

architects. The book is notable not only for its important content, but its handsome production. The crisp text, the wealth of historic and contemporary photographs, and its attractive layout make it an informative and enjoyable piece of scholarship. ❁

Bookcase

Historic Contact: Indian People and Colonists in Today's Northeastern United States in the Sixteenth through Eighteenth Centuries

by Robert S. Grumet

Norman, Ok: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. Pp. 514. Foreword, preface, introduction, bibliography, index, illustrations, figures, maps. \$47.50 hardcover.

Using a diverse array of archeological, ethnographic, and historical sources, anthropologist Robert S. Grumet offers an insightful and thorough analysis of contact between Native Americans and Europeans along the colonial frontier. The book examines contact from Maine to Virginia, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Upper Ohio River Valley.

Grumet divides *Historic Contact* into three sections, by region: the North Atlantic, the Middle Atlantic, and the Trans-Appalachian. Each section opens with a lengthy overview, and then delves into specific chapters: for example, the Niagara-Erie Frontier or the Powhatan Country. These chapters closely examine intercultural contact and its ramifications among the Native Americans and European participants. The Upper Ohio Country chapter covers Western Pennsylvania's archeological finds, though earlier sites like the Meadowcroft Rockshelter are absent due to their age. Otherwise, this comprehensive guide to the many diverse cultures is an invaluable resource for those researching Native Americans or colonial history. — Gary Pollock, *Museum Division* ❁

1676: The End of American Independence

by Stephen Saunders Webb

Reprint: Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1996. Pp. 440. New preface, preface, introduction, index, maps, illustrations. \$17.95 paperback.

The American colonies first asserted their political independence in the 1630s, and were mostly governing themselves for the quarter century before 1676. But plagues, Indian insurrection, and civil war that year found the oppressive colonial oligarchies too unresponsive to overcome the disease, natives, social immaturity, and rival empires. Wars alone wiped out an entire generation of settlement and decimated capital investments — some suggest that average levels of welfare did not recover until 1815! Many colonists, tired of the ruling elites, either chose the English empire or had it forced on them.

This work concentrates on two of 1676's most tragic episodes: Bacon's Rebellion (or Revolution, as author Webb calls it) centered in the Chesapeake area of Virginia, and King Philip's War in New England. Virginia's troubles developed when the western Iroquois

nations pushed the Susquehanna Indians south to the Potomac. When the colony was slow to respond, a local militia was raised. The combat turned into a fight against the colonial government and grew to include every class and race. King Philip's War was really a widespread resistance movement by the Algonquin Indians. King Philip, an Indian so-named for his adoption of English customs, equipped his men with guns and armor, but the colonists overwhelmed him with superior numbers and the massacre of non-warriors. It became the most destructive war in American history, at least in proportion to population.

Both events left the structures of American autonomy fractured, with the colonists wanting for physical protection and civil and economic order. The English crown stepped in and employed the same forceful measures it had just used to take control of the three British kingdoms.

In his new preface, Webb states, "In 1676, as contrasted to 1776, the royal response to an assertion of American independence was swift, overwhelming, and constructive.... [resulting in] a hundred years of royal rule and Anglicization, the imperial period of American history." However, these events also sowed the ideological seeds and imperial hatreds that would culminate in the revolution of 1776. — Brian Butko ❁

Our Priceless Heritage: Pennsylvania State Parks, 1893-1993.

by Dan Cupper

Harrisburg: PHMC, 1993. Pp. 70. Foreword, introduction, index. \$12.95 paperback.

The Legacy of Penn's Woods: A History of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, 1895-1995

by Lester A. DeCoster

Harrisburg: PHMC, 1995. Pp. 96. Foreword, introduction, tables, appendix. \$12.95 paperback.

These companion volumes offer concise histories of two often overlooked subjects: state parks and state forests. Issued for their respective centennials, the books follow the stories chronologically, mixing in numerous historic photos. The books look similar, their brown and green duotone/accent colors being one of the main distinctions.

Cupper traces the parks from their forestry roots to the first park at Valley Forge, the CCC camps, and environmental action programs. Sidebars introduce some very interesting park rangers and campers. DeCoster follows the winding story of forests from virgin timber to extensive logging to more recent conservation efforts. He also profiles many of the men and women who contributed to the legacy of the state forests.

Both fields trace their early efforts to the protection of resources from the onslaught of 18th century industrialization. It was part of a wider awareness, but one that took root slowly. Pennsylvania's greatest era of state park expansion came in the 1950s and '60s. Today, there are 114 parks hosting 37 million visitors each year, while state forests encompass 2.1 million acres.