Book Reviews

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EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BOOK REVIEWS


Texas in 1776 is a handsomely-designed volume which presents a simplified narrative of the history of Spanish Texas during the eighteenth century. The book is composed of six brief chapters dealing with groups or events which influenced Texas history during the period ending with the 1770s; a full-page map accompanies each chapter.

A prologue places events in Texas into an international framework. Following this are two short chapters in which Connor deals, in a few broad brushstrokes, with the presidio and mission background of late eighteenth-century Texas. The evacuation of East Texas in the early 1770s and the vicissitudes of the Ybarbo party rate a brief chapter, and the author quickly dispatches the Indians of early Texas in an overview which concentrates on the Comanches, Karankawas and Caddoes, groups which were of most concern to the Spanish. The final chapter, from which the book takes its name, provides a bird’s-eye view of the settlements of Spanish Texas in the 1776, the year of the American Declaration of Independence and immediately following the Spanish imperial readjustments of the 1760s and early 1770s. A concluding epilogue describes the post-1776 decades in Spanish Texas as a “sonambulant pastoral existence” following the “renaissance” of the 1770s.

Texas in 1776 is almost a coffee-table book, though it lacks the lavish illustrations which often make such books worthwhile. To do it justice, it does reflect accurately the main themes of Texas history in the eighteenth century and offers good, clear maps. It is no more than a quick gleaning of basic points from the handful of standard scholarly works on Spanish Texas, however, gotten up in large type on lush, folio-size pages. One is forced to conclude that this attractive work is an expensive and unnecessary contrivance whipped up to take advantage of the Bicentennial. In these days of horrendously high book prices, few will be able to afford a luxury non-book like Texas in 1776.

D. S. Chandler
Miami University (Ohio)


Robert Weddle and Robert Thonhoff, recipients of the La Bahia Award, which is given to books reflecting Texas’ Spanish heritage, have combined their efforts to produce a solid and well-written study of Texas in 1776.

This study centers on the men who directed Texas’ destiny during 1776. The four men were Hugo Oconór, an Irish revolutionary; a Frenchman, Athanase de Mézières, a master in the art of trade as well as in diplomacy; and two Spaniards, Antonio Maria Bucareli y Ursua, a lieutenant-general in the Spanish army, and Juan Maria Vicencio de Ripperdá, a baron by birthright. It was the conflict between these men that produced the drama of Texas in 1776. One such conflict involved Oconór and Ripperdá. Ripperdá resented Oconór’s nearly equal military rank, because he was titled and older than the Irishman.

The authors have stated in their preface that it was not their purpose to write “a Bicentennial book”, but to make Texans more aware of their own heritage from the revolutionary period, and the contributions their state and region have made to the economic and cultural development of the nation as a whole. The authors have succeeded in presenting a view of Texas in the year of the American Declaration of Independence. They have shown how people lived and their relationship with their government and environment and their reaction to the many problems which confronted them. Because of time and
inflationary production costs, the publishers have left out detailed footnotes; instead they have provided a discussion of their sources. There is no question that much of the information presented here is useful, and that it is presented in a well-written and entertaining book.

Jack Dykes
Shepherd High School


In recent years the need for primary information relating to the living conditions and social customs of native Americans has been repeatedly acknowledged. But the difficulties of gaining the acceptance, trust, and friendship of the few remaining tribal villages that live much as they did in the past is enormous. The authors of this volume have provided anthropologists, sociologists, and ethnologists with significant primary information about a tribe of Mexican Kickapoos living in Northern Coahuila by doing the near impossible: conducting a field investigation of the 450 tribal members over a twelve year period by living virtually among them. Due in part to the authors being bilingual and their hispanic nationality, the in-depth data they relate in this volume also gives testimony to their degree of success in winning the acceptance of their Indian subjects.

The purpose of the book is "to present the Kickapoos from an ethnological viewpoint." Thus, virtually every aspect of the Kickapoo life style is discussed. After a brief historical sketch the authors summarize their twelve years of observation of these Indians in terms of their language; habitation; food and quest for food; crafts; dress and personal care; economic, political, and legal organization; social structure; life cycle; tradition; religion, rituals, and ceremonies; medicine; and magical beliefs. Despite the diversity of subjects and the incredible amount of detailed information, the book is logically organized, well-written, objective, and includes a number of useful black and white photographs. Glossary, notes, and a very specific index add to the excellence of the book.

Unfortunately, a short review such as this cannot do justice to the work and time that went into the research for this book. Field investigations which are conducted over long periods of time can be thankless tasks but the rewards are usually substantial. But the value of the observations resulting from field studies depends on the objectivity, reliability, and accuracy of the researchers. In this sense the authors appear to have consciously tried not to make their own interpretations and evaluation of the meaning of the events they witnesses during those twelve years. Thus, the only weakness of the volume is the exclusion of a summary chapter in which the authors might have given the reader the benefit of their insights and discussed the implications of their finds. Hopefully, other scholars will use this data and attach to it meaning, interpretations, and significance.

Charles R. McClure
Rutgers University


Anasazi, a Navajo word meaning "ancient ones," refers to the Puebloan civilization which reached its peak in the thirteenth century and covered a large area of the American Southwest. Today Anasazi descendants reside in the Hopi, Zuni, and Rio Grande Pueblos. The term kiva is the Hopi name for the sacred ceremonial, assembly, and lounging chambers of the males of these people. Usually subterranean, the rooms are round or square and entered by means of a ladder placed through an entrance in the roof. Kiva Art of the Anasazi at Pottery Mound deals almost entirely with the mural frescoes
removed in layers from the walls of the kivas of Pottery Mound, a pueblo which thrived from about 1300 A.D. to 1475 in the Puerco River valley in central New Mexico. The paintings unearthed at this site constitute the most extensive body of such material ever revealed. Except for petroglyphs and pictographs, this art form is probably the earliest discovered in what is now the United States. Over 800 murals have been found at Pottery Mound, and 109 of the most complete are beautifully and brilliantly reproduced in this outstanding book. They constitute the best record so far of Anasazi art and religion.

Since modern Pueblo Indians are descended from the "ancient ones," it is not surprising that several who were well versed in the lore of their people were often used as informants and interpreters of certain details of the murals. Pottery Mound shows considerable Mexican influence, including a pyramid. In addition, the paintings frequently portray parrots and macaws and the accoutrements of the Mexican peoples to the south. Since only a portion of Pottery Mound has been excavated, the kiva murals, in particular, pique one's interest and imagination as to what remains to be learned of the people of this vanished village and, indeed, the culture of the Anasazi in general.

Dr. Frank C. Hibben, a renowned anthropologist and the director of the pottery Mound excavations, has written an excellent, fascinating text to explain and interpret the significance of the pueblo ruin and especially, of course, its kiva art. He avers that his book was designed for all "scholars, scientists, artists, and laymen who are interested in Indian art and culture." He has succeeded admirably.

Martin Hardwich Hall
University of Texas at Arlington


Samuel May Williams (1795-1858) was a Rhode Island native who served as confidential and indispensable assistant to Stephen F. Austin. Notable episodes in his career included serving as recorder for Austin's colonial land grants (1824-1835); postmaster at San Felipe de Austin (1826-1835); director of the Galveston City Company (1838-1857), a group responsible for the founding of Galveston, Texas; naval commissioner (1838), during which time he acquired vessels for the Texas Navy; commissioner for armistice with Mexico (1843-1844); and founder (1848) of Texas' first bank. He also served in the Fourth Congress of the Republic of Texas during which time he chaired committees on naval affairs and finance, and introduced legislation to fund the erection of Texas' first lighthouse on Galveston Island.

The book consists mainly of original research based on the Samuel May Williams papers in the archives of the Rosenberg Library at Galveston, and an impressive bibliography of other sources. The writer, Margaret Swett Henson does, however, admit several gaps exist in the availability of material, in particular Williams's service in the Monclova Legislature. These gaps, unfortunately, prevent the work from being a good definitive biography.

The level of detail in the coverage of episodes in Williams's career from 1822 to 1808 flows evenly throughout the 164 pages of the text, but the author seems hesitant to elaborate on her subject's outside land interests which brought him much scorn from fellow Anglo-Americans. At one time Williams was one of nine Texans proscribed by the Mexicans with a price on his head, but he was always successful in evading capture. She has made an attempt to identify persons and events mentioned in the work, but there are several which need further explanation. The text also lacks the romanticism often found in other historical biographies. The book is illustrated by mostly sketches of Repub-

Texas Furniture: The Cabinetmakers and Their Work, 1840-1880 deals with the cabinetmakers and the furniture they produced in Texas between 1840 and 1880. Lonn Taylor's two introductory chapters are an overview of the social and economic conditions in the state during the mid-nineteenth century years while it was moving from mostly rugged frontier to Victorian industrialization. His comments about the people, their homes and furnishings, and the conditions, traditions and nostalgia that influenced them are accurately and interestingly stated. Mr. Taylor documents for the first time the rise and decline of handcrafted Texas furniture.

Because of the difficulty of overland transportation during the time of the Republic and until the railroad came to Texas in the 1870s, people relied on local craftsmen for most of the everyday objects of household use. These objects were usually individually designed, engineered, and constructed and the furniture produced was often more beautiful, better made, and more useful than the later mass-produced furnishings from the Midwest. But, as industrialization came, people demanded the factory-made products and by the 1880s the Texas craftsman had practically disappeared.

The book is illustrated with photographs of authentic Texas made beds, wardrobes, chest of drawers, chairs, sofas, tables, desks, cupboards, and safes. Each piece is identified as to maker (if known), date of construction, material used, measurements, present owner and location and a brief history of the piece itself. David B. Warren, associate director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, is responsible for an analysis of the furniture and also supervised the photography. The quality of this part of the book is excellent. A glossary follows which aids the reader in understanding and appreciating what he is seeing.

Mr. Taylor and those who worked with him, including James M. McReynolds of San Augustine, searched census records, newspapers, and archives for information about the cabinetmakers, their tools, machinery and the woods they used. They have included maps showing the forest resources of Texas and the locations of cabinet shops in 1850, 1860, 1970 and 1880. The section, "A Checklist of Texas Cabinetmakers," contains information about 874 men who practiced the trade of cabinetmaking in Texas before 1875. The authors hope that the publication of this checklist will stimulate local and regional studies of Texas cabinetmakers. This book reminds us that while we know a great deal about the furniture made in the Brazos-Colorado region and the Hill Country during the 19th century, in comparison, we know very little about that produced in Galveston, Austin, the Blackland Prairie, and especially in our own Piney Woods area. (Piney Woods area contains the following counties: Shelby, Panola, Gregg, Upshur, Smith, Cherokee, Rusk, Houston, Trinity, Walker, Polk, Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, Sabine and Jasper.) They have presented a challenge to local historians to fill in the gaps and have offered the aid of a permanent survey of Texas cabinetmakers at Winedale Museum at Roundtop. We in East Texas should accept this challenge.

Texas Furniture is the result of more than ten years research carried out under the direction of Miss Ima Hogg, a noted collector of American furniture and donor of the Winedale Inn Properties of the University of Texas. Along with Lonn Taylor, probably
the most knowledgeable person in Texas about this subject, Miss Hogg researched
museums and private collections throughout the state. The result of their efforts is an
important contribution to the knowledge of 19th century American crafts.

Barbara H. Green
Jacksonville, Texas

Sandbars and Sternwheelers: Steam Navigation on the Brazos. By Pamela Ashworth
Puryear and Nath Winfield, Jr., College Station (Texas A&M University Press),
1976.

Few subjects are as interesting as the magnificent steamboats on the rivers of the
United States, yet few have such a plethora of pitfalls. Happily, there are but two com­
plaints possible with this book. "Burden" is used to describe the carrying capacity of the
boats, while "burthen," although arcaic, is more nautically expressive. The "Washington's"
are confusing in the account of attempts to dredge the river. The two cities
should have been differentiated by an expression such as "Washington on the Potomac."

The scholarship is thorough. Extensive footnotes are combined with a complete
bibliography, all largely from original sources.

Great charm and readability allow the reader to enjoy the story of steam navigation
on the Brazos. The work begins in the 1830s, with the "Texian" settlement, and ends
with the demise of riverboats about 1900.

Hazards faced by the navigators of the Brazos included low water, shoals, snags,
storms, revolution, secession, and bullets. All were faced with courage and tenacity to a
degree usually found only in the exploits of Texans. Boats and their Captains vie with
the enterpreneurs for admiration, while occasional humorous adventures add spice to
the story of hazards overcome.

The recounting of the boats and voyages seems complete, and the reader can con­
template the histories of over ninety steamboats, some majestic, some plain, and two
historic.

Eventually, railroads offered advantages over water transportation in the shallow,
dangerous rivers of Texas. Doom was sealed for the steamboats by construction of
several railroad bridges which hindered navigation and offered reliable, year round
transportation. By about 1900, a steamboats had gone and an era had passed. This
book furnishes a look back to those days of box superstructures, elegant if sedate travel,
and the deep, elemental chords touched only by the proud, authoritative bellow of a steam
whistle.

Howard L. Sandefer
Virginia Beach, Virginia

by Lonn Taylor, LaGrange (Bicentennial Commission, City Hall), 1975. p. xii,
145 & biographical notes, index. $5.00.

Julia Lee Sinks’ episodic, spirited, evenhanded, and thoroughly worthwhile history
lay in untouched manuscript until its discovery in 1971 by genealogist Seth Breeding.
It is now published in eye catching format by the LaGrange Bicentennial Commission a
century after it was written. Mrs. Sinks' Chronicles had been sanctioned by county
officials in 1876. Endowed with no particular journalistic training, but with a good ear
for a story and a decided literary bent, she methodically examined the written sources
and interviewed surviving pioneers. Her manuscript completed, the county had no funds
with which to publish it. On becoming a charter member of the Texas State Historical
Association in 1897, she entrusted her papers, including the unpublished *Chronicles*, to The University of Texas Archives, where Breeding found them.

Editing for publication was undertaken by Walter Freytag, well known grass roots historian of LaGrange, who also provided twenty pages of biographical sketches that conclude the volume. Lonn Taylor notes in his excellent foreword that local histories often degenerate into patriotism, antiquarianism, and genealogy. This one doesn't. Good stories abound throughout. Mrs. Sinks' premise was forthright: "Folklore constitutes the only basis of history in . . . a new country. In this work I have let those . . . who have made this history write it themselves."

At the conclusion of her labor she advised would-be critics that "it is much easier to criticize a book than to write one." This reviewer would have liked a map, but its absence is hardly Mrs. Sinks' fault. Her book and the 1936 *History of Fayette County* by Weyand and Wade belong together in any Texas local history collection.

Al Lowman
Institute of Texan Cultures

*And They All Sang Hallelujah; Plain-folk Camp-meeting Religion, 1800-1845.* By Dickson D. Bruce, Jr. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1974. xii & 155 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, and index. $7.50.)

Dickson Bruce provides a serious treatment of the Southern Frontier camp-meeting. He covers the period from the outbreak of the Great Revival in 1800 to the division within the ranks of the Baptists and the Methodists over the question of slavery. Bruce attempts to view this intriguing phenomena of frontier life from a socio-anthropological as well as an historical perspective. According to his analysis, camp-meeting religion provided for the early Southerner relief from his problems as well as an alternative to the established social system. Furthermore, Bruce finds in this study of plain-folk religion the means to "delineate the worldview of a significant number of ante-bellum Southerners." (p. 12). The book is well organized and the author provides an interesting narrative.

Bruce attempts to analyze the frontier camp-meeting along structural lines. He begins by describing the content in which the camp-meeting developed and later flourished. The first chapter, entitled "The Wilderness Below," pictures life on the Southern Frontier among the plain-folk. Bruce uses the term "plain-folk" in a technical sense to refer to the great mass of ante-Bellum Southern farmers and townspeople who were neither rich nor starving. In this chapter he identifies those economic and social conditions which affected early frontier religion. He also describes certain elements of frontier folklore which reflect what the plain-folk believe about themselves. For Bruce, such a consideration is essential to an understanding of their religious views.

In the next chapter the author gives a general account of the Methodist and Baptist Churches in the South. He describes the chief characteristics of each church, carefully pointing out those elements which attracted the plain-folk. In the third chapter, "To Give Old Satan Another Round," Bruce examines the content and structure of the frontier camp-meeting. He appraises the effectiveness of each factor in its relationship to the camp-meeting's basic purpose — conversion. He also describes those exhibitions of "acrobatic Christianity" which so often accompanied the camp-meeting conversion, including jerks, falling, dancing, and barking. These emotional "exercises," looked upon as gifts of the Holy Spirit, were taken as a definite sign of conversion.

Bruce then turns to a study of camp-meeting spiritual choruses, finding in them a veritable wealth of information concerning what the plainfolk proclaimed their salvation to mean. The common theme of all these choruses was that of assurance. Bruce uses the
last chapter to discuss the benefits of this "vital conversionist camp-meeting religion." Conversion gained for the new believers not only spiritual immortality but also provided a degree of social acceptance and security. They received "another world to live in" on two different levels, one eternal and heavenly, the other temporal and earthly. Plain-folk camp-meeting religion provided a religious alternative to many of the social problems which these plain-folk faced. It furnished opportunity for self-identification and personal advancement, as well as a new orientation to a spirit of community.

Although adding little in the way of new research or new conclusions, this small volume serves as an interesting discussion of the frontier camp-meeting. It is recommended for the specialist desiring a convenient survey of the institution of the camp-meeting as well as for the general reader who wants a colorful picture of early religion in the South.

Marvin Wittenberg
Huntington, Texas


This book, the first of two, begins with pastoral dignity. It recounts prosaic centuries of Jefferson County history and prehistory. It covers the geophysical structure of the area and records evidence of early Indian inhabitants. It continues into the Spanish and French exploration and settlement. Mexican ownership is followed by migration from the United States, climaxing in the Texas Revolution.

The book moves more rapidly in the period after the Revolution. This is possible with more public records available and increased descriptions by contemporary writers, the product of increasing social awareness and lessening of the frontier character of the region. Civilizing influences of communications systems, such as steam boats, railroads and postal system, are easily seen.

By the beginning of the War Between the States, Jefferson County had become an important seaport, and the economy was healthy. While no metropolitan center had emerged, it was on a par with most of the South.

The various military operations in the county are well covered, as are the devastating effects of war on the civilian community. As commerce declined other than that provided by blockade running, the scourge of yellow fever, previously unknown to the county, added to the misery of war. All phases of community life suffered.

The work needs at least one map to aid the unfamiliar reader with the region's geography. Great stress is laid on changes caused by separation of Hardin and Orange counties, and a map showing that is desirable.

Ending with the beginning of the tribulations of Reconstruction, it should leave the reader with a desire to continue the story in Mr. Block's scholarly, well-documented study.

Howard L. Sundefer
Virginia Beach, Virginia


Individuals, great and small, who were active participants in the epic struggle between the North and South, have proven intriguing subjects for biographical studies. One such
is John Jones Pettus who was initially examined by the author in his doctoral dissertation at the University of Southern Mississippi. This monograph is a distillation of his earlier work. Robert Dubay should be credited for his efforts to rescue this lesser-known, yet interesting, political figure from total obscurity.

Beginning his career as a small planter and lawyer in Kemper County, Mississippi, Pettus turned to politics, and after serving as a state legislator and senator, he capped his political career by winning election as governor in 1859. Although his political reputation was somewhat dimmed by the glow of outstanding contemporaries such as Jefferson Davis, Albert Gallatin Brown, William Barksdale, and Henry Stuart Foote, Pettus became a staunch defender of southern nationalism and ultimately a leader of the “fire-eaters,” the name given to those Democrats who were advocating secession. The wide margin of his gubernatorial victory clearly indicated that the masses of Mississippi had voted their sentiments in favor of breaking the Union.

In Dubay's discussion of secession and the Civil War, his efforts to make Pettus a pivotal figure in these events are somewhat strained. Dubay's updated research adds some illuminating facets, but Percy L. Rainwater's *Mississippi: Storm Center of Secession, 1856-1861* (1938) still gives the best portrayal of the secession controversy in Mississippi. Similar difficulties are encountered in Dubay's analysis of Civil War events which seem to take precedence over the human participants. The author often casts Pettus adrift in a sea of circumstances. This neglect may well be due to the author's unsympathetic attitude toward all of the fire-eaters. To balance the account, however, he does shift a portion of the blame for the eventual outcome of events to “the state legislature, Confederate officials, and the people.” Despite mechanical weaknesses in this work, hopefully biographies such as this will aid future historians in reaching a consensus on the southern fire-eaters and a more profound comprehension of the revolutionary experience of the Confederacy.

Marshall Scott Legan
Northeast Louisiana University


Southern Carolina-born Stephen D. Lee (only distantly related to the Lees of Virginia) was one of several younger general officers of the Confederate army who distinguished themselves first in the Civil War and later in the rebuilding of the South. Although he only ranked in the middle of his 1854 West Point graduating class, Lee rose to the rank of lieutenant general by the end of the Civil War.

While never as well known as fellow West Point classmate Jeb Stuart, Lee distinguished himself on many fields in the Civil War. During the first two years of the war, he served in the Eastern theatre, taking part in the firing upon Fort Sumter, the Peninsula campaign, the Seven Days, and 2nd Manassas. Promoted to brigadier general for his handling of artillery at Antietam, Lee was transferred to the Vicksburg command in November, 1862. In December of that year, he commanded the Confederate forces that repulsed Sherman in the savage fighting at Chickasaw Bayou. For the remainder of the war, Lee served with western armies, first as a corps commander under Pemberton in the Vicksburg campaign of 1863, and later as a corps commander under Hood in the disastrous Tennessee campaign of 1864.

The Reconstruction years were “a quiet period” for Stephen D. Lee. He established his home permanently in Mississippi and briefly tried his hand at farming, the insurance business, and state politics. In 1880 he was chosen as the first president of the newly created Mississippi A. & M. College. For the next nineteen years he guided the college as
it sought to educate the future mechanics and farmers of the state. By the time of his retirement in 1899, Lee had earned the title of "father of industrial education in the South."

Active in the promotion of history and veterans affairs, Lee became the second commander of the United Confederate Veterans in 1904 when John B. Gordon died. Lee's final public service was as the first chairman of the board of commissioners of the Vicksburg National Military Park.

In telling the story of Stephen D. Lee, Herman Hattaway of the University of Missouri-Kansas City has made a significant contribution to the study of the Civil War and the New South. The biography is well written and the sources adequately examined. Regrettably, the publisher chose to put the footnotes at the back of the book rather than with the text where they would be more helpful. Too, the author abruptly disposes of his subject in the final chapter, leaving the reader to wonder about the cause, time, and place of Lee's death. But these are minor flaws in an important work of Southern history.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University


Those devotees of Confederate history will be interested in this new addition if for no other reason than it sheds a little more light on that darkest corner of the Confederacy, the Indian Territory. Confederate units that served in that backwater of the Civil War share this anonymity, so it is good that one of them, the 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment, has found its chroniclers. Co-author John C. Grady was inspired to compile this regimental history by dint of his grandfather having served in that obscure unit.

This mounted organization was recruited from the environs of Denton, Collin, Red River and other north Texas counties by Charles De Morse, editor of the Clarksville Standard. After months of delay while recruiting and outfitting the 29th was ordered to duty at Fort Arbuckle in Indian Territory. Eventually a part of General Richard M. Gano's Brigade, the regiment participated in seventeen engagements. Most of these were small affairs compared to the battles in the east, and often resembled guerrilla actions. Especially was this true when Indians were fighting Indians. Nonetheless, men died at Cabin Creek as surely as those did at Gettysburg and they deserve to be remembered.

The book is copiously illustrated and the maps are generally good. The organization of the book seems more topical than chronological, sometimes rendering continuity a bit difficult. The authors used their own form of referencing, and at that, not consistently, one curious citation being "save as 3 above". Throughout, cited authority is sparse and there were many pages of factual information that were devoid of sources.

The authors seemed somewhat vague, or confused, in their understanding of departmental military operations, like the Red River Campaign. Errors abound, both historical and technical, like references to General Thomas H. Holmes (p. 79), breech-loading Enfield rifles (p. 14) and Fort Smith, Arkansas being the headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Department (p. 96). Careful editing would have caught misspelled words, typographical errors and construction flaws.

While lacking in formal scholarship the book adequately tells the story of the 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment and thus another part has been added to the mosaic of the war in the Trans-Mississippi.

Robert W. Glover
Tyler Jr. College

For years, Louisiana history has suffered from the lack of a good general account of the Reconstruction era in the state. Professor Joe G. Taylor of McNeese State College has finally remedied this flaw by his work, Louisiana Reconstructed, 1863-1877. Due to the early U.S. occupation of much of Louisiana there has been in the past a tendency to compartmentalize Louisiana history into monographs dealing with military happenings during the war and political studies dealing with New Orleans as a separate entity during and after actual hostilities. Professor Taylor has combined massive primary research, especially extensive newspaper sources, with leading secondary works to produce a solid, readable political history of Reconstruction as a whole in the state.

After an introductory chapter on the capture and administration of New Orleans by General Benjamin F. Butler (assisted by the U.S. Navy), the monograph begins an extensive political history of Union Louisiana from the regime of General Nathaniel P. Banks to the fall of the William Pitt Kellogg administration, some 14 years later. Unlike most of the earlier works dealing with this period, Taylor has no good versus evil men; native white "good" Democrats versus evil White radical Republicans and misguided blacks. This is simply the story of the evolution of Louisiana from a Confederate state through the throes of the political reorganization of the state into a comparatively short-lived but significant attempt at a post-war, two party system. Taylor deals with the diverse elements that helped make Louisiana politics unique, with New Orleans occupying the center stage as the center of political gravity but with adequate emphasis on the other regions of the state. Much of the turmoil in Reconstruction Louisiana was caused by the presence of a large, ex-Whig Unionist element that was never able to accept the Confederacy as the legitimate regime. The early occupation of the Crescent City, a major economic center of the nation long before the war, added a significant influx of Northern and foreign-born settlers owing no allegiance to the pre-war political structure. New Orleans also contained a large and in many cases educated and sophisticated black population, especially among the old freemen of color. The interplay between these groups helped set the stage for bitter and sometimes violent strife with the native, white supremacy oriented, Democratic minority. Warfare between Republicans and Democrats finally reached a high point in the controversial Battle of Liberty Place in September, 1874, and in the explosive election campaign of 1876.

After 313 pages of local political history, ably integrated into the national political scene, Taylor concludes with several excellent chapters on the social, intellectual, and cultural history of the state dealing with such diverse elements as the school integration crisis in New Orleans and the development of the crop lien system.

This reviewer observes few factual errors in the well-edited text, though Henry Clay Warmoth was not Grand Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in Louisiana (p. 157) but merely Departmental Commander. Some of the classifications of local leaders as radicals and conservatives such as Francis J. Herron could be debated, though as the author points out that political labels in the state tended to fluctuate sharply due to the complexity of constantly changing political alliances. This is an excellent piece of research and writing that will hopefully provide a springboard for additional work on the complex story of Reconstruction Louisiana.

O. Edward Cunningham
Tulane University
Beginning with the pioneer work of Allan Bogue’s *Money at Interest: The Farm Mortgage on the Middle Border*, published more than two decades ago, economic historians have become more interested in the sources of capital which played vital roles in developing the American West. The primary focus upon foreign capital has been on British investments, particularly those in railroads, mining, and especially cattle. W. G. Kerr has now given some balance to the story by concentrating on the part played by Scottish mortgage money, primarily in Texas.

Kerr details the activities of three companies—the Texas Land and Mortgage Company, the Scottish American Mortgage Company and the Alliance Trust Company. Capital from Scottish mortgage sources early found its way into the range cattle industry, financing such enterprises as the JA Ranch of John Adair and Charles Goodnight. But even more significant was its role in the long term financing of farm and urban land ventures in Texas. Indeed, in the absence of large banks and insurance companies in the early years, the primary reason Dallas developed into the commercial center of the Southwest may very well be that two of the three companies located their offices in that city in the 1880s.

At first, British investors were poorly served by reports from British consuls at Galveston. Her Majesty’s officials were clearly unimpressed by the “interior” of the Lone Star State and used much of the space in their reports dwelling on reports of violence rather than on opportunities for entrepreneurs. Consequently, Scots were forced to use other sources of information, but were not repelled from Texas.

The Scottish mortgage companies were more successful than many of the other British investment enterprises in the American West because of (1) expertise gained prior to their Texas ventures through experience in the pastoral lands of Australia and South America, (2) an ever watchful caution and presence over their interests, and (3) diversification in both geography and types of real estate financing. In the story which emerges in this detailed account, shrewd Scottish investment-bankers made significant contributions toward the economic development of Texas before the accumulation of regional capital sources.

On both sides of the Atlantic, the author has utilized a wide array of materials ranging from the easily available and much used account of the rangeattle industry by the contemporary John Clay to the unpublished business records of the Scottish companies.

Donald E. Green
Central State University of Oklahoma


Should you ever be so naive as to ask an Indian war buff for a brief explanation of the battles at Adobe Walls, Buffalo Wallow, and Palo Duro Canyon, be prepared to receive a lengthy discourse tracing troop movements, bloody ambushes, and accounts of unparalleled heroism. Perhaps only the 1876 offensive against the Sioux and Cheyenne has received more attention, and then only because it involved the controversial “Last Stand” of George Armstrong Custer. Though the Red River War of 1874 lacked the romanticism of a Last Stand, it did represent one of the most important operations of the frontier army, an action which forever destroyed the martial power of the Southern Plains tribes. Driven from their last strongholds in the Texas Panhandle, the Comanches, Kiowas, and Southern Cheyennes were forced onto reservations where they were further battered by the evils of neglect and forced acculturation.
An almost endless list of publications has appeared during the last century to document even the most subtle features of the Red River War. At first glance there appears little need for any new work except for the Indian point of view, and that seems unlikely due to the fragile nature of the Indian oral tradition. Yet Haley makes a strong case for the uniqueness of his book by pointing out that no synthesis of the military operations has ever been offered. Technically he is correct, since standard works such as William Leckie's *The Military Conquest of the Southern Plains*, Rupert Richardson's *The Comanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement*, and Ernest Wallace's *Ranaid S. MeR'kenzie on the Texas Frontier* cover broader expanses of time and therefore omit many of the particulars of 1874. What emerges then is the most detailed account of the Red River War ever written, one which surveys the existing literature and repackages it in a single volume.

*The Buffalo War*, however, is more than a mere rehash of familiar events. It offers a plausible explanation for the fortuitous cracking roof beam at Adobe Walls, contrasts the abilities of the squadron commanders, provides further insight into the civilian-military controversy, and evaluates the importance of the follow-up operations. More importantly, Haley discusses the Indian personalities in fuller detail than other authors and gives at least a superficial view of the intra-tribal factionalism. Unfortunately pejorative phrases such as "hostiles," "young buck," "dastardly savages," "primitive and superstitious," and "Indian barbarity was natural," undermine the author's attempts to convey an unbiased story. Thus, while he rightly condemns whites for provoking most of the problems on the Southern Plains, he fails to accurately or sympathetically portray Indian life.

The small group of "specialists" will probably find little of interest in this book, but for the larger audience it merits a close reading. The excellent writing style, a thirty-two page offering of photographs, and a reasonable price should make it a welcome addition to many personal libraries.

Michael L. Tate
University of Nebraska at Omaha


After more than fifty years as an out-of-print collector's item, James T. DeShields' collection of stories, letters, and verbal accounts of early Anglo-Texan Indian hostilities (1819-1845) has been re-released as a facsimile reprint, and this reappearance will elicit sighs of relief among many professional and amateur historians who find an interest in the Lone Star State. DeShields was born in 1861 and settled in Bell County during the post-Civil War period. He personally knew many early Texas settlers. Weaving his basic story from a strictly pro-pioneer point of view, the author never suffers himself to be either the conscience or magistrate of the aggressive Anglo-pioneer. By thus expressing his nineteenth-century expansionism, DeShields equates his non-moralistic attitude with that of these same settlers who are the very essence of his tales. If justification is necessary for the cause of Texas' early white pioneers in their struggle with the native owners of the land, it is supplied aplenty in the many recounts of bloodthirsty scalpings, tortures and massacres which fill the pages of this early historian's work.
The physical makeup of the book is itself a contrast with the credibility of its accounts. Over sixty photos, tintypes, sketches, drawings, and maps enhance the impact of the volume. Being a facsimile reprint, many passages are difficult to decipher; however, the information related is more than sufficient to make this problems far from insurmountable. The very interest and factuality of DeShields’ narratives take into account the realistic emotions — cowardice, courage, honor — of the men who made early Texas history. The publishers are to be applauded for their re-release of this turn-of-the-century work on the Red-White struggle for supremacy in Texas, which is heartily recommended to any whose interests lie in this era.

W. Dale Hearell
Kilgore, Texas


Material collected over a period of more than 30 years comes to life in this book that had its first printing over 30 years ago.

It is a rare volume that combines so much entertainment with so much information. Salty expressions run throughout its pages and are even concentrated in a chapter that tells how to “talk Texas.” Actual figures give one a knowledge of the vastness of Texas yet something of distance is conceived upon learning that there is “a month’s difference in the seasons between the southern and northern portions of King Ranch.” Where else is one told that the mortar used in building the Alamo contained precious milk contributed by the local women?

Even with “a short past” all the Texas nobles or rascals cannot be included; however, one feels an intimate acquaintance with Sam Bass, Noah Smithwick, Jim Ferguson, and others. Sympathy goes out to Stephen F. Austin, who inherited his father’s dream. And one has renewed admiration for Sam Houston, whose nature is compared to a combination of Demosthenes, Sergeant York, Adolf Hitler, Winston Churchill and W. C. Fields. Only such a man could have been equal to the “unquenchable ambition” that dominated his life.

The account of what happened at the Alamo is so vivid the reader feels as if he had just viewed it on a television newscast.

George Sessions Perry is probably best known for his 1941 National Book Award novel, Hold Autumn in Your Hand.

W. H. Cooke, who wrote the introduction to this re-issue of Texas: A World in Itself, hired Perry (when only 18 years old) as a reporter for his weekly, Rockdale Reporter. A lifelong friend, Cooke is the one best qualified to make the remarks that accompany this “bodacious” tale.

Ava Bush
Grapeland, Texas

From Tyranny to Texas: A German Pioneer in Harris County. By E. E. Lackner. San Antonio (The Naylor Company), 1975. p. 89. Notes, Bibliography, Index. $5.95.

One of the many German-Texans of the nineteenth century was Carl Adolph Wilhelm Quensell. When he came to Harris County in 1852, he was twenty-three years old and a forester by trade. What brought young Wilhelm from the Harz Mountains of Hanover to a farm on Buffalo Bayou and the experiences he had in settling there are well presented by the author.
Although a banker by profession, the author, Mr. Lackner, proves worthy as an historian and a writer. He has translated his grandfather Quensell's letters, written from 1852-1859, into readable English with the orthography and expression typical of the day, and with a minimum of editorializing. The only weakness to this reader was the overstatement of the title, for young Wilhelm Quensell did not flee tyranny, but a decaying social order and static economy, which gave him firmly a position in Hanover's rigid middle class, but nothing more.

As one sharing Mr. Lackner's German-Texan heritage, this reader was particularly pleased with the personal glimpses which our taciturn and stoic forebearers did not relate. The ties with the Vaterland remained strong, as the book demonstrates, but these hardy emigrants choose to forge a new identity, which diminished their progeny's view of them as products of a particular place and time. Mr. Lackner's work awakens us to them as delightfully human and real.

G. T. Grubb, M.D.
Stephen F. Austin State University


This is principally a posthumous work by Capt. Roy F. Hall. A little less than half the book is devoted to Collin County's early development, and the balance is given over to its genealogy.

The genealogical entries are often prepared by other hands, frequently family members. The one on Collin McKinney might be improved.

The book is a work of love, and contains much of value, though it lacks context and analysis. One of its best features is its abundant and fine selection of photographs which speak eloquently about decades long past. Especially memorable are a big river baptism, and the toughest saloon — and place — in Collin County (one of three in a row).

John Osburn
Central State University, Oklahoma


Wilkinson's narrative history of the lower Rio Grande border encompasses three centuries from the Spanish conquest in the 1700s up to the assassination of Mexico's President Venustiano Carranza in 1920, the year, according to the author, the region's frontier era ended. During this time the multi-cultural area witnessed the Spanish conquistadors, insurrection against Spain, Mexican and American independence, the conflict over Texas, the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War and Reconstruction, and finally, World War I. The lower Rio Grande was a provincial outpost for Spain, and later, Mexico and the United States. All three suffered the administrative and logistical headaches that come with such distant territories. These problems ran the gamut from collecting taxes and regulating smuggling to the protection of citizens against cholera, bandits, and, most often, Comanche raiders. Wilkinson's study is an interesting account of how the different levels of government dealt with these difficulties. Interspersed with these are the exploits of a wide and colorful assortment of individuals — conquistador José de Escandón, Federalist Antonio Canales, terrorist Juan Cortina, badmen Ben Thompson and King Fisher, and Texas Ranger Leander H. McNelly — to name just a few. The story has rich potential but the author's posthumously published Laredo and the Rio Grande Frontier does not live up to its expectations.
The book is written in labored prose, contains ponderous long quotes, and is riddled with clichés and homilies. It is largely a military-political account in which raids and skirmishes involving red, brown, and white are recounted in exhaustive detail. Even these might have been more palatable if there had been at least one or two maps.

The author ignores much of the extensive interpretive literature of the past twenty years. Three of the more blatant oversights concern the subject areas of black soldiers, the Mexican-American War, and red-white relations. His unfavorable bias toward the Comanche is not surprising considering the sources he used, but the statement — "Their own name for themselves, the human beings, or more briefly, the people, reflected their contemptuous regard for other humans." (p. 60) — reveals a superficial understanding of the Comanche as well as other native Americans and is symptomatic of the tone of the book as a whole.

Numerical footnotes are given only to quotations. Explanatory footnotes are designated by an asterisk; however, sources are seldom cited in these. Secondary sources cited are of little help to the reader since page numbers are omitted. Archival materials are not cited fully in the notes, which limits their usefulness to the serious student. Microfilm reel numbers, file classifications, box numbers, add-on indexes would have helped in this regard.

The first eleven chapters are written largely from sources in the Spanish Archives in Laredo. The last eight are mostly taken from United States Congressional Documents. Since the author often quotes or paraphrases documents in their entirety, it is similar to working with the sources themselves. Unfortunately, this does not contribute towards making Laredo and the Rio Grande Frontier a well written and readable narrative.

John R. Jameson
Texas Historical Commission


The death of Florence Fenley, of Uvalde, in May 1971 was a loss to writers and folklorists of the Southwest. For 32 years she contributed stories about horses and oldtimers to The Cattleman, newspapers, and other publications. She also found time to serve two terms in the Texas Legislature in the early 1940s.

A fine historian, she interviewed ranchers, garnering fascinating stories about wild mustangs, quarter horses, and many other facets of Texas ranch life in the Big Bend section.

Her understanding and love of horses came from a lifetime spent on a ranch, and her stories are reminiscent of some of the tales told by the late Texas writer, Dr. Ben K. Green.

The book contains 22 stories, each one unique and well told about unusual horses. In Fast Horse In An Indian Fight she states that pioneers depended on their horses not only for transportation but for their very lives, a good fast horse often standing between them and death at the hands of raiding Indians. Such a horse was Fuzzy Buck, who saved his master's life.

The All-Night Bareback Ride out of Mexico tells the story of Elrich Dobie, brother of J. Frank Dobie, and his ride on Cabron, a horse that had never been ridden, from a ranch in Mexico to Eagle Pass where he was to meet his uncle. Cabron took it in a walk, an easy gait, and, coming to the swollen Rio Grande, swam it and continued to Eagle Pass.

Another story is that of Don, the horse that took Billy the Kid to safety following his escape from the Lincoln County jail, a 100-mile ride in 10 hours.
The author uses cowboys' expressions as she remembered them.
Anyone with a heart full of love for horses will treasure this bit of Texana.

Gene Lasseter (Mrs. E. H.)
Henderson, Texas


Occasionally a book will come along which justifies a departure from normal procedure to enable the editor to review it; recently this happy event occurred twice. Nancy Alexander's biography of Robert T. Hill, Texas' pioneering geologist, and Necah Furman's biography of historian Walter Prescott Webb demanded such attention. To begin with, both deal with remarkable, significant men, both were written by competent professionals who happen to be women, and both sent personally inscribed books. With my name in them, how could I send them to anyone else?

So much for rationalization. These are both excellent biographies which grew out of dissertations. Alexander's treatment of Hill sprang from the collection of his manuscripts at Southern Methodist University, Furman's from the Webb collection at the University of Texas, Austin and the hordes of Webb students and friends. Alexander's subject was a native of Tennessee whose whole life was affected by his memories of the Civil War and Reconstruction; Furman's subject was a product of the newer nation whose viewpoint was never really affected by that sectional schism.

Robert T. Hill migrated to Texas as an indigent teenager. His early experiences in the print shops of Comanche and on the trail drives north were hard and hardening ones. Despite his schooling in geology at Cornell, from which his graduation was marred by a deficiency in Latin, he was essentially self-taught by observation and experimentation. His teaching experience at the University of Texas and his professional relationship with the state Survey office and the U.S. Geologic Survey was punctuated with controversy and conflict. His record of achievement is nonetheless considerable: he led in the identification and establishment of the Cretaceous formation for Texas; he was a pioneer in the area of volcanic action; and he was the first to lead a scientific expedition through the canyons of the Big Bend area on the Rio Grande. But he died more or less alone and unhappy, if much honored.

Walter Prescott Webb was born in eastern Texas to parents with a Mississippi background, but moved to western Texas at an early age. His experiences as a teacher were hard and hardening also. Despite his schooling in history at the University of Texas and the University of Chicago, from which his graduation was marred by a deficiency in medieval history, he was essentially self-taught from observation and contemplation. His teaching experience at the University of Texas was marked by many fortunate and well-earned honors, and although he was often involved in controversy and conflict, it was usually in behalf of someone else and always on the basis of defense of principles. His record of achievement is also remarkable: he pioneered the idea of the Great Plains being a different frontier from the forested east and in the concept of the Greater Frontier with its correlative boom; and ironically, he led the second expedition through the Santa Helena Canyon of the Big Bend. He died amid more honor and happiness than his life would have afforded at any previous time.

These two books and the lives they chronicle have much in common; one has a
happy ending and one does not. Both are well researched and well written; both are worth reading.

Archie P. McDonald
Stephen F. Austin State University


The book design department of Libra Graphics, Inc., and the public relations people at Continental Oil are to be commended for their joint product, *Conoco: The First One Hundred Years.* It is an attractive book indeed, replete with abundant photographs and drawings to supplement the parallel histories of the oil industry in general and Conoco in particular.

The book is divided into six sections, "Lure of the West," "Feeling the Way," "Discovery and Integration," "Impact of Change," "Exploration and Expansion," and "New Landmarks." It is organized as a history should be and takes the company from its formative years to the present day.

While the writers of the book covered Conoco's history quite thoroughly, they used one technique that is somewhat disconcerting. For example, on page 11 the authors say about Isaac E. Blake, the company's first president, that he was a go-getter. However, they say it this way: "It was this curiosity, combined with determination, that was to be significant in his life and eventually in the lives of millions of others."

The style of writing, made famous by the Boston Bramins and satirized by John P. Marquand in *The Late George Apley,* is carried throughout the book. In fact, if anything mars the text, it is this Apleyesque writing when applied to each of Conoco's eleven chief executive officers.

There is a bibliography that lists thirteen reference works used in preparing this history. A headnote, however, says these are "... a selection of some of the references used in researching the history of Continental Oil Company and the industry." Of these thirteen, some nine books seem to be of the so-called "company history" variety, with but four seemingly standard oil industry reference works. Perhaps the bibliography could have been more professionally done; however, it is a good list of company-sponsored books concerning the oil industry.

The oil business is traditionally a "boom or bust" industry and this can be seen throughout the history of Conoco. On the whole, however, Conoco has developed and matured since it was incorporated as the Continental Oil and Transportation Company. Today it is one of the world's major oil companies, operating under the full title of Continental Oil Company.

Perhaps Conoco's current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Howard W. Blauvelt, in his "Foreword" best describes the book when he says:

... it is an accurate and graphic cross-sectional profile, revealing in words and pictures how one company has faced the immense challenges in the continuing search for more energy for more people, around the world.

While it may be but a company history, the book cannot be so lightly dismissed. It is well-written and well-illustrated and, in short, *Conoco: The First One Hundred Years* is a good history of one company's progress in the oil industry.

H. C. Arbuckle, III
Corpus Christi, Texas
From the looks of it, close to thirty thousand books will come off the presses this year, many of them not worth the paper it will take to print them, much less the prices the buyers will pay. Such is not the case, however, with The Making of An American. It is a book that will pay good dividends to readers on every level from that of the bright, imaginative ten-year-old history buff to that of the school in history, literature, or demography.

The book grows out of the expertise of three men: Charles Sealsfield (Karl Anton Postl), who savored the southwestern frontier firsthand during the early decades of the nineteenth century and then recorded his memories and impressions faithfully and imaginatively in many colorful tales; Ulrich S. Carrington, who translated and adapted those in this book; and Ray Allen Billington, who, in a foreword, gave the book the benefit of his historical perspective. "The tales of Charles Sealsfield," Billington says, "capture the spirit, the atmosphere, the vitality, of the Louisiana-Texas borderland as do few other works, and capture it accurately."

Carrington has selected, translated, and adapted three of Sealsfield's many tales, sandwiching the shortest of the three, "A Race in the Mississippi," between the two longer ones, "On Fields Unshorn," a tale set in Texas during the time of the revolt against Mexico, and "The Making of an American," an adaptation and retitling of the story Sealsfield called "Der Blutige Blokhaus."

A passage from "On Fields Unshorn," shorn of a good deal of its verbiage, tells how Sealsfield saw Texans and the people in it at the time of the Revolution:

Texas . . . is still a wilderness, a most magnificent wilderness . . . a wild country . . . the recruiting place for men without respect for laws . . . This is, and will be for a while, a raw country for rugged individualists. Sure enough, many of them are outlaws with bloody hands . . . killers who broke prison to gain freedom, liberty-loving libertines who take the knife between their teeth and fight like bear cats to keep it; soldiers of fortune, if you please, who thumb their noses at the noose and the next day gamble their lives away.

It has been a long time since my imagination has been so titillated by print. Through Sealsfield's eyes I saw the Texas countryside as it was when my folks lived there before and during the Revolution, and I fancied that Sealsfield had met and talked with them at Independence or Washington-on-the-Brazos, the stomping ground—in the pulpit and out—of old Thomas Washington Cox, an apostate Baptist Preacher who was always ready for a fight with Mexican, Indian, devil, or fellow Baptist, and wasn't particular which.

Though many people will enjoy the book and profit from it, each in his or her own way, its real importance is that it will make more readers aware of the existence of the considerable body of Sealsfield's work, most of it in German. So those who read Sealsfield in translation should remember that English translations may suffer from occasional violence as the idiom of one language makes its way into the idiom of the other. Indeed, my main criticism of Carrington's translation is that he frequently puts his words into the mouths of fictional characters who wouldn't be caught alive saying them.

Sid Cox
Texas A&M University

“Law and Politics” is a history of the Office of Attorney General of Texas, the duties of the Attorney General, and the office organization.

The office of Attorney General dates back to 1150 when King Henry provided for the appointment of King’s attorney. The first Attorney General in colonial America was Richard Lee, who was appointed in Virginia in 1643. The Constitution of the Republic of Texas did not provide for an Attorney General, although David Thomas did serve as such under appointment from the President of the Republic. Attorneys General were appointed to serve the Presidents of the Republic of Texas, and the Constitution of 1845 provided for the office. The official was appointed until an amendment in 1850 made the office elective, and the official has been elected since then except for appointments by the Governor to fill a vacancy until the next election.

The Constitution requires the Attorney General to represent the State in all suits, to police all corporations in the exercise of their charter powers, and give legal advice to the Governor and other executive officers.

It is shown that the office of the Attorney General is a blend of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the government. The office works with and advises the Legislature and to that extent it is a member of the Legislature Department. The office renders opinions on statutes, directives and the Constitution; and it so doing, it assumes the role of the judiciary; and then the office must advise the counsel with the Governor and other executive officers, and thus the office becomes a part of the executive branch.

Within the last three decades, the government of Texas has undergone radical changes. Tort immunity has been removed, new departments to protect our air and water have been created, the duties of the Health Department have been expanded as have that of the Parks and Wildlife Department. There is more emphasis on racial equality in many phases of our every day life, and labor has become a dominant factor in Texas. All of these changes have placed added duties on the office of the Attorney General, requiring many more lawyers and other employees, and the establishment of branch offices in the more populous centers. It has become a large and complex office with a myriad of duties.

The author gives a resume of the organization and administration of the present office. There are several assistants, and then there are fifteen (15) divisions. These divisions are along the lines of the most common problems of the State government. Perhaps the largest division and most time-consuming is that of legal opinions to State and County officers.

There are appraisals of some of the holders of the office beginning with Price Daniel. On the whole, all have performed well. Then in closing, the author includes a few choice opinions that have come out of the office.

It is a well researched and well written book.

Traylor Russell
Mt. Pleasant, Texas


In 1971 John H. Jenkins was cited in Congress for his help in capturing a gang of thieves who had stolen the Union College Audubon portfolio, and in 1975 he purchased the Eberstadt Collection, the largest single purchase of rare books in history. This book contains Jenkins’ amusing accounts of these events and essays on little known but interesting topics taken from his life as a historian, publisher, and bookseller. Jenkins stated that he wanted to show that the world of books offered “delights and adventures
not usually associated with it.” One such adventure is the Audubon Caper. It reads like a Peter Sellers farce with Jenkins in the title role. It traces his misadventures in trying to help the Federal Bureau of Investigation recover the stolen Audubon prints which the thieves had offered to sell to Jenkins. The offer aroused his suspicions, and Jenkins left immediately for New York where he became embroiled with the Mafia. The way in which he handles the situation makes for highly amusing reading.

In addition to personal items, the book also has essays on other Texas topics. In the chapter entitled “Texas Delineated,” he discusses how various writers have tried to describe a “typical Texan”. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., whom Jenkins describes as “a Texas hater of the first rank,” once wrote that Texas was filled with “speculators, adventurers, fugitives from debt and the law, and ruffins generally.” Texas justice is also shown to be exaggerated, as in the case of David Jones, a convicted murderer, who was sentenced to die immediately because the weather was cold and the jail was in such bad condition the judge felt it would be inhumane to make him wait until spring.

The book is filled with such amusing trivia, it is easy to understand why Jenkins has made a career out of buying and selling rare books. It proves there is more to book-selling than meets the eye.

Mary Ann Stevens
Lufkin High School


_The Improbable Era_ is a superb survey of the post-World War II South. Professor Charles P. Roland has packed an impressive amount of factual information into something less than two hundred pages of text, and he had done so with balance, judicious interpretive judgment, and a clear writing style.

In the continuing debate over continuity and change in the modern South, Roland comes down solidly on the side of continuity. While describing the massive changes that have swept over the region, Roland concludes that “the primary institutions and modes of conduct survived, even where drastically modified” (p. 168). The southern economy shifted radically from an agricultural to an industrial base; yet, “it was still very much a colonial economy” (p. 185). The upheavals in race relations overturned the Jim Crow system; still, “the vast majority of the members of the two races lived as far apart in the 1970s as they had in the 1940s. Possibly they lived further apart” (p. 176). “Paradoxically,” Roland observes, “where things had changed the most they seemed to have changed the least” (p. 177).

In addition to its interpretation of postwar events in the South, _The Improbable Era_ should prove valuable as both a reference work and as a classroom text. Generally, the book is organized topically, with one or more chapters devoted to economic changes, race relations, politics, education, religion, literature, music and the arts, and social trends. It is based mainly on a comprehensive examination of secondary sources.

Numan V. Bartley
University of Georgia


There are many curious features about the new Dallas-Fort Worth airport. It sprawls, Texas style, with multiple terminals over half the countryside and a traveller can have an anxious adventure trying to reach a connecting flight. The anxiety is offset, however, by
the intimacy of the terminals and the excitement of puzzling your way through the maze and wondering whether you will make it by your next birthday. Perhaps, this is as it should be. It is symbolic of the confusion and misunderstanding from which the airport emerged.

Although separated by only thirty miles, neither Fort Worth nor Dallas could reach sufficient agreement to sponsor a common facility. Cooperation was logical and they both knew it, but one or the other would forget in a suit of urban rivalry, clash of leadership, or complaint to a judge. A Civil Aeronautics Board examiner, Ross I. Newman, became the unlikely hero of the story by simply telling both cities that their self-touted schemes and facilities were inadequate, and that they should make a joint effort. The timing was right. Fort Worth desperately needed air service, Dallas had an obsolete airport on its hands, and the older combatants had left the scene. So, they got together, albeit with some grumbling and minor difficulties. The result was the new Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport which opened in 1973.

This short study details mainly the stormy political history of the airport conflict which sputtered for thirty years. Written by Stanley H. Scott, an historian trained at Texas Christian University and by Levi H. Davis, a staff assistant to the Dallas city manager, it is heavily footnoted, contains a bibliography of worth, and includes forty-three pages of aviation-related photographs useful more for curiosity than for information. Not much is said about airport design, technology, impact upon the surroundings, or how well it has worked. The printing is somewhat irregular, and the writing rough in spots. The political story comes through, however, and it provides an interesting case study in modern urban rivalry.

David McComb
Colorado State University


On the afternoon of January 26, 1945 near Holtzwihr, Germany, a slight young Texan stood atop an abandoned and burning tank. Using the tank's machine gun, he stopped a German force of two companies of infantry and six Mark VI (Tiger) tanks. For nearly an hour Lieutenant Audie Murphy, using radio, alternately called down artillery fire and machine gunned the attackers. The German infantry, due to losses inflicted by Murphy, withdrew; and the tanks, lacking infantry support, followed.

Having beaten off the assault, he jumped clear and a few moments later, the tank's gasoline and ammunition exploded. Murphy returned to the rear, rallied his company, and led a charge consolidating the gains he singlehandedly had achieved. For these actions he was given the Congressional Medal of Honor. Having previously been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts, his actions at Holtzwihr made him World War II's most decorated soldier.

Born in Hunt County, Texas in 1924 and effectively orphaned at an early age, Murphy was raised in rural poverty by an older sister and sympathetic neighbors. After being rejected by the U.S. Marines as too small and frail, he joined the Army in June 1942 and was assigned to the famed 3rd Infantry Division with which he fought through Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. Like many underprivileged youths short of formal education, Murphy found a home in the Army; it was both 'Mother and Father to him.' He enjoyed the training and the use of weapons, as well as the camaraderie of his peers. Writing his sister, "I like the Army fine ... they let you sleep till 5:30. On the farm I had to get up at 4."
Colonel Harold B. Simpson traces Audie Murphy’s life in a loving, chatty manner from birth to his death at forty-seven. The ups and downs of Murphy’s post-war career, his service in the 36th Infantry Division as a National Guard officer, and his two marriages, one to Hollywood actress Wanda Hendrix, are all described in detail, with many, many photographs and sketches.

It is hard to escape the suspicion that Murphy sought battlefield glory. If so, what were the inner forces that drove him? He wrote, on fear, “That old instinct of self preservation is a pretty basic thing, but while the action was going on some part of my mind shut off and my training and discipline took over.” Combat cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who had also grown up in the rural Southwest and who knew Murphy well, showed insight, “My furies weren’t as burning as his... Audie took the hard way, cutting a swath through the Wehrmacht and then trying to do the same in Hollywood... Long before his plane flew into a mountain he was nibbled to death by ducks.”

Colonel Simpson has produced a medium-quarto sized volume about America’s most decorated soldier of World War II. It is worth the money.

Robert L. Wagner
Austin, Texas


Beginning with Col. Cyrus K. Holliday’s dream in 1869, the Santa Fe Railway has grown until it now stretches some twelve thousand miles extending from Chicago to Galveston, and west to Los Angeles and San Francisco. More recently, it has become Santa Fe Industries, a conglomerate owning oil fields, timberlands, uranium mines, pipelines, and extensive real estate holdings in addition to the railroad. Keith Bryant had captured much of the romance and glamour of this premier transcontinental line as well as relating the story of the development of the road from a small local line in Kansas to its present status. Published as one of the Railroads of America series, the volume is well-edited, profusely illustrated, and handsomely printed.

The Bryant study is, in this reviewer’s opinion, the best and most complete of the histories of the AT&SF that have appeared to date. It is a rare book that can satisfy the interests of the railroad romantic, the locomotive buff, and the student of business history. Yet the author has met all of these demands quite well. Here are tales of the roaring end-of-track towns along the Santa Fe Trail; accounts of the wars with the Denver and Rio Grande over Raton Pass and the Royal Gorge; and “Death Valley Scotty’s” record-breaking trip in 1905 from Los Angeles to Chicago. Students of the Iron Horse can trace the history of motive power on American railroads through the pictures and descriptions of Santa Fe locomotives from the early 4-4-0s to the Super Chief. Business history specialists will find the records of construction costs, operation expenses, and debt funding which are necessary to reconstruct the financial history of the AT&SF through decades of prosperity and depression. The social historian will enjoy the accounts of a great variety of people along the route of the Santa Fe from the immigrant groups to the Harvey girls.

Readers of the Journal will find only brief mention of Santa Fe activities in East Texas. The author discusses the construction and operation of the branch line from Beaumont to Longview in a single page (189), and notes the Santa Fe’s acquisition of the Kirby Lumber Company in equally succinct fashion (364). There is a great deal of material, however, on the development of the company’s Texas affiliate, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe, which should interest all students of recent Texas history.
This is a well-researched and well-written history of one of the country's outstanding railroads. The chief criticism of this reviewer is that, although Bryant has numerous and helpful sketch maps of many parts of the line, he includes only one small black and white map of the complete Santa Fe system (366). He could have used the end papers for this purpose or have prepared a fold-out map. Professor Bryant's study is recommended to everyone who has even a casual interest in the transportation history of the United States.

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