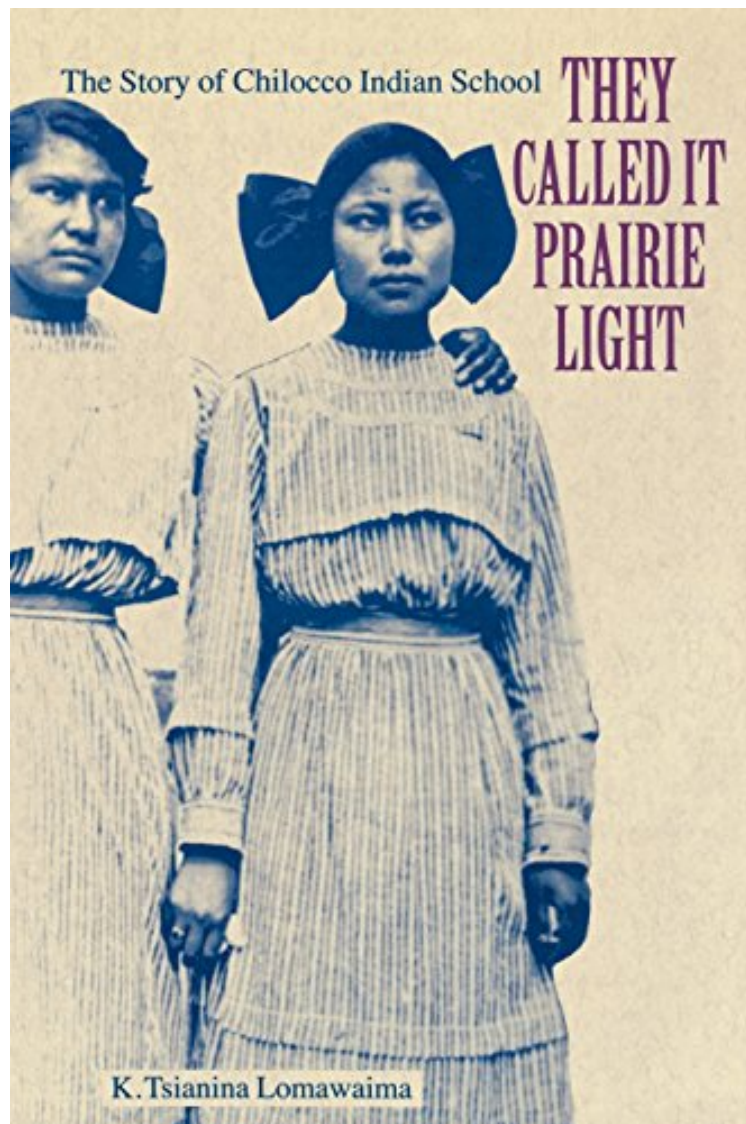


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They Called It Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School (North American Indian Prose Award)

K. Tsianina Lomawaima

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#276414 in Books K Tsianina Lomawaima 1995-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .50 x 5.981, .73 #File Name: 0803279574215 pages They Called it Prairie Light The Story of Chilocco Indian School | File size: 32.Mb

K. Tsianina Lomawaima : They Called It Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School (North American Indian Prose Award) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They Called It Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School (North American Indian Prose Award):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a somewhat difficult "term paper" format to read but I'm grateful for the insight it provides into what daily life was like at Chilocco from a student's perspective. By T. A. Thank you to the author for researching and writing a book about Chilocco and recording a part of Native American history that is not discussed. It's the only book of first person accounts I could find about any Indian school. It's a somewhat difficult "term paper" format to read but I'm grateful for the insight it provides into what daily life was like at Chilocco from a student's perspective. My mother and several of her sisters were at Chilocco and would not talk about it much. They are all gone now and their stories with them. Like some of the people interviewed in the book, they would simply say "We went to class or learned to sew." and not much else. My aunt told me my mother ran away repeatedly and was taken back. No one would ever say why. 24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. About time we heard from the students themselves. By Irvin Porter (iporter@univ.dbq.edu) The book is very insightful for people trying to trace the history of the boarding-school experience among Native Americans. For too long, we have heard the story of this blight on education in this country from the perpetrators side only. This book goes far and away in advancing for the first time the views and stories of the people who lived it. Began as a way to "civilize" Native people forcefully, Chilocco soon becomes, after needed reform, a way of life for many Indian families till 1980. Racism was the antagonist after the 20's which forced Native people to send their children to these schools, not the government. Sometimes, these schools were their own choices for higher education for their children after grade schools. Clearly evident in this book is the nature of "vocational education" which was espoused by the boarding schools: that of subservience. They were not training these people to be doctors, lawyers, educators, and civil servants, they trained them to do for others and not to aspire to anything but. A great book to start your education into educational history of Native peoples. I highly recommend this! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A classic in the literature. By Customer #99 Simply powerful, beautifully written. If you are interested in Indian boarding school history you must read this book by a Hopi scholar.

Established in 1884 and operative for nearly a century, the Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma was one of a series of off-reservation boarding schools intended to assimilate American Indian children into mainstream American life. Critics have characterized the schools as destroyers of Indian communities and cultures, but the reality that K. Tsianina Lomawaima discloses was much more complex. Lomawaima allows the Chilocco students to speak for themselves. In recollections juxtaposed against the official records of racist ideology and repressive practice, students from the 1920s and 1930s recall their loneliness and demoralization but also remember with pride the love and mutual support binding them together the forging of new pan-Indian identities and reinforcement of old tribal ones.

[An] engaging and insightful book. . . . The author steers a thoughtful course through this material: her prose is lucid, her judgments carefully weighed. She tempers the seriousness of her undertaking with compassion and, at times, humor always responding faithfully to the voices she records. Native Peoples