East Texas Historical Journal

Volume 21 | Issue 1 | Article 10

3-1983

Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj

Part of the United States History Commons

Tell us how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol21/iss1/10

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the History at SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.
BOOK REVIEWS

By Elizabeth Silverthorne. (Texas A&M Univ. Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1982. Photographs, Bibliography, Index. p. 259. $24.50.

Ashbel Smith made so many contributions to the development of the Lone Star State during his half century of residence in Texas that it seems impossible that almost a century passed since his death without a biography. Elizabeth Silverthorne has written a magnificent book detailing the life of this exceptional man: surgeon, teacher, writer, farmer, politician, diplomat, soldier. Truly a man for all seasons.

Born in Connecticut in 1805, Ashbel received a degree from Yale in 1823 and accepted a teaching position in Salisbury, North Carolina for a few years. Here he put down his roots, returning to practice medicine after receiving his diploma from Yale in 1828, and from his study of surgery in Paris in 1831. Ever restless and with a keen desire to travel, he left for a tour to Texas, but retained his property in North Carolina expecting that he would eventually return.

But Texas captured his interest and he remained a loyal citizen for the next fifty years. He arrived in Houston in March, 1937, and President Sam Houston named his Surgeon General of the Texas Army, a post he retained during Houston's administration. In 1839 he devoted himself to private practice in Galveston and survived the yellow fever epidemic of that year. He wrote a pamphlet describing the effects and treatments used, and proved that the disease was not contagious; yellow fever remained one of his major interests and he published other papers on the subject.

With the return of his friend Houston to the presidency in 1841, Smith became involved in international politics as charge d'affaires to London and Paris. Upon his return in 1844, President Anson Jones named him Secretary of State; he and Jones committed themselves to a policy of remaining independent with the influence of France and Great Britain whose representatives tried to force Mexico to acknowledge the Republic of Texas in order to prevent annexation to the United States. Public opinion, however, overwhelmingly favored joining the U.S. and his enemies hanged Ashbel in effigy. Once Texas was part of the Union, Smith joined the Texas volunteers who hastened to join General Zachary Taylor's army, but he left the Rio Grande in August, 1846, without seeing any action due to an "apoplectic" seizure. Smith again followed his state in 1861, when at age 56, he accepted command of the Bayland Guards and he led his company to Tennessee to join former friend, General Albert Sidney Johnston. Wounded slightly at Shiloh, Smith returned to duty at Vicksburg in 1863, promoted from
captain to colonel, and later commanded a coastal defense near Caney Creek. Transferred to Galveston in 1865, he surrendered to General Gordon Granger in July.

Smith's other contributions to Texas were more peaceful. He developed a plantation on upper Galveston Bay near Baytown where he experimented with wheat, rye, sheep, and grapes in addition to more usual cash crops of cotton, sugar, and corn. He served as the Superintendent of the Houston Academy for a time, represented Harris County in the Legislature both before and after the war, accepted an appointment to the first board of regents of the new University of Texas in 1881, and remained active in university affairs until 1885, the year before his death. He retained his interest in politics and the medical profession, publishing articles on various topics. While he never married, Smith had formed close friendships with several women and had suffered through broken romances more than once. One of the greatest satisfactions came from an orphan girl, Anna Allen, who became his foster daughter. As a wedding gift, Smith gave Anna Allen Wright 75 acres near his home, land that in 1916 was part of the Goose Creek oil field.

This book will please both those who enjoy biography and those who want to know more about the history of Texas, especially southeastern Texas, between 1837 and 1886. Silverthorne is a good story teller and has done her research well.

Margaret Swett Henson
University of Houston at Clear Lake City


This small volume contains previously unpublished letters written by Stephen F. Austin to David G. Burnet between 1829 and 1836. The letters remained in the hands of a Burnet heir until the 1950s, when they were acquired by Gilbert M. Denman, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Beretta. Appropriately, Mrs. Beretta is a descendant of Moses Austin, and her daughter, a sixth generation Texan, compiled the letters. Thus, the book is peculiarly a memorial to the historic Austin family.

The letters are important inversely to the size of the book. Collectively, they trace Austin's changing feelings toward Mexico and his transformation from loyal citizen to revolutionary. In the early letters he discussed the colonization of Texas; in the later ones, the development and success of the Texan Revolution. One he wrote while detained in Mexico; another, only weeks before his death. Of special interest
are his letters regarding the convention of 1833 and his reports on his mission to the United States in 1836. Of interest, too, is his design of a flag for Texas, a design that pictures the new republic as the child of the United States and the grandchild of England.

The letters generally confirm Eugene C. Barker's interpretations in his biography of Stephen F. Austin, and the handsomely printed book is an indispensable supplement to Barker's *Austin Papers*.

Marilyn McAdams Sibley
Houston Baptist University

*Texas' Last Frontier: Fort Stockton and The Trans-Pecos, 1861-1895.*

As a native of West Texas and a resident of Fort Stockton for about nine decades, the author has spent years collecting historical research materials to produce this volume. At his disposal has been his father's numerous manuscripts and historical sources; in addition, he has talked to or personally interviewed many pioneers or their descendants. Professional historians and buffs alike who have had an interest in the Trans-Pecos region have long valued the manuscripts of the father of the author, Oscar Waldo Williams. This book by Clayton Williams is a significant regional history of the Southwest.

The reader should not misinterpret the "Trans-Pecos" in the title of the book to mean a detailed discussion of the more populated locations such as either Alpine or Marfa in the Big Bend area or El Paso in far West Texas. The author's method of presentation is to focus on the evolution of Fort Stockton and shift to other locations inside and outside of Texas to inform the reader of incidents related to this frontier. In the first chapter, there is a general treatment of the Civil War era and the role of Fort Stockton in this critical period. The book is divided into four major parts, and the chapter arrangement is a rather unique chronological presentation with each chapter representing a brief time period.

Typical of some isolated frontier garrisons, Fort Stockton was slow to develop a civilian community. After it was established in the late 1850s, only a few civilians were attracted to its remote location on the southern trail from San Antonio to El Paso; more than four hundred miles of near desolation lay between the capital of the state, Austin, and this frontier garrison. From the founding of the fort to the permanent abandonment by the military in the mid 1880s, its primary role was to provide security for local residents but also protection for a
variety of travelers, drovers, or wagon masters on the trails in the Trans-Pecos domain.

Fort Stockton was vulnerable to Indian attack because it was situated near the Comanche War Trail and Comanche Springs. One major contribution of the book is the author’s reviewing numerous Indian depredations by the Mescalero and Lipan Apaches as well as various bands of Comanches. There are accounts of Indian attacks on wagon trains, mail coaches, wood cutters, cattlemen, sheepmen, and farmers.

Also included in this volume is the spread of the range cattle industry into West Texas. Not only does the author discuss the early cattle drives in this region, but he also traces some of the pioneer stockmen and the problems they endured. Typical of open range conditions, the stockmen of this area practiced communal roundups and aided one another in overcoming common obstacles. As population was attracted to the western part of the state, local governments were formed to serve the residents.

By 1886 and the permanent abandonment of the troops from Fort Stockton, the civilian community was forced to adjust itself to more self-sufficient enterprises other than being dependent on the military. In addition to the cattle and sheep industries, the author treats the evolution of irrigation companies and the expansion of farming along the river sources. The arrival of both the telegraph and railroads aided in improving communication and transportation.

One of the concluding chapters treats individual and family feuds that occurred in the decade following the closing of the garrison. Local authorities and residents were forced to call upon the Texas Rangers to quell the lawlessness stimulated by fighting factions and outlaw elements. A fitting ending to the book is the author’s presentation of the fate of the pioneers of this first generation at Fort Stockton.

J. Morgan Broaddus
The University of Texas at El Paso

**TEXAS RAILROADS A Record of Construction and Abandonment.**
By Charles P. Zlatkovich. (Austin, Bureau of Business Research, University of Texas at Austin, Texas), 1981. p. 139, Appendix, Illustrations, Maps, Bibliography.

This study of the development of the railroads of Texas traces their history from their beginnings through the mergers and reorganizations to 1980. It thus complements and updates St. Clair G. Reed’s *A History of the Texas Railroads*, which is now more than forty years old. Based largely on the records of the Texas Railroad Commission,
Charles Zlatkovich has followed the story of each chartered railroad from its construction and development period through various name and ownership changes until the line was eventually merged with one of the large systems, was abandoned, or is still operational.

Accompanying the text are concise tables and charts which give the reader pertinent information concerning the state of the railroad industry in Texas from 1853 to 1980. One section provides a chronological record of Texas railroads by year; another traces the history of each company, whether the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (3,371.73 miles) or the Moscow, Camden and San Augustine (6.87 miles).

Zlatkovich also includes a section on the seven major rail systems which operate in Texas. Largest and oldest of these is the Southern Pacific, which serves most of the major cities and traverses all parts of the state except the northwest section and the Panhandle. Although the SP was familiar to Texans from Houston to El Paso as early as 1881, the Huntington road had no legal existence in Texas until after World War II. The company operated its system through a series of leases and stock ownership.

There are some minor errors which, perhaps, are due to the author’s reliance on the Railroad Commission’s Reports instead of more recent monographs. For example, the Houston, East & West Texas reached Nacogdoches in May, 1883 not 1882. The same road was completed in January, 1886 rather than in 1885 as stated. But in general the volume has been well-researched and carefully compiled. Worthy of special mention are the series of excellent maps which shows the Texas railroad picture by decade from 1860 to the present.

This is a welcome and useful addition to the literature on Texas railroads. It should become the standard reference work on the construction and abandonment of railroads in the Lone Star State.

Robert S. Maxwell
Stephen F. Austin State University


Gone from Texas: Our Lost Architectural Heritage by Willard B. Robinson is one of the most important studies of Texas history to have been written in recent years. More than an account of buildings, the volume deals with the nature of the Texas experience from pre-history to the present as defined in those buildings which, for a variety of reasons, are no longer standing.
In one respect, the work is not a happy one. No person interested in the history of Texas can be pleased to read of and see buildings which have been destroyed. The loss of so many of our landmarks from the past, including such structures as the *Vereins Kirche* in Fredericksburg, Galveston's City Hall and Houston's Masonic Lodge Building of 1868 represents a loss of a part of the past which is increasingly difficult to accept in a time when that past is disappearing with ever greater rapidity. Yet Robinson does not advocate preservation for the sake of preservation. As his volume unfolds, he makes it clear that historical, economic and social factors must be kept in mind when making a decision to preserve a structure.

Yet, although the volume is an account of a tragedy, it is in itself a triumph. Not only does the author bring together images of much that would have disappeared completely from our memory if not for his work, he does so in a manner that represents the best of historical scholarship. Using a chronological approach, he examines the development of Texas from its pre-history beginnings through the period of Spanish and Mexican expansion and on into the era of the Austin Colony, the Republic and Statehood, ending with the buildings of the 1930s. Undoubtedly every reader will be a bit disappointed that a favorite structure has not been included in the book, but the scale of the project makes this inevitable. Even so, every part of the state is represented and the author made an effort to include a variety of structures from the commercial and industrial world, as well as the full range of domestic buildings.

Of most value, from the historical perspective, is the consideration of the structures as evidence of the life of the past. Robinson includes a discussion of economic, environmental and social variables as well as a review of the history of styles of architecture. This may be the most unique part of the book, for all too few of those who write about the history of buildings make any attempt to go beyond the discussion of style and consider the reasons for the building. Robinson does this and he does it very effectively.

Texas A&M Press is also to be congratulated, both for publishing the book, which was the 100th volume that the press has produced, and doing so in an effective manner. The design brings together pictures and text most effectively and, in all, the book is very pleasing.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a book in the library of Texana, and the work will be of value to the general historian as well as to those interested in the history of architecture. This is a work which should be on the shelves of anyone who is concerned about the history of Texas.

Patrick H. Butler III
Harris County Heritage Society

This is a history not of a single state, but of a river serving the entire southwest—the Red River. Carl Newton Tyson skillfully blends many seemingly unrelated occurrences into a single well-written narrative covering a span of almost three and one-half centuries. He leads the reader from struggle to struggle, from episode to episode, and does so in a most enjoyable manner. The book is extremely easy to follow—a major asset, but also a liability, at least from the historian's standpoint. Unfortunately, the smooth transition from subject to subject often necessitates omission of pertinent details and even complete events.

After devoting a whole chapter on newer dams and reservoirs on the upper Red and its tributaries, Tyson disregards the recent construction on the lower Red—such as the Old River Control Structure (completed in 1962) and Lock & Dam No. 1 (begun in 1977)—which represent the initial steps toward renewal of river traffic. Another chapter covers the Greer County controversy, but the author ignores an earlier and livelier dispute when, during the 1830s, Miller County, Arkansas and Red River County, Texas claimed jurisdiction over virtually the same territory. Tyson discusses in detail the early Indians and their environment, but fails to mention the Quapaws, whose catastrophic experiences on Red River led historian Grant Foreman to comment, "It is doubtful if there is a more pathetic chapter in the annals of history." Also neglected are the highly successful Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, which operated from the 1830s until 1907 across what is now Southern Oklahoma. Overlooked as well are the two events that focused early congressional and newspaper attention to the area—the 1838 "invasion" of Northwest Louisiana by the Republic of Texas militia and the 1839-40 Chihuahua trade expedition to Red River.

Although the omissions listed stress the need for a more comprehensive and definitive treatment, they do not necessarily weaken the overall importance of Tyson's short book. What he has done, in a very readable way, is to provide us with an excellent overview.

Thomas F. Ruffin
Shreveport, Louisiana
These six essays were written by former students of Professor Barnes F. Lathrop of the University of Texas (now retired). The essays are efforts to recognize the high quality of Lathrop’s contribution to historical scholarship. Professor Lathrop quickly won respect from his graduate students and colleagues when he began supervision of master’s theses and doctoral dissertations right after World War II. All of us who were there then recall Lathrop’s firm but relaxed style. He sought to develop our understanding of what the profession of history was all about. During the years since our arduous but rewarding stay at UT, several of us have often affirmed to each other at convention time or on social occasions that Barnes Lathrop was a “Professor’s Professor.”

The editor of this essay honorarium tells us that altogether Lathrop directed over seventy-five theses and dissertations and that a third of the dissertations and five of the theses have been published. Such a shelf of books bears testimony, indeed, to Lathrop’s skill as a tutor. As Mr. Gallagher says: “Students could not count on Lathrop’s approbation, but they could be sure he judged their work honestly and fairly.” (P. 11)

The essays include articles by Professors Alwyn Barr of Texas Tech University; Dwight F. Henderson of Indiana University, Ft. Wayne; Paul E. Isaac of Lamar University; Stephen B. Oates of the University of Massachusetts; Frank E. Vandiver, now President of Texas A&M; and Ralph Wooster of Lamar University.

Barr’s essay on “Black Migration into Southwestern Cities, 1865-1900” employs Professor Lathrop’s child ladder method of determining migration. Henderson’s look at “Federal Justice in Louisiana; The First Quarter Century” chronicles court behavior toward such interesting people as Jean Lafitte, James Long and other filibuster types of the era. Paul Isaac takes another look at “William Howard Taft and Fractional Leaders in Tennessee, 1908.” Naturally, Taft and Roosevelt hoped embryonic signs of Republican Party development in the South would mature in a meaningful way. Isaac finds that Taft tried throughout his term to convert southern whites to his party. Although he won more votes in Tennessee in 1912 than Roosevelt, he failed to carry the state. The Solid South remained “solid.”

Professor Oates in his essay on Lincoln and the slaveholding South says that Lincoln always sympathized with the “mass of southern people and thought them inherently humane and patriotic.” (P. 97) However, Lincoln was determined not to let slavery expand. After the Dred Scott
decision he feared the institution might spread westward or even cross old lines of freedom. Lincoln failed to see the seriousness of the secession crisis of 1860-61, calling it "humbug." Later, with the border states threatening to secede, "Lincoln seemed confused, incredulous, at what was happening to his country." (P. 107) Oates takes exception to the view that Lincoln would have treated the South in a moderate and magnanimous manner after the war. In Oates' opinion Lincoln agreed with the so-called radicals that the "South had to be remade." (P. 113).

Frank Vandiver, prospective biographer of Jefferson Davis, comments in his essay on "The Shifting Roles" of the Confederate President. Vandiver believes that Davis' biographers have "erred in looking too strictly for an individual." Davis and the Confederate cause "have been melded in history." (P. 119). Davis felt no guilt about his cause. In Vandiver's view, and the present reviewer agrees with that view, "modern historians intellectualize too much, look too much for meaning, too little for the heart." (P. 129).

In "Wealthy Southerners on the Eve of the Civil War," Ralph Wooster compiles a list of millionaires, using census returns and other sources. Widening his list considerably, he tells us the manuscript returns of the Eighth United States Census reveal over 8,000 southerners who owned $100,000 or more in total property in 1860. Although their number made up less than one percent of the total free population of the South, their influence was enormous. Wooster then offers interesting data on the social interests of these economic leaders. Some of them did not support the Confederacy. On the whole, however, they supported secession by over 2-1 (3-1 in the lower South). Wooster finds that even "excluding the wealthy delegates from South Carolina and Texas, conventions with little opposition to secession, the ratio of men of wealth supporting secession in the region was greater than that of the bodies overall." (P. 152).

Fittingly, the publication was made possible by the Littlefield Fund for Southern History. Eight hundred copies have been printed.

James L. Nichols
Stephen F. Austin State University

As honorary compilations go, this particular effort by several of Professor Wiley's graduate students is outstanding. And that is appropriate, as Bell Wiley was a distinguished advocate of scholarly work. Authors of the eight articles include Professors Henry T. Malone, Michael B. Dougan, Richard M. McMurry, Norman B. Ferris, Willard E. Wight, Arnold Shankman, James I. Robertson, Jr., and Maury Klein. John Porter Bloom prepared a bibliography of Wiley's extensive writings.

For historiographers the most valuable contribution is by Henry T. Malone, which brings Wiley to life in an eighteen-page biographical summary entitled "Bell Irvin Wiley: Uncommon Soldier." Michael Dougan follows with a treatment of a colorful Confederate personality, General Thomas C. Hindman of Arkansas. Dougan believes Hindman deserves more attention than he has received from military historians and students of the "War."

Co-editor McMurry's offering consists of "Rise to Glory: A Speculative Essay on the Early Career of John Bell Hood." McMurry attempts to trace those earlier experiences which influenced Hood's later career as a commander of men. He finds that Hood "like many Southern generals" "could not command; he could only lead." By 1864, Hood was unable physically to provide necessary "close supervision of his army's battles."

Next, Norman B. Ferris discusses what he calls a "Trans-Atlantic Misunderstanding: William Henry Seward and the Declaration of Paris Negotiation of 1861." Ferris finds it fortunate that Seward held the State position when the diplomatic crisis between the United States and Great Britain developed early in the Civil War. Ferris believes American diplomatic historians should re-examine "the myth" of Seward's belligerence toward England.

Willard E. Wight's sketch on "Colonel Cyrus B. Harkie: A Troubled Military Career" concentrates on one Confederate colonel who was special because he "began and ended his career" in the Southern army "as colonel of the Fifty-fifth Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry." Such "dubious accomplishment is the subject of this essay."

Item VI deals with a Peace Democrat in the North: George Washington Woodward. Arnold Shankman encompasses Woodward's opinions in "For the Union As it Was and the Constitution As it Is: A Copperhead Views the Civil War." Woodward, a Pennsylvanian, regarded Lincoln as "an arbitrary despot." Shankman argues that
although Woodward was neither a politician nor a Copperhead of the first magnitude, he is as deserving of scholarly study "as several secondary Union and Confederate generals" who have been subjects for "impressive" biographies.

Professor Robertson presents "Chaplain William E. Wiatt: Soldier of the Cloth." His source is a recently discovered diary of remarkable quality. Wiatt's diary reflects that he was a good man devoted to the cause of righteousness. Wiatt served with the Twenty-sixth Virginia Infantry Regiment. He was unique in that he was the only "Holy Joe" the regiment ever had—Wiatt served with the unit for the entire war. Robertson concludes that Wiatt matches the stereotype prescribed for an ideal Confederate Chaplain.

The men of industry in the North provide Maury Klein with material for his essay entitled "The Boys Who Stayed Behind: Northern Industrialists and the Civil War." Klein includes a list of sixty business "leaders," aged 17-30, who did not see military service during the War. Manufacturers, meat packers, contractors, railroad directors, etc., make up the list. Most of the names are familiar to students of American history. Klein concludes that the "troubled waters" of the 1860s provided "good fishing" for those who were ambitious and alert to opportunity.

All in all, Robertson, McMurry and company have competently represented their mentor, Bell Irvin Wiley, the voice of "Johnny Reb" and "Billy Yank."

James L. Nichols
Stephen F. Austin State University


Here—I echo previous reviewers—is probably the definitive, final, and quintessentially tedious word on the Nashville Convention. Delegates from Southern states gathered in 1850 to consider secession, one decade earlier than it finally did occur. This history of that meeting is excellently researched, a standard for reference, but I cannot imagine anyone reading it for fun.

It is unclear exactly what were all the envisioned purposes of the convention; even contemporaries disagreed. The convention was an episode most characterized, from beginning to end, by ambivalence. But Jennings asserts that it contributed directly to the downfall of the Whig party, and it promoted the growth of a dominating Democratic party in the South, thus ending a previously-extant 15-year era of two-
party politics in the region. Indeed, the convention even doomed a national era of bisectional parties. But it also symbolized a national consensus; it strengthened those who worked for compromise: Jennings calls it "a landmark in regional cooperation." (p. 12).

Jennings posits the question, Why did John C. Calhoun—who had played a leading role in calling the convention—fail to form a united front of Southerners? Her answers include intraparty feuding among Southern Democrats; that for many Southern Democrats the preservation of the Union was more important than preservation of slavery or the Southern way of life—rather more so than Calhoun had thought; and that there existed enmities and rivalry for state control as well as sectionalism within some states.

Daniel Webster's "7th of March speech" did much to reassure moderates on both sides that compromise was not an impossibility, inspiring confidence in Southerners to a tension-relieving degree that conciliation would indeed be bearable after all. It is impossible to determine the effect of Calhoun's death, but in any event it deprived the convention's proponents of their leader, and no one emerged in his place. The ultimate epitomization of the "change in sentiment" reflected in the attitude of Albert Pike, who on April 15th utterly repudiated the convention, declaring that it would "do no good," and was "almost sure to do injury." (p. 97).

Chapter 6 contains a good analysis of the delegates' personal, economic, geographic, and political backgrounds, as well as their views on the convention and related topics, plus their participation in leading to its assemblage.

Selection of Nashville as the site showed the increasing importance of that city in the South and Southwest. In 1850 its population stood at 10,165, and it looked toward a decade of achievement. Its sobriquet, "Athens of the South" was appropriate recognition of its cultural characteristics. It was a "country city," and lots of Southern hospitality was shown the delegates.

The convention started in the Odd Fellows Hall, but that place proved too small, so the meeting moved to the McKendree Methodist Church, which accommodated 1,500 people (even by national standards, a rather large church building). Spectators provided welcome diversion . . . ladies enclosed the delegates on each side "like borders of flowers." (p. 142).

The passage of the Compromise of 1850 took away much of the momentum generated by the first session. Interest in the second session was much slighter. The nature of the delegates to the second session differed. Most of the new members were more radical. It was a smaller
group. They met at the Christian Church. The session ended in hasty confusion, but it did draft the "Georgia Platform."

Ironically, the Georgia Platform united the South more successfully than had the more blatantly secessionist "Nashville Platform." Why? Because the Georgia Platform accepted adjustment within the Union, and that was the Southern consensus in 1850. Yet, the Georgia Platform saved Southern pride and honor... it upheld the legality of secession ... and placed responsibility for maintenance of the Union and of peace upon the North.

Although somewhat ineffectual, the convention was by no means insignificant; but it did fail in its more important purpose: to unify the South. Why did it fail? Because the convention was a movement of politicians, rather than the people... partisan politics produced division... a majority of the Southern people were never as disturbed as were some politicians; and lastly the convention proponents were not in total agreement on the purpose of their meeting.

Jenning's conclusions seem weak and less convincing than the rest of her work. The convention, she says, was not a failure (at least not completely). It paved the way for the existence of the Constitutional Union Party; occasioned weighing the merits of secession and ended in a choice for a preserved union; but also paved the way for the birth of the Confederacy in 1861.

Herman Hattaway
University of Missouri-Kansas City


This publication adds yet another piece to the mosaic picture of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi. In this case it is the history of the Thirty-Fourth Volunteer Texas Cavalry Regiment, more commonly called Terrell's Texas Cavalry. The author appears to have done an exhaustive job of researching his subject, the result of which is the definitive story of that organization of men.

This regiment, like so many from the Texas of that time, drew its volunteers from Smith, Wood, Anderson, Cherokee and other East Texas counties. After its organization in the Spring and Summer of 1863, the regiment spent its time in drilling, chasing some of its own deserters, and marching hither and yon to meet expected Federal threats. The most serious threat developed in the Spring of 1864 when U.S. forces under General N. P. Banks undertook the Red River Campaign. Along
with practically every able-bodied soldier in this department, Terrell's regiment was ordered to northwestern Louisiana to meet this threat. This regiment, now a part of General Richard Taylor's Confederate forces, was heavily engaged in the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana and the harassing of Bank's retreating forces.

The author chronicles the history of this unit well, although it is a bit tedious in trying to sort out the other regiments and their leaders who fought along side of Terrell. In this respect perhaps an order of battle sketch, or sketches, of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill would have been helpful. Also of help to the reader who is not familiar with the geography of Louisiana would have been maps delineating the Red River Campaign. Since the author gave a brief history of the campaign one wonders why the Red River itself was not given more credit for "turning Confederate" by drying up and helping to thwart the federal campaign, especially in the dilemma faced by Admiral Porter and the gunboats at Alexandria.

These points are minor, however, and certainly one of the strongest contributions made by this book is the inclusion of the regimental rosters and the biographical sketches of the men appearing in the appendices. This will be appreciated by genealogists for years to come and this feature alone warrants the purchase price of this book.

Robert W. Glover
Tyler Junior College

*Six Months from Tennessee: A Story of the Many Pioneers of Miller County, Arkansas, Based upon the Life of Claiborne Wright.*

Claiborne Wright was one of those Americans born with an "itchy foot." A native of North Carolina, he moved to Carthage, Tennessee, around 1800 and attempted to settle into the life of a farmer and family man. Business ventures and restless curiosity, however, soon took him to Louisville and from there to New Orleans. These travels broadened Wright's horizons but did not fill his purse, and he decided to move to Texas in search of both adventure and wealth. On March 5, 1816, Wright, his wife, their five children, and four slaves left Carthage on a sixty-foot keelboat called the Pioneer. Six months later after 1,500 miles on the Cumberland, Ohio, Mississippi, and Red Rivers they arrived at Pecan Point in northeast Texas.

Wright, who built his first home south of the Red River and then within five years moved across the river to the north, settled in a land of uncertain ownership. Spain claimed that her province of Texas
extended to the Red River while the United States argued that the
Louisiana Purchase included an indefinite area reaching to the Sabine
River and the headwaters of the Trinity River. Soon after the Arkansas
Territory was created in 1819, a large portion of present-day northeast
Texas, southeastern Oklahoma, and southwestern Arkansas was desig­
nated as Miller County. Claiborne Wright as a first settler and a man
of substance was elected to represent the new county on the Legislative
Council of the Territory. His future seemed secure. By 1828, however,
most of Miller County north of the Red River had been designated as
part of the new Indian Territory, and Wright lost his property there.
He and other settlers burned his home which had served as the Miller
County Courthouse for seven years, and he moved south of the river
into Mexican Texas. The next year he was fatally stabbed while helping
break up a brawl. Claiborne Wright was only forty-five at his death.
It seems likely that had he lived other areas of Texas would soon have
beckoned.

Skipper Steely reconstructs Claiborne Wright’s life and his role in
Miller County on the basis of traditional research, family traditions, and
admitted historical “fictions.” It is a good story, although the inclusion
of many flashbacks and sidelights makes it difficult to follow. Never­
theless, the reader is given a reasonably good feel for this pioneer with
the “itchy foot” and for the problems and uncertainties of settling in
northeast Texas at a time when ownership and boundaries were unclear.

Randolph B. Campbell
North Texas State University

The Old Home Place: Farming on the West Texas Frontier. By David
L. Caffey. (Eakin Publications, P.O. Box 178, Burnet, TX 78611),

The Caffey family arrived in Jones County in 1890 as settlers on
the last frontier of Texas. As part of the mainstream of the Westward
Movement, the Scotch-Irish family had moved, generation by generation,
from Maryland to North Carolina to Tennessee to northeastern Missis­
sippi before finally settling in the shinnery country south of Anson.
There on the “old home place,” Mart and Myra Caffey, surrounded by
other Mississippi-born relatives, raised their family and farmed the land.
The Caffeys produced no famous politicians (nor corrupt ones), no
nouveau riche, not even a sheriff or a county commissioner (that may
be to their credit).

The story of this family is that of the common experience of the
average farm family in the region during the half-century from 1890 to
the outbreak of World War II. Readers will find within these pages the
hardships, the simple pleasures, the values and especially the characters of rural life, like Mart Caffey, the frugal, hard working central figure of the narrative, and Edgar, the genial, not-so-serious brother horse and cow trader. Moreover, the book contains numerous descriptions of economic and social activities on a West Texas cotton farm, such as Myra Caffey sewing together cotton sacks on her Singer machine on the eve of harvesting, green boll fights among the boys, the construction of a typical "post and pier" house, the rural school, and changes brought about by the introduction of automobile, movies, radio, and the "aladdin" lamp.

David Caffey offers a number of interesting insights into farm life. He describes the work of Groundhog Ryan, the local well-digger, Sharp's Wagon Yard in Abilene, Mart Caffey's love of music but his prejudice against his children strumming stringed instruments ("Mart was convinced that anyone who played the guitar could come to no good" (p. 80), and the order of seating the large family at the dinner-table. Caffey's rationale for buying a tractor in the 1930s may have been unique. "When he did so, it wasn't so much out of an impulse to have the latest innovation, but simply as a practical solution to months of frustration in trying to match up a working team of mules" (p. 145).

The author relies primarily upon interviews with older members of the family for his sources, although he used background material gleaned from local newspapers and some standard secondary works. The only weaknesses in the book stem from occasional sketchy information dealing with the historical backdrop. For example, the author deals only in a general way with Texas land policy, the primary attraction of West Texas for the Caffey family. But overall he does a fine job, primarily in giving the reader a subjective "feel" for the Home Place and its inhabitants.

To this reviewer, whose maternal and paternal grandparents also settled on West Texas farms, the story of the Caffey family is familiar ground. Just as the fertile West Texas lands attracted our forebears, the hard times of farming coupled with the opportunities of an education and the bright lights of the cities pulled us away from the land. The Old Home Place no longer exists for the Caffeys and thousands of other descendants of farmers, now city-boys who occasionally drive down from Dallas or Midland or Oklahoma City to survey the land and ruins of small L- and T-shaped frame houses through misty eyes.

Donald E. Green
Central State University of Oklahoma
Gavels, Grit & Glory: The Billy Clayton Story. By Jimmy Banks: (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 178, Burnet, TX 78611), 1982. Illustrations, Index. p. 379. $15.95.

On his first prefatory page Jimmy Banks disavows footnotes since "they interrupt my train of thought when I'm reading." Where "necessary to cite a source," he adds, "I have quoted that source in the text... My general feeling is that if... all footnotes... were laid end to end, the world would be a far better place." (p. vii). This disclaimer of any pretension to scholarship is fortunate because Banks produces twenty-three chapters and 370 pages of text totally uncluttered by any attributes thereof.

Gavels, Grit & Glory is wholly within the genre of journalistic campaign biography. Accordingly, Banks approaches his subject reportorially and sympathetically.

That a person of no particular political background hailing from one of the least populous counties in one of the nation's most industrial states could achieve four elections to the speakership of the Texas House of Representatives is, to be sure, no mean political accomplishment. This is exactly what Billy Clayton did, however, and Banks attributes this success to Clayton's capacity for hard work and his reputation for total fairness in his dealings with all components of the political spectrum.

Banks opens his telling of the Billy Clayton story with a description of a tense courtroom in Houston where the Speaker was on trial for allegedly accepting bribe money—the upshot of the "Brilab" sting operation. The chapter terminates as the jury reenters U. S. District Judge Robert O'Connor's courtroom announcing that it had reached a verdict. Over 300 pages later one learns what the verdict was—assuming, of course, that one did not already know. In the intervening pages, Banks drops back to pick up Clayton family history for which he relies heavily upon a "family journal" kept since 1923 by Clayton's mother, Myrtle Chitwood Clayton. Extended quotations are taken from Mrs. Clayton's journal and they are among the more interesting aspects of the book. In turn, Banks covers Clayton's boyhood on the family's Lamb County farm, the unremitting labor of which left young Clayton uninspired; his matriculation at Texas A&M College; his first brush with politics while campaigning on behalf of Lyndon Johnson's presidential aspirations in 1960; and his election to the Texas House of Representatives two years later. Clayton's legislative career gets more detailed treatment as it is followed through various episodes and issues to his first election to the speakership in 1975 and through an unprecedented four terms in that office which tradition had restricted to two.

In the latter chapters, one finds repeated references to Clayton's
ambitions to state-wide office—and they are more like announcements
than speculations. His decision not to seek reelection to the House in
1982, coupled with the timely appearance of this biography, would
seem to suggest that the Texas electorate may expect soon to hear from
the farmer-businessman from Springlake. In any event, the twenty­
three chapters of Gavels, Grit & Glory are as twenty-three palm fronds
strewn in the former Speaker's path toward whatever political Jerusalem
he chooses. In fact, Clayton's eventual success could indeed turn Gavels,
Grit & Glory into something of a historical document in and of itself.

Those who observe the Austin scene carefully and from close
proximity are likely to learn little from this book, while casual observers
or newcomers may find new information and insights into the politics of
Texas. Billy Clayton, however, commands the attention of Texas his­
torians simply because he was a powerful and effective political leader
during a critical, transitional period.

But perhaps most importantly, and in addition to Banks' intended
purpose, his reporting of the "Brilab" episode raises profoundly impor­
tant questions. If it is true that Speaker Clayton was a victim of highly
questionable, if not downright illegal, procedures on the part of investi­
gatory agencies (and I agree with Banks' view that he was) then any
citizen of conscience must protest. For it makes no difference whether
the victim is a conservative leader of a state legislature, a civil rights
activist, or an anti-war militant, such abuses of power bode ill for the
health of the American republic.

Frederick W. Rathjen
West Texas State University

*Dining With the Cattle Barons: Yesterday and Today.* By Sarah Mor­
gen. (Texian Press, P.O. Box 1684, Waco, TX 76703), 1981. Index. p. 133. $13.95.

Sarah Morgan evidently has a "thing" about food and cooking;
she has previously published four cookbooks, and her newest is called
*Dining With the Cattle Barons,* a sort of annotated travelogue through
the dining rooms and kitchens of sixteen of the great ranches of Texas.
She tells us that the ranches chosen for visits are limited to those that
have at least a fifty year history of being working ranches, and are also
those well known for their generous hospitality.

Each chapter of the book describes a visit to one of the ranches,
and begins with a short history of the ranch itself. Since the bibliography
is short and rather general, evidently much of the ranch history material
was obtained from interviews. Mrs. Morgan does a good job of describ­
ing the ranch houses and kitchens, and her recipes are interesting and
usable.
One of the things that bothered me badly about this book is the constant repetition of the phrases "cattle barons" and "baronesses," unwieldy phrases that get no better with frequent use. I counted them used in the book thirty times. There are other examples of careless writing; all of these objections could have been cured by more careful editing. Perhaps more serious is my feeling that none of the recipes are really unusual; it sounds as if the ranch people ate and cooked about like the rest of the people in Texas.

Mrs. Morgan says of her "cattle barons and baronesses:" "They combined the most diverse cultures—the gracious traditions of the old south, the rough but open-handed customs of the western frontier, the leisurely sensuality of Old Mexico, and the formal conventions of Scotland, England, Sweden, and other European countries, to establish a heritage of entertaining and cuisine unparalleled in American history. It is this special heritage that I have tried to capture in this book." I think she does do this; I just do not agree that the heritage is all that unique.

In any case, collectors of cookbooks and collectors of Texana will both want to acquire a copy of Dining With the Cattle Barons. It would also make a nice gift.

Marjorie L. Williams
Austin, Texas


Much has been written about the lumbering industry in the South—from its genesis in colonial Virginia to today's far-flung timber corporations—but the writers have, to a great extent, neglected the role of associations in the industry's development.

James E. Fickle, associate professor of history at Memphis State University, takes a thorough look at the relationships between trade associations and the lumbering industry, particularly in the South.

His analysis of the Southern Pine Association, as well as other groups which rose and fell between the 1880s and the mid-twentieth century, provides an understanding of the economic, political and social problems of the South's timbering companies.

Fickle did a superb job of delving into corporate and trade association files, and his study offers a little-seen view of corporate attitudes
toward competition, government, labor, race relations and foreign affairs during the period.

Much of Fickle's work was in East Texas, where a strong timber industry played a pivotal role in the development of many of the early trade associations, and he devotes an appropriate amount of attention to the East Texas segment of the industry.

Bob Bowman
Delta Drilling Company, Tyler


I recall as a graduate student in the mid-sixties reading I'll Take My Stand: The South and the Agrarian Tradition (1930) and smugly dismissing it as a quaint and futile, although eloquent, call for a return to a then-vanishing way of life. Other readers have had the same reaction over the years. Time has proven us wrong and proven the "Twelve Southerners" to be insightful critics of a society rushing pell-mell into a depersonalized, urban-industrial condition.

This book of essays grew out of a fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the publication of I'll Take My Stand held at Vanderbilt University in 1980. One of the book's strengths are the diverse viewpoints presented by academics in various fields. Historian Charles Roland presents an excellent overview of the South in the 1920s, out of which came I'll Take My Stand. Sociologist John Shelton Reed sees the sectionalism of the authors as in fact a species of cultural, economic, and political nationalism. The essays of several English professors are included. According to Lewis Simpson, the Agrarians sought to restore the forces of myth and tradition in a society fast losing its roots. Robert Heilman argues similarly that I'll Take My Stand "clearly belongs to a strong, nonlocalized tradition of dissent against the commercial, and then the industrial, dogma of well-being" (p. 107). George Core examines the "uneasy relation" between the Agrarian authors and the universities with which they were associated. Core and Louis Rubin stress the literary, pastoral, and especially poetic qualities of the book.

However, the high point of A Band of Prophets is the discussion (moderated by Cleanth Brooks) by the three surviving Agrarians: Lyle Lanier, Andrew Lytle, and Robert Penn Warren. They prove to be humorous, up-to-date, and remarkably perceptive of the ills of modern American society. Today's most enthusiastic, ecology-minded young person would feel right at home with this group. Here is magnificent
affirmation that old age is no barrier to contemporaneity. It is now clear that *I'll Take My Stand* was less a call to the past than a warning about the future. As Andrew Lytle says, “although nobody considered himself a prophet, we seemed far better prophets than we knew” (p. 165). Perhaps we should all re-read *I'll Take My Stand*.

William F. Mugleston
Mountain View College


The deepest impression left after reading this account of theater life in Houston and its surroundings is the abiding interest people have in stage productions. Theaters are a predictable part of urban life. There is always someone ready to spend the money, put in the time, produce a show, and hope for success. The show, indeed, goes on. Why? The author, unfortunately, does not address that question. The book is not analytical in that respect.

It is mainly about the success and failure of actors, theaters, organizations, and directors. There are several chapters offering a thin narrative history and then a long series of short, choppy accounts of various groups. These descriptions include important institutions such as the Alley Theatre, Theatre Incorporated, Houston Little Theatre, and Houston Grand Opera. They also include schools, churches, dinner theaters, and private organizations. The greatest fun occurs in the small community groups which endure all sorts of unusual conditions. The Pasadena Little Theatre, for example, once had a resident possum stroll casually across the stage during a performance and shuffle under a sofa.

Sue Dauphin who has been a critic of theater for Houston newspapers and radio for a decade has a great breadth of personal knowledge. This is apparent in the book. The difficulty is that there are no footnotes and only a two-page bibliography. There is no reason to doubt her veracity, but also there is no way to follow sources of information. This will be a frustration for the sophisticated reader. The index, however, is extensive and useful.

David McComb
Colorado State University
Knights of the Green Cloth: The Saga of the Frontier Gamblers.

The frontier gambler is a familiar figure in the cast of stereotyped characters who inhabited the American West during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Along with gunfighters, prostitutes, outlaws, and other desperadoes, stories of the gambler's shrewd deals, quick riches, tempestuous love affairs, and violent lives and deaths have been embellished in books and movies to produce the popular image of the Bret Maverick type, in a dirty business but endowed with a heart of gold. This book tells the story of numerous outstanding members of this select society of wayward suitors of lady luck. DeArment categorizes his heroes as Aces, with extraordinary skill; Kings, who used their gambling prowess and ambition to achieve power; Queens, the few notorious women in a man's game; and Knaves, the crooked gamblers.

Within each of these cleverly styled divisions, the reader encounters a deck stacked full of the most noted figures in many different towns and situations throughout the West. Each account gives detailed treatment of a gambler who achieved fame or notoriety in his/her chosen profession. This book demonstrates extensive research in secondary works and local newspapers to provide local flavor and detail about the exploits of gamblers in the West; it offers little insight about the context in which these people played their games of chance. Except for a few scattered references about the turbulent times and the notion that all Westerners were gamblers in a sense, the reader gains only an intimate knowledge of the adventures of individual gamblers. Reading this book is much like shooting in a gallery where no sooner is one target shot down than another (perhaps of a slightly different shape) replaces it in endless succession. The absence of serious consideration of gamblers in the context of urban development, law enforcement, social history, or other complementary themes leaves us with a compilation of too many interesting stories. The author does not pretend or promise such consideration. He has presented an attractively designed and illustrated, readable and entertaining chronicle of the lives of the frontier gamblers. For those who are curious about gamblers in the American West, this book will provide all the necessary details; those desiring or expecting a history of gambling in the American West must continue to look elsewhere.

Michael Everman
Missouri Cultural Heritage Center
University of Missouri - Columbia

The poor whites that left Virginia and the Carolinas in the eighteenth century and began their generations-long trek to the west didn't have doctors with them. But maybe they never had. That's why when the earliest settlers came to this New World they began to look for their medicines in the soil and in the plants that grew from it. By the time of the Civil War Southerners had had a hundred years of folk medicine practice which they had cultivated through trial and error and had learned from their Indian neighbors. This wealth of knowledge is the heart of Francis P. Porcher's Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests, Medicinal, Economical, and Agricultural. The title continues: "Being Also a Medical Botany of the Confederate States; with Practical Information on the Useful Properties of the Trees, Plants, and Shrubs."

Porcher prepared the Resources for the Surgeon-General of the Confederate States in 1863: "Now is the time when all the art and science that we possess should be put in requisition to the great end of our sectional independence." Porcher's book is a catalogue of Southern plant life with full discussions of all the uses—medicinal and otherwise—that various trees, plants, and shrubs could be put. As a doctor, Porcher was most attendant to the properties that were medically applicable, but he also discussed woods used in building, barrel making, fencing, and charcoal preparation, for instance. The fruit of the chestnut, he informs us, can be eaten boiled or raw, and it can be ground into a flour for the making of bread. The bark contains tannin and can be used in tanning leather. Early growth makes good hoops and tool handles. The wood is rot resistant and can be used in fencing and as gate posts. It is good for furniture construction, and because it does not shrink nor impart a foreign color or taste and it can be used in barrel making. The roots of the chinquapin, a close relative of the chestnut, boiled in milk is used to prevent diarrhea in teething children, and a decoction of the root and bark can be used as a substitute for quinine.

Porcher gives the same attention to the other four hundred trees, shrubs and plants, and the whole is indexed according to the plant and its properties. Although some of the popular and scientific names have changed since 1863, Resources is generally accurate taxonomically.

I am much impressed with Porcher's Resources. It is the most complete collection of botanical folk cures and uses that I have ever examined. I strongly recommend the book because of its historical and folklore value and because much of the information is still practical and applicable. The book is also very readable and entertaining and is a
mine of information for anyone interested in botany and botanical history.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University
and the Texas Folklore Society


David Trask, one of America’s foremost military historians, does not disappoint us with this volume. To use the plainest words, he has produced, unquestionably, the best work ever written on the Spanish-American War. It was a history waiting to be written, and Trask did it with impeccable research, precise writing and a calm approach which eschews repetitious cant. It is likely that the only detractors of Trask’s work will be those inflexible historians who narrowly squint at imperialism from the vantage point of their own precious prejudices.

Not that Trask denies the imperial imperative but he puts it in perspective and refuses to accept it as the solitary cause for the war. Furthermore, he forthrightly projects President William McKinley and Secretary of the Navy John Long as brave if reluctant bearers of modern civilization; and he sagely comprehends that the “white man’s burden” has too long been judged by its adjectives rather than its noun. Of course, there is criticism, and Trask does not shrink from giving it. Nelson A. Miles, Russell A. Alger, and William T. Sampson receive their fair share; but, conversely, Trask offers a complimentary portrait of that able soldier-servant, Henry C. Corbin.

The book is so good that this reviewer hesitates to offer any adverse criticism whatsoever for fear that a minor detraction will result in magnification; yet, one might be noted. Despite a growing view to the contrary, Trask’s included, the army’s difficulties were severe. As the politically perceptive Roosevelt once noted, “Algerism is a heavy load to carry.” The resolution of that historical problem awaits additional attention. The preceding notwithstanding, this excellent volume is superior in every way and is a credit both to its able author and to the high standard of American historiography.

James W. Pohl
Southwest Texas State University
Army Generals and Reconstruction Louisiana, 1862-1877. By Joseph G. Dawson III. (Louisiana State Univ. Press, Baton Rouge, LA 70803), 1982. Appendices, Bibliography, Index. p. 294. $25.00 cloth, $8.95 paper.

As Joseph G. Dawson III states in his “Introduction,” “This period [Reconstruction] of military domination over a section of the nation was unique in American history.” Never before or since has the United States Army played such a role within the confines of the United States. Using Louisiana as a case study, Dawson traces the history of Reconstruction from Admiral David Farragut’s victory in April 1862 to the final evacuation of troops from the state in 1877. The focus is on the role of the commanding generals in the state and how they perceived their role. Fourteen different generals held the post of commander in Louisiana during the fifteen years of Reconstruction. All shared the frustrations of attempting to “reconstruct” the citizens of the state and none can be said to have achieved any permanent results in the face of a largely hostile white population.

Dawson divides the era into two phases: the first from 1862 to 1869 when the army had its greatest influence and when the commanding generals overshadowed the actions of state civil officials; the second from 1869 to 1877 when the ability of the army to dominate declined and the civilian authorities asserted more control. In the second phase the situation of blacks and members of the Republican Party became more and more precarious.

The author has written a perceptive account of the almost untenable position of the army during Reconstruction. If commanders sought to reconstruct the South as Radical Republicans wished, they would alienate most of the white population. With limited numbers of soldiers they had to be careful not to overreach their ability to control the situation. If, on the other hand, the commanders played a more passive role, the whites (overwhelmingly Democrats) would use such an opportunity to intimidate blacks and those Republicans who held office because of the presence of the army. This is the theme of the book, and, as Dawson demonstrates, none of the generals in charge ever mastered a solution for the dilemma.

What is evident from the narrative is how, by the mid 1870s, the nation had grown tired of the whole concept of Reconstruction. Dawson’s research illustrates the predicament of any occupying army that is seeking to force a civilian population to behave contrary to its wishes. The book succeeds in presenting the history of military rule in Louisiana as perceived by its commanding generals.

William L. Taylor
Plymouth State College

Bushnell has accomplished a painstaking and demanding research project. She has indeed made a worthwhile contribution to the existing literature on Florida's colonial history. Utilizing correspondence between the Spanish crown and its governors and treasury officials in the Florida colony, Bushnell examines the reaction and interaction between them during the Hapsburg era, from 1565, when St. Augustine was founded, to 1702, when the city observed the change in ruling houses.

The book treats in detail those crown officials who had jurisdiction over the Royal Treasury. From a detailed examination of data, the book analyzes the sources of crown revenue for the King's Coffer, or Royal Treasury, in Florida. Revenues were generated from taxes imposed on the people of the Florida colony and the situado, or crown subsidy. The author skillfully infers from the research that while the treasury was always in need of additional finances, the appointees to the treasury were men who, for the most part, reflected declining professional standards. Treasury officials lacked the competence, integrity, and professional competence to hold office. Yet, in spite of this and conflicting jurisdictional claims of local officials, there was a degree of flexibility within the Spanish centralized bureaucracy which enabled the system to function.

Against the background analysis of the Spanish treasury bureaucracy in Florida, the book surveys the social structure, economic growth, Spanish-Indian relations, and foreign threats to the St. Augustine colony. Florida was a colony beset by problems: the lack of a consistent flow of revenues, almost constant warfare with the Indians of the area, followed by French, Dutch, and English conflicts, epidemics, and a declining population base made the survival of the colony a remarkable achievement.

The book is solidly researched and intelligently written. The appendices and glossary provide the reader added insight to a period of Florida's history heretofore neither thoroughly understood, nor adequately explored.

Richard B. Chardkoff
Northeastern University, Monroe
Log Cabin Village. By Terry G. Jordan. (Texas State Historical Association, Richardson Hall 2/306, Univ. Station, Austin, TX 78712), 1981. Glossary, Bibliography, Index. p. 146. $15.00 cloth, $6.95 paper.

Were it not for one serious flaw, this beautifully designed book would be a model guidebook for an outdoor museum. Even as it stands, it is a far better guidebook than the museum, which is administered by the Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Department, deserves.

The log cabin village was created in the late 1950's by a group of North Texas businessmen who were sincerely interested in preserving the log architecture of Texas. A frank and detailed history of the project by Nevin Neal serves as an introduction to the book. The bulk of the text is an excellent essay on log construction in Texas by Terry Jordan, followed by photographs of each of the seven houses in the Village by Elna Wilkinson and a catalogue of important objects in them by Bettie Register and Selden Wallace, and complemented by fine drawings by Tony Crosby. Unfortunately, none of these people were involved in the creation of the Village. As Dr. Neal's history reveals, this was done without the involvement of any professional historians, anthropologists, or restoration architects. As a result, the seven houses that were moved there were literally butchered, and the very cultural resources that the museum was designed to protect were destroyed. A careful reading of the old photographs included in the book shows that, in an attempt to make the houses conform to the organizers' conception of mid-nineteenth century log houses, clapboard siding was stripped away, rooms were removed, floor plans were altered, and roofs and chimneys were rebuilt. At the two-story Henry Foster house, clapboards were removed and a rear wall was stripped away to create a "dog run" passage through the center of the house. The Issac Seela house lost three rooms; the Thomas Shaw house was given a stone facade on one side and a waterwheel was added to it, turning it into a mill. The Issac Parker house was transformed from an elegant structure with clapboards, brick chimneys, a rear ell, an exterior staircase, boxed columns, and nine-over-six windows into a double-pen log house with doors in place of windows.

Not one word of the text is devoted to an explanation for these drastic alterations, nor is any evidence advanced to support them. Granted that such extreme "restoration" was once fashionable, even though professionals were speaking out against it in the 1950's, it is now regarded as outright vandalism, and any guidebook to such severely restored structures must take this into account and deal with it forthrightly. Some explanation is needed to bridge the gap between the old photographs and the contemporary ones, and, in this case, that explanation should be cautionary.
The book is equally unsatisfactory on the question of furnishings. Dr. Neal is silent on the question of research for furnishings, and on the matter of historic furnishing plans for the houses. He does say that a call went out for items "100 years or older" to put in the houses. The result is a collection of antiques ranging, according to the catalogue, from the seventeenth to the late nineteenth centuries, some of them with a history of use in Texas and some of them highly improbable.

In summary, it would appear that this book itself is the first attempt made by the Log Cabin Village to take its educational task seriously. One wishes that Dr. Jordan, who is now Webb Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin, and Mr. Crosby, who is a restoration architect at the National Park Service's Denver Service Center, could be directly involved in the future of the Village.

Lonn Taylor
Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe

_Essays on Frontiers in World History._ By George Wolfskill and Stanley Palmer. (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78712), 1982. Select Bibliography. p. 151. $15.00.

Somewhere in the memory bank is a piece of historical, sociological and political science jargon, the so-called "saddle-land" where cultures meet, mingle and produce a culture not quite like either of the other two, but similar enough to each that anyone can recognize it as a bastardized version of whichever one wants to choose. Such places are readily recognizable, i.e., the Rio Grande valley on this continent; on the European scene the Rhine area and the Low Countries are examples. If the "frontier" is a place where the process of trans-acculturation takes place as Michael Tate says it is, then the history of mankind on this planet is the story of frontier development, constantly in flux, and shows that the question of how the frontier affects national history puts the cart before the horse—what happens is that traditions already developed affect the frontier.

What these five essays illustrate is how in North America, South America, Africa and Australia various ethnic groups subjugated land and, if possible, the people on it, during the process of cultural transplanted rather than the process of trans-acculturation. That someone got trampled under the European boot is only incidental, and hardly do we find a muffled groan of compassion for the people dispossessed. Perhaps that is only because those who invade, dispossess, and subjugate are people.

What we learn from these papers is that Europeans, whether they be English, Dutch, Spanish, French, Portuguese or what have you, when
they are in an expansive mood, are a rather scruffy lot. And it makes no difference whether they are Spanish Grandees or English cutthroats, the end is the same. They will dominate, and the natives will accept it or die.

What we do not learn from these essays is just what a frontier is. But we learn what comparative frontier history is—an ugly portrait realistically painted of how inhuman humans can be.

Ert J. Gum
University of Nebraska at Omaha


Public and academic acceptance of the use of oral sources in historical research has been enhanced greatly by the publication of the works of Alex Haley and Studs Terkel. The popularity and accuracy of these author's oral histories has generated an ever-growing interest in and appreciation for history at the local level.

However, as increasing numbers of people became aware of the abundant material available in oral sources, they were faced with methodological problems. What oral information is historically important? How should this information be recorded? How are standard historical gauges of accuracy applied to oral sources? *From Memory to History* has been written to answer not only these questions, but also to serve as a guide in evaluating and incorporating oral information in historical research.

*From Memory to History* is a brief, straightforward handbook for the local historian, serving as a guide for locating and interpreting oral materials. Specific topics discussed by husband-and-wife authors Barbara Allen and Lynwood Montell include the relevance of local history, characteristics of oral history as differentiated from formal, written history, tests for validity—that is, historical and content and accuracy—of orally communicated history, and methods of incorporating oral materials into a written historical account.

*From Memory to History* is a timely and useful book, written by authors well-acquainted with this long-neglected source of valuable historical information. Based on sound judgment and keen insight, this book will be a valuable resource for individuals interested in oral history.

W. Edwin Derrick
Langston University

Pulling from many types of Texana, books, magazines, and other publications, an interesting collection of Texas words and place names are combined in this book to provide the reader with an understanding of the varied languages used to denote things and places in Texas. The author proves that the six flags over Texas surely can be seen in the words used to describe the state's language. He is able to show the reader how deeply steeped historical figures and places are in Texas towns and county names, ranging from Biblical times to presidents of the United States, heroes to adventurers, Indians to Europeans. Benthul, a native Texan, whether by intent or accidental, makes the reader realize the complexity of Texas words and names.

The book, which is divided into six major categories, has a summary of key word origins and meanings after each category which would be helpful if one is looking for a particular word. The most interesting and historically significant category is the one entitled "Heart Words of Headlines Haunts," which gives a brief history of many of the towns in Texas. The focus seems to be on East Texas, using more examples from that area than from others. Adding to the attractiveness of the book are maps and art work done by Joyce B. Terrell, daughter of the author. This book would be an addition to any library serving the interest of Texas buffs. However, it would not be as valuable for research because it is not footnoted and has no bibliography, with the exception of acknowledgements.

Linda Cross
Tyler Junior College
Carl A. Brasseaux presents an interesting comparative view of Louisiana at the beginning and end of the period of French colonization. In doing so, he uses the journal of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville detailing the months from December 31, 1698 to May 3, 1699 and the journal of Jean-Jacques-Blaise d'Abbadie recounting the months from June 21, 1763 to December 20, 1764. Both Frenchmen were excellent chroniclers of Louisiana, its people, and natural environment. But their emphases differed. Iberville, in searching for the Mississippi River and then exploring it, presented many personal observations of the local Indian tribes and their cultures as well as vivid physical descriptions of the river area of lower Louisiana. D'Abbadie, director-general charged with the transfer of Louisiana to England and Spain following the French and Indian War, described his brief administration emphasizing his handling of religious, military, and especially Indian affairs. The tone of the two journals also differed radically—Iberville's account is marked by the excitement of an explorer expanding the colonial prestige of France while d'Abbadie's journal reflects the tedious work of dismantling an unsuccessful colony.

Brasseaux has done an excellent job editing both journals. His research in identifying people, places, and events is meticulous and thorough. His extensive knowledge of French Louisiana's literature makes his footnotes valuable reading in themselves. The one weakness of the study is its lack of maps portraying Iberville's voyage to Louisiana. Much of his journal is concerned with his voyage to Louisiana and his careful exploration of the Gulf Coast in search of the Mississippi River. Several maps depicting the places mentioned in the early part of his journal would have enhanced the volume. However, it does include a useful map of the Mississippi River area.

In a lighter vein, Tales of Old Louisiana is entertaining and informative reading for anyone interested in the history of the state. Thomas J. Carruth was a native Louisianian who spent most of his life as a teacher in the state's public schools. For nineteen years after his retirement until his death in 1970, Carruth dabbled in Louisiana history, becoming a regular contributor to the Dixie-Roto Magazine, a Sunday
supplement of the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, and other newspapers. *Tales of Louisiana* consists of ninety-five of Carruth's articles ranging from the Spanish explorer, DeSoto, to the late nineteenth century. The articles deal with the unusual, the interesting, the little-known vignettes of Louisiana history. They include a wide variety of topics—Indian tales and customs, heroes and villains, floods and hurricanes, hangings and duels, elections and filibusters, balls and romantic encounters, and many others. Carruth's vignettes range in length from a short paragraph to several pages and all have catchy titles such as “My Client Is a Bedbug,” “The Chief Was a Woman,” and “High Water and High Spirits.” The articles are illustrated by *Picayune* staff artists Sam Guillot, Alex P. Imphang, and U. M. Floyd.

*Tales of Old Louisiana* is light, entertaining reading and, as such, is delightful. Like any newspaper contributor, Carruth was seeking readership by making Louisiana history “fun” reading. In so doing, he has performed a valuable service in preserving the folk tales of the state and bringing its rich historical and cultural heritage to a wide audience.

Marietta M. LeBreton
Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

*The Venturers—The Hampton, Harrison and Earle Families of Virginia, South Carolina and Texas.* By Virginia G. Meynard. (Southern Historical Press, P.O. Box 738, Easley, SC 29640), 1981.
Bibliography, Index. p. 114. $42.50.

This volume is more than a simple genealogy. Part I contains a detailed family history which has been carefully researched and documented. Notes are given by chapter in the back of the book. Part II contains the family genealogy which is presented in a form which is easy to follow. The numbering system used is the one recommended by the National Genealogical Society. This volume contains twenty-three genealogical charts and 107 photographs of early family members and homes. Partial histories of over a hundred allied families are given.

This book will be an excellent addition to any genealogical library. It is interesting whether you are related to the family or not. Mrs. Meynard is to be commended for collecting and publishing this wealth of data on these families.

Carolyn Ericson
Nacogdoches, Texas

This survey of American furniture styles over four centuries is an excellent and delightful aid to anyone interested in furniture. Mr. Naeve has completed an awesome task in producing a book that handsomely fulfills the desire of the American Association for State & Local History. That desire was to have a “guide for identifying the style of a specific example, yet a broad survey for styles throughout our history.”

As curator of the Department of American Arts at The Art Institute of Chicago, the author realized the need for an easy-to-use guide to the styles of American furniture. His arrangement of illustrations, notated stylistic elements, and essay type explanation—all on a two page spread for each style—is a vast improvement over most books on furniture. One does not have to read a style description and flip pages searching for the corresponding illustration. The structural details, motifs, and designs of each style are easily noted by the novice student of American furniture and interior design and most certainly appreciated by any appraiser, collector, or curator. The essays accompanying each well-illustrated style are brief and interesting summaries that include basic characteristics of the style, new furniture forms begun in each style, woods used, and other helpful guidelines. The combination of chronological order, description of the evolution of each style, and the European influence on them surely will create a better understanding of American furniture styles for anyone interested in furniture.

One must remember, as the author points out in his preface, that this handbook is a classification of American styles, not political periods, craftsmen or design sources, etc. His names for the various styles are those of common usage.

This concise, efficiently organized book is a tribute to the knowledge, ability, and experience of Mr. Naeve. It would be indispensable to those learning the styles of American furniture.

Sammie Russell, member
Appraisers Association of America
The Squash Blossom Shop
Nacogdoches, Texas

The Unpretentious Pose is an attractive and significant addition to the visual history of Texas. It reproduces almost one hundred works of San Antonio commercial photographer Eugene Omar Goldbeck. Mostly photographs from the 1920s and 1930s, they were chosen for the most part from the approximately 60,000 negatives and prints which he turned over in 1967 to the University of Texas at Austin, where the collection is now housed in the Humanities Research Center.

Featured in fold-out pages are some of his Cirkut camera images. Goldbeck was a master of this remarkable camera, which could record a 360° exposure through a vertical slot in a rotating film box onto 6- or 10-inch by up to 12½ foot lengths of film. The so-called "flamboyant octogenarian" was still enjoying the Cirkut format, chiefly for color work, as this volume went to press.

Not a biography—such is the disclaimer—it is a fascinating biography. This paradox is resolved as the reader-viewer interacts with Goldbeck's works, his masses of people, his landscapes, his social scenes. Born in 1892, he was the grandson of New Braunfels settlers who grew up in San Antonio and reached maturity as American aviation was coming of age in the vicinity of his home town.

Marguerite Davenport sees the work of commercial photographers like E. O. Goldbeck as an important corrective to the cliché photographic record of flapper or migrant, which oversimplify two complex decades. For this clean, uncluttered volume, she chose representations of both the "actualities" and the "ideals" of the era, which are both "regional depictions of life in Southwest Texas" and illustrations of "the broad spectrum of middle-class America" to provide "details of our material culture" not found in the images of documentary photography nor in Hollywood's reconstructions.

In addition to the photographer himself, the author drew on broad sources such as histories, journals, newspapers, and published literature to create an appropriate cultural context for the photographs. Words and pictures, as photojournalism theorizes, coalesce. They produce the mental image of an energetic, adventurous, insatiably curious human being who has captured and preserved fleeting records of Einstein posing with Hopi Indians, of San Antonio citizens frolicking on Galveston's beaches, of street scenes and wheels and wings and baptisms and mountains and families, and of course, the Alamo. These, in turn, become "more than 'separate frames of truth.'"

Ouida Whitaker Dean
Nacogdoches, Texas
The Ambidextrous Historian. By C. L. Sonnichsen. (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Ave., Norman, OK 73019), 1981. Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 120. $9.95.

This little gem is for the nonprofessional regional historian. It shows that a worthwhile contribution can be made to our national heritage by other than professional historians. It is also a philosophy for self-reliance in historical research.

The author stresses accuracy of research and the vital necessity of obtaining accurate information on the values of the era about which one is writing. He cites the attitude of the pioneer toward the Indian, contrasted with present day attitudes, as an example.

Included are such other topics as the availability of research material, severely limited library staffs, the care and feeding of editors, sources of publishers, the heartbreak of typographical errors, and the forbidding world of self-publication.

The author draws freely on a long career in writing the history of the Southwest. Underlying all, however, is a basic philosophy that writing history is not just for professionals. The member of “The Order of Minor Historians” can preserve aspects of our heritage which might otherwise be lost. This philosophy is as valid in any part of our nation as it is in the Southwest.

Howard L. Sandefer
Maritime Institute of Technology