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Review of *The Moccasin Speaks: Living as Captives of the Dog Soldier Warriors, Red River War, 1874 - 1875*, by Arlene Feldmann Jauken.

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The Moccasin Speaks: Living as Captives of the Dog Soldier Warriors, Red River War, 1874-1875. By Arlene Feldmann Jauken. Lincoln, NE: Dageforde Publishing, 1998. Photographs, illustrations, notes, works cited, index. x + 283 pp. \$24.95.

It was family pride that initially caused Arlene Jauken of southeast Nebraska to begin to research the life of her great-grandmother Sophie, one of four daughters of John German, an unfortunate pioneer who was murdered, along with three others in his family, on 11 September 1874, only a day's travel from the safety of Fort Wallace, Kansas. Almost immediately Jauken found that Sophie's story was inseparable from that of the other German girls whose lives were spared: seventeen-year-old Catherine, ransomed with twelve-year-old Sophie in March of 1875, and Julia and Addie, aged seven and five respectively, who were both rescued by daring army scouts in November 1874. This book is the result of Jauken's six years of research on her family's often mentioned but seldom understood role in the Red River War of 1874-75.

Since Jauken is careful to state she is no professional historian, her several digressions, particularly those delving more deeply into family background than seems necessary, may readily be forgiven. Yet she also raises and answers several good questions that professional historians have overlooked for nearly 125 years. How can it be, Jauken asks, that historians have failed to recognize the correlation between the military conduct of the Red River War and the intense desire by campaign commanders Nelson Miles and John Pope to recover four young girls who suddenly became a public symbol of Indian barbarism? And why have scholars neglected the devastation that Grey Beard needlessly inflicted on his Cheyenne tribesmen by steadfastly refusing to release Sophia and Catherine even though the surrender of his tribe was inevitable?

To answer these questions Jauken has worked diligently in both primary and sec-

ondary sources. Not the least of her achievements is the wide variety of sources she uses—including contemporary newspaper articles, military reports, private letters, later-day family letters, and unpublished memoirs—to recreate what life was like for a white captive within a besieged Indian band. Another of Jauken's contributions to the study of the Red River War is a series of informative notes regarding the controversies over the exact location of the German family murder and the probable spot where the dramatic rescue of the two younger girls took place. Finally, she has assembled a wonderful portfolio of historic photographs on the German sisters. Some of the classic histories of the Southern Plains Indian wars, this reviewer suspects, might read a bit differently if the authors of earlier books had been as attentive as Jauken proves to be to the German sisters' story.

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