
In this volume, insights into American Indian ethnicity are presented through synopses of the lives of eight individuals. Analyses of these lives exhibit dimensions of family and kinship ties, cultural traditions, acculturation vis-a-vis the dominant society, and personal choices. The eight lives selected provide some balance in terms of geography, tribal affiliation, and gender (five men and three women). Five of the individuals were born in the 1850s and 1860s and died between 1915 and 1947; one person lived from 1811 to 1875; another from 1880 to 1949; the eighth, still living, was born in 1937.

The lives summarized are all outstanding: extraordinary in both their traditional cultures and contemporary society. Maris Bryant Pierce (Seneca) was an early activist for Iroquois property rights in the face of mid-nineteenth century “removal” policies. Nampeyo (Hopi-Tewa) catapulted traditional pottery making into the cottage industry and fine art that it is today. Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte (Omaha) was the first Indian woman doctor of medicine. Minnie Kellogg (Oneida) was a proponent of Indian self-determination, anticipating many goals of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Henry Chee Dodge (Navajo) served as his tribe’s first English interpreter and chaired its first tribal council formed as a result of the I.R.A. Charles Curtis (Kaw-Osage) was a lawyer and is the only American Indian to have served as a U.S. Vice President — under Herbert Hoover. Luther Standing Bear (Teton Sioux) is known for his authorship of several books including My People the Sioux and Land of the Spotted Eagle. Peterson Zah (Navajo) was elected to his current tribal chairmanship in 1982.

Each of these individuals reached an equilibrium between traditional values and those of the dominant society. For those people presently studying or teaching in ethnic studies, the editors of this volume point out instructively that the eight Native Americans considered “...did not live in two worlds, but in one world of great complexity that challenged, sustained, and sometimes destroyed them, but never removed their 'Indianness.'” This book handily supplements the discussion of American Indian men and women in Margot Liberty's American Indian Intellectuals. The latter book includes a summary of the life of Francis LaFlesche, brother of Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte; on this basis, one can look at aspects of familial enculturation as well as the process of acculturation. Indian Lives can also be used effectively in conjunction with published studies of Indian females (American Indian Women Telling Their Lives by Gretchen Bataille and Kathleen Sands), Indian males
Indian artists of both genders (This Song Remembers: Self-Portraits of Native Americans in the Arts by Jane Katz), or the increasingly large number of autobiographies and biographies of Native Americans. All of these sources focus on ethnicity at a personal level which can complement — and, perhaps, even be more comprehensible than — ethnographic descriptions and abstract theoretical treatises.

Adding to the attractiveness and utility of Indian Lives are a thoughtful introductory chapter, photographs of the Indian individuals discussed, succinct headnotes, extensive documentary footnotes, and an index. Each chapter also has an essay on published and archival sources which will assist scholars who wish to study further the lives of these particular Native Americans in pursuit of better understanding ethnicity and the matter of individual ethnic identities.

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In The Process of Counseling and Therapy Moursund encapsulates the principles and concepts of counseling and therapy that transcend sexism and ethnic barriers. The book can be identified as a therapeutic dictionary, guide, or much needed tool for the counselor and therapist, a basic guide that is tantamount to a carpenter’s tool box or a chef’s cook-book. It provides guidelines and helpful hints which aid in finding resolutions to roadblocks and confusion that often occur in the process of counseling and therapy.

Moursund’s brilliant writing style is concise and direct. The reader need not muddle through page after page, chapter after chapter, to find a solution to a problem area. The reading is fluent and smooth and provides examples relevant to the issue, stimulating the reader to continue reading.

This book is excellent for the beginning counselor or therapist but also for the most experienced. It provides checks and balances to validate one’s process. The book covers all the basic forms of therapy: individual, group, marital, and career counseling.