“the West was a wide open and largely uninhabited region removed from aristocratic restraint,” yet they “struggled to integrate the Hispanics and Hispanic culture of the Southwest into their accounts” (pp. 19, 18). In the next chapter, Jaehn returns to their economic contributions by demonstrating how German merchants transformed New Mexico’s village economies by bringing them into the capitalistic world. He then analyzes attempts to foster a German identity through the preservation of “kultur” (particularly in the artist colonies of Santa Fe and Taos) that had “little sensitivity to the region’s [native] cultures” (p. 126).

Jaehn’s study moves inexorably to the defining era of World War I and the national distrust of the German community that came with it. While he points out the baseless accusations that affected Germans in the state, Jaehn notes that the prejudice was less severe in New Mexico than in other states. However, because immigration ended with the war, the period remained a turning point for the state’s German community, and Jaehn ends his study there.

In *Germans in the Southwest*, Jaehn provides an impressive contribution to understanding immigration patterns and the life of minority populations on the frontier. His book deserves serious consideration by those seeking to understand the immigrant experience and those who are interested in the complex history of race relations in the American West.

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**Blackfoot Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri**

**John G. Lepley**


Blackfoot Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri is a pictorial and narrative history of the nineteenth-century fur trade on the northern Great Plains. General readers may enjoy this well-illustrated account—and they are clearly the book’s primary audience. Nevertheless, the book suffers from serious flaws.

**Blackfoot Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri**’s most problematic aspect is its dated and oversimplified interpretation of Blackfoot and plains history, evident in the value-laden language Lepley uses to describe the Blackfoot (and other Indians) and their American counterparts. He describes the Blackfoot as aggressive before their contact with the Americans and then as drunks afterward, while portraying the Americans as at first heroic and later exploitive. Lepley continually reduces significant events to heroism and debauchery. For example, in 1831 the American Fur Company brokered a peace agreement between itself, the Assiniboines, and the Blackfoot to establish trade on the upper Missouri. This complex episode dramatically affected the economic and political relationships in the region. The fur company took about a year to negotiate this agreement by following the cultural protocols and diplomatic procedures of both tribes. Blackfoot diplomacy at the time involved assessing their own interests before making allegiances with other groups. Both the Blackfoot and Assiniboines agreed that allowing the Americans to trade within Indian territory under their watchful eyes was in their best interest. Lepley, though, reduces this episode to heroic Americans entering “the country of the hostile Blackfoot,” proceeding to get the Blackfoot drunk on “Indian whiskey,” and then “abandoning” the post rich with furs (pp. 85–91).

Central to the narrative, and what should be the most worthwhile aspect of the book, are the many historic images by Gustavus Sohon, Karl Bodmer, Charles M. Russell, and others. Unfortunately, these visual documents are placed alongside an artist’s renditions of people, places, and events without adequate documentary information or dates, leaving the readers to interpret them on their own. The portraits of Blackfoot leaders that Gustavus Sohon drew at Judith Landing on the Missouri River in 1855 are powerful images that tell a real history of a people at
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a particular place and time. Yet they lose their power to provide detailed historic evidence when placed helter-skelter throughout the book next to the imagined story of a modern artist.

General readers interested in the fur trade and early Montana history, then, should read this book critically and carefully. The evidence does not always point in the direction Lepley takes it. School-aged children should not read this book; the value-laden language will prove too prejudicial. Scholars will not find new information on the fur trade here. Those scholars interested in a more nuanced interpretation of eighteen- and nineteenth-century Blackfoot history should consult the work of contemporary historian Theodore Binema.

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**Goodbye, Judge Lynch**

**THE END OF A LAWLESS ERA**

**IN WYOMING'S BIG HORN BASIN**

**John W. Davis**

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2005. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. xiii + 266 pp. $32.95 cloth.

In _Goodbye, Judge Lynch_, historian and practicing attorney John W. Davis summarizes the evolution of law and order in Wyoming’s Bighorn Basin, focusing on two cases as a means of assessing how criminal justice matured in the early 1900s. In terms of their notoriety and complexity, Davis chose the two cases very well. The first is a 1902 case in which rancher Jim Gorman was charged in the murder of his brother Tom. Apparently, Tom suspected his younger brother of dalliances with his wife, an argument ensued, and Jim killed Tom with a hatchet. In the end, the jury found Jim Gorman guilty of manslaughter. Even though the sentence seemed lenient to most viewers, the defense decided to appeal the conviction.

Gorman must have been stunned at the result of the second trial. This time the jury found him guilty of first-degree murder and he was sentenced to hang. While awaiting appeal, he shared a Big Horn County jail cell with Joseph Walters, also awaiting appeal of a murder conviction. To protect the two prisoners from a rumored lynch mob, the sheriff and his deputies decided to move them to a nearby canyon. En route, however, Jim Gorman escaped. Several days later, he was recaptured and returned, with Walters, back to the jail cell in Basin. That evening a mob descended on the jail, killing both Walters and Gorman. A young deputy sheriff also died in the melee.

The second case Davis discusses involved a confrontation in which cowboys raided a sheep camp and killed three sheepmen. In an unprecedented action, the cowboys involved were identified and brought to trial. Remembering