Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


Professors Jack Gregory and Rennard Strickland of the University of Arkansas have re-examined Sam Houston's voluntary stay with the Cherokees of eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas between 1829-1833. More than fifty biographies have been written about Sam Houston, but this monograph represents the first attempt to deal exclusively with Houston's stay with the Indians. The authors have contributed much to fill in this blank spot in the life of this important Texan.

In compiling the information for this book, the authors used “Indian agency records, maps, Congressional documents, trader's account books, contemporary diaries, unpublished letters, shipping records, missionary reports, and newspapers, as well as Houston's letters and speeches.” The authors were also granted permission to use for the first time in a biography on Houston “the Indian Archives of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art” located at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

*Sam Houston with the Cherokees* includes some of the legends and speculations about Houston's life during this period. They leave it to the reader, however, to draw his own conclusions.

The authors seek to establish that Houston did much during his stay with the Indians. For one thing, he had much time to think about Texas. When Houston left the Cherokees in 1832, he predicted that he might in the near future become “President of a Republic” because he was liked and sought by the Texans. He used his stay with the Indians to rebuild his life. While with the Indians, he became aware of the opportunities in Texas, and of the possibilities of an army composed of his Cherokee friends. Houston went to Texas to follow up the opportunities that were there.

The book is well documented and has an excellent bibliography. The authors have thoughtfully provided a chronology of Houston's life during this three and a half years at the end of the narrative. It contains three important maps. One of the maps shows the exact location of Houston's "Wigwam Neosho." This map was previously unpublished. There is also a collection of eighteen illustrations and a striking portrait of Diana Rogers, Sam Houston's Cherokee wife, which serves as a frontispiece. This painting was made by Joan Hill, Creek-Cherokee artist, from contemporary accounts. Each chapter is introduced by one or two short quotations.

The book is an outstanding, small biography. The facts are presented well by the authors. Sam Houston's life story is expanded by this book.

Bennett Wayne Geeslin
Nacogdoches, Texas
The University of Texas Archives: A Guide to the Historical Manuscripts Collections in the University of Texas Library. Compiled and edited by Chester V. Kielman. Austin (University of Texas Press) 1967. 594 pp. Index and appendices. $25.00.

Dr. Chester V. Kielman, archivist at the University of Texas, has compiled and edited a guide to the historical manuscripts collections in the University of Texas library. Other librarians might classify this volume as a descriptive catalogue or an annotated bibliography of archival holdings, but no matter what name one might use to describe the book, it is a great gift to the researcher and historian.

The guide represents a continuing effort to meet the need for "a systematic descriptive program and the production of varied finding aids" for the more than six million items contained in the archives. Former University of Texas archivist, Dorman H. Winfrey, began a program which led to the 1963 production of a public catalogue of entry cards. The present volume gives a comprehensive description of all manuscripts in the archives and is thus a complement to the catalogue.

The University of Texas Archives lists all the archival collections as entries by alphabetical order. Most of the collections bear the name of the "producer" of the manuscripts but many collections are designated by the names of towns, counties, or institutions. Each entry has a title line for the collection which includes the collection number, name, dates, quantity of material, and kinds of records included. A descriptive paragraph follows which explains the records in the collection, tell who the producer was, and shows how he is related to other fields of activity to which his records refer.

These carefully analyzed collections are a boon to the researcher and the accompanying index and appendices, which list "Fields of Activity" and "Historical Periods," refer to individual collections. However, the appendices and index, though representing a great deal of thought and preparation, fail the researcher by not containing subheadings. For instance, one appendix has an entry for religion but does not contain denominational references. As a result the researcher must plow through many collections to find needed materials. Similar comment can be made on the index where the city of Austin has numerous collection numbers but is not separated into specific topics. It is also noted that the appendices and index would be improved by better coordination. The Civil War receives fuller treatment in the appendix than in the index. The index, however, is most helpful for locating information on individuals.

In spite of these slight deficiencies this guide should not be deprecated. The work on the individual collections shows great care and the book is of inestimable value to all users of libraries. This volume reflects the maturity of southwestern research and the importance of Texas history to the entire nation.

Elaine E. Dilbeck
(Mrs. Ivan Dilbeck)
Stephen F. Austin State College
In 1965 Mr. Russell published a History of Titus County with no thought of an additional work on the same subject, therefore the book was not titled Volume I. The author was not able to get all of his material in the 1965 edition and after its appearance many people supplied him with data on their families and information on interesting events. Publication of this material became necessary and for purposes of identification is here designated "History of Titus County, Volume II". When a second edition is ready, the first book will be printed as Volume I.

This second volume follows the general plan of the earlier one. There are stories of approximately as many families as in that published in 1965. The general treatment is similar which makes it very important to the local historian and genealogist. There are some features in this volume that are not found in the earlier one. Descriptions of the ghost towns of the county are interesting and informative. The story of Snow Hill is a classic. The rise, heyday and decline of this once thriving community are given in a fascinating and convincing manner. There are a number of ghost towns mentioned but none was as important in the life of the county as Snow Hill.

A very good case is made for the claim that Louis Moses Rose, the only man who escaped from the Alamo, is buried at Greenhill, Titus County. Religious practices in the county are described in a way to contribute much to the understanding of theological beliefs and application to early rural life in the area.

Another section, "It Happened Around the Courthouse," gives a vivid picture of Titus County justice as dispensed in the early days. A description of the coming of the railroads reveals the power of the iron horse in social and economic life on the frontier. This is not a conventional county history but a collection of data on people and the way they lived in Titus County that will be of value to all who are interested in local history.

ROBERT L. JONES
East Texas State University


This small but significant volume on the Civil War contains the three lectures given at the University of Texas at Arlington in April, 1966 as the first Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures. As E. C. Barksdale, head of the history department at Arlington, points out in the introduction to this volume, Walter P. Webb was for many years closely associated with the Arlington history department as a friend, guide, and counsellor. Most of the early instructors in history were Webb products, several of the college administrators were his close friends, and Webb himself always expressed a
keen interest in the college. It is only fitting that the department established a public lecture series in his name.

Two of the three lectures in the first series were given by members of the Arlington faculty, Martin Hardwick Hall and Homer L. Kerr. The third lecture was given by Frank Vandiver of Rice, one of the better known authorities on the Civil War period. The lectures by Hall and Kerr both relate to developments in the Trans-Mississippi West; Vandiver's lecture covers a more general theme, the effect of the Civil War upon American institutions.

Kerr's essay on the battle of Elkhorn Tavern, or Pea Ridge, describes one of the largest Civil War battles fought west of the Mississippi river. As Professor Kerr notes, the battle climaxed elaborate efforts on the part of the Confederacy to guarantee control of northwestern Arkansas and to re-enter southern Missouri. The failure of Van Dorn's forces at Pea Ridge on March 7-8, 1862 was a serious setback to Confederate plans. Whether it "was the most significant battle west of the Mississippi" as Kerr feels is debatable, but certainly it was a campaign of major importance.

In his essay on "Planter vs. Frontiersman," Professor Hall describes the conflict over Confederate Indian policy. Central figures in the drama were Jefferson Davis, the proud Confederate president and representative of the plantation aristocracy which favored dealing with the Indians on the traditional basis, and Colonel John R. Baylor, military governor of Arizona territory, who favored an aggressive policy in handling the hostile Indians. As Professor Hall observes in this provocative essay Davis and Baylor represented the divisions within the South relating to Indian affairs; those in the older areas generally favoring a passive and rather idealistic policy, those in the frontier areas favoring a more aggressive and realistic policy.

Frank Vandiver's essay presents the thesis that the Civil War, while most destructive in many ways, was constructive in developing urbanization, industrialization, and centralization, not only in the victorious North but in the defeated South as well. Regrettably, Vandiver's essay is only fifteen pages in length and without footnote citations; he does, however, raise many interesting points which hopefully he will elaborate upon in later works.

In all, the three essays present new insights on the Civil War and mark an auspicious beginning for the Webb lectures. As added treats the editors include Webb's own thoughtful and amusing "Letter to a College President," and a most complete bibliography of Webb's writings compiled by Margaret Francine Morris. The participants and publishers are to be congratulated on this incisive volume.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar State College


This book from the Crowell American History Series focuses upon American colonial development and supports the theme that out of the varied
experiences of the years 1607-1763 "the American people gained the heritage that would define their nation in the decades and centuries to follow." The method employed by the author is an analysis of the evidence offered by recent scholarship and an assessment of the probabilities where they present contrary evidence.

Professor Ubbelohde contends that there was a theoretical empire which existed only in the minds of some Englishmen and a few colonists. This empire was one in which the homeland "arranged the constitutional, political, economic, strategic, and other affairs of the imperial world." The other—or real—empire was one created by "compromises, inefficiency, inattention, and ignorance" and one in which "the American colonists played a more dynamic, more substantial role" in imperial policy formation and administrative management.

After weighing carefully the evidence afforded by recent scholarship, Ubbelohde concludes that: (1) economically, "the Empire had been a success;" (2) politically, "Britain . . . created opportunities for political advancement," though not always intentionally; and (3) strategically, "military partnership almost inevitably generated misunderstandings and grievances that marred imperial harmony." He also concludes that the "British Empire had offered . . . (the colonists) priceless opportunities to learn the arts of self-government, to cultivate in a relatively unrestricted way social controls and economic opportunities more relaxed than had been known in the past." Moreover, "easy acquisition of land, relatively free immigration, religious toleration created by necessity if not conviction, a fluid social structure in which individual attainment (ordinarily economic) rather than bloodlines counted—these were the distinctive features of American colonial society" that became distinctive features of the American nation.

Two ideas of considerable significance to those interested in the shaping and development of American culture in the past revolutionary years are included in this study. One is that American colonists were well-fed, well-housed, and enjoyed a considerable variety of luxuries of life. Indeed, in comparison with Europeans and Latin Americans of the time, the British colonials enjoyed a high standard of living. This relative economic prosperity led American colonials to defend their standard of living against all threats—real and imaginary—from outside sources, especially homeland sources.

The other is that, contrary to widely-accepted notions, suffrage requirements in colonial America were reasonably inclusive. In both Massachusetts and Virginia, for examples, the property qualifications were easily met by a majority of adult males. In fact, it appears from this study that the suffrage although widely distributed was not very widely exercised. In short, the American practice of non-voting reaches back into colonial times and is truly an American tradition.

The book suffers from one stylistic weakness. In an effort to survey recent historical writing and avoid the use of footnotes, Professor Ubbelohde often fills his pages with bibliographical references that detract from the flow of his narrative. The reader's interest and attention are interrupted again by such material inserted into the body of the work. Footnotes would be better, so
that those interested in bibliography could find it easily, and those interested only in content could read without interruption.

Aside from that one reservation, this brief treatment of American colonial history can be recommended as useful reading by beginner and seasoned veteran alike. It is well balanced and reflects mature judgement. It can serve as a point of beginning for students of American colonial history and for students of the history of the First British Empire which ended with the American Revolution. It is also an excellent review for the veteran of either subject.

J. E. Ericson
Stephen F. Austin State College


Little is known about the "Wanderer" who recorded the first two of six cruises made by the *Yankee* during the War of 1812. On the ship's records he was listed as the ship's clerk and went by the name of Noah Jones. The name seems to have been a pseudonym because the name Noah Johnson appears on the title page of the original journals. Careful reading of the second journal indicates that Jones or Johnson had received some formal education and his frequent use of poetry indicates that he had been schooled for a literary career that for some unknown reason had been terminated. Johnson made only the first two voyages aboard the *Yankee* and then disappeared.

The first journal, written as the official log and signed by the ship's captain, Oliver Wilson, covered a period between July and August of 1812. The journal was merely a record of daily events; weather reports, combat with other ships, and plunder taken. Because the journal was not supposed to be seen by anyone but interested parties, the author made no attempt to make it entertaining.

The second journal, covering a period between October, 1812 and January, 1813, was evidently written as a private account since the author gave free reign to his literary talent and furnished a more entertaining account than that found in the first journal.

One example from each journal will suffice to show their differences. In his entry for Tuesday, August 4, 1812 of the first cruise, the author recorded:

Thick and foggy weather during this 24 hours. Variation per evening amplitude 24 7 10. Sounded in 46 fathoms on whale bank. All hands employed in necessary jobs. No observation. (p. 26).

In direct contrast is the following entry for October 27, the tenth day of the second cruise.

The weather now has become very fine, with gentle breezes and a smooth sea. The nights are less dreary because we have a full moon. How beautiful is a moonlight night at sea! The vessel softly glides before the favoring gale whose zephyrs waft her o'er the
deep, while ten thousand little stars reflected from a brilliant sky, 
sparkle beneath her sides, and all ocean smiles at the charming 
scene . . . (pp. 76-77).

The private nature of the second journal gave the author a chance to 
record the impressions made by the men who served with him. With the 
exception of Captain Wilson, Johnson did not care for his associates. Find­
ing no close companionship among the ship's crew, Johnson found life aboard 
ship lonely and often bemoaned the circumstances that forced him to go to 
sea. However, he never revealed the reasons for leaving home.

In an introduction to the book, Admiral E. M. Eller, Director of Naval 
History, emphasizes the role played by American privateers in hampering 
British commerce during the War of 1812. Admiral Eller states that the 
Yankee was one of the most successful American privateers, capturing forty 
or forty-one British ships. As a record of two of the Yankee's voyages, the 
two journals furnish worthwhile information about life aboard a successful 
privateer.

No picture of the Yankee exists, but the editors have included a drawing 
of the brig Nancy Ann of the same size and period as the Yankee to suggest 
its appearance. In addition to the drawing, the editors have provided re­
productions of the original title pages as well as several entries and a letter 
of authentication for the first journal. Further aids include two maps; one 
for each cruise.

The reader who is looking for great historical events will find these two 
journals to be of little value. However, as a chronicle of the lives of ordinary 
people involved in a dangerous business, the journals will interest many 
readers.

Stanley H. Watson
Stephen F. Austin State College


The America that emerged from the Civil War was quite different from the 
country that existed before 1860. While the military conflict had solved cer­
tain problems that had been debated for years, it left two major questions uns­
olved—the money question and the race question. The race question was 
placed on the shelf for many years, but the money question was central to 
the survival and continued growth of the economic system.

The money question arose because of emergency actions taken during the 
Civil War and it had to be faced immediately. Specie payments had been 
suspended, paper money had been introduced as a substitute for gold, and 
the Civil War floating debt had to be funded. These problems kicked off bitter 
debates and sweeping re-examinations of the monetary system. These debates 
continue today in modified form.

Walter Nugent has written a scholarly book that examines the money 
question and its impact upon American society in the crucial years 1865- 
1880. His approach is a combination of sociology, political science, and eco­
nomics. He analyzes the attitudes of each ideological, economic, political,
social, and sectional group in society toward the money question and toward each other. He traces the changes in attitudes and alignment during this period and does an excellent job of discussing the personalities and events related to the money question.

The crucial question of the period was whether the country should be on a gold standard, a bimetallic standard, or a non-metallic or "greenback" standard. Basically, it was a matter of whether the money supply would be governed by mother nature or by the devices of men. The period 1865-73 was tranquil and marked by intergroup harmony toward the money question. The depression that began in 1873 caused tremendous hardship and shattered the consensus that existed. The period 1873-80 was a time of stress and conflict. As a result of the money question, American society by 1880 consisted of broad cleavages—capital vs. labor, creditors vs. debtors, and rich vs. poor.

Nugent looks at the controversies from the standpoint of the political economy of that day. Motives are explored, and each group is found to have been acting in what it considered to be the public interest. The old stereotypes are broken down as Nugent looks at the sectional differences within occupational groups and the occupational differences within each section of the country. Not all bankers were "hard-money" men, nor were all laborers "soft-money" men. Those who were "goldbugs" at the beginning of the period may have been "greenbackers" by the end and vice-versa.

A unique contribution of this book is that Nugent discusses the American money problem in an international context. Events in England, France, and Germany had great impact upon United States policy, but most writers have neglected these foreign influences.

This book gives valuable insight into a perennial American problem and should be of interest to social scientists in all fields. Economists and economic historians could certainly benefit from a reading of this important work.

Charles W. Brown
Stephen F. Austin State College


Every election year the American reading public is confronted with a new influx of politically timed publications by scholars, politicians, authors, and would-be authors. This book is such a publication; but more important, it is a valuable contribution to the understanding of contemporary campaign politics. Here is a pioneering work by a practitioner of the art of selling a political commodity. For twenty years the author has been a writer and producer in radio, television, and films. Since 1960 his services have been sought regularly in projecting political images on the television screen. This book is a first person report of the author's participation in campaigns over the past eight years. But it is more than just a story.

A theory of television campaigning has been developed in this book that focuses on the fact that today television is the media of prime importance to
any political campaign. The printed media are important only when the candidate images are equal. The author's forte is transfiguring candidates into personal images or characterizations which he calls image candidates. “An image candidate is a leading character in the political drama presented by television before an election. His characterization tends to be universally perceived, regardless of viewers' political predispositions, due to viewers' media predispositions to see the candidates in terms of television's stereotyped desirable and undesirable characters, stereotypes that may in themselves be projections of characters valued or detested in the United States culture at large.” The transforming of Ambassador Lodge into an image candidate in the New Hampshire primary of 1964 was the first of several successful tests of this theory at the national level. Lodge, whose appeal to the voter in person was somewhat stilted, projected well in the five minute television film composed of still shots of the candidate, proper background scenes, and selected excerpts from former speeches. A similar technique was successful for Rockefeller in the 1964 Oregon primary as it had been for Mayor Wagner of New York in his 1962 campaign for re-election. Using this method a candidate need not appear on television personally and reveal his real self. The desired image is technically projected. The author includes the complete scripts for two television film features used in the 1964 campaign.

Several problems have arisen in gaining widespread acceptance of the image candidate concept not the least of which is the scepticism (or jealousy) with which the political advisers view the image specialist. The author notes that an imperative part of creating the desired image of the candidate is personal association with the candidate. A film director or writer must understand his actors to the extent that he knows their moods and personality characteristics. The candidate's personal advisers sometimes resent this association and almost always doubt the existence of political acumen in the image specialist.

This book is different from most in that the author recognizes the danger to the nation if the voters are sold unqualified candidates and proposes changes in the system. Predictions are also made with regard to the 1968 presidential election. He says, “Actually, shortcomings of the Republican candidate's image are the only thing that could possibly prevent the election of a Republican in 1968.” With the assistance of the image-candidate concept, the Republicans who could most easily defeat President Johnson are Percy, Rockefeller, Romney, Reagan, and Nixon in that order.

The book presents a point of view, recognizes the problems involved, and proposes solutions. The major importance of this new work is not the political prediction but the proposal of new theory which can be tested empirically by replication of method.

Charles W. Simpson
Stephen F. Austin State College

John Fitzgerald Kennedy . . . As We Remember Him. Edited and Produced under the Direction of Goddard Lieberson. A Columbia Records Legacy
This attractive paperbound biography of the Thirty-Fifth President of the United States is an unabridged reprint of an original memorial volume that was produced in limited edition. In this new and less expensive format it becomes readily available to the many people who may wish to own and keep a contemporary biography of John F. Kennedy.

The pictures, more than two hundred in number, range from shots of JFK as an infant and small child through his growth to manhood, the war years, his political campaigns, the Presidency, and finally to the fateful trip to Texas in the fall of 1963. The text is compiled from speeches, conversations, letters, and quotations from a great variety of people including Mrs. Jacqueline B. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Richard Nixon, and Lyndon B. Johnson. More than half of the total volume is devoted to the Presidential years, thus providing a rather complete record of the thousand days that John F. Kennedy was chief executive.

The reviewer has no quarrel with any phase of this study. Except for the front cover all the pictures are in black and white, but they are well-chosen, numerous enough to satisfy the most ardent fan, and include a great number never before published. The accompanying text is informative, at times light-hearted and humorous, but never morbid. Mr. Lieberson is to be congratulated for having produced the book that he set out to compile ... A popular account of John F. Kennedy ... As we remember him.

Robert S. Maxwell
Stephen F. Austin State College


Of all the Texas Lumber Barons, John Henry Kirby was probably the most colorful and flamboyant. His multi-level industrial empire, his involved and at times obscure financial manipulations, and his wide range of political friendships, made his activities front-page news, not only in Texas but throughout the nation. Kirby’s career was in the classical American tradition. Born on a poor, back country farm in Southeastern Texas, Kirby struggled for an education, studied law, and became a timber buyer, a sawmill operator, and one of the founders of the Houston Oil Company. At the peak of his power, Kirby owned a railroad, some eighteen sawmills, vast acreages of timber lands, and considerable Houston real estate. In addition he held important political offices and during World War I served as Lumber Administrator for the South under the United States Shipping Board. As one admirer described him in answer to a query, “that’s John Henry Kirby. And when he crows, it IS daylight in East Texas.”

In this well-designed and attractively printed biography, Mary Lasswell (Mrs. D. W. Smith) has written a pleasant and informal account of the great industrialist. She has also recaptured something of the flavor of Kirby the man. He was a warm, friendly, outgoing person, loyal and generous to
his friends and devoid of hypocrisy or pretense. Even his later financial difficulties and eventual personal bankruptcy in the thirties could not destroy the Kirby charm and smile, or silence the humorous quips and stories that were his trademark (198-200).

The study, however, suffers from a number of rather serious defects. The author approaches her subject with almost worshipful admiration and consequently there is no critical analysis of Kirby’s career. Although she devotes considerable space to an attempt to unravel the confused arrangements and litigation of the early days of the Houston Oil Company, Miss Lasswell includes almost no discussion of the Kirby Lumber Company (the corporation on which most of his wealth was based) or the top-level managerial decisions concerning its operation. There is no documentation and the “selected bibliography” is sketchy and in places inaccurate.

For the general public and casual reader this will be an interesting and pleasant account of the spectacular John Henry Kirby. Serious students must await a more complete and objective biography of Texas’ greatest lumber entrepreneur.

Robert S. Maxwell
Stephen F. Austin State College