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## The Apache Wars: The Hunt for Geronimo, the Apache Kid, and the Captive Boy Who Started the Longest War in American History by Paul Andrew Hutton (review)

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The remaining five chapters covered the actions of Major's men in Louisiana and Texas from 1863 through the end of the war. These veteran cavalrymen proved to be invaluable to Lieutenant General Richard Taylor, who utilized their mobility to raid and disrupt Union military installations in Louisiana. Matthews describes the exploits of Major's "Mississippi river-boat pirates" in great detail and at every opportunity emphasizes the importance of the brigade's covert activities (2). While acting as mostly a raiding force, Major's brigade also fought in the battles of Pleasant Hill and Mansfield, the two most prominent battles in the Union Red River campaign. The final pages of this book follow Major's brigade into the post-bellum era, demonstrating the varying levels of success and failure that these now defeated rebels attained for themselves in peace time.

Matthews's work shines in its telling of the deeds of Major's brigade during the war. The author transitions well from chapter to chapter, weaving the experiences of different regiments into a compact and well-researched piece of scholarship. One of the shortcomings of the book, however, is the last chapter. Matthews should be commended for continuing his narrative past the end of the war in relating the hardships that these Confederates faced when they returned home, but the influence of these men on post-Civil War Texas and other areas does not manifest itself fully. With more analysis on this topic, Matthews could have demonstrated both the wartime and peacetime effects of Major's Cavalry Brigade on its surroundings. That being said, this book fits nicely in the literature of the Trans-Mississippi, demonstrating that while most of the major battles occurred in the east, Confederates west of the Mississippi fought just as doggedly in defense of their homes and ideals.

*University of North Texas*

BRIAN ELLIOTT

*The Apache Wars: The Hunt for Geronimo, the Apache Kid, and the Captive Boy Who Started the Longest War in American History.* By Paul Andrew Hutton. (New York: Crown Publishers, 2016. Pp. 544. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index.)

The Apache Wars (1861–86) have been a popular topic in American history for some time, and scholars have churned out a broad body of scholarship predominantly focusing on the roles of specific tribes and bands or biographies of participants, both Apache and U.S. Army. In *The Apache Wars*, Paul Andrew Hutton provides a comprehensive treatment of "the longest war in American history" with a special focus on Geronimo and the exploits of two less well known but no less important participants: the Apache Kid and Mickey Free. Intended for a broad audience, the book provides a thorough, balanced, and fairly traditional treatment of

the Apaches' long struggle to retain their independence amidst a rapidly changing southwestern frontier.

In the brief prologue, Hutton introduces readers to twelve-year-old Felix Ward. In January 1861, a raiding party of Aravapai Apaches took Felix captive, precipitating rescue efforts that sparked the onset of the twenty-five yearlong Apache wars. In subsequent chapters, the author details additional causes: the infamous "cut the tent" episode involving Cochise, the whipping of Mangas Coloradas (Red Sleeves) by miners at Pinos Altos, and the hanging of six Apache prisoners at Apache Pass. Apache retaliation followed, and by the end of 1861, the U.S. army found itself embroiled in warfare both to preserve the Union and to extend its control over widely scattered bands of Apaches in Arizona and New Mexico.

Hutton does a masterful job introducing the multitude of Apache leaders, military officials, Indian agents, scouts, and territorial officials that played a part in ameliorating—or exacerbating—the bloodshed. A short biography follows the first mention of each participant to provide context and offer hints at possible motivations. In December 1872, Felix Ward, who had lived for over a decade with the Apaches, enlisted as a scout and received the name Mickey Free (a popular character in Charles Lever's 1901 novel *Charles O'Malley, The Irish Dragoon*). His motivations for enlisting remain a mystery but a steady paycheck, meals, and the opportunity to fight against traditional tribal enemies may explain the choice. Appearing neither white nor Apache, Free was, according to fellow scout Al Seiber, "half-Mexican, half-Irish and whole son-of-a-bitch" (201).

The Aravapai Apache known as the Apache Kid (also known as Haskay-bay-nay-ntayl and Ski-be-nan-ted) was approximately ten years younger than Mickey Free, and Hutton reserves most of his discussion of him until late in the book. Like Free, the Apache Kid enlisted as an Apache scout and was well respected by his peers. In the summer of 1887, he went AWOL from his unit to avenge the death of his father by killing an Apache named Rip. He was subsequently court-martialed and sent to Alcatraz prison but was released and returned home after serving only seven months. Arrested and tried again in an Arizona territorial court, the Kid received a seven-year sentence to Yuma Territorial Prison. He escaped in transport and for the next several years managed to elude authorities. Mickey Free reportedly tracked and discovered the Apache Kid's remains in Aravapai Canyon at some point in the 1890s. By this time, Free was a middle-aged man. He died in obscurity in 1914.

Hutton's writing style, research, and organization are exemplary, and he is certainly successful at telling the story of Mickey Free and the story of his contemporaries—"both friend and foe alike, red and white—whose lives were shaped by the violent history of the deserts and mountains of the American Southwest and northern Mexico" (2). For those interested

in a one-volume study of the Apache Wars and the peoples who fought it, this is essential—and enjoyable—reading.

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

THOMAS A. BRITTEN

*Dispatches from the Fort Apache Scout: White Mountain and Cibecue Apache History through 1881.* By Lori Davisson with Edgar Perry and the staff of the White Mountain Apache Cultural Center. (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 2016. Pp. 184. Notes, bibliography, index.)

The White Mountain and the Cibecue Apache (Ndee) have a rich oral history. The Nohwiké Bagowa Cultural Center and Museum staff has worked to ensure that this history, often told in family settings or during local gatherings, is preserved in scholarly and popular written form, on videotapes, in photographs, and through exhibits, educational programs, and performances. They have been assisted in their undertaking by a number of non-Natives, including Lori Davisson, a librarian employed for many years by the Arizona Historical Society. Davisson, who believed in outreach and community-driven research, spent years assisting the White Mountain Apache Tribe (a sovereign Native nation) and Arizona's law enforcement community to preserve Ndee historical sites and prevent looting. She also conducted a series of educational projects with Edgar Perry, an Ndee elder and educator who spent much of his life working with the cultural center. Perry's father, one of the last of the Western Apache scouts, told his son many stories; Perry remembered these and in the 1960s began conducting oral history interviews in his community. He and Davisson ensured these were preserved in the museum and then published in popular sources, including the *Fort Apache Scout*, the official newspaper of the White Mountain Apache tribe, as compelling stories about the Ndee's past experiences defending their homeland. Perry and Davisson, along with other original staff members of the Nohwiké Bagowa Cultural Center (Marie Perry, Canyon Quinterro, and Ann Skidmore) also wrote a series of historical summaries with information for local readers between June 1973 and October 1977.

The *Fort Apache Scout* is the official newspaper of the White Mountain Apache tribe and an important venue in which to publish histories for tribal members. But it is hard to find old issues. This means that the concise and very readable historical accounts are no longer readily available for individuals who do not live on the reservation. Lack of accessibility to written accounts of oral histories is a problem not unique to Native nations but to all communities whose histories are contained in newspapers with limited circulation. It takes hard work to keep the stories alive. Fortunately, John R. Welsh, an archaeologist who has worked collabora-