In *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers: Lieutenant Powhatan Clarke, Frederic Remington, and the Tenth U.S. Cavalry in the Southwest*, John P. Langellier provides a deeply researched and detailed account of the life and military service of Powhatan Clarke. Langellier, who received a PhD from Kansas State University and is the author of over twenty books, makes extensive use of Clarke's personal correspondence as well as the writings and illustrations of artist Frederic Remington to open up a window into the daily lives of US Army officers in the West in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers opens with chapters on Clarke's childhood and West Point years. Born in Alexandria, Louisiana, in 1862, Clarke was the son of a Confederate veteran and slaveholder and enjoyed considerable privilege in his early life. Educated in France, at Georgetown, and then at West Point, Clarke showed a tendency to be headstrong and either ignore or challenge authority while at school. Langellier depicts Clarke's West Point years as difficult, as the young man received many demerits for lack of discipline, tardiness, uniform violations, and the like while struggling to maintain passing grades. The majority of Langellier's work focuses on Clarke's time with the Tenth US Cavalry—one of the African American units formed after the Civil War—in the American Southwest and his friendship with Remington. During his years in the West, Clarke experienced the excitement of campaigning, the monotony of garrison life, and the loneliness that often accompanied the life of a soldier far from home. Through Clarke, Langellier provides the reader with a wealth of insight not only into the West but also into the reality of American relations with Native Americans and the functions of the late nineteenth-century army.

The strength of *Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers* lies primary in the extensive research and detail that clearly went into the work. From examining Clarke's early life to his death by accidental drowning during a training exercise, Langellier's account is extremely thorough. Rather than skipping between perceived highlights in Clarke's military career, Langellier painstakingly combs through personal correspondence to reconstruct the daily life and ordinary experiences of life at a US Army outpost in the West. In many ways, Langellier's depiction of the relentless monotony of Clarke's days is his most striking con-
tribution, challenging tropes about the exciting and wild frontiersman and replacing them with the realities of nineteenth-century army life. The book also excels in its depiction of the friendship of Clarke and Remington. Remington, an artist born in upstate New York to a northern Civil War veteran, became an unlikely friend of Clarke while traveling in the West and creating illustrations for publication back East. This chance friendship benefited both men, as Clarke provided Remington with guidance in the West and Remington’s reports and illustrations brought attention from both superiors and the public to Clarke’s career.

While Langellier’s thorough research shines in his analysis of Clarke and Remington, the author’s analysis of the Black troops under Clarke’s command is somewhat lacking. While Langellier does provide insight into the views of white officers on Black soldiers and their evolution over time, the actual Black soldiers themselves receive less attention than one would hope for. Langellier’s focus on the Tenth US Cavalry’s white officers rather than its Black troops is further complicated by the book’s description of Clarke as a “subaltern,” a label increasingly used to describe marginalized or underrepresented historical subjects (p. 6). While Langellier’s use of the term seeks to highlight his focus on a junior officer rather than higher-ranking officials, classifying a relatively privileged white officer with abundant personal correspondence as subaltern in a study of a nineteenth-century Black regiment may not sit well with some readers.

The book’s shortcomings, however, do not negate the extensive research and insight that Langellier has provided. Readers with an interest in the US Army in the post-Civil War West will find this book beneficial, as will those seeking insight on white officers of Black regiments. A well-researched and engagingly written biography, Scouting with the Buffalo Soldiers will prove both useful and enjoyable to many.
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