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Review of Without Quarter: The Wichita Expedition and the Fight on Crooked Creek, Fort Meade and the Black Hills, and Yellowstone Command: Colonel Nelson A. Miles and the Great Sioux War 1876-1877.

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Illustrations, epilogue, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. xi + 321 pp. \$40.00.

Yellowstone Command: Colonel Nelson A. Miles and the Great Sioux War 1876-1877. By Jerome A. Greene. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. xv + 333 pp. \$35.00.

All of these books share the fact that not only do they deal with the Plains Indian military frontier but also that their subjects have had relatively little written about them. They differ widely, however, in scope and depth of research.

Without Quarter merits interest because few in depth studies have explored the military campaigns organized against the Comanches in the late 1850s. Responding to Texan demands for action, the army launched a series of punitive expeditions that tracked the Comanches to their remotest camps. One such excursion wiped out a small Comanche camp on Crooked Creek near the Santa Fe Trail in western Kansas in April 1859. Civil War buffs will be especially intrigued by the heroics of such officers as Fitzhugh Lee, E. Kirby Smith, and Earl Van Doren, all destined for prominence in Confederate service. Despite its worthwhile subject and interesting participants, however, the book is thin in both scope and research. The account of the campaign itself takes up fewer than seventy pages, based largely on documents published in the *Annual Report of the Secretary of War* for 1859. Only by appending copies of the official correspondence pertaining to the expedition is a respectable length attained. Chalfant occasionally throws in archaic redundancies. Fitzhugh Lee is successively described as "a great and distinguished gentleman" (p. 58); "a generous, . . . great hearted gentleman" (p. 65); and as "a great gentleman . . . noted for . . . gallantry" (p. 109). True enough, perhaps, but it seems both an overkill and of marginal significance to a study of the campaign.

In sharp contrast *Yellowstone Command* is an exhaustive, heavily documented study of

Without Quarter: The Wichita Expedition and the Fight on Crooked Creek. By William Y. Chalfant. Foreword by Paul Andrew Hutton. Illustrations by Roy Grinnell. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. Epilogue, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. xiv + 170 pp. \$19.95.

Fort Meade and the Black Hills. By Robert Lee. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991.

what happened *after* the Little Big Horn. Colonel Nelson Miles, in Greene's convincing estimation, was both methodical and inspired. At the head of his veteran Fifth Infantrymen—many of them mounted—utilizing both Indian and white guides, employing artillery with great effect, and outfitting his men in buffalo-skin overcoats, he kept up a dogged campaign long after other officers such as Brigadier General George Crook had retired into winter quarters. His efforts, more than those of any other general, hounded the Sioux and Cheyennes into submission.

Greene competently synthesizes an imposing variety of sources, primary and secondary, to provide the definitive study of Miles' vital role in the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877. Not the least of his contributions are the description of the constant inter-officer rivalries and bickering involving Miles, Crook, Brigadier General Alfred Terry, and Colonel Wesley Merritt among others. The no-nonsense, fact-packed style of writing may turn off a few, but scholars will relish Greene's completeness and accuracy. *Yellowstone Command* is one of the most significant books on the Great Sioux War and is a welcome alternative to the endless procession of publications on Custer.

Fort Meade, South Dakota, was established in 1878 to protect the Black Hills settlements. Never to play a major role except during the Ghost Dance episode, it nevertheless remained in service until the end of the Second World War. Although much of its history, as reverently collected and presented by Robert Lee, is mainly of local interest, Lee's book is highly readable. As a professional newspaperman, Lee has a keen eye for the appealing. While not ignoring the details of the fort's founding and operation, he emphasizes the picturesque: Major Marcus Reno's downfall upon being smitten by the beautiful daughter of the post commander; the trial of a group of whites for the murder of an unoffending Sioux family; and problems between black infantrymen stationed at the post and local citizens. Occasionally Lee goes off on a tangent such as a lengthy recapitulation of the background of

the Ghost Dance outbreak, but overall *Fort Meade* is an above average addition to the growing number of post histories.

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