

Ho! For the Black Hills: Captain Jack Crawford Reports the Black Hills Gold Rush and Great Sioux War

Paul L. Hedren, ed.

Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2012. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, maps and photographs, notes, bibliography, index, xx, 317 pp., \$18.95 paper.

Nowadays, getting an eyewitness report from a war zone, a disaster, or some remote region otherwise experiencing a newsworthy event is as simple as flipping on the television. A reporter's "stand-up" is beamed instantly to our living room via satellite. His or her nineteenth-century counterpart was the "special correspondent" hired by a newspaper to report from the scene of action. While lacking the immediacy modern technology affords, the correspondent's dispatches were not limited to one- or two-minute sound bites and could be absorbed at leisure by the newspaper's subscribers. They also remain accessible in print or on microfilm for scholars willing to seek them out, as Paul Hedren has done in this instance.

The centerpiece of Hedren's effort is the dispatches that self-proclaimed "poet-scout" Jack Crawford penned in 1875-76, most for the *Omaha Bee*, describing the Black Hills gold rush and episodes of the Great Sioux War. During the latter he served briefly as an army scout with George Crook's late summer 1876 campaign culminating in the fight at Slim Buttes. While Crawford was not the only correspondent to report on these topics, the forty or so letters he sent to newspapers from the field have not been published previously. Thus we have a new trove of primary documents from this important era in the history of the West. The editing provides annotation as necessary but is applied lightly so Crawford's voice remains paramount.

Hedren's introduction traces Crawford's early life, including Civil War service, his move west in 1875, and how he became affiliated with Edward Rosewater's *Omaha Bee*. He also provides context to Crawford's Black Hills letters by reviewing the gold rush's evolution. A similar introductory chapter follows later, explaining how Crawford came to be a protégé of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and setting the stage for Crawford's Sioux War dispatches. A concluding chapter wraps up Crawford's postwar career, including his forays into the theatrical world, a rift that developed between Cody and Crawford, and the latter's authorship of several books of poetry. Crawford died in 1917, the same year as did Cody.

"Captain Jack's" descriptions and observations about what he experienced during his sojourns in the Black Hills, and briefly as an army scout, are well enhanced by the book's inclusion of numerous contemporary photographs by D. S. Mitchell and Stanley J. Morrow, among others. For a spirited account of the Black Hills gold rush and the Slim Buttes campaign by one who was there, I recommend this volume.

*James E. Potter
Nebraska State Historical Society*

Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Jim Garry

Norman: Arthur H. Clark, 2013. Preface, acknowledgments, introduction, illustrations, appendices, glossary, bibliography, index, 208 pp., \$32.95 cloth.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition occurred just under 210 years ago. During the first century after the expedition, aside from several versions of the journals (both authentic and spurious), relatively little was written. This began to change when, in 1904, St. Louis hosted a World's Fair dedicated to the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase. Since then, a voluminous literature has developed.

The focus of this book is clearly stated in the title, *Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. As the author notes, "This book looks, piece by piece, at how the expedition was armed, how the military nature of the expedition affected the use of weapons, and how the weapons were cared for." A significant problem was that the expedition's members did not write about things that were (at that time) common knowledge.

The book has eleven chapters, two appendices, and a glossary. The ten chapters in order are: "Model 1795 Musket," "Swivel Guns and Blunderbusses," "Short Rifles," "Personal Weapons," "Pistols," "Air Rifle," "Edged Weapons," "Ammunition," "John Shields," "The Gun Trade," and "Conclusions." Their contents are reflected by their titles and the author notes that some are short because the journals provided little information. Within each chapter the author begins by discussing the history of the arms while putting them into their historical context and then moves to their use, with supporting quotes from the journals. An exception is the chapter on John Shields, wherein the author describes his importance to the expedition as gunsmith and blacksmith.

Knowing that today's reader has little familiarity with flintlock arms Garry includes a description