

# New Mexico Historical Review

---

Volume 5 | Number 2

Article 6

---

4-1-1930

## Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr>

---

### Recommended Citation

. "Reviews." *New Mexico Historical Review* 5, 2 (1930). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol5/iss2/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Historical Review* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu), [lsloane@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lsloane@salud.unm.edu), [sarahrk@unm.edu](mailto:sarahrk@unm.edu).

## REVIEWS

*A Quaker Forty-Niner.—The Adventures of Charles Edward Pancoast on the American Frontier.* Edited by Anna Paschall, with a Foreword by John Bach McMaster. University of Pennsylvania Press. (1930. Pp. xv-402.)

John Bach McMaster in his "Foreword" declares that "it is not only of historical importance but of general interest to know all we can of the manners, customs, usages, way of living, behavior of these people carried to the frontier by the steady western movement of population, and of this sort of knowledge Mr. Pancoast in his narrative has given us a great deal. It is not the story of a traveller jotting down such scenes and events as come in his way, or of unfriendly critics such as Harriet Martineau and Charles Dickens holding up to laughter the crudeness and rawness of the West, but of an adventurous lad of the plain people living among the plain people of the frontier and by his daily adventures giving us a picture of their life."

Interesting the volume is and it covers a wide scope of country and scene. Beginning with school days among the Quakers in New Jersey, naively telling of pranks and punishment, the writer reviews apprentice days in a Philadelphia drug store, a transmigration to St. Louis and what happened on the way, settlement in Warsaw, then on the frontier, and finally to California by way of Santa Fe and the Gila Route, and from San Francisco to Mexico and Nicaragua. Adventures galore, thrills and romance, always maintaining an intensely personal viewpoint, observations and comment limited by lack of knowledge of history but never dull, the book is well worth reading. Written many years after the occurrences described, it is not surprising that here and there errors of geography may be pointed out and that historical accuracy is not always maintained. As a picture of the times and the reactions of an inexperienced youth from New Jersey to the turbulence of the Far West the record is a valuable one.

There is hardly a page that isn't quotable. Here for instance there is an account of a visit to Kit Carson's abode on the Rayado; the capitalization being the author's: "The Ranch House could not be said to be stylish: it was a two-story log affair, surrounded by Adobe walls for purposes of fortification. Inside the walls were several Adobe Houses, and outside a number more, as well as a large Corral and several Buildings used as Stables, Slaughter Houses, etc. Carson had about him a dozen or more Americans and Mexicans and about twenty Indians, beside a number of Squaws, all to be fed at his Table; and judging from the waste we saw around the place, his Table was of no mean order. Kit himself was a superior representative of the genuine Rocky Mountain Hunter. His skin was dark and he wore long black hair over his coat, giving him much the appearance of a Mexican. He dressed in first class Indian style in Buckskin coat and pants trimmed with leather dangles, and wore moccasins on his feet and a Mexican Sombrero on his head. His reception of us was cordial, and he distributed a clever piece of Beef to each of our Messes. At our first meeting he had little to say; but after supper he sat down by our Camp Fire, and we found him very garrulous, entertaining us until eleven o'clock with his numerous Indian adventures. He spoke of the difficulties he had experienced in maintaining the lonely position he occupied and in protecting his Stock from the Raids of the Utes and the other Indians. He had called in the aid of the U. S. Soldiers, and being thoroughly acquainted with the haunts of the Indians, he had punished them so severely that they had found it their best Policy to make their Peace with him. He now enjoyed their Friendship, and often gave them meat; and they no longer molested his Stock, although they continued to steal that of others. However, he still kept a Guard on his Cattle by day and a Sentinel at night. He showed us several Arrow and Bullet Wounds on his person that he had received in his encounters with the Indians, in which he

gloried as much as could the most distinguished General." It must be remembered that this was in the summer of 1849. Amusing and exciting were the experiences in Galisteo before coming on to Santa Fe, his reference to the city being brief. "As soon as I arrived in this quaint old Frontier Town I hunted up my Friend John Doty, the young tow-headed Fellow who had handed me the Pistols on the night of the unfortunate Ball in Warsaw, and who was himself wounded on that eventful occasion. I found him managing a large general Store for James White, who had been the heaviest Store Keeper in Warsaw when I was there, and whose Wife had danced with me at the Ball. John was rejoiced to see me and used his best endeavors to make me comfortable. He informed me that Mr. White was coming across the Plains with a Caravan, bringing his Wife and Child, and he was expecting them every day. I bought of him a poor six-barreled Pistol and a few other articles; but I had come nearly to the bottom of my purse, and could not buy many things I needed."

Much more informative is his description of Los Angeles, then a small Spanish town, while his account of San Francisco is most vivid. The Indians he calls a "listless, shiftless, and debauched race" and expresses the hope that with aid of Quakers as Indian agents who will educate the Indian youths "these Students will become good Citizens, and perhaps the distinction between Indian and White Man will be obliterated."—P. A. F. W.

*Conquering our Great American Plains.* By Stuart Henry. E. P. Dutton & Co. (1930. Pp. xvi-393. Ill.) More scholarly in manner but much narrower in range than "A Quaker Forty-Niner," the story is principally that of the pioneer days of Abilene, Kansas, and an attempted vindication of some of its early characters with whom historical chronicles have not dealt kindly. The Chisholm and Abilene Cattle Trails come in for incidental mention. The author

lived in Abilene from 1868 on. Explains the author in his preface: "Early frontier accounts are frequently obscure or inconsistent. For it is not enough to see a thing. \* \* \* It is essential, moreover, for the reader to realize distinctly what the conditions and accepted opinions then and there were, and not insert among them, as frequently occurs, conditions, experiences, and opinions of later times or known of in other places. He should understand that that frontier region of the American Desert represented almost a tabula rasa where almost anything might be expected by newcomers to happen." The story is a lively one, is fully documented, and is interspersed with anecdotes.—P. A. F. W.

In the *Journal de la Société des Americanistes de Paris*, tome xxi, pp. 159-167 (1929), is an informative and charmingly written article on the famous Inscription Rock of New Mexico, written by Prof. Etienne B. Renaud of Denver University. And the interest is enhanced by eight illustrations of the more important inscriptions, four of them on two excellent plates.

It would have been well for Professor Renaud, in speaking of the Oñate inscription, to note that other documentary sources show conclusively that the return from the expedition to the South Sea was made in the spring of 1605, not 1606 as El Morro now reads. Whether this discrepancy is due to vandalism or to a mistake of the inscriber will probably never be settled. Examination shows that the inscription has been scored over (probably by someone who wanted to get a clear photograph), and the one who did it may have mistaken an old-style "5" for an indistinct "6"—and proceeded to close the supposed gap, leaving it as it now appears. But this is only surmise; the point is, that, as it now reads, the Oñate inscription on El Morro disagrees with the documentary sources.

Unfortunately also, Professor Renaud wrote this article before the terms in office of succeeding governors of New Mexico had been definitely established. The anony-

mous inscription of July 29, 1620, can refer only to Governor Juan de Eulate who took office at Santa Fe on Dec. 22, 1618, and served to Dec. 21, 1625. As the author states, "This remarkable inscription is generally attributed to the captain-general Manuel de Silva Nieto . . ."—which of course is impossible, as this governor did not arrive in Santa Fe and assume office until May 1, 1629. L. B. B.

*Las Ordenes Religiosas de España y la Colonización de América en la Segunda Parte del Siglo XVIII.* By P. Otto Maas, O. F. M. (Barcelona: A. G. Belart, 1929. 216 pp.)

Aside from a brief foreword of three pages and an index of 24 pages, this book consists entirely of source material in the form of fifteen documents from various archives in Seville and Madrid. There is no discussion of the data thus presented except that which is embodied in the documents themselves, the author in his few notes confining himself to bibliographical information and a few points explanatory of the text. In other words, he says in effect to the reader, "Here are some important documents on missionary work in the Americas and the Philippines; you may study them for yourself."

Father Maas is doctor in theology and professor of missions at Wiedenbrück, Germany, and this book is one result of work which he was doing in Spain last year. It is really a second volume, continuing his early study, "Viajes de misioneros franciscanos a la conquista del Nuevo Mexico" (Seville, 1915, pp. 187).

While students of American history may well feel grateful to Father Maas for making available all of the fifteen documents, probably to readers of this quarterly three will be of especial interest. The second (pp. 17-35) is a "Noticia de la California, Sonora, Nueva Vizcaya y Nueva Mexico" of about the year 1779; the third is the letter from Father Vélez de Escalante to Father Morfi (Santa Fe, April 2, 1778); and the last and longest of all (pp. 103-192) has

the title "Copia del Informe General instruido en cumplimiento de Real Orden de 31 de enero de 1794 sobre las misiones del reino de Nueva España, comparando su actual estado con el que tenían las que entregaron los ex-Jesuitas al tiempo de su expatriación." L. B. B.

#### ANOTHER KEARNEY LETTER

(The following letter was inadvertently omitted in the January *Review* from the group of letters supplied by Mr. Clinton H. Kearny of San Antonio. The omission was especially unfortunate because of the significant reference to the official arrangements regarding General Kearny in California. It should be compared with the discussion of this matter in the paper by Mr. Thomas Kearny, pp. 1-16.—L. B. B.)

WINFIELD SCOTT to MRS. S. W. K.

Washington, Nov. 6, 1846.

My dear Mrs. Kearney

I have just finished an official letter to General Kearney which goes out by Colonel R. B. Mason, who will sail from New York, in two or three days, for Chagres & cross the Isthmus of Panama.

Until it was too late to give you notice, I supposed he would proceed by the Ohio, Mississippi, &c,—with time to receive letters from you at New Orleans, but the Secretary of War finally decided otherwise.

It may be gratifying to you to learn that your noble husband is held in the highest estimation by all in authority here. Nothing could have been better done than his march upon, conquest & organization of, New Mexico. His last report was dated Sep. 16, & I had a private letter from him at the same time. He is now supposed to be more than half way from Santa Fe to the Pacific. On his arrival, he will be the commander of the troops assembled or to be assembled there, & the civil governor of Upper California. I have

no doubt success will continue to wait upon him.

In the letter of which Col. Mason will be the bearer, I have given the general permission (say) some time early next summer, after tranquilizing and organizing the Province of Upper California, to take a sufficient escort & to return to Saint Louis. I think, therefore, you may hope to see him before August next—well & highly distinguished.

Please make my compliments to Mrs. Kearney your niece, and believe me,

My dear Madam,

With the highest esteem,

Yr friend & servant

Winfield Scott.

[Inscription:]

To Mrs. (General) Kearney

U. S. Army

St. Louis, Missouri.

[Postmarked:]

Washington City, D. C.

Nov. 7.