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forced other findings and significantly revealed the basis for much of today's conflict over jurisdiction in Indian Country. It is, after all, the legacy of a failed land policy that needs to be underscored. To McDonnell's credit, she does discuss selective tenure problems on various reservations, but this often reads as a recitation of data.

As a new contribution to the history of Indian land tenure, this slim volume offers readers a strong indictment of the allotment process and tries to set the record straight. Thus, perhaps, it will enable scholars to move on to assess more recent policies and events in Indian affairs.

Imre Sutton

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The Cherokees: A Population History. By Russell Thornton, with the assistance of C. Matthew Snipp and Nancy Breen. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. 237 pages. \$35.00 cloth.

Throughout the United States, men and women identify themselves as having "some degree of Cherokee lineage," largely because somewhere in their past they have a "Cherokee grandmother." This phenomenon and many others associated with the population history of the Cherokee people is discussed in detail in this fascinating book by Russell Thornton. Drawing on statistics collected by the United States, Cherokee tribes, and scholars, the author has assembled a study focusing on a wide range of topics, including creation, land occupation, disease, war, removal, and relocation. The question of population decline, stability, and increase from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries is the continual theme of the book, with heavy emphasis on the last two centuries when data was preserved by the government. Like Thornton's other scholarly works, *The Cherokees: A Population History* offers much more than statistics. It provides a way of thinking about American Indian history that is often missed in traditional historical accounts of the Cherokee.

Thornton concentrates on population, offering new perspectives on the Cherokee while dealing with well-known topics of the Cherokee past. For example, he offers an enlightening chapter on Cherokee removal, providing eyewitness accounts by Indians and non-Indians, as well as statistical data such as the Cherokee census of 1808 collected by Colonel Return J. Meigs. Thornton weaves

together a lengthy and thorough discussion of the removal era based on the works of Henry Dobyns, James Mooney, Douglas Vbelaker, and many others. He examines the question of mixed-bloods and full-bloods, slaves and free African-Americans, and Eastern and Western Cherokee. Significantly, he argues that there is no way of knowing how many Cherokee died in the forced removal and tragic relocation of the Cherokee to Indian Territory. Thornton offers a historiographical essay detailing the numbers of Cherokee deaths according to other authorities—estimated at approximately four hundred—but concludes that no one can accurately determine the number of deaths due to “disease, starvation, cold, hardship, deliberate killings, and accidents.” He emphasizes that population decline during the removal period did not end with the Trail of Tears but continued in the late 1830s and early 1840s as the Cherokee attempted to survive in Indian Territory. This area of work deserves another thorough study to expand on that which is offered here.

Thornton traces the Cherokee factions from the South into Indian Territory and fully develops the theme in dealing with the Civil War. Stand Watie’s group of pro-Confederate Cherokee is examined, as well as those people led by John Ross. In addition, he presents an excellent discussion of the emergence and development of the Keetoowaks as a secret society devoted to the preservation of traditional Cherokee ways. The group advocated for the full-bloods who opposed the policies and direction of many mixed-bloods, the Blue Lodge, and the Knights of the Golden Circle. Thornton draws on his own family’s history throughout the book. For example, he uses an interview of Wallace Thornton taken in 1937 by the Works Project Administration, dealing with the family’s experiences during the Civil War. The document details the forced conscription of Watt Thornton into the Confederate army in spite of his objection to the war, slavery, and the Confederacy. Thornton goes on to discuss the affects of the Civil War and its aftermath on the Cherokee people, including members of his own family. This is another moving segment of this population history.

The chapters addressing the Cherokee population from 1900 to 1980 and the people today provide a great deal of insight that ties the past to the present. Of particular interest is Thornton’s analysis of the 1980 census, which indicated that of the 1,366,676 Americans who identified themselves as Indians, 232,344, or 17 percent, self-identified as Cherokee. Thornton details the problems inherent in

this data, including the questions of tribal enrollment, dispersement of the population, and the implications of these statistics. However, he handles the material in a masterful manner, writing an authoritative study that will be of use to scholars, general readers, and Indian people. This is an important book which should be read by anyone interested in Native American history and culture.

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Native American Estate: The Struggle over Indian and Hawaiian Lands. By Linda Parker. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1989. 260 pages. \$24.00 cloth.

On 28 August 1807, President Thomas Jefferson wrote to Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, instructing him to prepare for war with Indians who refused to submit to their removal. In brutal terms, Jefferson said the Indians should be told plainly that "if ever we are constrained to lift the hatchet against any tribe, we will never lay it down till that tribe is exterminated, or driven beyond the Mississippi" (Richard Drinnon, *Facing West*, p. 96).

Some forty years later, seventy thousand southern Indians had been killed or removed from their homes, leaving only a few thousand in the mountains and swamps. Among these tribes, the Cherokee suffered the liquidation of over half their nation: forty-five hundred died in the last large-scale removal under President Martin Van Buren. The Creek, like many of their brethren, succumbed to starvation, disease, and exposure. They, too, died by the thousands in both war and forced marches. And the Seminole suffered a fierce but losing war to genocidal American designs (Michael Rogin, *Fathers and Children*, p. 206).

According to Michael Rogin, chronicler of Andrew Jackson's lifelong campaigns of extermination against the Indians, "Violent rage marked Jackson's prepresidential Indian relations . . ." But removal, those agonizing journeys west, characterized his presidential Indian policy. More prolonged and cruel than war, removal allowed the Jacksonians special opportunities: Indians were given contaminated rations, including bad drinking water and rancid meat; they were ill-clothed through freezing winters; they were forced through areas where diseases like cholera and measles were raging; they were preyed upon by local settlers, sheriffs, and