

icled in a memoir written years later. Almost all of the memoir focuses on Van Norstrand's two-and-a-half years as a regimental surgeon affiliated with the Fourth Wisconsin Regiment between mid-1861 and January 1864. That period included a stint as acting medical director of a large military hospital in Baton Rouge. Although the memoir contains almost no information about Van Norstrand's subsequent work at the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane, Doherty argues that his military career, as captured in the memoir, foretold his subsequent asylum superintendency. The strengths and flaws of Van Norstrand the soldier characterized Van Norstrand the superintendent as well.

Doherty, not a professional historian, occasionally uses anachronistic language and puzzling, if colorful, phrases. Most notably, the (implicit) rationale for the title is not clear. Van Norstrand himself coined the phrase "the best specimen of a tyrant" to describe Benjamin Butler, a Civil War commander he much admired, but I am not persuaded that he patterned his own life on Butler's. Further, Doherty is not always critical of the fascinating primary sources he has uncovered. The book is largely descriptive, not analytic. Despite these caveats, I commend the depth and breadth of Doherty's research. While he does not offer a new interpretation of nineteenth-century asylum history, he succeeds in offering readers a lively and engaging story.

Custer, Cody, and Grand Duke Alexis: Historical Archaeology of the Royal Buffalo Hunt, by Douglas D. Scott, Peter Bleed, and Stephen Damm. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. xix, 205 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paperback.

Reviewer Jeremy M. Johnston is managing editor of *The Papers of William F. Cody* for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming.

In January 1872 citizens of North Platte, Nebraska, welcomed the Grand Duke Alexis from Russia, the third son of Czar Alexander II. The royal excursion brought together an unusual mix of military officials and American western legends along with diplomats and royalty. Four key western legends hosted the Grand Duke: General Philip Sheridan, General George Armstrong Custer, Chief Spotted Tail, and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. For the next few days, those four hosts entertained their royal guest on a buffalo hunt. Today, separating the tall tales from the historical reality of this famed hunting excursion proves difficult. This publication proves to be a solid attempt to provide readers with sound historical information based on a variety of resources.

Nearly 150 years after the Royal Buffalo Hunt, a team of archeologists from the University of Nebraska, led by authors Douglas D.

Scott, Peter Bleed, and Stephen Damm, surveyed and excavated one relatively undisturbed campsite along Red Willow Creek. Over the next two years, the archeologists' discoveries shed more light on this significant diplomatic event in Nebraska, providing more answers about the Grand Duke's brief stay on the plains. One such significant find was the determination that the memorial marker honoring the site was placed in the wrong location. The undisturbed nature of the site also provided opportunities to study broader issues, including how to study similar short-term military encampments related to western expansion. Due to the presence of Lakota Chief Spotted Tail's village near the campsite, it also offered an opportunity to examine the archeological evidence of past cultural interactions on the frontier.

In addition to employing archeological techniques to study the site, the authors also researched a number of historical sources to provide a deeper interpretation of the royal hunt. Historical newspapers, along with Russian archival material long buried in the former Soviet Union's archives, dispel a number of popular misconceptions about the event. Recently discovered historical photographs of the site by Edric L. Eaton also proved useful in determining the layout and location of the military encampment.

Despite the scientific tone of the title of this publication, readers will enjoy the very readable and lively text, which offers a unique perspective on this key diplomatic event. The authors offer regional historians an interesting perspective and a model for how an interdisciplinary approach proves an effective way to understand how a seemingly small, isolated event had lasting international significance. From the excavation of a few artifacts to the rich archival treasury of documents, the authors of this book offer readers a compelling way to revisit the past and present site of Camp Alexis—a remote location on the Great Plains that for a brief time attracted worldwide attention.

By All Accounts: General Stores and Community Life in Texas and Indian Territory, by Linda English. Race and Culture in the American West. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. xi, 267 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Jeff Bremer is assistant professor of history at Iowa State University. His book, *A Store Almost in Sight: The Economic Transformation of Missouri from the Louisiana Purchase to the Civil War*, is forthcoming from the University of Iowa Press in 2014.

This clearly written and well-argued book ambitiously tackles a big topic. Historian Linda English uses general-store ledgers from Indian