Book Reviews
BOOK REVIEWS


Professor Moorhead of the University of Oklahoma reveals both the theme and thesis of his book in its title. Thematically, he deals with that Spanish colonial institution known as the presidio, and persuasively argues that it was a major nucleus of New World civilization and the principal arm of Spain's military presence in the northern Mexican borderlands from the late sixteenth century to the 1810 independence movement. His specific objectives appear to be threefold: to define the presidio more precisely, to gauge its influence on regional history, and to date and fix exact locations of the several dozen presidios. And, by anyone's yardstick, Moorhead accomplishes his goals.

His work is divided into two major sections, a chronological overview of the presidios' evolution and an analysis of the facets and functions of the average presidial garrison. Each section is subdivided into five chapters which, while occasionally being a bit repetitious, examine the presidio from its origins near Mexico City in the 1570s through its use as a rather successful agent for settling hostile Apaches in the present American Southwest during the 1790s.

The author maintains that, strictly defined, the presidio was a garrisoned position found only in the so-called Provincias Internas; that is, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Durango, Sonora, and Sinaloa. Its vast influence in this region was not limited to its military role. The presidio also made an impact on the economic and social worlds of the civilians in the surrounding villas. Moorhead makes several interesting observations regarding the day to day existence in those earliest settlements. Especially intriguing is his insight into the tradition of debt peonage in the borderlands. Furthermore, his research pinpoints geographically every presidio each time official policy dictated that a garrison be moved to a new, more advantageous location.

Unfortunately, his extensive examination of the Spanish institution results at times in some tedious reading in an otherwise well-written volume. The typical Castillian concern with official reporting leads to a proclivity on the part of the historian to over-paraphrase such reports. Much of the flesh and blood everyday life on the frontier which might have been included in his second section often becomes lost in rehashing instrucciones, recommendations, and the bickering between captains, commandantes, and viceroys.

This minor criticism notwithstanding, Dr. Moorhead has written a solid institutional study. His bibliography is not overwhelmingly extensive but does contain the essential printed primary and secondary references for any student of the borderlands. His incorporation of recent archeological findings, rare maps from the British Museum, and ample archival research in Seville and Mexico City likewise provide much of the documentation to make The Presidio: Bastion of the Spanish Borderlands a fine traditional history.

Thomas H. Kreneck
Bowling Green State University


Frank Waters, who has written broadly and movingly about the Indians of New Mexico, here expands his area of inquiry and speculation to the larger sub-
ject of Mesoamerican civilization. Believing that there may well be an instinctive, transcendental connection binding previous and present humanity together, a connection which may well be in the world of “consciousness,” he explores the civilization of the Mayas through legend, myth, and history to find answers to puzzling dilemmas of the world today. The tone is suggested by one quotation: “Man’s evolution through the four previous worlds or stages is more than a mechanical process. It has taken place, as these myths tell us, on both physical and psychological levels. Now in the fifth world it must develop on a plane no longer physical but psychical; hastened or retarded by the degree of man’s unfolding consciousness...” (p. 102). And he produces much evidence from a variety of sources in surmising these conclusions, including the possibility of extraterrestrial influences both occult and accidental, as in Immanuel Velikovsky’s assertions in *Worlds in Collision*.

The book is divided into two parts. In the first part, he deals with the conquest of the Aztec Empire and the coming of a new civilization. He traces also much of what is known through archaeology and history about the origins and development of pre-conquest civilizations. Part II deals with myths, in which he compares the myths of American civilizations with those of other areas of the world. Much of the section is devoted to the folklore of the Aztecs and Mayans with their cultural background in Mesoamerican civilization. The last section of the second part deals with the Mayan concept of time, in which the author analyses the calendar system of the Mayas. In an appendix, incidentally, is a presentation entitled “Predicting Planetary Positions,” discussing the mathematical realities of the movement of the planets. This movement has attracted the author because he asserts extraordinary coincidences of known physical developments on Earth with planetary conjunctions.

Proofreading more carefully would have caught such errors as the correct spelling and accenting of the name Cortes. Maps and charts are instructive in assisting the reader's comprehension of the author’s interpretations.

David M. Vigness
Texas Tech University


Karl M. Schmitt, currently Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at Austin, has twenty-five years of teaching and research experience in the history of Mexico and Mexican-United States relations. *Mexico and the United States, 1821-1973,* summarizing his reading and reflection, is aimed at college undergraduates and the general educated, reading public. This book will also attract the particular attention of Texans since their own state’s history is so intimately interwoven with the origins and growth of Mexican-United States relations. Schmitt’s volume should find a ready readership since the last overviews of Mexican-United States relations in English were J. Fred Rippy’s *The United States and Mexico* (1931), and James M. Callahan’s *American Foreign Policy in Mexican Relations* (1932). The only more recent overviews are two multi-volume studies by Mexicans—Luis Zorrilla’s fine *Historia de las relaciones entre Mexico y los Estados Unidos de America, 1800-1958* (2 vols., 1965) and Alberto Maria Carreno’s prejudiced *La diplomacia extraordinaria entre Mexico y los Estados Unidos* (2 vols., 1951).
Schmitt finds two central themes in the history of Mexican-United States relations: "first . . . the economic dependency of Mexico on the United States is of relatively recent origin," and "second . . . that United States threats, armed incursions, and the pressures to sell territory or to grant concessions have occurred whenever Mexico as a small power was least able to defend itself." (xi-xii)

Although Schmitt has done a competent job in synthesizing the ideas of recent scholarship, drawing upon several disciplines, including political science, history, and economics, on several occasions, older views which are under strong attack are repeated without reservation or reference to the current debate regarding their validity. For example, while drawing quite heavily upon the works of Daniel Cosio Villegas and David Pletcher, Schmitt does not even give passing notice to one major thrust of the work of both of these fine scholars, namely the assertion that U.S. economic penetration into Mexico predated Diaz' rise to power. Of course, full discussion of this thesis might force a revision of Schmitt's theme regarding the "relatively recent origin" of Mexico's economic dependence on the United States.

Perhaps greater concern, considering the readership the book is aimed at, rises from the fact that Schmitt's book contains many careless errors both in writing style and content. As examples, after criticizing Andrew Jackson's appointee as minister to Mexico, Anthony Butler, Schmitt continues: "Butler did enjoy one success," (42) and then proceeds to discuss two treaties Butler successfully negotiated. Or, after declaring that during the Texas-Mexican War of 1835-36 Andrew Jackson refused to declare neutrality, yet ordered U.S. officials to prohibit the outfitting of armed expeditions within the United States, Schmitt contends that U.S. law did not "forbid the enlistment of United States citizens in the Texan armed forces nor the export of war materials." (57). Then, after asserting that Federal law officers actually arrested violators and confiscated war material under Jackson's orders, Schmitt begins the next paragraph: "The neutrality laws and their violations caused severe strains and tensions in United States-Mexican relations." (57). But if neutrality was not declared and if U.S. officials from the President on down acted to prevent violations of a neutrality which they were not required to enforce, there is an unexplained logical gap which must be filled before the reader can understand how violations of the (irrelevant?) neutrality laws caused trouble between Mexico and the United States.

In sum, Schmitt's book is a competent synthesis, but the instances of careless writing should detract from its usefulness.

Thomas Schoonover
University of Southwestern Louisiana


In the past decade Eugene Genovese, professor of history at the University of Rochester, has gained recognition as one of the nation's outstanding authorities on the institution of slavery. Through a series of challenging essays and articles Genovese has contributed much to a better understanding of social, cultural, and economic developments in the American Southland during the years prior to the Civil War. His efforts have now resulted in this massive 823 page study of southern slavery, a work which one advance reader (Benjamin Quarles) has labeled "a landmark in the historiography of American slavery."
Utilizing manuscript sources, narratives of former slaves, travel accounts, diaries, letters, plantation records, and specialized studies by other scholars, Genovese has thoroughly examined the world in which American slaves lived. Their work, their play, their food, their clothing, their shelter, and their relationships to their masters and to themselves are all examined in some detail. In many ways the picture that emerges from Genovese’s study is similar to that of John Blassingame’s The Slave Community. While Genovese does not rely as heavily upon the testimony of former slaves as does Blassingame, both scholars stress the slave’s struggle to maintain a dignity and an individuality in an environment degrading to the human spirit.

Unlike the recent study by Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, Times on the Cross, Genovese is little concerned in this volume with the economic profits and losses of slavery. While he does not challenge the Fogel-Engerman appraisal of the slave’s physical surroundings, Genovese places much more stress upon the human aspects of slavery. Particular attention is devoted to family relationships, the language of the blacks, names taken by former slaves, and efforts of the slaves to take care of the young and the old.

Genovese argues persuasively that in spite of an elaborate web of white paternalism, blacks maintained their own sense of moral worth and right. “Accommodations and resistance,” he writes, “developed as two forms of a single process by which the slaves accepted what could not be avoided and simultaneously fought individually and as a people for moral as well as physical survival.” The slave’s religion, he contends, was most important in this process: “it rendered unto Caesar that which was Caesar’s, but it also narrowed down considerably that which in fact was Caesar’s.”

This is a volume which will be read and re-read for its interpretative insights. Not all will agree with Genovese’s views. Some will feel, for example, that the author tends to over-romanticize the nobility of the underdog and the oppressed. Others will argue that Genovese does not always understand the nature of southern rural customs, traditions, and folkways. Texas readers will regret that the author uses very few illustrations or examples from their region and these focus primarily upon the state’s small free black population and the rumors of a slave revolt in 1860.

One hundred twenty-one pages of footnotes (located inconveniently at the back of the book) offer ample testimony to the author’s familiarity with the sources, but a formal bibliography would have been helpful to the serious scholar. Although he cites her 1922 article on several occasions, Genovese apparently did not use her dissertation or more recent work on Texas slavery by Abigail Curlee Holbrook, or the more recent articles by Randolph Campbell on slavery in Harrison County. But these are minor criticisms of an otherwise outstanding volume that adds much to our knowledge of the antebellum period.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University

Travels in the Old South. Edited by Eugene L. Schwab with the collaboration of Jacqueline Bull. Lexington, Kentucky (The University Press of Kentucky), 1973. P. 582, Illustrations and Index. $25.00.

These two beautiful volumes in a boxed set edition are another contribution from the Kentucky-based efforts of Thomas D. Clark and others who have planned a six-volume bibliography of Travels in the Old South. The volumes under
review, edited capably by Eugène L. Schwab, include accounts by travelers in the South in the ante-bellum years, 1783-1860. Unlike other travel anthologies, Schwab's collection is confined to accounts appearing in periodicals. Such reports, intended for contemporary magazines, were necessarily compressed and to the point. This journalistic quality was often lacking in travel books, wherein the author either digressed into comparisons with other places he had been or luxuriated in philosophic commentary.

At the same time, however, in accounts of the periodical type, as is brought out by Professor Clark in his foreword, information about the author is often lacking and difficult to trace, especially in an anonymous article which is included because of its charm and clarity of style.

Generally, these accounts are positive in their reaction to the southern scene; that is, they accept crude frontier conditions as something transient which the vigorous Americans will soon improve. Unlike some of the familiar book accounts, there is no biting criticism of institutions or people. Even slavery comes in for little criticism; the "peculiar institution" was obviously accepted as part of the expected fabric of society in the Old South.

Of special interest to students of agricultural history are the descriptions of farm practices and the handling of livestock by the southern planter and farmer. Much of the content of these accounts, incidentally, and importantly, focuses on the life of the yeoman farmer.

The presentation, handsomely illustrated throughout, consists of seven chapters or sections, arranged in chronological periods; i.e., 1783-1805, 1806-1815, etc., up to 1860. Footnotes on every page assist the reader in his orientation.

The collection is certainly a convenient eye-witness source for social historians, especially.

James L. Nichols
Stephen F. Austin State University


The time ought never arrive when history is written only by professionals. W. N. Bate took up the task of "compiler" because he felt that "the Southern General Sherman", who commanded the left wing of the Texas army at San Jacinto, deserved a book. He did. It was his Kentucky volunteer company that brought the famous San Jacinto flag which now is preserved in the capitol. He had differences with Houston from the first, and he was dropped from the army without notice when the latter became president, and while Sherman was in Kentucky recruiting men for Texas. Late in the Republic he was elected Major General of Militia, and he served one term in the Republic's congress. He farmed, tried to build up Harrisburg, and was a railroad promoter. His sawmill, expensive home, and railroad office all burned within a period of two years, perhaps by an arsonist who opposed his railroad plans. He opened a hotel in Galveston, where he was appointed commandant in the early phases of the Civil War. But his financial reverses and a series of family deaths sapped his spirit, and he became a changed, less effective man. Ex-president David G. Burnet lived with his family until Sherman's wife died, and his friendship with Burnet was only one of the many differences he had with Sam Houston, who in 1859 accused him of cowardice at San Jacinto. Each side marshaled testi-
monials from veterans with Sherman gaining more, and his public credit was little impaired.

Bate is careful to be guided by the evidence. The book is a compilation in a good sense: it uses very extensive quotations from diaries, letters, documents, etc., which produce an excellent sense of milieu. There are some well-chosen illustrations, and a bibliography which the editor should never have accepted. Not only is it incomplete relative to citations in chapter endnotes, but it lists items by alphabetized title, as "History of Texas, by Yoakum," followed by "History of Texas, by Wortham," followed by that of Thrall. And "Proctor's Thesis, University of Texas Library, Austin, Texas." No title, baby, and no forename either. Both can be dug out in endnote 11 for chapter 24: "Sidney Sherman, Ben Proctor's Thesis, UT Library, Austin, Texas. , , ,." More-cryptic references to the thesis appear in other endnotes. Overall, you will enjoy reading this book.

John Osburn
Central State University—Oklahoma


This book of historical vignettes on western lore consists of reprints from the Texas Parade Magazine, July, 1960 through July, 1964. There are forty-five brief and most interesting narratives here, while the sketches accompanying them greatly enhance the prose.

Subjects and geography range all across the western United States. Billy the Kid, Carry Nation, and Bat Masterson comprise only a few of those mentioned in the one-page thumbnail biographies. There is just enough included to whet the appetite of the student of the wild west.

One unusual glimpse into the old west portrays the hanging of Ella Watson, better known perhaps, as Cattle Kate of Carbon County, Wyoming. This "lady" turned out to be both a hustler and rustler and she met her just deserts at the end of a rope.

Yes, the O. K. Corral gunfight is included along with other "moments of truth" dealing with the Earps, Doc Holliday, and a onetime Texas Ranger named Bass Outlaw.

Much more is in store for the reader as he peruses the works of writer and artist in this most entertaining and delightful volume.

Ronald Ellison
Beaumont, Texas


DeWitt County, Texas, is the locale of the major events which transpire throughout the pages of the small but interesting volume.

Much has been previously written about the battles and feuds of DeWitt County. The author of this work was cognizant of this fact and sets out to "put the record straight" once and for all. Much meticulous research has gone into the compilation of this work and the facts are evidently not distorted even though Mr. Sutton (Lt. Col., USAF. Ret.) is a grand-nephew of the feudist, William E. Sutton. The writer is not a professional historian but has published some articles in newspapers and magazines before. One point which may have
improved the volume could have been the elimination of the first person pronoun in relating the stories. The reader could perhaps wish for a more even flow of the narrative which a more experienced writer's flair could offer, but the interest is there and lives through the pages.

Post Civil War Texas serves as the setting of the narratives covered, which range from a cast of characters beginning with Josiah Taylor, who came to Texas in 1811, and his offspring; to Dave Augustine who was finally pardoned by the governor in 1896 for his part in the murder of Dr. Philip Brassell.

Evidently the old troubles were settled once and forever because in the conclusion of the book, Adjutant-General William Sterling stated that "At one time many years later a Sutton and a Taylor served in the same Ranger company where as comrades in arms they fought side by side to uphold the peace and dignity of the State."

Ronald Ellison
Beaumont, Texas


It will be a long time—if ever—before someone takes Frank Dobie's place as Texas' official spokesman. He studied the state's past, he lived vigorously in its present, and he knew its finest times as well as its faults and fantasies and its foolishness. If there was anything that he scorned it was the much touted image of the bragging Texan. That symbol was a continual source of embarrassment to Dobie for which he compensated with his own low-key brand of Texas patriotism.

However, like everybody else in Texas Dobie was carried to heights of patriotic fervor during the state's 1936 Centennial year. One of the results was *The Flavor of Texas,* originally published by Dealey and Lowe in Dallas in 1936, now republished in a very fine looking format by Jenkins Publishing Company of Austin.

*The Flavor of Texas* is a collection of firsthand narratives by those whom Dobie considered to be the representatives of the makers of Texas. They are the bigger than life pistol-toting, whiskey-drinking legendary heroes, sired by hurricanes and suckled on cyclones, who certainly were a part of Texas frontier life. The stories are of Big Foot Wallace and Brit Bailey, of fighting Indians and Mexicans and other Texans, and of stampedes and Texas weather.

Dobie drew the big picture of Texas and early Texans, and if he was a little heavy on the Texas war-whoop it is understandable considering the mood of those Centennial times.

Dobie did more than reinforce the old Texas image, however. He brought together some of the richest primary sources of the life and literature of the Southwest and presented it in his own rich style and context. He presents and talks about all the Texas types—the cowboy, filibuster, buffalo hunter, the strong women of the frontier, all those symbols of fresh frontier strength and vitality which Dobie always loved and idolized.

*The Flavor of Texas* is not my favorite Dobie book but it is good reading, as Dobie always is. He and his Texans are great story tellers with rich stories to tell, so if you haven't read this book in a bunch of years you ought to get it and read it again. It will certainly give you one flavor of Texas.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

Alton Huston: Reminiscences of a South Plains Youth is a sequel to the South Plains commentary entitled Rollie Burns. Having been an early cowboy in the Lubbock area, Rollie Burns reminisced about the open range being converted into fenced ranch country. The story of Rollie Burns concluded in 1909, and the memories of Alton Huston begin in 1907. Having been born in a dugout near Lubbock, Alton Huston reminisced about the transition of a ranch dominated life-style to a way of life dictated by a growing agricultural and urban economy.

The narrative is well-organized and is easily read. In addition to providing important information about the South Plains between 1907 and 1929, it furnishes an insight into the humor, warmth, and attitudes of Alton Huston and his acquaintances. The life of Alton Huston is traced from his childhood in Lubbock to his production of Candelilla Wax as a commercial enterprise in the Big Bend area. The book provides repeated glimpses into the fabric of events that shaped the destiny of the land and the people in West Texas. It reminds the reader that the killing of the multitude of antelope was almost as devastating to the Indian as the extermination of the buffalo. It recalls to the attention of this generation that the natural water supplies of the West Texas Plains have been destroyed by the lowering of the water table as a result of pumping the water from the Ogallala formation. It also reminds us of the impact the advent of the automobile and railroad had on the American people.

Many of the colorful events that entertain and educate the reader are associated with events and circumstances which are identified with a bygone era. However, this restriction is more of a strength of the book than a weakness.

Duncan G. Muckelroy
Texas Historical Commission


Pretentiousness in title tends to claim for a book wider scope than it embraces. A recent example is The Confederate Negro, a specialized study of black Virginia craftsmen. Not nearly so mistitled, Wiley's book nonetheless comprises only four lectures which he delivered in 1971: one each on Mary Boykin Chesnut, Virginia Tunstall Clay, Varina Howell Davis, and "Women of the Lost Cause." They are delightful, useful, and impressively produced essays. They are not a definitive work on Confederate women.

Wiley chose the three ladies upon whom he focussed because they were members of the South's ruling elite, had personal interactions with each other, left abundant records, and "represented distinct types of Confederate womanhood." (page xii). The quality and significance of their writings alone would have been sufficient reasons. All three displayed remarkable intellect, personal attractiveness, and unusual literary accomplishment. Interestingly two of them raised no children, a void and freedom which may have considerable impact upon the life of the mind. One wonders how typical these women really were of the wartime South. How many other "distinct types of Confederate womanhood" were there?

In the last and more general essay, we are shown how Southern women were among the most ardent and effective supporters of secession and of the
Confederate cause. Many of them served valuably by performing a variety of jobs on the home front; many suffered severely but willingly from privations, sacrifices, and hardships. During the early part of the conflict they manifested high religious interest, but their zeal declined and immorality increased later in the war. Alas, we thirst to know much more.

Wiley is an old master and his touch is evident. The pen-portraits of the three principal subjects are excellent. The work is readable, soundly documented, and valuable to students of the era. It has little wrong with it save brevity and incompleteness. With no intent to be picayune, an example is on pages 178 and 194 where Wiley tells of the lack of monuments to Confederate women, though an exception is at Greenwood, Mississippi. There is one, which he missed, at Fort Mills, South Carolina, and there are probably others.

Herman Hattaway
University of Missouri—Kansas City


The next time you journey to Austin, go down to the south grounds of the Capitol building and amble through the lush green grass among the statues of the past—the United Daughters of the Confederacy monument honoring secession and states' rights; the imposing Confederate cavalryman, carbine at the ready, representing Terry's Texas Rangers; and the spire saluting the famous Texas Brigade, that served in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the greatest of all American wars. Pause at each stone edifice to savor the inscriptions—how the War for Southern Independence was a battle for states' rights not slavery, and of the anguish, glory, and nobility of serving the Southern Cause. But stop longest at the Texas Brigade monument. Read all four sides. As you peruse each descriptive passage give your imagination free rein. In your mind's eye see the thousands of young men who fought gallantly at Gaines' Mill, Second Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness. Hear General Lee's words from the past, as he adulates the Texans as his best shock troops, who could be relied upon to defeat the enemy when all others had failed. Then, as your heart fills with the romance of a bygone era, turn away and fight back the tears that you somehow feel obliged to suppress in this modern age of cynicism.

According to Rollin G. Osterweis, the reason this emotion fills your soul is because of your innate susceptibility to the Myth of the Lost Cause. You are not unique. It is the secret yearning of all Americans to share in this myth, believes Osterweis, even if his ancestors wore the Union blue in 1861. The author sees the Myth of the Lost Cause as a literary assertion of values that the defeated Confederacy intended to preserve forever against the onslaught of the amoral, heartless, commercial, and industrial civilization of the reconstructing North after the Civil War. The Southern values included a rural life rooted in the land, centered around the family in a Scottish clan sense, and represented honor, courage, respect for womanhood, noblesse oblige to inferiors, and white supremacy. Those who stood by these romantic values of the antebellum South and the Confederacy were heroes, like the errant knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Those who opposed these values were traitors to the hundreds of thousands of boys in gray who had died on the battlefields of the south, like the scalawags of Reconstruction.

Osterweis sees the Myth of the Lost Cause as a potent device developed
after the Civil War to give Southern whites regional power within the framework of the nation that had defeated them in 1865. It assisted most Southerners to regain a sense of identity that had been temporarily lost in the chaos of military defeat and the humiliation of Reconstruction. It also glossed over the South's new political and social injustices created after the war. It frankly implied the absence of a race problem in the United States or, at least, a willingness to settle that issue on Southern terms until the Supreme Court decisions of the 1950's and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's caused the North to reevaluate its acquiescence in this part of the myth.

The creation of the Myth of the Lost Cause in the latter decades of the nineteenth century interests Osterweis most in this study. As such, this volume can be considered a sequel to his well-known 1949 work, *Romanticism and Nationalism in the Old South*, in which he spells out pre-Civil War Southern ideas, many of which carry over to this present book. Osterweis finds that the term "Lost Cause" was first popularized by the Richmond newspaper editor, E. A. Pollard, in his two works of the same name. Pollard reluctantly admitted to Yankee military superiority and to the end of slavery, but he issued a stirring call for the South to assert its social and intellectual independence from the North nonetheless. The initial indication that Pollard's notions had any potential came with General Lee's death in 1870. From all over the world came praises of Lee as an appropriate symbol of all that was good in the South. The Myth of the Lost Cause was born.

From these modest beginnings, says Osterweis, the Myth of the Lost Cause picked up momentum and swept all before it. Denied political position in the nation from which to express their contentions, Southerners turned to the literary field. Osterweis traces with meticulous care the rebirth of the Confederacy in the writings of the era. This postwar literature received a tremendous push from the *Century Magazine* 's Civil War series that was later published in the four volumes entitled *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. The author continues his wide-ranging tale touching on the Ku Klux Klan, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the United Confederate Veterans, evangelical protestantism, and the Southern emphasis on local history that honored the mythical past. Osterweis winds up with an ode to Henry W. Grady, who sold the myth to doubters in the North under the title of the "New South." The Myth of the Lost Cause was so well marketed that by the middle of the twentieth century novels and movies of its idyllic version of the South were the rage of the whole nation. Hence Osterweis finds it no wonder that Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* was a best seller in print and one of the all-time giants in motion picture revenues. Add to this the popularity of the Civil War Roundtable groups, and no wonder a writer for a renowned New York book review guide was moved to exclaim recently, "Who won the Civil War, anyway?"

While Osterweis presents the Myth of the Lost Cause to the reader convincingly, there are minor criticisms that can be made, none of which detract from the worthiness of the book. One somewhat annoying aspect is Osterweis' tendency to repeat unnecessarily various themes of the study in chapter after chapter. In this sense, the volume lacks organization. Another problem is Osterweis' continued erroneous references to the Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) as declaring the "separate but equal" formula in public education. This decision referred to interstate commerce and public accommodations, not to schools—hence, it was not overturned in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) as Osterweis claims. Finally with a 1973 publication date, one wonders if Oster-
weis views the presidential candidacy of Alabama's George Wallace in too limited a fashion when he refers to it solely as a modern-day expression of the Lost Cause. True, Wallace's initial forays into the presidential field smack of this flavor, but his 1972 appeal to the voter was much broader in scope as evidenced by his public statements and his Northern blue collar support.

But in spite of these minor faults, it is evident that one cannot understand the South without being conversant with the content and impact of the Lost Cause. This fact makes Osterweis' volume an excellent contribution to the history of the post-Civil War South. It should be read and pondered by everyone. But as we view the Myth of the Lost Cause, let us remember the plea of the Confederate bard, Father Abram Ryan, and "treat it gently—it is holy."

William L. Richter
Cameron University—Lawton, Okla.

Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century. Photographs by Todd Webb.

East Texas is well represented among the perceptive photographs and articulate architectural and historical notes which combine to make this handsome volume a worthy companion to Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century (University of Texas Press, 1964). The new volume considers all types of buildings except residences, completing the Texas Architectural Survey initiated in 1963, when the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth invited the School of Architecture of the University of Texas to catalogue definitive architectural examples of the nineteenth century.

Jefferson and Galveston lead other East Texas cities in the number of public buildings catalogued in the survey. Among the East Texas buildings considered architecturally significant for the nineteenth century are courthouses in Galveston, Marshall, Sulphur Springs, Clarksville, and Waxahachie; county jails in Carthage, Bastrop, and Center; churches in Paris, Bonham, San Augustine, Jefferson, and Houston; commercial buildings in Palestine, Galveston, and Jefferson; and Nacogdoches College.

Text for the earlier survey was written by Drury Blakeley Alexander, professor of architecture at U.T., Austin, who has contributed the foreword to Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century. Text for the new study was written by Willard B. Robinson, associate professor of architecture and curator of historic architecture of the Museum, Texas Tech University.

The first two divisions of the book treat Spanish colonial and Mexican architecture in the Texas region and public buildings of antebellum Texas. The remaining divisions illustrate the following types of public architecture: military, commercial (viewed first as architecture of enterprise and then as architecture of affluence), institutional edifices (churches and schools), and the people's architecture (civic buildings, county courthouses, jails, city halls, the state capitol). Robinson's text captures the spirit of the era which produced the buildings by quoting freely from newspapers and other first-hand accounts. Throughout his notes on each building, he maintains a pleasant balance of architecture and history. Exact or approximate dates are established for each building depicted, but for the majority of them, the architect is listed as unknown.

The 171 plates are photographs of extant buildings by Todd Webb which fill complete pages except for two or three inches of explanatory notes. A high
standard of uniform quality runs throughout the photographs of public buildings, taken by Webb in 1964 at the same time he photographed nineteenth century Texas residences. His work exceeds mere technical excellence, for his eye is selective in capturing only the noteworthy portion of some buildings while expanding to an overview of others. Shadow, angle, and tone all seek to reflect the romantic views of the people who created the buildings.

Webb must often contend with buildings that are partially hidden today by power lines and modern advertising signs. In most instances, he has managed to photograph the buildings without a line of cars parked in front, but occasionally the cars are there to obstruct the view and to date the photographs as 1964 vintage. Webb lives in Bath, England, and accepts photographic assignments on every continent.

The sixty figures are smaller photographs and sketches of buildings, many of which are no longer standing, plus plan drawings of several buildings. Particularly interesting are Robinson's sketches of five typical plans of public squares in Texas (p. 19).

The book is an eloquent plea for preservation of surviving examples of nineteenth century public buildings. At the same time, it is a reminder of the youth of some major Texas cities not represented in the volume. In 1899, Lubbock was an unincorporated town of 293, and Amarillo was only slightly larger, but their older sister communities were already exerting their personalities through public architecture.

Fred Tarpley
East Texas State University


Miss Partlow's history of the City and County of Liberty and its predecessor, the Atascosito District, is an exceptional study of one of Texas' most significant regions. Part I traces the Atascosito (Liberty after 1831) District from its first exploration through the establishment of the Republic of Texas and its subsequent division into all or part of the counties of Jefferson, Jasper, Polk, Newton, Tyler, Orange, Chambers, Hardin, San Jacinto, Liberty, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Walker, and Madison. Even before it was formally established in 1826, the Atascosito District was the scene of numerous colorful events. It was on the banks of the Trinity that Napoleonic exiles established a settlement, Champ d' Asile, as part of a scheme to place Joseph Bonaparte on a Mexican throne and to rescue Napoleon. Jean Laffite aided and traded with these and others who settled thereabouts and left behind legends of treasure and sunken ships. Of more lasting consequence, however, was the uncoordinated immigration of land-hungry Anglos in the 1820s and 1830s. Their presence, coupled with the lack of a stable Mexican immigration policy, resulted in confrontations between the colonists and officials, such as John Davis Bradburn, who aggravated an unsettled situation and contributed to a legacy of mistrust between the two groups. Also noted was the fact that after independence the counties formed from the District provided two Texas presidents, six governors, a governor of Guam, and two presidents of constitutional conventions.

Parts II and III relate the county and city institutions, personalities, and significant events to form a highly readable account of the development of a fairly typical East Texas community. It has had prominent citizens such as Sam
Houston who maintained a law office in Liberty through the 1840s and Governor Price Daniel, Sr. It has had diverse elements including Anglos, Creoles, Blacks, and French-Negroes, each group adding spice and living in harmony with the others. And it has had its old families (including Miss Partlow’s, which is descended from two of the District’s Alcaldes) who, through their presence, papers, and oral traditions have contributed to the creation and preservation of Liberty history.

Complementing the text is an extensive appendix which includes documentation of all county boundary changes, the Atascosito Census of 1826 (supplemented by a list of unenumerated persons known to have been in the District), lists of public officials, and Confederate Muster Rolls. Throughout the volume are numerous excellent illustrations, most heretofore unpublished, which graphically amplify the subject matter.

Its extensive research and careful documentation makes this one of the best regional histories on the market. It is of interest not only to those whose families are mentioned, but also to those who are alert for new source material. Miss Partlow cites several collections heretofore unused, some dating back to Texas’ colonial status, which were acquired for the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center being established at Liberty.

Paul R. Scott
Archives Division, Texas State Library


The title on the outside cover of this book belies the contents. To see a cover title German Colonists in Houston would, in all likelihood, lead the reader to assume that this is a study of a very important ethnic group that settled in the region around Houston. However, when the work is examined more closely, this assumption proves false. A better title might be “A History of the Usener and Allied Families with Some Remarks about Houston and Its History.”

I have no quarrel with genealogical history, for it can, and often does, provide some important contributions to the understanding of the past. This book also fits in that category. But I feel that the author does her potential audience a disservice by the title. It is only incidentally about the German colonists. More precisely, it is about the descendants of one particular family.

Disappointing too is the cursory way in which Justman treats the relationship between the Germans and other foreign immigrants. Also lacking is an in-depth discussion of blacks and slavery. The political and social position of the Germans in relation to American immigrants to Texas likewise lacks adequate treatment for the era before and after the Civil War. Other topics that would have enhanced this volume but which are largely neglected are the role of the Germans and their descendants in politics at the local and state level and their economic role in the development of Houston (this is discussed in particular, but it is not related to the larger picture including the growth of the city).

In Justman’s work the reader will find some fascinating social history and comments on what life was like twenty to one hundred and fifty years ago. These should be of interest to the general reader and particularly to those familiar with the City of Houston and its environs.

I believe, however, that this book will be of limited interest to the general reader because of its focus on one family and its many descendants. The gene-
ologist with an interest in the German community in Texas will no doubt find this a useful volume and worth consulting. Overall I have not been impressed by the historical scholarship on Houston and the contents of this book certainly are not implied by the title on its cover.

William L. Taylor
Plymouth State College
Plymouth, New Hampshire


This book touches on a neglected aspect of recent US history—the repatriation, forced and voluntary, of probably half a million Mexican Americans and Mexican citizens during the thirties. As economic conditions worsened and hard times arrived, many Mexicans were transported to the border in specially-organized trains or caravans paid for by city and county governments hoping to make jobs available for local citizens and also to relieve their welfare rolls. Other individuals, less destitute, traveled separately, feeling that survival would be less difficult in the land of their birth.

The author points out that the majority of repatriates left voluntarily because jobs in the United States had dried up. In many cases, however, private and public agencies openly encouraged Mexican aliens to return home and even coerced some with threats of welfare cut-off and other community pressures. The most controversial point dealt with by Hoffman concerns the heavy-handed efforts of some individuals in the city and county governments of Los Angeles and in the US Bureau of Immigration to round up and deport illegal aliens. In several highly-publicized incidents, fast-moving police cordoned off parks and other public areas where Spanish-speaking residents of the city congregated, holding them there while government agents checked papers. Authorities arbitrarily held some individuals in custody for days. In conjunction with this tactic, officials released deliberately sensationalized and distorted statements (called "scareheads") to the press in the hope of frightening many of the ignorant or illegal into leaving. Leaders in the local Mexican American community and the government of Mexico regarded these campaigns as harassment stemming from racial prejudice. Eventually, higher-ranking officials disavowed the activities of over-zealous subordinates but much suspicion and bitterness remained.

Official inability to distinguish long-time resident aliens (and indeed Spanish-speaking US citizens) from recent illegal arrivees produced the most tragic phase of repatriation. Until shortly before the depression the US exercised little control over the movement of people over the border. Few bothered with official documents and legal niceties. Many of those forced or frightened into leaving the US in the early thirties were in reality long-time residents who had lost their papers or had never possessed any. In some cases agencies wrongfully deported US citizens of Mexican ancestry. Even when heads of families were themselves aliens, they often had teen-aged children who were US-born. Repatriation deprived thousands of these children of their birthright and threw them into a culture and society which was for many frightening and "alien."

Hoffman's book reveals its origin as a doctoral dissertation. Like many such works, this one promises much more in its title than it delivers. Hoffman admits that the lion's share of the repatriates came from Texas and that other states contributed large numbers but his study is restricted to California and mainly
to the Los Angeles area, where he found the bulk of his documentation. Even though the subtitle refers to the entire decade of depression, the work is really only concerned with a few years in the early thirties. Also, the book suffers from organizational problems and, occasionally, murky prose. Although it reveals serious shortcomings, Hoffman's book has some value because it deals with an almost untouched area of US and Chicano history. Perhaps it will encourage others to treat the full story more thoroughly.

D. S. Chandler
Miami University (Ohio)


This well written volume by John Staples Shockley is a welcomed addition to a growing list of studies on Mexican Americans. Chicano Revolt in a Texas Town examines the political upheavals of the 1960s in Crystal City, Texas, which on two occasions led to the overthrow of Anglo “establishment” city governments and the installation of Chicano-dominated governments. In a balanced account Shockley analyzes the background for the political revolts, the influence of “outside” groups such as the Teamsters’ Union, the work of local Chicanos and their leaders, and the resistance of the Anglo populace.

The first revolt occurred during the city elections of 1963. Although Anglos used economic pressure to influence the outcome of the elections and called the Texas Rangers to “preserve order” at the polls, the slate of an All Latin American Party swept into office, taking all five seats on the city council. “Los Cinco,” as the new council was called, began a general reform program which included the appointment of a progressive city manager, who practiced equal opportunity in city employment, who supervised work in paving streets and adding street lights in the Chicano sections of town, and who began construction of new city parks.

Anglos refused to accept the new “order” and continued to exert economic pressure on anyone who supported the new city government. Anglos likewise continued to stress that outsiders had been involved in the election, thus making it appear that “Los Cinco” were being “used.” More seriously, the unity of the All Latin American Party collapsed when local leaders began struggling for personal power. In 1967 a coalition of Anglos and upper-middle class Mexican Americans defeated the reformers and took three of five city council seats. After 1967 Crystal City Anglos hoped “the trouble” was over. But factors combined to bring another revolt in 1969. Having its origins in the issue of discrimination in the public schools, the second revolt was begun by high school students and led by an ex-president of the Mexican American Youth Organization. The La Raza Unida Party was established to build Chicano unity, and the new party’s slate captured majorities in both the school board and city council elections.

Shockley concludes his volume by attempting to measure the historical ramifications of the Crystal City revolts, ramifications which may be far-reaching indeed, especially in areas of heavy Mexican American population. There is little criticism to be made of Shockley’s work. The author developed a tightly knit narrative and demonstrated no overt prejudices. Four appendices and a forty-page notes section add even more to this worthwhile study. Scholars interested in
Texas history, in Mexican American history, and in race relations should add *Chicano Revolt* to their list of books to examine.

James Smallwood
Morton Museum, Gainesville


This work by State Senator Nelson Wolff of San Antonio, who was a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1974, is actually two books in one. In alternating chapters, Wolff sets forth his personal view of "the historical, philosophical and desired objectives of state government." That is one book. In the remaining chapters he provides "a descriptive documentary of the Constitutional Convention" from the perspective of a standing committee chairman and cochairman of the Convention Planning Committee. That is another, and better, book.

In the first book Wolff attempts to demonstrate that power and authority have been centralized in the national government at a rapidly accelerating rate thus causing state governments to lose substantial power. State governments, he contends, have been unable "to respond to change due to rigid governmental structure and self-imposed limitations." In this second book the Senator advances the thesis that the 1974 convention failed because of "the difficulty that a democratic institution has in attempting to respond to change."

The book's historical and philosophical sections are the least effective portions of all. They are, in the main, sketchy and subject to over generalization and, as a result, often are misleading or of questionable accuracy. In referring to the Constitution of 1876, for example, Wolff implies that Governor Richard Coke led the movement to call the Convention of 1875 (p. 37-38). Most students of Texas constitutional history agree that Governor Coke opposed calling a convention and instead advocated waiting until relative stability had returned to Texas. The state finance and the state legislature sections, however, offer valuable insights.

The convention sections, regrettably all too brief, constitute the most valuable part of all. They offer a candid camera view of the "politics" of the convention, its decision-making processes, and some of its successes and failures. In them Wolff effectively pinpoints the "non-issue" of the "Right to Work" as the key factor contributing to the convention's decision not to submit a new constitution to the people of Texas (p. 230). The convention sections read alone make this volume an important contribution to the literature of Texas constitutional history.

Joe E. Ericson
Stephen F. Austin State University


In this first comprehensive description of southern politics to appear since V. O. Key's classic *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (1949), Numan V. Bartley and Hugh D. Graham have surveyed political developments in the South since 1950. Although their less-detailed study may not command the same attention or acclaim as Key's earlier book, it will unquestionably serve as the starting point for future students attempting to understand the complexities of southern politics.
By background and training, the authors are well qualified to undertake the
difficult task of unraveling the mysteries of southern political behavior. Not only
are Bartley and Graham Southerners by birth, but they are also able students of
the contemporary South. Bartley is the author of two well-respected studies, one
on massive resistance to school integration and the other on recent trends in
Georgia politics, while Graham, who is a recognized authority on violence in
America, wrote a competent account of the reaction of the press in Tennessee
to desegregation. Furthermore, both are well versed in the techniques of com­
puter research and in the "new political history" which emphasizes the impor­
tance of ethno-cultural factors in understanding political behavior. The result of
this collaboration is a first-rate study on southern politics during the "second
reconstruction."

After briefly summarizing the five party systems in the United States before
World War II, the authors provide a detailed analysis of southern politics during
the late 1940s and early 1950s, or what they accurately describe as the "Populist-
New Deal Legacy." At mid-century southern politics was characterized by per­
sistent loyalty to the Democratic Party, wholesale disenfranchisement of black
southerners, concentration on economic issues, and low voter turnout. The Su­
preme Court's decision calling for the desegregation of southern public schools in
1954 again raised the specter of federal intervention in the affairs of the South
and ushered in the "second reconstruction" which eventually brought an end to
legal discrimination and a return of black southerners to the voting booth.

Southern politicians responded quickly and predictably to these sweeping
changes. As a result, the New Deal coalition, composed of minorities, labor, and
white moderates, collapsed throughout the South except in Texas where vestiges
of it survived. Race replaced class as the principal mainspring of Southern
poli­
tics, and the Republican Party began to make serious inroads in the previously
solid Democratic South. The early 1960s saw the emergence of a plethora of
old-style race baiters. George Wallace and Ross Barnett typified this style politi­
cian while John Tower and Winthrop Rockefeller exemplified the Republican
revival. The Republicans adopted a southern strategy which paid off dividends
for Barry Goldwater and Richard Nixon in national elections and which resulted
in a significant increase in the number of Republican Congressmen from the
South. In local elections, however, Republicans were unable to break the Demo­
cratic grip on state and county offices.

The eventual effect of these developments was the emergence of three politi­
cal factions. Blacks and liberal whites formed one faction which remained loyal
to the national Democratic party. The dominant white group split in two. Eco­

nomic conservatives drifted into the growing Republican Party but social con­
servatives joined the Wallace movement and kept a firm grip on local Democratic
machinery. None of the three factions was large enough to carry a state by itself,
and coalitions became necessary to win state elections. During the early 1970s,
racial moderates rose to the forefront as black voters found them more attractive
than racists. Governors Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, Jimmy Carter of Georgia,
and William Waller of Mississippi constituted a new breed of southern politician.
At the same time, southern liberals continued to fall as demonstrated by the
defeats of Albert Gore in Tennessee and Ralph Yarborough in Texas.

The meaning of the latest trends in southern politics is not at all clear, and
Bartley and Graham are understandably cautious in drawing conclusions. Remem­
bering that V. O. Key predicted a brighter future for southern liberalism than
was justified, Bartley and Graham insist that racial issues will remain dominant.
They see the rise of southern moderates as a reaction against the establishment and not as a call for social or economic change. The second reconstruction of the South did not unleash, as many predicted it would, new and unpredictable changes. Instead, "the racial issue remained deeply embedded in southern and indeed American politics," and, as the two authors see it, "that issue is apt to remain politically salient in the foreseeable future."

Without disagreeing with the findings or hypotheses of the authors, this reviewer believes the race issue will become less important in the near future. Demographic patterns, which Bartley and Graham mention but fail to emphasize, will make the South less unique as Northerners continue to move South bringing their political views with them. Furthermore, as blacks gain greater political sophistication, they will learn the art of trading votes for concessions and become less tied to one political persuasion. On the other hand, white candidates will become increasingly aware of the necessity of attracting black voters and will be forced to abandon all pretenses of race baiting. As the mood of the country shifts from liberalism to conservatism, southern Democrats will no longer be out-of-step with the national party. As a result both parties—Democratic and Republican—will become biracial and will emphasize national issues as well as personalities.

Robert V. Haynes
University of Houston


The foremost writing historian of Southern Baptists, Robert A. Baker, has brought his literary career to focus in *The Southern Baptist Convention and its People 1607-1972.* His previous histories of the Sunday School Board, the Annuity Board, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and particularly his *Relations Between Northern and Southern Baptists* along with his *A Baptist Source Book* have qualified him for this major work.

Baker skillfully presents the chain of events which make up the story of the Southern Baptist Convention, dividing them into seven periods. The natural terminal events separating these periods are the first Great Awakening, the organization of the first national Baptist body in America, the separation from that body by Southern Baptists, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the establishment of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Each period is introduced with a sketch of the political, social, and economic background against which the Baptist story is traced. Within the treatment of each period is a sectional description of activities and growth using carefully researched statistics and U. S. population figures. These are then foundation for insightful summary statements on the development of the denomination.

Professor Baker treats the full gamut of denominational life from revivals to controversies with enough of the individual stories to give the reader a sense of the personal. One is struck by the democratic character of an emerging colossus in which both saint and sinner have their say.

A major theme of the book which Baker is eminently qualified to delineate is the change in denominational character which Southern Baptists brought to the Baptist story in America. In 1814 Baptists organized a benevolent society for the support of foreign missions. Subsequently society for the support of domestic mission programs and for publications were organized. The Southern Baptist Convention was built on an associational model as opposed to the society model.
This associational form of organization is designed to support all denominational benevolences through one organizational entity.

The change from society to convention was a racial one and one not accomplished in a single stroke in 1845. Indeed the process has covered the life of the Southern Baptist Convention. This is the story which Baker tells.

The book replaces W. W. Barnes' work as the standard monograph on Southern Baptist history and is measurably superior to Barnes' fine volume. The appendix is instructive by indicating Baker's method of choosing population statistics as well as providing typical convention personnel charts.

Jerry M. Self
Nacogdoches, Texas


Though this volume of Professor Giraud's work concerning France's colonizing efforts does not seem particularly massive at first glance, it becomes agonizingly so in the reading. Perhaps this is due to the fact that it is a translation; perhaps it is due to the meticulous research that forms its base. Whatever the reason, the book is slow and ponderous reading.

Professor Giraud has drawn for us in intimate detail the travail and misery of the Frenchmen who first attempted settlement along the Gulf of Mexico and their relations with the Indians, while only hinting at their problems with the English in Carolina and the Spanish in Florida. He goes deeply into the relations of the settlements and the Minister of Marine, and the problems encountered by d'Iberville, Bienville, and Crozat. However, and perhaps this is due to this being one volume of at least four, he never fully discusses Louis XIV's colonial policy, except that it was related to Colbertism. Nor does he clearly indicate the objectives of French presence in the area. In spite of the above, the reasons for French failure in the colonial field clearly emerge.

There are questions concerning measurements that should be embarrassments to both the author and translator. Sixty square fathoms, which is given as the size of Fort Louis of Louisiana on Massacre Island, cannot be "(three hundred and ninety square feet)", in that one square fathom contains thirty-six square feet. (p. 45). Probably the fort was sixty fathoms square. The same type of error is repeated on page 284, where either Lambert or Giraud speaks of plots of three hundred square feet being marked out for houses and gardens. While the colonists' houses undoubtedly were nothing but modest in size, two 12' x 12' huts would leave only twelve square feet for a garden area. If they indeed tried to produce vegetables in such limited space, it is no wonder that the colonists had to go live with the Indians in order to subsist. It is to be hoped that in subsequent editions as well as the following volumes that such problems will be eliminated.

Nevertheless, the story of early French problems is here well told. The validity of French claims to the central part of the North American continent based on exploration is made crystal clear; the tenuousness of that claim based on effective occupation is also starkly apparent. It is also clear that Frenchmen were opportunists and adventurers, not colonists.

Ert J. Gum
University of Nebraska at Omaha
BOOK NOTES


Index to Louisiana Place Names Mentioned in The War of the Rebellion. By Dennis A. Gibson (ed.), Lafayette (The University of Southwestern Louisiana). P. 383. $15.00.

As everybody knows, Texas is a land of immigrants. Even the Anglos, who now think of themselves as natives, acknowledge roots in eastern states. So it is with interest that we often look at publications from or about Louisiana or the other "southern" states. In that light, several appealing books have come in recently for noting. They include Dodd's Historical Atlas of Alabama, which is published as a Bicentennial study. This book tells the history of Alabama in maps which are constructed in such a fashion as to give a good picture of events at a glance but which also bear closer study. Land forms, European invasions, Indian wars and tribal distribution, territorial changes, Civil War encounters, and modern developments are all covered. A text which explains the maps accompanies each of the twelve chapters. Texans with Alabama backgrounds will find this volume particularly interesting.

Closer to home we have a couple of books on Louisiana. I asked a colleague, "How am I going to note Storyville, New Orleans, which claims to be an authentic, illustrated account of the notorious red-light district?" "Very carefully," he replied. So here is a very careful note. Al Rose has produced an authentic, illustrated account of the notorious red-light district of New Orleans. It is indeed well illustrated, including some pictures of old houses, reproductions of business cards, newspaper advertisements, and a few young "ladies," many of them taken by the district's official photographer, Ernest Belloc. The text is really history, albeit on an unusual subject for such. Equaling the photographs in interest are the appendices, which include several New Orleans city ordinances aimed at this particular social problem, a directory of jazz musicians, and other related items. Despite the scarlet dust jacket this book is a long way from a girlie magazine.

Still in Louisiana but in an altogether different vein, is Dennis A. Gipson's Index to Louisiana Place Names Mentioned in the War of the Rebellion. In as much as many Texans fought in Louisiana battles, this should prove helpful to historians and ancestor-seekers in our state as well. Included in the list of names are plantations, railroads, bridges, bayous, buildings, roads and other items which can be located geographically. There is also a fine map of the state at the time of the Civil War to assist in the search for specific locations.


W. L. Thompson of the Shoal Creek Publishers is a delightful man. Long associated with the book business in Texas, and especially in East Texas, it is always a pleasure to talk with him about riding the bus through our section of the state decades ago selling his wares. His present position, however, is publisher of some fine books on Texas and he has graciously shared several with
Two recent reprints will be helpful to historians of the earlier period. The first is Robert Falconer's 1844 issue of Discovery of the Mississippi. It is the first translation of La Salle's reports on exploration. La Salle was a perceptive observer of America's river interior, and he made valuable comments on the flora, fauna, and geology. Falconer's book contains many things, including memoirs, patents, La Salle's will and other items besides Falconer's outline of the historical significance of several events. The binding is spectacular.

Of greater interest to Anglo period historians is a reproduction of the Journals of the Convention, Assembled At The City of Austin On The Fourth of July, 1845, For the Purpose of Framing A Constitution For The State of Texas. Its title tells its content. Mary Bell Hart has written an informative introduction which contains biographical paragraphs on prominent participants. This is a fundamental document for Texas historians, and the whole thing is now conveniently available.


Irwin Silber long ago established himself as a leading authority on musical history as it related to the development of America. Several books on the music of the American Civil War bear his name. Now he has published *Songs of Independence,* and it is up to his usual performance. A well-written text places the songs in a historical context, and the words and music are provided for dozens of songs; some even have guitar chords. Silber takes the view that the revolutionary spirit can be seen in English ballads and colonial songs in advance of the years of revolution, and he continues the theme well past the usual textbook cut off for the era, going as far as the period of the War of 1812. The jacket claims that the book is as much sociology as musicology, but viewed in the proper perspective, it is musical history, and this book adds a fine dimension to a topic usually handled only in political or economic terms.

*Texas: 1874.* By Edward King and J. Wells Champney, Houston (Cordovan Press), 1974. $3.50.

"You have never read a book like this one. In it you can hear, taste, even smell Texas as it was a full century ago." So claims the publisher of *Texas: 1874.* It was written by the journalist Edward King, who traveled into every section of the state in its title year, and it therefore is the work on one who talked, ate and drank with settlers, slept in rude beds, observed people at work and play, and marveled at their life. The book is well illustrated by J. Wells Champney's drawings, and Joe Frantz's introduction is his usual good stuff: "What a sensitive reader can also get from these pages is a glimpse of what might have been, of the resources of land and space that were squandered in pursuit of the false god of progress, of the crimes committed in the name of 'development'."


A beautiful new book dealing with the United States postal stamps is available, and in this Bicentennial year it is especially appropriate. The publisher's release, which follows, well describes the book:

It's been two hundred years since a rebellious Continental Congress flagrantly defied the Crown and assumed responsibility for postal service in the
Thirteen Colonies. Led by Benjamin Franklin, the first Postmaster General, the fledgling mail service was based in the London Coffee House of Philadelphia, where the Post Office was located.

Since 1775 many revolutionary changes have occurred in U.S. postal service, not the least of which was the introduction—in 1847—of the postage stamp. For more than a century these small pieces of paper have played a major role in moving the mails, and for most of this time they have been eagerly collected by millions of people for a variety of reasons—for fun, for their historic or artistic worth, or because they can appreciate in value.

Just how appealing postage stamps can be is fully revealed in a sumptuous, full-color reference work, Pictorial Treasury of U.S. Stamps. This fascinating book, the first of its kind, enlarges every postage stamp design from 1847 to July 4, 1974 in authentic color. Over 1,250 stamps are shown at more than twice their normal size; 150 of these reproductions are six times actual size.

The large 8½" X 11", 224-page, clothbound volume carries the imprint of Collectors Institute, Ltd. of Omaha, Nebraska, which was organized by Duane Hillmer in late 1973. Mr. Hillmer was formerly the owner and president of the Scott Publishing Co., whose catalogues and albums are widely used by stamp collectors.

Beginning with first designs of 1847 and continuing on through modern multicolor issues, the enlarged reproductions depict scenes from history, famous works of American and European art, national parks and monuments, wildlife, space and aviation, important men and women, and other aspects of our heritage with vivid clarity. They also dramatize the impact of the postage stamp as a form of graphic art that documents our way of life; often, one might add, in a uniquely interesting way.

The text includes a wealth of data never before assembled in one place. Capsule stories on the subjects of the stamps, data about famous works of art on stamps, useful philatelic notes, and an index add to the book’s stature as a comprehensive, useful reference work.

Of special interest is a table of market values for each stamp. These are shown at ten-year intervals from 1925 to 1975. This fifty-year market digest—the first of its kind—enables the reader to spot value trends, and to see at a glance the rapid rate at which certain stamps have appreciated through the years.

Ranking authorities in a variety of fields produced thirteen articles for the book. Carl H. Scheele of the Smithsonian Institution discusses U.S. postal history. Gordon C. Morison of the U.S. Postal Service tells how U.S. stamp subjects are selected. Stevan Dohanos discusses the principles of postage stamp design, and Everett J. Prescott of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing explains how U.S. stamps are produced. Other contributors include such well-known personalities in the stamp collecting field as Raymond H. Weill, David Lidman, Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Norman Hirsch, Norman S. Hubbard, Ph.D., and Wm. W. Wylie. In addition, the book provides a lucid explanation of the color printing process.

In sum, Pictorial Treasury of U.S. Stamps achieves a near-perfect balance between beauty and utility, text and illustrations. It not only reveals the full panorama of U.S. postal art, but integrates it with the country’s political, social, and postal history.
The staff for the book includes most of the people who were with Duane Hillmer in Omaha when he owned Scott, and it was they who created U.S. Stamps & Stories for the U.S. Postal Service and Canada Stamps & Stories for the Canada Post. Elena Marzulla, the first editor of both editions of Stamps & Stories, is also the editor of the present publication. In the future, Collectors Institute, Ltd. plans to produce an extensive line of supplies for collectors, both in the area of stamps and other fields.

While Pictorial Treasury of U.S. Stamps lists for $19.95, it is being offered for a limited time at a special introductory price of $15.95 (postpaid). It is available from the publisher, Collectors Institute, Ltd., 10102 F Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127.

This new reference work will prove exceptionally worthwhile to U.S. collectors. It will also be enjoyed by artists and designers, history buffs, teachers and librarians, and anyone else with an interest in the rich and unique heritage of the United States of America.


This is a comprehensive, balanced history of the American antislavery movement. It is broad in its treatment in both time and geography, giving a place in each to individuals as well as organizations who were active in the struggle to eliminate slavery from the American scene. It demonstrates that the antislavery movement was involved with and had an impact on the first half of the nation's development. The author is Merton L. Dillon of Ohio State University, and he is the author of other works on abolitionists, including an excellent biography of Elijah P. Lovejoy. Some of our readers may remember him from his teaching years at Texas Tech. This volume is in a series on Minorities in American History, edited by Moses Rischim for the Northern Illinois University Press. Texas readers will particularly enjoy reading about such abolition activity in their state as the visits of Benjamin Lundy.


Three Centuries Passed, published by The Naylor Company, is the entertaining beltristic portrait of the members of the Fitzhugh family. Their story spans three hundred years, begins in England, travels to America and returns to England again, completing an impressive cycle of the close-knit clan that had a tendency for linking up with important moments in history.

From William the Immigrant who located himself in Virginia at a time so propitious that he is known today as an authentic member of the FFV, down to young, Henry Fitzhugh, the author's son, this family is outstanding. Three Centuries Passed proudly confirms the maxim from Thomas Carlyle that "No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the biography of great men."


The Shoal Creek Publishers have also done some admirable work in bringing this Lyndon Johnson material into print. It was written to help Lyndon Johnson
show off his beloved homeland. *A President's Country* is many things. Henderson Shuffler’s chapter talks about the early settlers, W. W. Newcomb’s about the early Indian inhabitants, and Drury Alexander’s about the kind of houses they all lived in. A road log fromustin to Fredericksburg through Johnson City and Stonewall shows mileage markers to interest points. Harry J. Middleton’s line drawings are particularly attractive. Even folks who have been over this country many times will find that this little travel guide holds some new information for them, and newcomers will get more than they can digest in a single visit.

A near-companion volume, although quite different in design, is *LBJ, Images of a Vibrant Life*. If you liked LBJ at all you will like this book. Its cover is his favorite portrait—cowboy hat and all. His collar is open, his eyes squint in the Texas sun, his leathery face shows the lines of responsibility. The book is filled with his photographs, as well as words from those who knew him, and the book captures some of the sense of humor you feel when visiting the LBJ Library in Austin. By no means all complimentary, the total is still a testimony to a vibrant life.


Two books from the Indiana University Press’ America Since World War II series are noteworthy for Texas readers because they deal with natives, albeit with natives who are more often associated with out-of-state activities, and both became President of the United States. The first is Charles C. Alexander’s *Holding the Line: The Eisenhower Era*. Despite working in such places as Georgia and Ohio, Alexander is a native of China, Texas and took all of his schooling at Lamar and the University of Texas. His previous work has been on the Ku Klux Klan and Project Mercury. He and I were in college together during the years he is writing about here and I remember him as an avid student of the period. The aim of the series, to focus on a period that is often neglected as “current events” in history classes, is ably handled in his book. It is really the first major summary and interpretation of the complex Eisenhower period. It will provoke memories, but what it especially does is create a historical atmosphere for a period we mostly remember from personal experiences.

The second book, Jim F. Heath’s *Decade of Disillusionment, The Kennedy-Johnson Years*, treats the two presidencies as a single unit, since they were so linked in purpose. The result of both books is good: to help focus the last two decades as history with greater clarity. So many of us are still reacting to those times as political partisans it is good to stand off and take a look like this. And it helps remind Texas that their state was really important at the national level during the time.

*The Alamo Mission Bell* is a saga. It is written by the timeless West Texan J. Evetts Haley to provide exposure for the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library’s prize exhibit, the Alamo bell. The bell was cast in 1722 for the Mission San Antonio de Valero, better known in later years as the Alamo. When the mission passed from active labor it was started on a journey it never completed. From a broken down wagon it was abandoned near the San Antonio River on the Refugio road. Horses were tied to it as a stake, but a runaway dragged it until it was broken, in 1900 it lay on a scrap heap in Victoria, until Moses
Oppenheimer, the dealer, gave it to Miss Adina de Zavala, who gave it to Mrs. Bellie Lee Fitzhugh, who sold it to an antique dealer in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1974 five West Texans, including several of Haley's relatives, played poker one night in Midland. One of them told of the bell in Tennessee, far from its true home. Patriots all, they selected one of their number to travel to the foreign parts and buy the bell for its rightful owners, Texans. And that is how the bell came home, or nearly home, for the distance from San Antonio to Midland is as nothing to Texans who love their heritage. Haley's account is brushed with humor and chauvinism, and is a delight to read. The book may be ordered from either the Haley Memorial Library or the Encino Press.

Seventy-five Years of Texas History, a publication of the Texas State Historical Association about itself, is a pleasant book to read, and, if you are affiliated with the organization, a prize to own. It contains many things, including an introduction by the Director, Joe B. Frantz, which pays tribute to the labors of former President Dorman H. Winfrey in behalf of the Association, two addresses by Winfrey—his presidential address in 1972 on the history of the group and an address to the Junior Historians—plus lists of the presidents, editors, and publications of the Association. In a sense it is in-house praise, but it is praise well deserved. The Texas State Historical Association is one of the venerable organizations which deals with state or "local" history, and this is a fitting testimonial on its diamond jubilee.

Several county or city histories have come our way, some of them related to Bicentennial celebrations. A Short History of Morris County by Jean Connor commemorates that county's centennial and the nation's Bicentennial with a humorous presentation of its years, accompanied by cartoon-type drawings. It may be ordered from the Daingerfield Bicentennial Commission for $3.00. John N. Cravens' Between Two Rivers: A History of Wells, Texas, is another. Craven's 110 pages are crammed with anecdotes, photographs, and stories about the development of this East Texas town. It may be ordered from the Humphrey Printing Company, 1206 Lamar, Wichita Falls, for $4.00. The King William Area, A History and Guide to the Houses, by Mary V. Burkholder, is a good look through words and pictures into this historical section of San Antonio. It is available from the King William Association of San Antonio. And finally, the centennial issue of Ida Lasater Huckabay's Ninety-Four Years in Jack County, 1854-1948, has been re-issued, and is available through Laura Peacock, Box 472, Jacksboro.