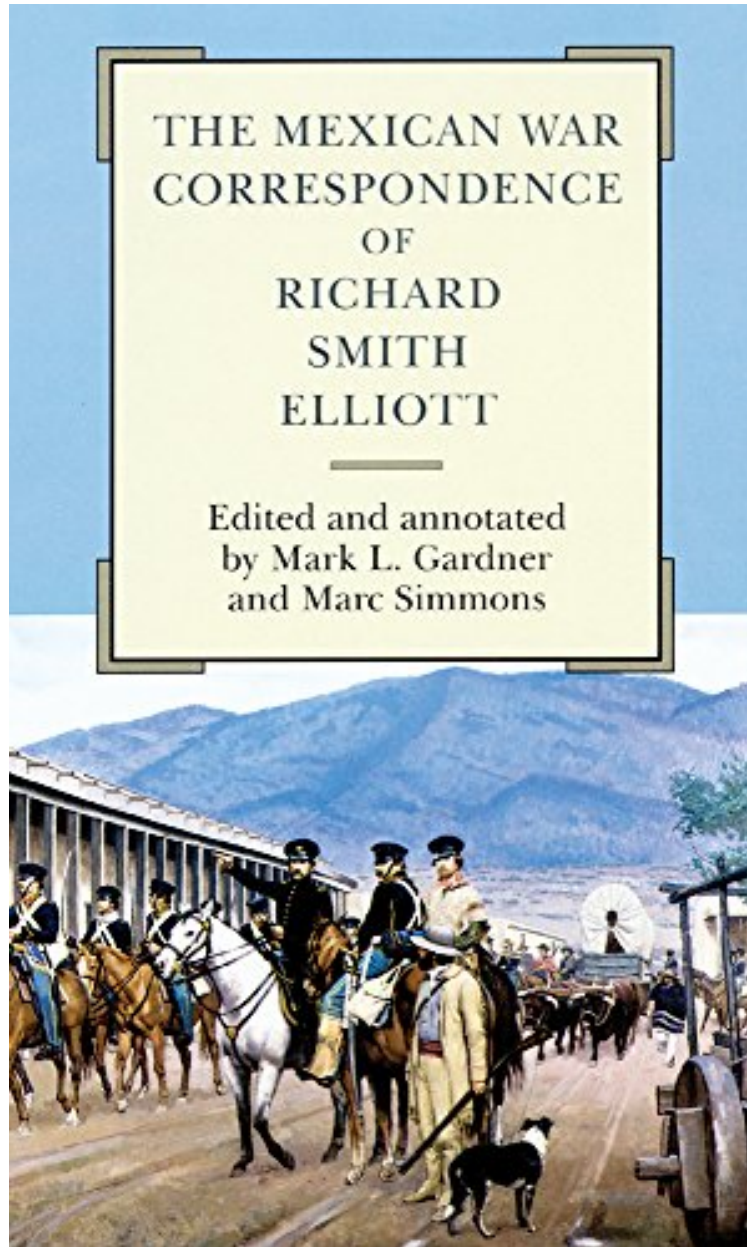


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The Mexican War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott

Richard Smith Elliott

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Richard Smith Elliott : The Mexican War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mexican War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A micro look at the Mexican War in N.M., excellently edited. By Donald Kaye The Mexican War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott, edited and annotated by Mark L. Gardner and Marc Simmons, University of Oklahoma Press, 1997, xi + 292 pgs. The book consists of what the title says it does, plus some useful material written later by Elliott but appropriately inserted by the editors. Elliott was an elected Lieutenant in the Laclede Rangers which was a unit from St. Louis and a part of the Missouri Volunteers, in turn a part of Kearny's Army of the West during the Mexican War. Irregularly, from May 1846 to July of the next year, Elliott sent dispatches back to the St. Louis Daily Reveille, writing as John Brown. In brief, Lt. Elliott with his outfit went from his home to Santa Fe, where with few exceptions, he remained throughout his term of enlistment. Compared to many other soldiers of that time, he led an easy life. (After all, many of us pay to live in Santa Fe, although arguably the amenities may be somewhat better than they were 150 years ago.) However, Elliott's descriptions of the marches, Bent's Fort, Santa Fe and its inhabitants including the native ladies, are most interesting, as are his opinions of some of his associates and high-ranking commanders. The Introduction is helpful and the notes, we think, are the main achievement of the editors: erudite, expansive as need be, and interesting on their own as you might expect from those two well-known historians. Notes are what turns diaries or dispatches into histories; in this case a valuable piece of New Mexico history and an excellent view of a minuscule part of the Mexican War.

0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Perfect Fit By KCNNW2FL The book arrived in great shape and within a reasonable time. I have no complaints about this vendor and would use them again without hesitation. I have begun reading the book. It will fill in a distinct hole in my understanding of the events surrounding the American invasion of New Mexico.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ... War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott" is not the greatest of books with regards to trying to figure out ... By Paul L. "The Mexican War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott" is not the greatest of books with regards to trying to figure out the stories of the Mexican War. The author is actually a reporter/soldier who went from Missouri into the New Mexico campaign of the Mexican War. The book itself is a collection of letters that he wrote on the journey out of Missouri through his time in New Mexico to the St. Louis Reveille across a 2 year period. The letters themselves are a nice collection of history while they do tell the story of the fight in New Mexico - they are at times uninteresting. The illustrations stories of these soldiers are also somewhat worthwhile but as a standalone novel this just doesn't work. It also doesn't help that there are over 40 pages of notes out of the references also 6 completely unrelated short stories thrown in at the end of the book that bear no relevance on anything. If you are looking for a book that tells the early history of New Mexico or even this campaign in the Mexican War - skip it for something a lot less rote more meaningful.

When General Stephen Watts Kearny's Army of the West marched into Santa Fe, New Mexico, on August 18, 1846, Richard Smith Elliott, a young Missouri volunteer, was included in its ranks. In addition to Lieutenant Elliott's duties in the Laclede Rangers, he served as a regular correspondent to the St. Louis Reveille. An entertaining and educated observer, Elliott provided readers back home with an account of the grueling march over the famous Santa Fe Trail, the triumphant entry of the army into Santa Fe, the U.S. occupation of New Mexico, and the volunteers' eventual return to St. Louis. Noted southwestern scholars Mark L. Gardner and Marc Simmons present here, for the first time, all of Elliott's letters published in the Reveille under his nom-de-plume, John Brown, using passages from his autobiography for the same period to fill in a break resulting from a few missing letters. Also included are Elliott's literary sketches, drawn from his Mexican War experiences and the people he met and served with.

From the Back Cover When General Stephen Watts Kearny's Army of the West marched into Santa Fe, New Mexico, on August 18, 1846, Richard Smith Elliott, a young Missouri volunteer, was included in its ranks. In addition to Lieutenant Elliott's duties in the Laclede Rangers, he served as a regular correspondent to the St. Louis Reveille. An entertaining and educated observer, Elliott provided readers back home with an account of the grueling march over the famous Santa Fe Trail, the triumphant entry of the army into Santa Fe, the U.S. occupation of New Mexico, and the volunteers' eventual return to St. Louis. Noted southwestern scholars Mark L. Gardner and Marc Simmons present here, for the first time, all of Elliott's letters published in the Reveille under his nom-de-plume, John Brown, using passages from his autobiography for the same period to fill in a break resulting from a few missing letters. Also included are Elliott's literary sketches, drawn from his Mexican War experiences and the people he met and served with. The editors' introduction and comprehensive notes provide insight into Elliott's political, social, and literary milieu and into the historical background of the people and places he portrayed. Elliott's correspondence invokes the hopes and fears of the men, the drudgery and hardship of the long march to Santa Fe, and the camaraderie of the troops. Including details of the resistance to U.S. occupation, the bloody Taos Revolt, and the military campaign that crushed the insurgents, Richard Smith Elliott's writings provide a fascinating firsthand account of the American Southwest during perhaps its most tumultuous period.

About the Author Mark L. Gardner is the coeditor of The Mexican War Correspondence of Richard Smith Elliott (University of Oklahoma Press). A consultant to the National Park Service, he has written interpretive booklets for both Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and Washita Battlefield

National Historic Site.