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## Book Reviews

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

*Border Radio*. By Gene Fowler and Bill Crawford. (Texas Monthly Press, Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767-9990), 1987. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 282. \$15.95.

Out of old habit, I guess, anytime I am driving the roads late at night I spin the dial looking for XEG or XERA or any of those once-powerful border radio stations that blasted out messages interesting enough to keep a sleepy driver awake. Their wattage filled 180 degrees of the globe, reaching to Asia in the west and to Europe in the east, so for a car radio anywhere in Texas, these were the clearest stations a listener could find — and the most entertaining. Gene Fowler and Bill Crawford's *Border Radio* is an instructional and entertaining history and analysis of that phenomenon. I don't do much wandering down memory lane, but *Border Radio* brought back many fond radio recollections and reminded me of what I am now missing. Most of it was outrageous and some of it was illegal, but it engaged the mind more than the monotony that is the bane of our modern airways.

Dr. John R. Brinkley — who transplanted goat testicles! — was the originator of border radio as we remember it and was the most colorful of the early radio hucksters. His aspirations both medical and political being thwarted in his Kansas home and his radio station under attack, Doctor moved south across the Rio Grande to Villa Acuna, Coahuila, in 1931 and set up radio station XER (later became XERA) at 75000 watts, 25000 more than was allowed in the United States. In 1935 he purchased XEAW in Reynosa, Mexico, and boosted it wattage to 500,000. In the same year he pushed XERA wattage to 1,000,000 and that station became the world's most powerful broadcasting system. Hillbilly music, sermons on all seven of the deadly sins, soothsayings, and healings went all over the world from the border stations and the Doctor prospered. His empire collapsed finally in 1941 when Mexico confiscated XERA under the guise of political expediency.

Joining Brinkley south of the border in 1933 was Norman Baker, "the purple suited sharpie from Iowa," whose specialty was curing cancer and who built XENT in Nuevo Laredo. Rumor had it that he sometimes broadcast from his bed while making love to his mistress.

W. Lee O'Daniel was probably the most famous man to use the border blaster. While he was still a floor salesman in 1937, he bought time on the 100,000 watt XEPN in Piedras Negras and bought a home across the river in Eagle Pass. In 1938 O'Daniel decided that running for governor of Texas would promote flour sales. In that campaign the Hillbilly Boys made music and sold flour over XEPN and Pappy won the race for governorship. As governor he broadcast out of Texas but had transcriptions (records) sent to XEAW in Reynosa. When Texas stations refused to give him air time, he turned full time to the border stations and in 1941 sent out enough speeches to radioland to beat Lyndon Johnson for a seat in the senate. His homey radio style finally failed him, but the border stations carried this flour salesman just about

as far as a man can go in Texas politics.

The last of the greats borderers was Wolfman Jack, who got managerial control of XERF in 1960 and between shootouts with Mexican competitors sold baby chicks, weight (either for gain or loss) pills, dog food, records, a potency drug called Mr. Satisfy, and roses (to mention a few) in his sexy gravel voice. From midnight to 4:00 a.m. the King of Border Radio played rhythm and blues and growled, "Get down and get naked" to a whole generation of old beats and young hippies and became enough of a landmark of that era to be invited to play himself in the movie *American Graffiti*.

*Border Radio* covers all of those old-time showmen and showgirls. Cowboy Slim Rinehart and Patsy Montana were a famous singing duo in the 1930s. Rivaling the popularity of cowboy singers and hillbilly bands, who were punching their music out all over the U.S. and preparing the way for the later popularity of country and western music, were what were called "spooks" in the trade. These were the astrologers and psychologists who, one way or another, predicted listeners' futures for a modest fee. Preachers bought fifteen minute slots and preached, and sang, and hawked prayer cloths or holy leaves or pictures of Christ that glowed in the dark — also salvation of the soul, the cure of the body's ills, and the riches of the earth. And the Rev. Sam Morris, the Voice of Temperance, was there to save the world from demon rum.

Between recent international legislation controlling frequencies, which limited the wattage and therefore distance of transmission, and Mexican broadcasting regulations, which amounted to government control and confiscation, border radio is just about dead or in Spanish. You should read *Border Radio* and see what you missed.

Francis Edward Abernethy  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Cracker Culture. Celtic Ways in the Old South.* By Grady McWhiney. (University of Alabama Press, P.O. Box 2877, University, AL 35486), 1988. Illustrations. Photographs. Appendix. Index. P. 290. \$25.95.

*Cracker Culture* is the capstone to the Celtic interpretation of Southern history, a thesis that Professors Grady McWhiney and Forrest McDonald have been elaborating for nearly ten years. Briefly stated, their argument is that Celtic immigrants — people from the western and northern uplands of England, Wales, the Scottish Highlands and Borders, the Hebrides, and Ireland — settled the American South and shaped its folkways, values, norms, and attitudes. Agrarian in orientation, Celtic Southerners, like their British counterparts, depended primarily on herding. By contrast, English lowlanders, joined by others such as the Germans who could accept their ways, populated the American North and developed commercial mixed agriculture. Thus, in the words of McWhiney, "fundamental and lasting divisions between Southerners and Northerners began in colonial America when migrants from

the Celtic regions of the British Isles . . . managed to implant their traditional customs in the Old South.” (p. xiii)

Relying largely on memoirs, diaries, and travelers' accounts, McWhiney characterizes Southerners (and British Celts) as “hospitable, generous, frank, courteous, spontaneous, lazy, lawless, militaristic, wasteful, impractical, and reckless.” In contrast, people in the North (and in the English lowlands) were “more reserved, shrewd, disciplined, gauche, enterprising, acquisitive, careful, frugal, ambitious, pacific, and practical.” (268) Southerners enjoyed a “leisure ethnic” while Northerners lived by the “work ethic.” The two groups tended to be mutually contemptuous of each other, and their cultural differences constituted a major factor underlying the sectional animosities that culminated in civil war.

The Celtic interpretation has proven extremely controversial (see, for example, the critical article by Rowland Berthoff and McWhiney and McDonald's reply in the *Journal of Southern History* of November 1986), and a brief review cannot deal with it adequately. Suffice it to say that McWhiney's book is fun to read and that many East Texans of rural Southern extraction will recognize much of themselves in it. The extent to which those characteristics are descended from a Celtic ancestry and the extent to which Southerners truly differ from Northerners remain matters of debate, and probably always will. At the very least, however, the Celtic thesis is a provocative way of looking at one of the major questions of American History.

Randolph B. Campbell  
The University of North Texas

*Hoein' the Short Rows.* By Francis Edward Abernethy. (Southern Methodist University Press, Box 415 Dallas, TX 75275), 1988. Photographs. Index. P. 238. \$19.95.

Put it down, if you must, to the maunderings of an old man, but I find it beguiling that the behavior and beliefs of us common types have been elevated to the status of folklore. Doubtless the importance of having “lived it” is a contributing factor. More important it is, however, that these metaphors of a lifetime are recorded for the edification of those not of a certain age — in other words, “the way it was.”

After all, how many actually have known a “high toned” woman or a church-yard tabernacle or the lanterned arm signals of a train conductor?

This annual volume, the Texas Folklore Society's forty-seventh, is edited, perhaps not inappropriately, by a man who cherishes and plays with homemade toys, some of them new, some from days that were, and doubles on the bass fiddle in the East Texas String Ensemble, a combo act which must be heard to be believed. Oh yes, and he's also a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, has published short fiction and poetry and, apparently in spare time, teaches English at Stephen F. Austin State University — when, that is, he is not in Australia singing and playing folk music, as he did in

a recent year in celebration of joint sesquicentennials.

You get the picture. Ab Abernethy collects not only homemade toys but also characters who have a story to tell. This they do, as in previous volumes, in ways that make folk art something more than dimly remembered conversations around a camp fire or in a family circle of a summer evening.

Max S. Lale  
Fort Worth and Marshall

*The Journey of Fray Marcos de Niza.* By Cleve Hallenbeck. (Southern Methodist University Press, Box 415, Dallas, TX 75275), 1987. P. 269. \$22.50 cloth; \$10.95 paper.

The "University Press in Dallas" (later SMU Press) published Hallenbeck's work in 1949. Their lovingly crafted book won various trade awards, including a place on the American Institute of Graphic Arts' list of Fifty Books of the Year, bringing national recognition to an obscure regional press. This new edition commemorates SMU's seventy-fifth anniversary and its press' fiftieth. In addition to a facsimile of the original, this edition includes a lengthy introduction celebrating noted printer Carl Hertzog. It also describes the original publishing effort, notes reviewers' treatment of the book, recognizes prize-winning illustrator Jose' Cisneros (who contributes new drawings), and publishes the Spanish-language original of Marcos' *Relacion*.

Fray Marcos' colorful reports of great cities provoked Coronado's famed walkabout in the American Southwest in the 1540s. Hallenbeck's topic fascinated earlier generations of historians but intrigues only local enthusiasts now - did the Franciscan enter present-day Arizona and New Mexico, the first white man to do so, or did his overheated imagination invent the Seven Cities of Gold from well south of the present border? Hallenbeck believed the latter and argued his case convincingly. Arthur Scott Aiton's review of the original work (*American Historical Review*, vol. 55, p. 1006) needs no updating.

All associated with the earlier project lavished attention and talent on it, producing a beautiful and well-made book. Those ruefully examining latter-day products of university presses cannot but recognize the integrity of Hertzog and that small regional press. The new *Fray Marcos* is not a "coffee table book" — it is fairly serious scholarship, and this edition (inevitably) lacks the quality of the original — but this is a handsome, beautifully illustrated work which would do any collection proud. It presents a graphic picture of the doughty pioneers of the North-Mexican frontier trails in the sixteenth century.

D.S. Chandler  
Miami University

*The Presidio and Militia on the Northern Frontier of New Spain 1570-1700.*

By Thomas H. Naylor and Charles W. Polzer, S.J. (University of Arizona Press, 1615 East Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719), 1988. Maps. Photographs. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. P. 756. \$50.00.

The Documentary Relations of the Southwest (DRSW) project dates from 1975. It sought to gather, organize, translate, and publish Spanish documents pertaining to "northern New Spain." This vast area stretched northwestward from the 22nd parallel of latitude to El Paso. The DRSW organized around three parts — Jesuit, Franciscan, and Civil-Military Relations.

This handsome bilingual volume (English-Spanish) — the first in the Civil-Military series — deals with the evolution of the presidios as the focal point of Spanish-Indian relations. Interaction between the military and the Catholic mission system is also examined.

The documents selected portray life in and around the presidios of northern New Spain. A presidio was a military base to defend nearby settlers, missions, and silver mines. The most northerly presidio was at El Paso where there were settlers and four missions.

The Indians of the north were unlike the more docile Aztecs and other tribes in southern Mexico. Led by the fierce Apaches, these Indians specialized in warfare among themselves and against encroaching Spaniards. It took 250 years for Spain to stampout Indian warfare in all of northern New Spain.

The authors, aided by computers, skillfully selected documents from the vast scattered records left by Spain in Mexican archives. Their aim was to enlarge the knowledge of Spain's role in northwestern Mexico. They succeeded in their project and their goal "... to publish readable translations into English, each followed by the original text in modern Spanish orthography." (p. 12)

Introductory comments before each of the book's four chapters added to the understanding of the reader. The area maps were adequate, but an overall map of northern New Spain showing important details would have been helpful to the reader.

Overall, this is an invaluable aid to the study of northern New Spain. It also serves as a valuable background source for the study of Spanish and Mexican Texas.

William W. White  
Seguin, Texas

*Philip Nolan and Texas. Expeditions to the Unknown Land, 1791-1801.*

By Maurine T. Wilson and Jack Jackson. (Texian Press, P.O. Box 1684, Waco, TX 76703), 1987. Illustrations. Photographs. Notes. Maps. Bibliography. Index. P. 189. \$16.95.

The Texas activities of adventurer Philip Nolan from 1791 until his death in 1801 were instrumental in creating a permanent distrust of *norteamericanos* among Spanish officials. He was associated closely with the treacherous

General James Wilkinson, and even though Nolan's primary efforts were directed at rounding up wild Texas mustangs for sale in the United States, it was widely assumed that he was relaying important information to U.S. officials. On Nolan's final expedition a Spanish force attacked his camp near the Brazos River. Nolan was killed, his ears were sent to the governor, and his men were imprisoned.

Most of Nolan's background is obscure, and the confusion was compounded by publication in 1863 of *The Man Without a Country*, in which Edward Everett Hale named his anti-hero Philip Nolan. Maurine T. Wilson, for many years an expert archival librarian at the University of Texas, wrote her master's thesis on Nolan; she received her degree in 1932, but her exhaustively researched thesis was never published.

Wilson's nephew, Jack Jackson, utilized her papers and researched new materials in an effort to publish Nolan's story. The result, *Philip Nolan and Texas*, is authoritatively documented — the Reference Notes are almost one-third as long as the text. There is a section of eleven contemporary maps, with a descriptive paragraph about each. Jackson, a gifted illustrator, has provided several drawings, and there are photographs of pertinent sites. Although Jackson concludes that "the truth about Nolan is as much a mystery today as it was when he perished in the Texas wilderness . . .," *Philip Nolan and Texas* contains the most complete account ever published about the enigmatic soldier of fortune, and is a useful addition to any Texas history bookshelf.

Bill O'Neal  
Panola Junior College

*Confederate Imprints. A Bibliography of Southern Publications from Secession to Surrender.* By T. Michael Parrish and Robert M. Willingham, Jr. (The Jenkins Co., Box 2805, Austin, Tx 78768), 1987. Illustrations. Index. P. 991. \$22.50.

T. Michael Parrish and Robert M. Willingham, Jr. have expanded the works of previous compilers, Majorie Lyle Crandall and Richard Harvell, to 9500 "detailed" entries of cataloged archive material. This edition contains material from several publications plus many newly discovered imprints.

Reference symbols indicate imprint locations in over 1,000 library and private collections in the United States. Original imprints are housed in over thirty locations in Texas. Rice University, Stephen F. Austin State University, The University of Texas, Texas A&M University, and Sam Houston State University, as well as museums, are examples of locations in Texas.

The introduction contains the history of earlier imprint collections and describes the difficulties which confronted the Southern printer and publisher. Newspapers and periodicals are not included in *Confederate Imprints* due to a national project to locate and date them separately.

*Confederate Imprints* is arranged by Official and Unofficial Publications. Official Publications of the Confederate States of America are listed by department. State and Indian Tribe documents contain more localized material. The Unofficial Publications cover military texts, manuals, miscellanies, biography, and history. Politics, Economics, and Social Issues contain listings on almanacs, business, agriculture, slavery, and railroad information. Science and Medicine, contemporary Maps of the period, and Prints are listed separately. The section on Belles-Lettres illustrates Confederate literary efforts. Music and Entertainment covers operas, marches, play-bills, songsters, and sheet music. Educational Institutions and Text Books are other headings. The Religion category has meetings and conventions, fraternal organizations, freemasons, and brotherhoods.

An appendix enables the researcher to cross-reference Crandall and Harvell numbers. An analytical index helps locate imprints of specific interest. Beaumont, Brenham, Crockett, Corsicana, Jefferson, Marshall, Nacogdoches, Henderson, Huntsville, San Augustine, Rusk, and Tyler are East Texas cities where imprints were produced.

*Confederate Imprints* is a valuable bibliographic aide for the scholarly researcher and Confederate hobbyist. The material is arranged in a clear and concise manner. This is an excellent source for locating material which may not be known to exist. Richard Barksdale Harwell, "the driving force" behind the Boston Athenaeum bibliographic project, praised *Confederate Imprints* as "The life of a nation" preserved in print. The current compilers suggest further research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. where there is a "treasure - trove waiting to be mined," (p. 23-25).

Linda Sybert Hudson  
Longview, Texas

*Their Tattered Flags. The Epic of the Confederacy.* By Frank E. Vandiver.  
(Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843),  
1987. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 362. \$12.95 Paper.

Frank E. Vandiver has written an insightful account of the dream of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War in *Their Tattered Flags*. First published in 1970 by Harper's Magazine Press, the book is the fifth in a Texas A&M Press military history series. Vandiver's perspective is Southern, but it is not biased. He is objective, yet he is sympathetic toward the traditions, customs, and attitudes of the South that began as a dream but became a nightmare. He does not seek to apologize for the Confederacy but desires the reader to have an understanding of secession and the war that followed it.

The book is written in a compelling manner. Vandiver highlights the military history of the Civil War with the South's social, political, and economic systems — essential for a full understanding of the war. Interspersing the battle and home front narrative helps the reader to understand the ramifica-

tions each had upon the other. Some interesting and, perhaps, lesser known diplomatic overtures, internal domestic political squabbles, and economic sacrifices in the South are described. For example, the South's delicate foreign policy designed to influence English support was interesting because it became contradictory to the Southern domestic policy needs. The South needed to strengthen morale with victories not only within its own borders but also in the North. Invasion tactics, however, were detrimental to foreign relations. Great Britain could more easily support the Confederacy while it defended its own territory, but this support dwindled when the South switched to the role of an invader.

Battles in Texas at Galveston and Sabine Pass, and the domestic scene in the state are mentioned briefly, but the emphasis of the book is primarily on the armies in the East, although the Western campaigns are not neglected.

Vandiver succeeded in writing a book that can be enjoyed by novice historians, is useful to professional historians, and will interest Civil War buffs. His research is meticulous and complete, and his book can be an important source of information to anyone making a serious study of the war.

Brian I. Bowles  
Jasper, Texas

*Why the South Lost the Civil War.* By Richard E. Beringer, Herman Hat-taway, Archer Jones, and William N. Still, Jr. (University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga. 30602), 1986. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 582.

The authors of *Why the South Lost the Civil War* advance the theory that defeat was inevitable from the very beginning because the South lacked the will to win. To support this theory the authors explore the effects of the Union's naval blockade, the states'-rights controversies between Southern states and Confederate central government, the Southern industry's ability to supply the Confederate armies, and the leadership of the South. In each area the authors conclude that the problem was not a sufficient reason for defeat. They maintain the controversy over states' rights issues was a strength rather than a weakness, and that the Southern armies at no time lacked materials or supplies sufficiently to cause their defeat.

Their premise is that the South had no nationalistic fervor to hold them together. They contend that after the early successes and Northern forces would not quit, the Confederacy did not have the will to continue a long and arduous struggle. The authors also claim that another factor leading to the lack of Southern will was the overwhelming religious belief that the South was engaged in a struggle of good versus evil, but the belief that God was on their side was not sufficiently powerful to sustain the Southern morale, especially when the war began to go against them after the defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863.

Once the South accepted the belief that their cause was hopeless, they

collectively and perhaps unconsciously lost the will to resist and decided rather to salvage what they could in peace. The authors contend that the South was more successful in defeat in gaining a unity of purpose than they had been when at war.

The book is not for the average or casual reader. It is a book of historical essays which are long, tedious, and on the whole unconvincing. It will; however, stimulate debate and perhaps that was the authors' intent in the first place.

Charles A. Norwood  
Jasper, Texas

*Embattled Courage, The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War.*

By Gerald F. Linderman. (The Free Press, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022), 1987. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 357.

Linderman explores the nature of courage and its antithesis, cowardice, in soldiers and civilians in both North and South during the American Civil War. It was assumed by both sides that the application of moral values to the struggle would decide the results of the war. Manliness, godliness, duty, and honor were linked with courage. Linkage of these traits was manifested in reference by Civil War soldiers to the "honorable death" that would be suffered in the course of courageous action. Soldiers valued courage. The general riding his white horse up and down the firing line without flinching stood out as an example of courage. Most soldiers would not fire at such a display of courage.

The first shock of the war for the average soldier was the extent and severity of disease. Both sides suffered waves of disease. Courage might protect the soldier in battle but it could do little against disease. Despair set in. The effect of the first cannonball meeting flesh also had its impact. The prewar concept of heroic warmaking faded. By 1863, with rifled muskets increasing the range and accuracy of rifle shot and the acceptability of concealing oneself behind a mound of dirt or a tree, the soldier began to sense that courage was insufficient for victory and survival. The soldiers began to move away from many of their initial convictions. They saw that the death of the most courageous of the enemy would demoralize those who used the courageous as an example. Even the devout Christian was shot and killed. No longer did courage serve as its own reward; attitudes were changing, values shifted, and disillusionment developed. Killing was no longer morally wrong; it became a craft.

Linderman follows the breakdown of traditional values of the soldier, their changing behavior, and their review of the war in later years. Drawing heavily on letters and memoirs of participants, he reveals the tendency of veterans to revert to the idealism which they had when they first went to war. Ironi-

cally, he notes, the soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American War thirty-three years later shared the same values as the Civil War soldiers had in 1861.

David S. Weatherby  
Henderson, Texas

*Judah P. Benjamin. The Jewish Confederate.* By Eli N. Evans. (The Free Press, 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022), 1988. Photographs. Notes. Acknowledgements. Index. Bibliography. P. 467. \$24.95.

Judah P. Benjamin immigrated with his family to the United States shortly after he was born in 1811. He grew up in Charleston, South Carolina, and studied at Yale University. His days at Yale were brief, and he left under mysterious circumstances. Benjamin moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, putting disappointment behind him, a pattern that he would continue into adulthood. In New Orleans, Benjamin labored vigorously to establish himself in a law practice, married into a leading Creole family, built a prosperous sugar-cane plantation, and eventually was elected to the United States Senate. When his state seceded from the Union, Benjamin resigned his Senate seat and returned to the South where he served as the Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State for the Confederacy. When the Union forces captured Richmond, he escaped to England where he rose to prominence in international law and as a member of the Queen's Council.

Evans uses a vast amount of new and overlooked sources to present the life of Judah Benjamin. He reveals the closeness that developed between Benjamin and the First Family of the Confederacy. He addresses Benjamin's Jewishness throughout the book with frankness and candor, and reveals Benjamin's and Davis' changing attitude about slavery as the South was faced with troop shortages. His treatment of Benjamin during the war is sometimes weak, however, as he strays from relating Benjamin's role to the discussion at hand. At times it appears that the author's organization breaks down as he abruptly drops his topic to follow an unrelated one, then picks up the original topic in mid-chapter.

Despite these weaknesses this is a successful portrayal of an intriguing and obscure member of the Confederate cabinet. Through the author's masterful illumination of Benjamin's personality, the reader's respect is commanded by Benjamin's ability to rise to prominence despite anti-semitic attacks and personal setbacks he faced throughout life. The reader is also warmed by Benjamin's devotion to his family, as revealed in his correspondence.

The biography of Benjamin provides pleasant reading and valuable insight to the man, as well as important information about Jefferson Davis and the work of his Confederate cabinet.

Carol R. Crim  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*The Elusive Eden. Frank McMullan's Confederate Colony in Brazil.* By William Clark Griggs. (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), 1987. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 218. \$25.00 Hardback; \$9.95 Paper.

From the end of the American Civil War to the present, William Clark Griggs traces the tenuous trail that led the only band of Texan immigrants to Brazil. Frank McMullan, dying of consumption but with a great dream, managed to find strength to recruit dissatisfied Central Texans and secure transportation, food, and shelter for them in the face of almost unbelievable misfortune, and settle them on fertile land in Brazil.

Griggs began work on this subject as a master of arts thesis and continued it for his doctoral dissertation, so his research was completed before he put it all together in this readable and enjoyable book. While the story is not in narrative form and also has many unrelated facts, Griggs manages to make the reader eager to turn the page to find out what happens next.

An interesting part of the book is the section that tells about the immigrants' ship from Texas to Brazil. The travelers were beset by a shipwreck and greedy officials, among other things, from the beginning of their journey. The way McMullan coped with those problems shows his patience, tenacity, and earnestness.

The book is a little weak in the later chapters, but by then the reader is so involved that the weakness is almost overlooked. This is an enjoyable history of a little-known subject.

Jack Pirtle  
Reklaw, Texas

*Famous Texas Feuds.* By C.L. Douglas. (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761), 1988. Photographs. Index. P. 179. \$12.95 Paper; \$19.95 Hardcover.

State House Press, specialists in the reprinting of rare books, has made another significant contribution to our libraries by reprinting this long out-of-print study of a half-dozen feuds of Texas history. New materials is limited to an index not found in the first edition of 1936.

One can not help but compare this work to C.L. Sonnichsen's later feud books, *I'll Die Before I'll Run* and *Ten Texas Feuds*. Until the latter work appeared, Douglas' treatment of the Regulator-Moderator feud of East Texas was virtually the only one readily available.

Occasionally factual errors will annoy the reader who has some knowledge of Texas feud history, such as his mistakenly identifying Mason Arnold as one of the three men lynched in June 1874 during the Sutton-Taylor troubles. Arnold was the same man as "Winchester Smith" who was killed with Jim Taylor and Hendricks in late December 1875. In the chapter dealing with the "Hoodoo War" in Mason County we now know that there were not fifteen

rangers of the Company D who quit the service rather than pursue the ex-Ranger Scott Cooley; there were only three. This was an error committed by Ranger J.B. Gillett and which has been repeated by numerous subsequent writers, including Douglas.

But these few errors are offset by such contributions as the recollections of Judge H.C. Pleasants' son telling of the efforts of his father to bring reasonableness to bear in DeWitt County. These recollections of men who learned of the feud first hand add significantly to the book's value.

Douglas has made a solid effort to present a history of the most noted of the Texas feuds. He does more than relate a series of ambushes, lynchings, and murders. He goes beyond such violent aspects to analyze social conditions which created the community problems resulting in the feud phenomena - a phenomena seemingly characteristic of nineteenth-century Texas.

Chuck Parsons  
South Wayne, Wisconsin

*Indianola. The Mother of Western Texas.* By Brownson Malsch. (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, Texas 78761), 1988. Photographs. Appendices. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 351. \$19.95.

Seldom does a major city have a definite beginning and end. For Indianola, Texas, both occurred within less than a half-century.

Brownson Malsch, a native of Victoria, Texas, over the years has compiled a compelling chronological history of Indianola, located on Lavaca Bay. He traced the birth and death of the city through good and bad times. The resulting book is a reference work as well as a readable history. Lists of names, meaningless except to descendents or students of obscure history, find their way into many chapters. This does not at all detract from the tale of the city; it makes the reader realize the painstaking efforts of Malsch.

Maps inside front and back covers aid in visualizing the lay of the land and a section of pictures among the appendices gives a better idea of how the town looked.

Students of storms, railroads, the Civil War, and coastal shipping will find riches in this book. Specific mention is also made of churches, county politics, lighthouses, schools, the War Department's camel Experiment, and many other subjects. So far as possible in a limited book Malsch followed each subject to its conclusion.

It is an interesting book, to be read more than once.

Jack Pirtle  
Reklaw, Texas

*From the Forks of Turkey Creek*. By Phebe Young Armstrong. Foreward by Madelon Douglas Graham (Armstrong, P.O. Box 706, Woodville, TX 75959), 1987. P. 133. Photographs. \$17.00.

Another title can be added to the historical bibliography of Southeast Texas and Tyler County, and to the Texana purchase lists of historians, librarians, and collectors. Additions to this area's bibliography are always welcomed due to the limited number of works, but a special welcome should be given to this book.

Phebe Young Armstrong, a descendant of early Tyler County families and a Woodville resident, has accomplished a task that many historians find difficult. With the written word, she has made history come alive for present and future generations. The author provides a descriptive view of life in Tyler County from the 1840s to the 1930s and a source for researchers of accurate accounts of activities, now lost in the collective memory and long ago replaced by modern conveniences, such as yard cleaning with a Dogwood brush broom, syrup and candle making, butter churning, and cleaning lamp globes.

The book does have a dual ingratiating style. In certain sections, it reads as a standard narrative history such as the chapters on heretofore unpublished subjects of Sulphur Springs near Peace Tree Village, the Blue Hole, Lake Tejas, Twin Lakes, and the Neches River Sheffield Ferry. In other sections, it is the art of folklore at its best, such as the chapters on the Dog Days of Summer and the celebrations for the Fourth of July, Halloween, and Christmas. Another feature of the book is the family history included on the surnames of Mann, Pedigo, McCalister, Holland, and Cruse, to name a few.

There are two criticisms that need to be noted. Dates are often missing and the reader must guess at the approximate time period being discussed. Characters, who are without doubt well known in Tyler County, are left unidentified for the general reader. Both problems could have been corrected easily.

*From the Forks of Turkey Creek* will become a classic reference for the history of traditions of Southeast Texas, and despite its being authored for a local audience, it should acquire a broader readership. It has been rumored that Mrs. Armstrong is presently at work on a second volume, *Beyond the Forks of Turkey Creek*, which will include history and folklore of the Big Thicket area. This reviewer encourages her to complete that work and looks forward to the results.

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