

*Buffalo Bill Cody: A Man of the West*, by Prentiss Ingraham, edited by Sandra K. Sagala. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2019. ix, 349 pp. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$55 hardcover, \$29.95 paperback.

Reviewer J. T. Murphy is professor of history at Indiana University South Bend. His research and writing have focused on frontier settlement, the Oregon Trail, and the military history of the nineteenth-century U.S. West.

In 1854, eight-year-old William F. Cody moved with his family from Scott County, Iowa, to Kansas, where he began a kind of apprenticeship—as hunter, scout, and Indian fighter—that led to his becoming the iconic hero Buffalo Bill. His life, like Daniel Boone’s or Kit Carson’s, suited an American narrative about taming the wilderness. Proving a shameless champion of his image, Cody welcomed its dissemination. It was reshaped and retold in dime novels, in theatre productions (some written by Prentiss Ingraham and often starring Cody), in an 1879 autobiography published when he was only 33, in his famous Wild West Show, and eventually in silent movies.

As a writer, Ingraham achieved his own legendary status by publishing 600 novels; of those, 287 used Cody as the protagonist (311–21). This volume, edited by Sandra K. Sagala, an independent scholar who has written excellent studies of Cody on the stage and in films, is a biography originally serialized between July 13, 1895, and May 16, 1896, in the *Duluth Press*, a newspaper partially financed by Cody but operated by his sister Helen and her husband, Hugh Wetmore. Ingraham follows Cody’s autobiography, often verbatim, embellishing here and there to flesh out an episode, add excitement, or offer lessons for young readers about personal responsibility, courage, and devotion to family. Even Turk, Cody’s childhood dog, is given a principal role to evoke those values. Ultimately, this is not only a book about Cody but also a fun example of nineteenth-century popular literature.

*Kansas Baseball, 1858–1941*, by Mark E. Eberle. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2017. xiii, 308 pp. Map, tables, illustrations, graphs, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$45 hardcover, \$27.95 paperback.

Reviewer Michael E. Lomax retired as professor of sport history from the University of Iowa. He is the author of *Black Baseball Entrepreneurs, 1860–1901: Operating by Any Means Necessary* (2003).

Mark Eberle has written a thoroughly engrossing monograph on the history of baseball in the state of Kansas from the mid-nineteenth century to the eve of World War II. He chronicles baseball’s early history in the state, the local fans and civic leaders who constructed the ballparks, and the

ways the national pastime expressed the state's identity and its diverse communities of African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans. Baseball clubs embodied the businesses, churches, schools, military units, and prisons that made up these towns' societal structure, as they wrestled with the complexities of rural and urban formation.

*Kansas Baseball* is well researched. Eberle immersed himself in local and regional newspapers, county and city archives, and recent websites to provide a balanced and nuanced account of the teams and ballparks, many of which are still in use today. In 1893, for example, the first baseball grounds were constructed on the site that housed Hibbs-Hooten Field in Sellers Park in Wellington, Kansas. By 1909, Wellington hosted a minor league team in the Class D Kansas State League. In 1964 the Wellington community built a concrete grandstand, with wooden benches and a metal roof at a cost of roughly \$35,000. Today the ballpark is the summer home of the Wellington Heat of the Jayhawk Collegiate Baseball League.

Eberle's narrative would have been stronger if he had provided a more definitive examination of how these towns and teams addressed the complex interplay of how urbanization affected U.S. sporting patterns. In 1820 the United States had no baseball or even any modern sport culture in general. By the 1860s, however, several forces interacted to devise the modern sporting culture. Simultaneously, the United States underwent a transformation from a rural society to an urban one. Since the overwhelming focus has been on the urbanization process and the rise of the metropolitan city, Eberle missed an opportunity to show how this phenomenon played out in the rural towns of the Wheat State.

Nevertheless, *Kansas Baseball* makes a significant contribution to scholarly research on the national pastime specifically and U.S. society in general. Eberle has uncovered a forgotten world of the history of baseball in the United States. It is an enjoyable and interesting book.

*We've Been Here All Along: Wisconsin's Early Gay History*, by R. Richard Wagner. Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2019. 431 pp. Illustrations, table, notes, index. \$28.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Christopher Hommerding is an independent scholar and public historian in Minnesota. His article, "As Gay as Any Gypsy Caravan: Grant Wood and the Queer Pastoral at the Stone City Art Colony" appeared in the *Annals of Iowa* (2015).

*We've Been Here All Along: Wisconsin's Early Gay History* is the first of two volumes by R. Richard Wagner exploring the LGBTQ history of Wisconsin. In this volume, Wagner presents an expansive array of Wiscon-