

Fall 2007

## Book Notes- Fall 2007

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## BOOK NOTES

*Marching with the First Nebraska: A Civil War Diary.* By August Scherneckau. Edited by James E. Potter and Edith Robbins. Translated by Edith Robbins. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. xxxi + 335 pp. Map, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$34.95.

August Scherneckau's diary presents a view of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi theater through the eyes of a German immigrant serving with the First Nebraska volunteers from 1862 through 1865.

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*The Life of Yellowstone Kelly.* By Jerry Keenan. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. xxi + 377 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.

Army scout, explorer, Indian agent, gold prospector, and family man, Luther "Yellowstone" Kelly earned his name scouting for the U.S. Army along the Yellowstone River. Independent historian Jerry Keenan's biography includes Kelly's exploits in the Great Plains.

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*Washita Memories: Eyewitness Views of Custer's Attack on Black Kettle's Village.* Compiled and edited by Richard G. Hardorff. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. xvii + 474 pp. Maps, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.

In November 1868 the U.S. Cavalry under Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer attacked a peaceful Southern Cheyenne village along the Washita River in present-day western Oklahoma. Richard G. Hardorff presents a range of views of the Washita battle through firsthand testimonies by both Indians and whites, each accompanied by an introduction

and extensive annotation. A general introduction and fourteen historical maps are also included.

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*Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.* By Donovan Arleigh Sprague. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007. 127 pp. Photographs, resources, index. \$19.99 paper.

Donovin Arleigh Sprague offers a collection of nearly two hundred images of people and events connected with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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*The Papers of Will Rogers. Volume Five: The Final Years August 1928-August 1935.* Edited by Steven K. Gragert and M. Jane Johansson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. xxiii + 683 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95.

Through transcripts of radio broadcasts, business documents, and nearly two hundred telegrams to family, friends, and notable figures, this final volume of *The Papers of Will Rogers* follows the career of the popular Oklahoma entertainer during the height of his fame to his death and beyond.

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*On the Drafting of Tribal Constitutions.* By Felix S. Cohen. Edited by David E. Wilkins. Foreword by Lindsay G. Robertson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. xxxii + 200 pp. Appendixes, selected bibliography, index. \$34.95.

Felix Cohen, who assisted John Collier in drafting the New Deal's Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, formulated his "Basic Memorandum

on Drafting of Tribal Constitutions” that same year. David E. Wilkins’s introduction and editing highlight what Cohen’s “Memorandum” reveals about the thinking of federal officials regarding Indiana policy at the time.

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*Road, River, and Ol’ Boy Politics: A Texas County’s Path from Farm to Supersuburb.* By Linda Scarbrough. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 2005. xi + 404 pp. Maps, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.

Linda Scarbrough examines Williamson County, Texas, just north of Austin, and what happens when a diverse agricultural economy is transformed through large-scale public works projects into a homogeneous supersuburb dependent on computers and other high-technology products. It becomes a cautionary tale about adequately planning for all the environmental, economic, and cultural effects of large public works projects.

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*Literary Austin.* Edited by Don Graham. Fort Worth, TX: TCU Press, 2007. xv + 461 pp. Bibliography, index. \$29.50 cloth, \$17.95 paper.

Editor Don Graham’s collection showcases literary responses to the history, color, and character of Texas’s capital city. Included are essays, fiction, and poetry by such writers as O. Henry, J. Frank Dobie, Larry McMurtry, Molly Ivins, Walter P. Webb, and many others.

*Kearney.* By Mark R. Ellis and Heather E. Stauffer. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006. 127 pp. Photographs. \$19.99 paper.

The images in this pictorial history of Kearney, Nebraska, are largely drawn from the A. T. Anderson and John Stryker collections housed at the Trails and Rails Museum and at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The authors’ selections highlight Kearney’s growth from small railroad town to educational and commercial center in central Nebraska.

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*Stone Church: A Prairie Parable.* By Gene Wunderlich. Minot, ND: Swedish Heritage Society of North Dakota, 2007. viii + 58 pp. Map, photographs, endnotes, sources. \$9.95 paper.

Gene Wunderlich tells the story of early Swedish settlers constructing a house of worship in the harsh environment of northern North Dakota. More than a century after its construction it still stands as a monument to the skills of its builders.

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*Picturing the Past: South Dakota’s Historic Places.* By Jay D. Vogt and Stephen C. Rogers. Photographs by Scott Myers. Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2006. 107 pp. Photographs, index. \$29.95.

The memories and history of South Dakota’s historic buildings are captured in seventy-eight vivid black-and-white photographs by Scott Myers. Authors Jay D. Vogt and Stephen C. Rogers give context and relevance to the buildings and places pictured here.