

---

## B O O K N O T E S

---

*Red Cloud: Oglala Legend.* By John D. McDermott. (Pierre: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 2015, xvi + 194 pages, paperback \$14.95.)

Numerous authors have explored the life of the famous Oglala Sioux warrior and chief Red Cloud, so one might ask what could an author add to this well-known story? McDermott's work adds insights into Red Cloud's childhood based upon a little-used 1903 interview with the chief. McDermott also draws upon heretofore unexplored newspaper and magazine accounts. For example, he uses articles from the *Council Fire and Arbitrator* (1881 to 1886), a magazine that published several of Red Cloud's letters that described his interactions with the Office of Indian Affairs. Overall, McDermott largely succeeds in his effort to let Red Cloud's voice tell the story of his own life.

*The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen.* By Sean Sherman and Beth Dooley. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017, 225 pages, cloth, \$34.95.)

A beautifully illustrated cookbook with over two hundred recipes, *Sioux Chef* is the culmination of Pine Ridge native Sean Sherman's journey from his home in South Dakota to the top kitchens of the world and back again. With food at the center, Sherman takes us on an intellectual and spiritual journey so that everyone, not just indigenous cooks, can enjoy the ingredients and delicious combinations of our first foods (hint: no fry bread). Beth Dooley's considerable skill in food writing is evidenced in this deliciously illustrated volume.

*From Praha to Prague: Czechs in an Oklahoma Farm Town.* By Philip D. Smith. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017, 208 pages, paper \$21.95.)

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, millions of European immigrants passed through Ellis Island in New York Harbor, bound for New York or other major urban centers throughout the country. In his book *From Praha to Prague*, Philip Smith shifts the focus from urban to rural, arguing that "an examination of a smaller grouping of immigrants living in a frontier setting provides a view of how these isolated and demographically inferior newcomers used various tactics to persist and prosper" (p. 9). In looking at the Czech settlement of Lincoln County, Oklahoma, and the formation and development of the town of Prague, Smith illustrates how these Czech immigrants successfully adapted to their new surroundings while maintaining their ethnic identity. Rich in detail, Smith's study is an interesting read, enhancing our understanding of both the American West and immigrant settlement in the United States.

*The Black Legends of Kansas.* By Mary Dean. (B. Global Publishing, 2017, 145 pages, paper, \$20.00.)

Too often, the voices and contributions of black women are difficult to uncover in the available historical record. Mary Dean has endeavored to make this important task a bit easier by collecting the biographies of 118 trailblazing women of color in the state of Kansas. They include elected officials, educators,

lawyers, businesswomen, community activists, ministers, doctors, athletes, and artists. The book particularly emphasizes black women who impacted their local community of Wichita and are still living today. For example, Judge Nelsonna Potts Barnes of Wichita was the first African American woman appointed to serve as an administrative law judge for the Department of Labor (p. 116). Violetta Branch, who in 1992 founded the Eugenia House Recovery Home in Wichita to help women and their children recover from drugs, alcohol, and abuse (p. 15), is also included, as is Dr. Rhonda K. Lewis, professor of psychology at Wichita State University and community psychologist, who conducts research and has organized programs to eliminate disparities in health services among populations of color (p. 49). The book honors and remembers these women's accomplishments.

*Headlights on the Prairie: Essays on Home.* By Robert Rebein. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2017, 174 pages, paper, \$19.95.)

Robert Rebein is frustrated that the image most folks have of his home state of Kansas is straight out of the film version of *The Wizard of Oz*. "How to say you hail from a place uninhabited by tinmen and sweet little girls in pinafores, a demanding starkly beautiful place with twenty-mile views, sunflowers as big as your head, and night skies so clear that you might believe yourself to have been born among stars? Where the wind blows without cease and flies bite like vampires and the stink of the slaughterhouse overhangs everything like a toxic cloud?" (p. 1). In *Headlights on the Prairie*, Rebein provides a more complicated take on growing up in the Midwest, with its feedlots, unpredictable weather, dreams of basketball glory, and opiate addiction. Rebein's recollections of his youth and early adulthood are straightforward, but his prose is beautiful and full of humor and affection for the sunflower state.

*Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years along the Missouri (during the Years 1824, '25, '26, and 1827).* By Gottfried Duden. Edited and translated by James W. Goodrich et al. (1980; reprint Columbia: State Historical Society of Missouri and University of Missouri Press, 2017, xxiv + 372 pages, paper \$39.95.)

The prolific German travel writer and promoter Gottfried Duden, whose "works significantly influenced German emigration before 1860 and represented an outstanding example of one German's attempt to heighten his countrymen's awareness of American opportunities" (p. vii), first published his *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years along the Missouri* in 1829. This first paperback edition of the English translation, published in 1980, includes a collection of thirty-six of Duden's letters, from Rotterdam to Missouri and back, that address a variety of issues such as political parties and higher education in America; six chapters "Concerning the Nature of the North American United States or Concerning the Bases of the Political Situation of the North Americans" (p. 207); and a "post-script" for prospective emigrant farmers and businessmen.