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Review of *He Rode with Butch and Sundance: The Story of Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan* By Mark T. Smokov

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He Rode with Butch and Sundance: The Story of Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan. By Mark T. Smokov. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2012. xvi + 440 pp. Map, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.

Hollywood depictions of Harvey Alexander Logan (1867–1904), better known as “Kid Curry,” portray the outlaw as a dull-witted follower. Mark T. Smokov’s biography of Logan presents him instead as a crafty criminal with above-average intelligence. Smokov argues that Logan’s planning and executing three successful train robberies testifies to Kid Curry’s leadership and cunning.

He Rode with Butch and Sundance is Smokov’s first entry in the University of North Texas Press’s A. C. Greene Series. Logan’s career stretches the geographic boundaries of the series, as most of the books concentrate on crimes in Texas and the Southwest. Logan committed most of his robberies and frequently found hiding places in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. The book complements the second edition of Jeffrey Burton’s *The Deadliest Outlaws: The Ketchum Gang and the Wild Bunch*, released in July 2012 as part of the same series.

Logan’s supposed dull-wittedness is among the myths and misconceptions surrounding Kid Curry that Smokov seeks to correct. He positions Logan as a prominent and guiding force for the Wild Bunch gang. Logan’s exploits exceeded those of his close friend Harry Longabaugh (the Sundance Kid) and Robert LeRoy Parker (Butch Cassidy). Furthermore, Smokov detects a tighter friendship between Logan and Longabaugh than the one that existed between Butch and Sundance.

Smokov’s work traces the posthumous evolution of Logan’s reputation and demonstrates that earlier accounts of his life and death are embellished and unreliable. The outlaw’s résumé swelled after his suicide as generations of writers attributed more crimes to Logan. In presenting the acts other writers attribute to Kid Curry and revealing their errors, Smokov sacrifices excitement—the book would move at a quicker pace if its author concentrated strictly on Logan—for the opportunity to correct the record.

Smokov proves his arguments, except for his assertion that “Kid Curry’s reputation as a blood-thirsty killer . . . is mainly unwarranted.” Smokov explains that no doubt exists about only one of the killings attributed to Logan, and even that incident might be considered self-defense. Jeffrey Burton’s assessment, quoted by Smokov, that Kid Curry was “one of the most ferocious and violent criminals of his day, and one of the cleverest” seems more appropriate.

Smokov’s extensive travel in the region shows in his vividly detailed descriptions of the geography and landscapes that the outlaws inhabited. Western outlaw enthusiasts will enjoy *He Rode with Butch and Sundance*.

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