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Review of *Colonel Richard Irving Dodge: The Life and Times of a Career Army Officer* By Wayne R. Kime

Charles Robinson
South Texas College

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Richard Irving Dodge was a soldier and author whose diaries and published works on the Great Plains have served as primary sources for many years. Four of Dodge’s Great Plains journals were edited for publication by Wayne R. Kime, who now caps that achievement with a long-awaited biography.

As Kime notes in his introduction, reprints of Dodge’s works during the twentieth century maintained his reputation as an author, “but the facts of his military career were all but forgotten.” In Colonel Richard Irving Dodge: The Life and Times of a Career Army Officer, he has successfully resurrected Dodge’s military career.

Kime details Dodge’s experiences as a young lieutenant in antebellum Texas, where he first developed the interest in Indian life and culture that ultimately led to the publication of his two most famous works, The Plains of the Great West and Their Inhabitants in 1877 and Our Wild Indians in 1882. This lays the groundwork for contrasting Dodge in the antebellum and post-Civil War eras as well as conditions on the Plains during those two periods.

As a young lieutenant fresh from the East who’d read the novels of James Fennimore Cooper, his head was filled with romantic notions that were soon dispelled by reality. The frontier itself was in a state of rapid develop-