

Review

Author(s): Kenneth C. Carstens

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work Martin performed for his presidential candidates. Before a candidate's whistle-stop speech, Martin used his reportorial skills to interview local residents, divine important local issues, and then provide essential briefing sheets for the campaign. He later trained other speechwriters in the same skills. In another context, Boomhower allows Martin to describe how, as an ambassador, before official functions he and his staff "would meet in the study and divide up the guests—who would talk to whom, what we were trying to find out, whom we were trying to influence." (p. 211) Such details add up to a picture of a meticulous man who succeeded in all of his work through determination and grit. The same grit was manifest even on Martin's vacations. He spent every summer in an unadorned cabin in Michigan's isolated Upper Peninsula, where he provided as many of his own and his family's necessities as possible.

The book flags somewhat just as Martin himself does. During the 1972 McGovern campaign, Martin complained about the long-hairs stealing his equipment. As a professor, he lamented students' atrocious work, and as a political observer he fretted about the new science of polling and its detrimental effects on politics. Martin admitted he sometimes sounded like an "old grouch," and the reader has to concur. (p. 311) Readers could also quibble perhaps about some choices of organization and anecdote, but such complaints can only be secondary in such a strong piece of work. This book offers important insights for students of journalism, the media, presidential campaigns, and foreign affairs. On the whole, Boomhower keeps Martin's story lively and moving, and he handles each aspect of it with economy and grace. Martin would have been proud.

Judge Glock
Rutgers University

William Heath. *William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. Pp. 499. Illustrations, Index. Notes. Cloth: \$34.95.

The story of William Wells is not necessarily unique if one is simply interested in learning about how a young adolescent on the eighteenth-century Kentucky frontier was captured and adopted by Native Americans of the Miami and Delaware nations. Nor is it unique that Wells eventually returned to his white world of Kentucky, fighting his former

Native brethren. What is unique is the ability of William Heath to capture, in some instances, a day-by-day history of Wells, and, in doing so, he unravels an unbelievable warp and weft of an American story that rivals one Hollywood might create. But Wells' story is true; it is the dynamic and exciting tale of a man caught between two worlds. Heath has demonstrated, through extraordinarily detailed research, that Wells' life was also humiliating, humbling, and tragic. Wells lost his parents at an early age and was subsequently adopted by an important, yet despicable, white man, William Pope. After being captured by the Miamis, Wells was given the name 'Wild Carrot' (*Apekonit*) due to his red hair. Several years later, after completing his vision quest as a 'white Indian' among the Miami, Wells was renamed 'Blacksnake' "suggesting young William Wells had displayed the serpent's honored attributes of keen sight, sagacity, skilled hunting, quickness and elusiveness" (p. 61). Wells crossed paths with all of the 'who's who' of the western Great Lakes and trans-Appalachian West including John Floyd, George Rogers Clark, John Johnson, Little Turtle, Blue Jacket, Henry Knox, Tecumseh, William Henry Harrison, Rufus Putnam, Anthony Wayne, and even President Adams. Wells was instrumental as a negotiator for both Natives and whites in a time when "interpreters, as cultural brokers between white and Indian worlds, were central to forest diplomacy. . . . (They were the) linchpins of the peace process" (p. 225).

The irony of Wells' life, and his death, was that he was a man respected and yet despised, revered and yet diminished, by both members of his own culture and his Native brothers. Torn between white and Native allegiances, Wells fought both, and sought both, while seeking an identity. When Wells died, it was in a manner fitting his personality and divided loyalties ironically while leading a party of doomed civilians away from Fort Dearborn (Chicago), killed at the hands of Native Americans.

Heath's remarkable research about William Wells is a must-read, a detailed and fully documented account of a remarkable life. Heath rightly argues Wells deserves to be a better known part of the story of the Ohio Valley frontier, from both the Indian and American points of view. His detailed accounting of Wells' life, and the historical context of the 1790s through the turn of the next century, has to be one of the best histories of the "Indian War era" to date.

Kenneth C. Carstens
Director, Institute of Frontier History and Archaeology
Murray, Kentucky