

History of Nebraska

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History of Nebraska, by James C. Olson and Ronald C. Naugle. Third edition. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. xv, 502 pp. Maps, illustrations, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$40.00 cloth, \$25.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY HARL A. DALSTROM, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA

The publication of James C. Olson's *History of Nebraska* in 1955 was an outstanding contribution to the writing of state history. The book, including its second edition (1966), has been the basic text for the study of the development of the Cornhusker State.

In preparing the third edition, Ronald C. Naugle retained most of Olson's fine narrative, while expanding material on women, native people, and African Americans. Like its predecessors, this edition emphasizes the period before 1900, but three new chapters trace the history of the state from about 1965 to 1990. Among the topics covered in the new chapters are Nebraska's recent political development, revision of the tax system, the farm problems of the 1970s and 1980s, and economic development efforts. Various circumstances undoubtedly made coverage of the most recent period especially difficult. However, brief discussions of center pivot irrigation, other environmental challenges, the problems facing rural and small-town Nebraskans, and a bit more on recent urban development would have been helpful. The deletion of some of Olson's material on Nebraska authors was unfortunate. The greatly expanded appendixes include valuable data on politics, precipitation, and agriculture, and the revised bibliography reflects recent scholarship.

When the second edition of Olson's history went out of print, students of Nebraska history experienced a true loss. Through the good work of Ronald Naugle, with the help of James Olson, the Virginia Faulkner Fund, and the University of Nebraska Press, an indispensable companion has returned.

The Gate City: A History of Omaha, by Lawrence H. Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell, enlarged edition with new conclusion by Harl A. Dalstrom. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. xv, 356 pp. Illustrations, bibliographical essay, index. \$15.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY PATRICIA BURGESS, CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

A traditional city biography, *Gate City: A History of Omaha* is a fine example of narrative history. This reissue of a 1982 work, with a new conclusion covering the years 1980-1997 and an updated biblio-

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