Review of *Cheyenne Dog Soldiers: A Ledgerbook History of Coups and Combat* By Jean Afton, David Fridtjof Halaas, Andrew E. Masich, with Richard N. Ellis

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On 11 July 1869, the Fifth Cavalry attacked and destroyed Tall Bull’s camp at Summit Springs, Colorado. A ledgerbook of Cheyenne drawings found in the village depicts a number of Cheyenne Dog Soldier exploits during the 1860s. The book passed from one of the troopers to a railroad surveyor named Ira LaMunyon. In 1903 LaMunyon donated the book, as part of his personal library and collections, to the Colorado Historical and Natural History Society, where it remained, mostly unnoticed, for the next ninety years.

Jean Afton, wife of LaMunyon’s great grandson, took an interest in the ledgerbook and involved a number of professionals and Cheyennes in identifying and interpreting the drawings. The list of Cheyennes in the acknowledgments reads like a who’s who of traditional and ceremonial leaders. Missing from the list, however, is Sherman Goose, who worked closely with Jean Afton on the material in 1993.

The drawings, done by a number of Dog Soldier artists, depict several individual actions and feats. The authors identify many of these and provide excellent detail and background history surrounding the events. They conclude that the ledgerbook drawings portray the history of the Dog Soldiers between about 1864 and 1869, just prior to the book’s capture at Summit Springs. A great deal is presented about the material and spiritual culture of the Dog Soldiers during this period and about the artists who prepared the drawings.

The quality and color of the prints are exceptional and well worth the volume’s price. Moreover, the representations of Dog Soldier feats and the accompanying history are valuable research material for the student of Cheyenne history and Plains Indian warfare. This reviewer’s copy has since been passed along to Cheyenne historians.

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