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Front cover: Artist E. G. Renesch depicts here the pride felt by Black families for their loved ones in uniform. Courtesy of the National WWI Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri.

Back cover: Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne as a young woman. She was one of four Catholic nuns who ministered to the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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BOOK NOTES

Adapting to the Land: A History of Agriculture in Colorado. By John F. Freeman with Mark E. Uchanski. (Louisville: University Press of Colorado, 2022, x + 277 pages, cloth \$44.00.)

Westward expansion in the United States would have been impossible without advances in agricultural technology, improvements in farming practices, and the harnessing of water in the arid regions of the West. *Adapting to the Land* is primarily a history of agricultural developments, but due to the centrality of agriculture in the growth of Colorado, the book serves in many ways as a thorough history of the Centennial State itself. From Ancestral Puebloan settlements through the rise of organic farming practices in the twenty-first century, *Adapting to the Land* recounts the role that agriculture has played throughout the state's history. While broad in scope, the book's real strength lies in the depth of its detail. Readers will encounter intricate details about soil chemistry and cultivation techniques; the science behind the invention of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers; specific estimates of historical crop yields; a primer on the processes of hybridization and genetic modification; and the impact of incipient conservation efforts. More than anything, readers will develop an appreciation for the preciousness of water, which "continues to be the controlling factor in the development of the arid West" (p. 152).

The Whites Want Every Thing: Indian-Mormon Relations, 1847–1877. Vol. 16 in Kingdom in the West: The Mormons and the American Frontier. Edited by Will Bagley. (Norman, OK: Arthur H. Clark, 2019, 560 pages, cloth \$55.00.)

Volume 16 makes a compelling addition to the Kingdom in the West series, centering on the fraught relationships between Latter-Day Saints and Indigenous people (especially the Ute, Shoshone, and Paiute) in the Great Basin during the first thirty years of Mormon settlement. This is a meticulously researched collection of primary sources with extensive cultural and historical context provided by the book's editor, Will Bagley, author of more than a dozen books on Mormon history. Organized chronologically, it covers such events as the California Gold Rush, the Walker War, the Ute War, and the Spanish Fork Treaty of 1865. Despite the centrality of Indigenous people to Mormon theology, these sources make clear that the Latter-Day Saints were ruthless in their efforts to create a religious state out West.

A Whirlwind Passed through Our Country: Lakota Voices of the Ghost Dance. By Rani-Henrik Andersson. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018, xv + 416 pages, cloth \$39.95.)

The Ghost Dance, a form of religious practice, or perhaps a new religion, spread from the Paiute in the Southwest across the whole of the Great Plains in 1890. The newspapers called it a dangerous and murderous messianic movement. Reflexive repression on the part of the U.S. government led indirectly to the death of Sitting Bull and directly to the massacre at Wounded Knee. Historians still tend to see the Ghost Dance, especially among the Lakota, as merely an expression of traditionalist resistance to the catastrophes of the reservation period. In this book, Rani-Henrik Andersson aims to recover the complexity of Lakota experiences—emphatically plural—of the Ghost Dance. Andersson foregrounds the direct testimony of Lakota participants and contemporaries, including leaders and participants but also those who were cautious of or even hostile to the Ghost Dance. Recovering the meanings of an intense religious movement is no easy task. Anyone interested in the topic will be rewarded by the wealth of evidence and scholarly commentary Andersson offers.

The Last Rancher: A Novel. By Robert Rebein. (Emporia, KS: Meadowlark Press, 2024, 366 pages, paper \$24.99.)

The Last Rancher is a fast-paced contemporary Western following the Wagner family's complicated life and relationships in Dodge City, Kansas. The book features an aging patriarch, a frustrated and lonely ranch wife, a dead son, a reliable son turned lawyer, a headstrong daughter chasing academic aspirations, and a prodigal son pursuing illicit business opportunities. All lives collide when several crises arise. With lives and the ranch threatened, the family attempts to circle the wagons and deal with the aftermath. One of the most striking parts of the book is the authenticity of Rebein's characters. He expertly knits their stories together, capturing the tumult that comes with family tragedies that may end but are never fully resolved. These elements combined create a compelling narrative that pulls the reader into the story and does not let go.