BOOK REVIEW


Hundreds of books and magazine articles have been written on our wars and peaceful relations with the Plains Indians during the Civil War and for some twenty years after its close. For the four or five year period just preceding that conflict, however, little on that subject had appeared in print until the publication of this book. Yet it was a most significant period, for the reopening of the Santa Fe trade and the gold discoveries in the area about Pikes Peak had set in motion an enormous migration of people across the Plains, some seeking opportunities for trade, but the vast majority attracted by the lure of gold. As a result conflict with the Indians was inevitable.

The text of this volume is divided into three parts. Part I, "The Campaigns Against the Cheyennes, 1857," consists of 138 pages; Part II, "Relations with the Plains Indians, 1858 and 1859," has only 30 pages while Part III, "Campaigns and Negotiations, 1860," contains 108 pages.

War with the Cheyennes had broken out in 1856, and early in 1857 Colonel Edwin V. Sumner, stationed at Fort Leavenworth in command of the First Cavalry, received orders to make a campaign against them. In order to cover more territory, Sumner ordered Major Sedgwick to take four companies of cavalry and march southwest to the Arkansas River and up that stream to the Rocky Mountains. He should then turn north to the South Platte River where Sumner and his command would meet him. Sedgwick started on May 18, and two days later, Sumner, with two cavalry companies marched northwest toward Fort Kearny on the Platte River. Upon reaching that post, he picked up two companies of dragoons and continued up the Platte to Fort Laramie.

He had received orders to detach the dragoons and leave them at Fort Kearny to join the Utah Expedition, but since he was far beyond Fort Kearny and near Fort Laramie when this order came, he left them at the latter post. With his two companies of cavalry reinforced by three companies of the Sixth
Infantry, he then marched nearly due south to the South Platte where, early in July, he met Sedgwick's command. The united forces moved southeast and, July 29, fought a bitter battle with the Cheyennes near the South Fork of the Solomon River. In this action, two soldiers were killed and eight wounded, including Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart who was struck in the chest by a pistol ball. The Indians were defeated and the march southeast was continued to a point near the site of the present Dodge City. Here Sumner received orders to end the campaign and send Sedgwick with most of the troops to Fort Kearny to join the Utah Expedition, while he with two companies of cavalry returned to Fort Leavenworth. A complete account of Sumner's part in this campaign is given in his own reports and in the lengthy journal of G. P. Lowe in charge of his wagon train. The role played by Sedgwick's command before it joined Sumner appears in the recollections of one of his soldiers, R. M. Peck.

Part II, for 1858 and 1859, gives Sumner's short report of his march southwest to the Arkansas River with six companies of the First Cavalry, during which nothing of importance occurred. In addition, there are reports of Agents Robert C. Miller and Thomas S. Twiss, two reports by William W. Bent, of Bent's Fort, and the report of a treaty made by Twiss with the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and some bands of Sioux on September 18, 1859. All of these reports give a good account of the Indian situation on the Central Plains at that time.

Part III is devoted largely to relations with the Kiowas and Comanches. It consists of numerous letters and documents, including several letters of Major Sedgwick to his sister, as well as his official reports. To most readers, especially Oklahomans, the most interesting document in this part of the volume will be the official journal of the Sedgwick expedition, consisting of four companies of the First Cavalry from Fort Riley and two companies of dragoons from Fort Kearny. Sedwick left Fort Riley on May 15 and marched southwest through Kansas to the Oklahoma line. The command continued south past the site of the present Fort Supply, followed up Wolf Creek to the Texas border and turned north into Oklahoma Panhandle. It traversed this nearly to its western border, turned northeast to the Arkansas, crossed and followed its north bank into Colorado. Beyond Bent's new fort it swung southwest up the Purgatoire River for some distance, then north to Bent's Old Fort. From this point Lieutenant Stuart and Captain William Steele each with a small detachment were sent out to the north where they fought an engagement with the Kiowa, killing two and taking sixteen prisoners. They returned to the Fort and the entire expedition then followed down the Arkansas, to a point near the present site of Syracuse, Kansas, and turned north to a point beyond the Smoky Hill River and followed down it to Fort Riley.
Another campaign of interest to Oklahomans is that of Captain S. D. Sturgis since it consisted of six companies of the Sixth Cavalry detached from Forts Washita, Arbuckle, and Cobb. Early in June, the column started from the Canadian River to the Arkansas and then followed a hot trail of the Indians to a south branch of the Republican River. Here a sharp engagement was fought on August 6 in which 29 Indians were killed, with comparatively little loss to the soldiers. The campaign ended soon after.

The final section of the book deals with the establishment of Fort Wise, Colorado, later called Fort Lyon, and the Fort Wise treaty with the Cheyenne and Arapaho.

This is a good book which contributes much to our knowledge of Indian campaigns just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. It is tragic that men who had marched and fought together against Indians in 1860 should the following year be arrayed against one another in the bloody conflict of civil war. Sumner as Major General led one wing of McClellan's Army in the "Bloody Lane" at Antietam, and Sedgwick commanded the Fifth and Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac and was killed at Spotsylvania. Stuart, Lee's peerless cavalry leader, became a Major General in the Confederate Army and was killed at Yellow Tavern; Sturgis became a Major General in the Northern Army and served with distinction throughout the War. Steele became a Brigadier General of the Confederacy and early in 1863 was made Commander of Indian Territory Military District. Lieutenant John S. Marmaduke, in Sumner's 1857 campaign, became a Major General in the Confederate service, while numerous other officers referred to in this book as taking part in the Indian Wars from 1857 to 1860, attained high rank and served with distinction in either the Northern or Southern Armies during the Civil War.

—Edward Everett Dale

The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma


Often I hear the statement made of Abraham Lincoln. "His fame grows greater with the passing years." So far as I know he is the only mortal whoever lived who, in the eyes of men, grows in stature as the years roll onward instead of receding into the obscurity of the past.
And as his memory looms larger, remarks and episodes attributed to him grow in number. So numerous have these quotes become it is evident the man never lived long enough to make all the statements attributed to him and experience all the incidents ascribed to his life. So bad did this situation become, the average American was beginning to lose sight of the real Lincoln in the maze of inaccurate, incomplete and irresponsible articles and books written concerning him. At last a group of truly dedicated Lincoln scholars determined to do something about it. Edited by Roy P. Basler, Marion Dolores Bonzi Pratt and Lloyd A. Dunlap, *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, in eight volumes, was published in 1953 by the Abraham Lincoln Association and Rutgers University. Few of us can own this monumental work and fewer still have the time and desire to scan its wealth of material in search of the real Lincoln.

William E. Baringer, Professor of History at the University of Florida and Executive Director of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial has performed the task for us by gleaning the voluminous work and publishing a digest under the title of *The Philosophy of Abraham Lincoln*. Perusal of this delightful little book clearly reveals the reasons for the martyred President being so idolized a century after he passed from the stage.

In the life he lived and the statements he made and wrote, he personifies the American Dream. Born in a log cabin, denied all but the barest necessities for existence, bereft of all opportunity for a formal education, he went on to become one of the best educated of Americans, to abolish human slavery and weld the Union into an indestructible whole. His example demonstrates that we can accomplish about anything we desire in this life.

So fundamentally American was Lincoln in his every word, thought and deed that as the Editor’s Introduction so aptly puts it, our present day international situation represents a conflict between Lincoln and Lenin. With this hypothesis in mind it would be well for everyone of our citizens to scan this volume. "The way for young men to rise, is to improve every way he can, never suspecting that any body wishes to hinder him." This is advice any of us would be wise to follow.

His innate honesty is well illustrated by excerpts from a letter written when he was a young lawyer. "Dear Sir: I have just received yours of the 16th, with check for twenty-five dollars. You are too liberal with your money. Fifteen dollars is enough for the job. I send you a receipt for fifteen dollars, and return to you a ten-dollar bill."
That Lincoln was no believer in the inervating democracy which presently is destroying our way of life is well born out by: "I go for all sharing the privileges of the government, who assist in bearing its burdens. Consequently, I go for admitting all whites to the right of suffrage, who pay taxes or bear arms." Certainly he did not go for the inane idea so prevalent today that everybody should be permitted to vote whether they bear any portion of the burden of government or not.

His advice to a young lawyer is just as good for all of us today as it was in the century and a quarter that has elapsed since it was given: "The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man of every other calling, is diligence. Leaving nothing for tomorrow which can be done today. Never let your correspondence fall behind."

Lincoln did not have time to be concerned with the theoretical invasion threat of the Western Hemisphere from across the ocean which caused our Internationalists to plunge us into two World Wars. He was faced with the actuality. Even as he fought a civil war he had the problems of the English and French invasions of Mexico on his hands. Despite those problems he made a statement which would be well for our internationalists to ponder: "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide. It cannot come from abroad."

His views on religion are clearly set out:

That I am not a member of any Christian Church, is true; but I have never denied the truth of the scriptures; and I have never with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular. I do not think I could myself be brought to support a man for office, whom I knew to be an open enemy of, and scoffer at, religion.

He fully explains our system when he says:

The prudent, penniless beginner in the world, labors for wages awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land, for himself; then labors on his own account another while, and at length hires another new beginner to help him. . . . If any continue through life in the condition of the hired laborer, it is not the fault of the system, but because of either a dependent nature which prefers it, or improvidence, folly or singular misfortune.

His determination and patriotism is well set forth in the dark days following the failure of the Peninsular Campaign in 1862. "I expect to maintain this contest until successful, or until I die, or until I am conquered, or my term expires, or Congress or the country forsakes me."

I was especially glad to see included the famous Hooker letter which is probably the best handling of a recalcitrant sub-
ordinate that has ever been put in writing. I only wish Professor Baringer had included the letter to his brother which represents an able handling of the always vexatious problem of relatives and friends who desire to borrow money.

If it were in my power I would make Professor Baringer's book a must for reading by every high school student. Then before any college degree was granted it would be a condition it be re-read in its entirety by the candidate.

—Henry B. Bass

Enid, Oklahoma


Oil is a word that encompasses considerable in Oklahoma that is important. The discovery of a new pool or the drilling of a successful well embodies much glamor yet such would be of little value if the production could not be transported to market.

Here is a history of a half century of transportation of the wealth of Oklahoma by pipe line. In fact, the volume is a case book of how to build, maintain and operate a petroleum pipe line.

In 1909, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey decided to build a refinery at Baton Rouge. At that time, Prairie Oil and Gas Company, a Standard affiliate, had forty-three million barrels of oil in storage in Oklahoma, awaiting transportation. A pipe line connecting the two was essential and inevitable. The Arkansas and Louisiana portions of the line were constructed by Prairie and Standard of Louisiana but the Oklahoma leg proved more difficult.

As most of the Oklahoma route crossed Indian tribal lands, action in Washington was necessary. Eventually, to resolve the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior and the new Sooner state, a separate corporation, chartered under Oklahoma law, was deeded upon. On November 12, 1909, the Oklahoma Pipe Line Company, with headquarters in Muskogee was incorporated for $2,500,000. The line originated at the Glenn Pool in Tulsa County and extended 155 miles to the Arkansas line. The first Oklahoma crude crossed the Oklahoma line on its journey in the newly completed line, on May 12, 1910.

The initial enterprise was followed by fifty years of growth and expansion. In 1944, the lines were merged into the Interstate Oil Pipe Line Company, which organization today continues to serve the oil production industry.
Commissioned by this company, the author had available all corporate records and files. The volume is presented in a readable and engaging manner. Author Loos has made a worthy contribution to the growing shelf of books on the petroleum industry.

George H. Shirk

Oklahoma City Oklahoma


This volume is something special for Americans of all ages, an ornamental and useful fixture for the family living room. Not a short-term conversation piece, the Book of the Pioneer Spirit portrays the glories of the American past and present as they have affected man's perennial hopes for a better future.

Readers of American Heritage will recognize the handiwork of the magazine's editors. They assure us, however, that "It is an original work . . . not a compilation of material previously published in the magazine." Allan Nevins has written prologues for each of the eleven chapters and other competent authors have furnished the narrative elsewhere.

The illustrations, nearly 500 with almost a third in color, are expertly selected to elucidate the theme. Three special picture portfolios are included; these alone are worth much more than the price of the volume. For example, the portfolio entitled "Portrait of the Western Frontier" has excellent reproductions from the works of George Catlin, Charles Russell, John James Audubon, Frederic Remington, Alfred Jacob Miller, and others. On these and other pages can be seen the "American Way of Life," what it was, what it was thought to be, and what it has become.

As usual, the contribution of the Indian to the "American Way" is mostly ignored. Perhaps America is still too young for its historians to understand how much the American phase of Western civilization owes to the Indian cultures of North and South America and the point will not be belabored here. Poets have sensed the fact, if historians have not, and Stephen Vincent Benet is quoted thus on p. 206:

"And they ate the white corn-kernels, parched in the sun,
And they knew it not,
but they'd not be English again."

The "white corn-kernels" were among the many gifts of the Indians to American and world culture.
Oklahoma, the Indian state, rates two pages, most of which are covered by the familiar photograph of the run for the Cherokee Outlet in 1893. But there are so many facets to the "Pioneer Spirit," and the subject is so complex, that the omission of the debt owed the native Americans will be of concern to few. For few apparently realize that Oklahoma was the last stand for Indian leaders who dreamed of a state populated and governed by Indians. In this volume the "fascinating" Indian is still merely a curiosity who attempted unsuccessfully to block the spread of "civilization."

But enough of what will be considered petty, provincial carping by most. Practically every phase of American development is pictured. All the frontiers from then to now, economic, intellectual, social, political, have their place in this captivating book. No family will regret its presence for browsing in the most appropriate family room for that purpose. And who knows? A generation of such browsers might become interested enough really to learn some history.

—James D. Morrison

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Here is one of the most significant books ever published among the many volumes on the American Indian. It gives the true history of frontier wars in the Southwest from the viewpoint of the Indian, covering the years of strife and bloodshed, a period in which Cochise, Victorio and Geronimo became noted. Jason Betzinez, a full blood Apache who in recent years as he has approached the age of one hundred in 1960 has well recalled the exciting days when he was counted among Geronimo's warriors. He describes the early day life and habits of the oldtime Apache Indians—the way they lived and hunted and fought. There are real life descriptions of Apache women, among these one of Jason's mother and some of other kinfolk,—brave and courageous women, tender and sympathetic with family and friends. One reader of the book has best said: "I fought with Geronimo is a true account of stirring raids and battles, desperate affairs, difficult and rapid travel through the wilderness, the despair of the hunted, the humiliation of surrender."

Betzinez tells how Geronimo's band was sent to an arid reservation in Arizona, why and how these Apache went on the warpath and at last surrendered to Gen. George Crook and later to Gen. Nelson A. Miles. Geronimo with the men, women and
children of his band were taken as prisoners of war to Florida, and nearly ten years later still as prisoners of war, they were transferred to the Fort Sill military reservation where they remained for almost another twenty years. There is pathos in the telling of all this yet there is some humor, too.

Betzinez among the prisoners of war went from Florida to Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania where he remained a number of years learning to be a "tame Indian." This part of his book and the account of his later life as a worker on the Fort Sill Reservation in Oklahoma are as interesting as that of the bloody war years when Geronimo lead his warriors in the western wilderness.

Jason Betzinez himself wrote the manuscript of his history in plain English but when it was considered for publication, he asked that it be edited. And the one chosen to do this was none other than his good friend, Colonel W. S. Nye, formerly in the Army stationed at Fort Sill, himself a well known historian and author of Carbine and Lance: The Story of Old Fort Sill (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1937), and other works.

Colonel Nye explains in the Foreword of the book that in keeping with Jason's request, the original manuscript was edited, rearranged and paraphrased where necessary. However, the account is not an interview nor "as told to" type of work: "Since it represents personal knowledge gained from his experiences and those of his close associates, Jason's book is source material—there can be no bibliography."

The long list of fine illustrations include many from rare photographs furnished by the Author as well as from some furnished by the Editor, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives. Jason Betzinez made his own maps sketched to show the wanderings of Geronimo's Apache band, and these sketches were transferred to a map drawn by Editor Nye, based on a modern chart from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and checked against old maps in the Library of Congress and the Army War College. There are several reproductions of pen and ink sketches made by John Russell Bartlett when in the west in 1852. The other drawings, including that on the jacket, some of them real portraiture of Geronimo's Apache, are beautifully done by J. Franklin Whitman, Jr., of Pennsylvania. All these illustrations as well as the maps can be counted original materials that help make the book authentic history.

I fought with Geronimo is factual but it is fascinating reading, a fine production and an honor to the Author and the Editor.

—Muriel H. Wright