

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

Territory and Texas to try to explain the everyday lives of merchants and their customers in the late nineteenth century. She details how such transactions explain relationships beyond simple consumption. The records of store owners provide information on the roles of race, class, and gender. English argues that such evidence sheds light on assumptions, values, and beliefs—that is, culture—in addition to material possessions. Her research adds to our understanding of late nineteenth-century America by exploring under-utilized sources on economic and social relationships, but her conclusions are usually unsurprising. Although women, African Americans, and native people were more involved in commerce than previous generations of historians realized, or gave them credit for being, merchants reinforced racial, class, and gender distinctions.

General stores played an important role in the United States. New railroad lines allowed crop specialization, as farmers bought cheap food items at stores and focused on producing cash crops, such as cotton. Stores gave customers access to both necessary and luxury goods and provided credit to cash-poor consumers. Merchants who depended on consumers for their survival kept careful, detailed records. Stores brought a variety of people together, helping to integrate different groups into an expanding market economy. The businesses represented in this story existed mostly in a cotton economy, but mining and the cattle industry also played a role. Merchants provided customers with tobacco, flour, coffee, salt, and fabrics and took almost anything of value in return. A gathering place, like saloons or brothels, stores have attracted less interest from historians than those other institutions.

*By All Accounts* is important because it highlights the importance of general stores for the nineteenth-century economy, a topic last seriously explored more than 60 years ago in Lewis Atherton's *The Southern Country Store* (1949). English builds on earlier works by including the stories of women, African Americans, native people, and immigrants. She incorporates decades of recent research on the social history of the West and the South, placing her narrative in the context of recent interpretation.

She begins with an analysis of merchants, concluding that they were committed to boosting the fortunes of their hometowns and improving economic possibilities. Merchants often helped the less fortunate through charity, assisting churches or schools. Customers in rural locations could demonstrate their status through the purchase of fine goods. English's most important chapters are her middle ones, where she details the lives of women and African Americans. Women visited

stores often, their purchases usually—but not always—appearing in their husbands' names. In Nacogdoches, Texas, women patronized one store in significant numbers, and female hotel owners had their own substantial accounts. In most areas, though, their presence in store records was much more marginal. Both African Americans and American Indians frequented stores. While owners enjoyed their business, racial divisions still existed. Many merchants noted the race of their customers in their ledgers. Economic integration did not preclude racial discrimination, but race-based pricing does not seem to have existed, English argues. Black customers invested in the education of their children, she found, often buying spelling and reading books. Another useful chapter on German immigrants in Texas shows how they retained many cultural traditions while taking part in the local economy. During the Christmas holiday, Germans bought candy, apples, and toys. Consumption patterns, English concludes, were tied to the rural agrarian economy. Nationwide prejudices and discrimination influenced the region, but women and minority groups still took part in the local commercial economy and played important roles as consumers.

This innovative study will be useful for those interested in the Gilded Age or in local or community history. Although the population of Iowa was less diverse than that of Oklahoma or Texas, the same processes of economic integration and consumption occurred in this state as railroads tied rural regions to the growing industrial economy. The focus and methodology of this study could provide a framework for a similar study of late nineteenth-century Iowa.

*Vikings across the Atlantic: Emigration and the Building of a Greater Norway, 1860–1945*, by Daron W. Olson. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. xxi, 296 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Anna M. Peterson is assistant professor of history at Luther College. Her scholarship has focused on Scandinavian women from the 1880s to about 1940.

In this engaging cultural history, Daron W. Olson traces the development of a transnational Norwegian identity from the early days of Norwegian immigration to the United States in the nineteenth century to the liberation of Norway at the end of World War II. During that period, Norwegian immigrants struggled to adapt to a new country and craft an identity that balanced their allegiance to America with their loyalty to Norway. Olson argues that Norwegian Americans' ability to negotiate the requirements of those loyalties relied on their