

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# The Annals of Iowa

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Volume 70 | Number 3 (Summer 2011)

pps. 270-271

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## War Party in Blue: Pawnee Scouts in the U. S. Army

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ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

Britten, Thomas A. "War Party in Blue: Pawnee Scouts in the U. S. Army." *The Annals of Iowa* 70 (2011), 270-271.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.1562>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

*War Party in Blue: Pawnee Scouts in the U.S. Army*, by Mark van de Logt. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. xvii, 350 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Thomas A. Britten is associate professor of history at the University of Texas at Brownsville. He is the author of *Black Warriors: A History of the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts* (1999) and *American Indians in World War I: At War and at Home* (1997).

*War Party in Blue* is a welcome addition to the growing body of scholarship that examines the role and contributions of Native Americans as soldiers and scouts in the U.S. Army. The book details the history of the famed "Pawnee Battalion," a force of Indian scouts that rendered invaluable service as scouts, trackers, and soldiers in several battles fought across the central and northern plains between 1864 and 1877. Based on military and archival sources, the book provides a balanced narrative of the Pawnee scouts from their perspective.

Like Indian soldiers who have served at other times in American history, the Pawnee scouts enlisted for a variety of reasons. First, the Pawnees respected martial values and observed a wide range of rituals and customs related to warfare. Service as scouts was consistent with these values, and the fact that the U.S. military was engaged against traditional Pawnee enemies — the Sioux and Cheyennes — made enlistment as scouts extremely attractive. By serving as scouts, the Pawnees were, in effect, protecting their lands against enemy attack and taking advantage of opportunities to get revenge on their Indian adversaries. Military service also offered men avenues to gain social status among their people, not to mention a steady paycheck and access to food, supplies, and military hardware. Some government and military officials speculated that enlistment would have a "civilizing" effect on Indians and promote assimilation, but military service also reinforced traditional Indian cultures and rituals. Thus, even though they enlisted as soldiers in the army, the Pawnee scouts remained a "war party in blue."

The two most famous officers associated with the Pawnees were the North brothers — Frank and Luther. Tough, daring, and well versed in the Pawnee language and culture, the North brothers often received credit for organizing and dispensing discipline among the unruly and boisterous scouts. To some extent, Van de Logt challenges this assessment, arguing that while the Pawnees respected the two men, the Indians were hardly dominated by them and on occasion disobeyed orders. Outsiders may have perceived Pawnee military prowess as undisciplined, but the North brothers recognized that Pawnee scouts employed time-honored tactics and often permitted

them considerable autonomy in battle. Frank and Luther North were important liaisons between the Pawnees and the U.S. Army, and the Pawnees obeyed them so long as their orders were consistent with Pawnee interests.

The Pawnee scouts served at the height of the Plains Indian Wars. During the Powder River Campaign of 1865, the scouts saw action against Arapahos, captured hundreds of horses, and saved the lives of American soldiers who had gotten lost on the northern plains. In 1867–1868, Pawnee scouts guarded railroad workers surveying and laying track for the Union Pacific. In spite of opposition from the Quaker administrators on their reservation, the Pawnee scouts saw action in the Red River War (1874) and in the second Powder River campaign in 1876–1877.

Although a few Pawnees continued to find employment as scouts in the late 1870s and 1880s, the Powder River campaign was the last time they operated together in an all-Indian unit. A few joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show or other business pursuits, while the remainder settled down and adjusted to life in Indian Territory. Despite their honorable service, the Pawnees did not escape reservation allotment and the federal government's assimilationist agenda. Nevertheless, the Pawnees continue to celebrate the heroic example of the scouts, who remain a source of pride and inspiration to the present.

*Frontier Feminist: Clarina Howard Nichols and the Politics of Motherhood*, by Marilyn S. Blackwell and Kristen T. Oertel. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2010. xi, 344 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Joanne Passet is professor of history at Indiana University East. She is the author of *Sex Radicals and the Quest for Women's Equality, 1853–1910* (2003) and *Sex Variant Woman: The Life of Jeannette Howard Foster* (2008).

Well known in suffrage and reform circles during her lifetime, Clarina Howard Nichols (1810–1885) remained overlooked and underexplored for more than a century until the publication of Diane Eickhoff's *Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights* (2006) and now *Frontier Feminist*. The long silence about Nichols's role in the nineteenth-century movement for women's rights resulted, in part, because of her residence on the geographical periphery of the East Coast-dominated suffrage movement, and also because her rhetoric lacked sensational appeal and was overshadowed by such colorful activists as the free lovers Mary Gove Nichols and Victoria C. Woodhull. Indeed, when I was a doctoral student just beginning my