



The U.S.-Mexican War: A Complete Chronology

By Bud Hannings

Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013, 216 pages

Reviewed by Gerald Williams

Bud Hannings' *The U.S. Mexican War: A Complete Chronology* is a historical and fascinating collection of accounts and events before and during the U.S.-Mexican War. The book is written in an easy-to-understand format with focus on important dates from Texas' independence to the Battle of Chapultepec (highly regarded as the battle ending the U.S.-Mexican War in 1847). With Hannings' focus on the war's background and events related to it, the *U.S.-Mexican War: A Complete Chronology* comes off as a strong source about the war.

The first thing noticed about Hannings' chronology of the U.S. Mexican-War is that it starts off a few years before the war in 1816. The events listed go far beyond just the battles between Mexicans and Texans. While these are at the focal point, he brings in other factors and events that give a larger perspective on the war raging from the extermination of piracy to Native Americans. Native Americans, particularly the Comanches and Creek Indians, are given special mention throughout the chronology's beginning dates. Depicted are situations of Native American raids on American towns and villages and how villagers sought to combat them.

One of the most interesting raids was an event known as the Fort Parker Massacre on 19 May 1836. Though a short passage, it inspired me to find out even more about it. This led me to reading the story of Cynthia Ann Parker, a 9-year-old victim of the raid. She was captured and soon assimilated into the Comanche, marrying a chief and bearing a son who would later become chief. When she was found years later, she could not assimilate back into American society and ran away to rejoin the Comanches.

With stories like these, Hannings seeks to give the full scope of the U.S.-Mexican War. It wasn't just a war between the U.S. and Mexican authorities but the natives as well. Although some recordings have more information than others, one can easily find more information about the event thanks to a plethora of material found online or in books. There are also some events listed surrounding the war that have little to do with the war but are still important enough to know such as President Van Buren's address in 1838 about not assisting Canadian rebels against the British government.

The major events of the war, however, are very detailed. For example, Hannings' descriptions of the defense of Fort Texas in 1846 list each officer who fought during the battle, which lasted 3-6 May. He also details the positions of the garrison, cavalry, and infantry with respect to both U.S. and Mexican armies. This attention to detail is drawn from his many sources and compiled into one elaborate description of battles fought before and during the U.S.-Mexican War. Injuries and casualties are also listed for each battle.

While the scope of Hannings' chronology is wide, I would have liked to see more details regarding the occupation of the West and its policy on slavery.

Hannings' detailed list of events comes from an impressive collection of texts that paint an accurate history of life before and during the U.S.-Mexican War. I found that this book is a must-read for any historian or teacher who wants to know more about the battles and events of the U.S.-Mexican War. While the book is organized quite well, I wouldn't recommend it to anyone new to the U.S.-Mexican's war history, as it could use a little more background to introduce newer readers. I would treat this as a companion book to read with other source material in order to get an even wider scope of the U.S.-Mexican War. Overall, this book was an entertaining read.