
BOOK NOTES

Groundwater Foundation. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. 95 pages, cloth \$34.95.)

With a foreword by Congressman Tom Osborne, the legendary Cornhusker football coach, and a brief essay by David Howe, *Rainmakers* contains ninety-five mostly full-color photographs of center pivot irrigation systems, the people who operate them, and the crops they make possible. It champions the value of this type of agriculture, praises its "efficient" use of the aquifer's water, and seeks "to convey the history and complexity of center pivots and how such technology has become an integral part of nourishing our world."

Dry Bones on the March: The Great Winfield Anti-Saloon Uprising of February 1901. By Jerry L. Wallace. (Winfield, Kans.: Cowley County Historical Society, 2006. 73 pages, paper \$7.00.)

Like many Kansas towns and cities, Winfield was rocked during the first weeks and months of 1901 by antisaloon violence inspired by Carry Nation's passionate prohibition campaign. In *Dry Bones on the March*, an article-length essay with extensive notes, appendixes, and bibliography, historian Jerry Wallace recounts the events and implications of the Winfield uprising, which, among the many such Kansas episodes, "stands out . . . because of its scope and intensity."

Hard Knocks: A Life Story of the Vanishing West. By Harry "Sam" Young. (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2005. xxvii + 249 pages, paper \$17.95.)

Originally published in 1915, *Hard Knocks* is Sam Young's "gritty memoir" of his life and travels throughout the late-nineteenth-century American West, mostly on or near the plains of Kansas and the Dakotas, and of his encounters with such legends of the Old West as Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. Although portions of his personal account are no doubt true, according to historian James D. McLaird who contributes a new introduction for this edition, "Young's fanciful tales about Hickok's shootings in Kansas . . . are demonstrably false," and much of the rest "contains exaggerations and errors." Nevertheless, "Young's contemporaries believed his stories were authentic," and they include "much information of value to historians."

Kansas Cemeteries in History. Edited by Albert N. Hamscher. (Manhattan, Kans.: KS Publishing, Inc., 2005. vvi + 115 pages, paper \$13.95.)

Cemeteries are "outdoor museum[s] fashioned in stone and bronze," observed Kansas State University professor Al Hamscher in the introduction to his collection of four previously published articles. "As is the case with any museum, the artifacts it contains provide insights into the collective attitudes and values of generations past." *Kansas Cemeteries in History* contains four fine examples of how these artifacts can be expertly interpreted—three of the four were first published in *Kansas History*.

In addition to Professor Hamscher, whose "'Scant Excuse for the Headstone': The Memorial-Park Cemetery in Kansas" appeared in our journal's summer 2002 issue, contributors are Jerry Moore, Cynthia Blaker, and Grant Smith, "Cherished are the Dead: Changing Social Dimensions in a Kansas Cemetery"; Cathy Ambler, "A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement"; and Nancy J. Volkman, "Landscape Architecture on the Prairie: The Work of H. W. S. Cleveland."

The Diaries of John Gregory Bourke: Vol. Two, July 29, 1876–April 7, 1878. Edited and annotated by Charles M. Robinson III. (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2005. xi + 530 pages, cloth \$55.00.)

Readers interested in military history will no doubt be eager to see this second in a planned six-volume set of *John Gregory Bourke* diaries. As aide-de-camp to Brigadier General George Crook, Bourke writes of the infamous Horse Meat March, the Powder River Expedition, the Dull Knife Fight, and more in the portions of his diaries reprinted and expertly annotated in this volume.

No One Ever Asked Me: The World War II Memoirs of an Omaha Indian Soldier. By Hollis D. Stabler, edited by Victoria Smith. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. xvii + 185 pages, cloth \$24.95.)

In the introduction to *No One Ever Asked Me*, "editor-collector" Victoria Smith, an assistant professor of history and Native American studies at the University of Nebraska, introduces the reader to Hollis Stabler, a "much beloved and popular elder of the Omaha Nation" and veteran of the Second World War, who spent part of his youth in Lawrence and Wichita, Kansas. What follows is primarily Stabler's wartime memoir; "as to whether this collaborative biography is the story of an Indian who was a soldier, or of a soldier who was an Indian," writes Professor Smith, "I will let the reader decide. Hollis would probably say he was both."

General James G. Blunt: Tarnished Glory. By Robert Collins. (Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Co., 2005. 192 pages, cloth \$23.00.)

Of limited value to professional historians due to its brevity and lack of source citations (it does contain a brief bibliography), author Robert Collins's "popular" biography of James G. Blunt, a truly fascinating and significant early Kansas character, will be of interest to some of the journal's readers and to Kansas Civil War buffs. Military historians especially may take exception with some of the author's characterizations of Blunt's martial activities, but few books are error free and perhaps this one will inspire scholarly studies of the fascinating life and times of the state's first (and only Civil War era) major general.