bibliography includes an extensive listing of pertinent manuscript collections, especially at the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, and various local and federal government documents.

Although the greater part of the lavishly footnoted book relates Brown's adventures in the region that would become the state of Minnesota, there is a significant amount devoted to his experiences in the soon-to-be states of Iowa and Wisconsin. In particular, the Quad Cities and Burlington areas and Prairie du Chien figure prominently in this reader-friendly adventure story. Brown, like many of his contemporaries, traveled extensively for business and pleasure. His frequent journeys took him on trading missions with the Sioux in the James River region of South Dakota, to the legislative chambers of Madison, Wisconsin, and to Washington, D.C. for business dealings. This account of the life of an early midwestern adventurer would be of interest to the casual reader as well as the specialist, although the professional historian might find the notes and bibliography more gratifying than the text.

Dutch Immigrant Memoirs and Related Writings, by Henry S. Lucas. Revised edition. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1997. xviii, 1,124 pp. Notes, appendix, index. \$45.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY BRIAN W. BELTMAN, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

This one-volume edition is a reprint of Henry S. Lucas's two-volume work originally published in 1955 in the Netherlands. Long out of print and one of the standard sources on the Dutch transplanting to America, it is a collection of 114 nineteenth-century travel accounts and personal reminiscences by Dutch immigrants who were among the pioneers in numerous Dutch enclaves in the United States. Volume one relates exclusively to developments in Michigan, but volume two includes writings about settlements in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and elsewhere. A unique aspect of the original work was that it provided a number of sources in Dutch,

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