Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


John H. Jenkins's Basic Texas Books was published to wide acclaim in 1983. And deservedly so. In scope and depth there is nothing like it in Texas bibliography. This reprint purports to be a “revision,” but this allegation by the publisher teeters dangerously near the brink of false advertising. There are no new entries; rather, the “revisions” are limited to the addition of previously overlooked editions of the basic list. This carp in no way diminishes the service of the Texas State Historical Association in making available to a broad audience the single most important reference ever published about Texas and its historical literature.

What impresses most about this vital work are its vitality, its discerning judgments, and its sense of the adventure to be found in the pursuit of history. Jenkins has the perverse notion that bibliographical annotations might be informative and fun to read. He repeatedly demonstrates a keen eye for the telling anecdote. See, for example, his notes regarding Mamie Yeary's The Boys in Gray.

From the booklover's standpoint, Jenkins also had the neat idea of illustrating his bibliography, not with title pages of the books but with the publishers' announcements. As any collector knows, the announcements frequently are scarcer than the books themselves. So these illustrations add an altogether different, pleasurable, and significant dimension to Jenkins's achievement. In the process of discussing his 224 basic entries, he also appraises an additional 1017 works and briefly annotates 217 bibliographies in an appendix. Truly an imposing achievement.

Certainly no two scholars would ever agree on choices for inclusion, and every reviewer's dog would make his/her own recommendations of books not included. Johnny is probably making his own list of future additions. I see few areas where his coverage could be improved, but one is the Texas-Mexican border wars. Jenkins limits his list to books specifically about Texas; otherwise, a good reference would be Robert D. Gregg's monograph on The Influence of Border Troubles on Relations Between the United States and Mexico (1937). Barring that, then Charles W. Goldfinch's little-known work on Juan N. Cortina: A Reappraisal (1949) would provide a useful point of view.

But the lot of the bibliographer is not unlike that of the lexicographer. He aspires not to praise but hopes only to escape reproach. Johnny Jenkins has beaten the odds. He has earned the highest possible praise.

Al Lowman
Institute of Texan Cultures

"Travels in Italy, Greece, and Egypt awakened an irresistible longing for wide expanses of natural Southern climes and primitive modes of life," wrote sculptress Elizabet Ney of her decision to move to Texas. Theories of why Ney left Europe range from political to personal but what is most important to the people of Texas is not why she came but what she brought to the culture-starved frontier of the nineteenth century.

Ney, born in 1833 into a family of German stonecutters, left her native Munster in 1852 to study art. Although the number of women sculptors was growing, it apparently took much convincing before the director of the Munich Academy would allow her to attend classes. Ney developed a strong reputation in Europe, sculpting many of her great contemporaries such as Shopenhauer, Bismarck, Garabaldi, and Ludwig II.

In 1871, Ney, her husband, Edmund Montgomery, and a servant, came to America where they briefly settled in Georgia. Soon dissatisfied with Georgia life, they purchased the Liendo Plantation in Waller County, Texas, and settled there. Opting for family life, Ney limited her sculpting for the next twenty years. In the 1890s she resumed sculpting with the devotion of her earlier life in Europe, producing statues and busts of men such as Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston. Although many of Ney's plans to expand the fine arts in Texas were never realized due to the complicated politics and lack of understanding among many nineteenth-century Texans, she left many valuable works which not only enrich our culture, but celebrate the greatness of Texans.

The Art of the Woman is a scholarly, well researched, analytically insightful work. The author has some difficulty breathing life into the subject, but one has the feeling that this is more the result of Ney than the author. Ney's habit of dramatically embellishing her stories and the fact that many of Ney's letters were lost or destroyed puts some distance between her and the reader. The Art of the Woman, even with this limitation, is a worthwhile book and is recommended to anyone interested in Ney or the history of the arts in Texas.

Abigail Davis
Nacogdoches, Texas


The women's suffrage movement, culminating in the passage and ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, has been the focus of several excellent national studies. Texas was the ninth state, and the first Southern state, to ratify that amendment, yet most Texans know little of the role Texas women played in the movement. These two edited works help fill that gap; both contain excellent materials for study of the suffrage movement in Texas.

Citizens at Last, a collection of essays and documents, includes an excellent overview by Anne Scott; an essay by Taylor in which she shares her own experience studying women's suffrage beginning in the 1930s when there was little awareness of the potential of women's history as a field and continuing into the 1980s in which "No longer am I a maverick researching an unusual subject" (p. 10); an article by Taylor originally published in the Journal of Southern History in 1951 which is still the most comprehensive article on the woman suffrage movement in Texas; selections from reports, resolutions, diaries, letters, newspaper and magazine articles, and other documents; and a good bibliography. The book is well-illustrated and introductions provide help in understanding and using the documents.

Though Texas women began organized efforts for suffrage in 1893, their most active period began in 1913. Women used a variety of arguments ranging from the justice of full citizenship for women to the role women voters could play in reforms to help home and family and improve public morality. Both books show the importance of women's World War I contributions in creating an atmosphere favorable to women's suffrage and the impact of the impeachment of Governor Jim Ferguson, a strong opponent of votes for women. Though their efforts at amending the state constitution were unsuccessful, Texas women developed the political skill necessary to push ratification of the federal amendment through the legislature.

Jane Y. McCallum, a journalist, civic leader, mother of five, and wife of the Austin public school superintendent, became a suffrage leader in Texas and went on to take an active role in Texas political life, including service as Secretary of State. A Texas Suffragist provides the raw material, skillfully edited by Humphrey, for studying facets of McCallum's life through 1919. Hopefully, studies of later periods of McCallum's life will
be forthcoming. Taken together the two books are a valuable contribution to the history of Texas women and the Texas political process. They should also provide a starting point for analytical studies.

Sylvia W. McGrath
Stephen F. Austin State University


The life of Helen Sewell Harbison is the stuff of fiction, fact, and folklore. Ada Morehead Holland, using journals, letters, taped interviews, and historical data from the Spanish conquest to the time of Anglo settlement in South Texas, tells the story of a woman's life on Tipperary Farm. With nothing more than a recounting of Helen's family saga, the reader is firmly in the grip of a master story teller. Holland uses the techniques of fiction and narrative style in weaving the events of Helen's life into the tapestry of the brown landscape. The reader finds an eleven-year-old girl growing up behind a plow and working like a man; then a youngster who without an adequate background goes on to college; next a young woman who grows into maturity when she marries a Texas Ranger. Six children add more depth, and thirty years of running a ranch alone after her husband's death complete the chiseling of her character. Her story is a novel with rich plot, abiding characters, and finely detailed understandings. Helen's longings even erupt into the pure lyricism of folk poetry. Holland leaves out nothing but manages to bring the story into sharp focused perspective which gives meaning to facts.

In the era of Women's studies when females have been hung on the line naked for all to see, it is hard to believe that Holland's book is not just another "study" testifying how hard it was on the womenfolk on the Texas frontier, but Helen's story is told in quality wording about quality living. The reader will love the Southwest even more for having heard it through Holland's voice.

Joyce Gibson Roach
Keller, Texas


*The Methodist Excitement in Texas* should be attractive to many general readers as well as members of the United Methodist Church. Although the book is the joint effort of four Methodist historians, it is skillfully edited and the seams do not show.
In 1829, when Texas was still a province of Mexico, Stephen F. Austin, keenly aware that Roman Catholicism was the only religion recognized by the government, wrote that "it will not do to have the Methodist excitement raised in this country." His admonition did not prevent the denomination from flourishing, however, and the present volume traces its development from the earliest beginnings in 1815 through the 1970s.


The lively format should make The Methodist Excitement in Texas a popular gift book as well as a useful reference volume. A variety of photographs, line illustrations by James L. Stevenson, and boxed feature items appeal to both scholar and casual reader.

The book is meticulously but unobtrusively documented with concise notes and a list of sources placed at the end. An index is provided.

Melvin R. Mason
Sam Houston State University


At last there is an excellent biography about Moses Austin, the bold entrepreneur who, at age fifty-nine, traveled to San Antonio in December 1820, and successfully acquired a contract from the Spanish rulers of Mexico to establish an Anglo American settlement in Texas. He died a few months after his return to Missouri in 1821, and left colonizing in Texas to his eldest son, Stephen F. Austin.

Gracy has traced Moses Austin's odyssey from Connecticut to Philadelphia, and through Virginia to Missouri, with a facile pen that makes the characters and their surroundings come alive. In addition to the standard (and sometimes rare) historical and genealogical sources, he used land and bankruptcy papers in the National Archives, town records in Connecticut, state and county records in Virginia and Missouri, cabildo and notorial records in New Orleans, and various documents about Mine a Breton resting in archives in France and Spain. In other words, this will stand as the best researched biography of Austin possible.

Although a family-authorized account, Gracy points out Austin's failures and foibles as well as his successes. Like many contemporaries, Austin was an ambitious man who opened mercantile ventures, and later
lead mining, with borrowed capital and took enormous risk to improve and expand. When economic conditions were favorable, he built extravagant homes for his family; when hard times depressed the country, as in the 1790s and 1819, and his creditors demanded payment, he sold his property and sought a new start in far off places.

After moving his bride to Richmond, Virginia, Austin prospered and built her a mansion. At the same time he invested in the old Chiswell lead mine on the southwestern frontier in Wyeth County; he brought English miners and improved mining technology and also created the village of Austinville for his workers. When bad luck and mounting debt threatened in 1796, Austin traveled 1000 miles to view the fabled lead mines at Mine a Breton in Upper Louisiana (modern Missouri) then in the hands of the Spanish. Becoming a Spanish citizen, the intrepid entrepreneur moved his family and that of his Bates kinsmen to Missouri in 1798 to rework and modernize the mines. Again he was very successful and built another mansion, but after the transfer of Louisiana to the United States in 1803, rivals and politics eroded his fortune. The Panic of 1819 led to bankruptcy and caused the preternatural optimist to journey to Spanish Texas to find a means to recoup his fortune on a new frontier.

Gracy settles some questions about Austin and raises others. Evidence in New Orleans notary records suggests that Austin and the Baron de Bastrop could have met when both were in the Crescent City in 1801. The portrait presumed to be that of Austin is probably not authentic. Gracy also details in full the unsuccessful struggle of Texas leaders to remove Austin’s remains to the state cemetery from his resting place in Potosi, Missouri. He still lies under a concrete vault erroneously marked 1761-1820, cutting six months off of his very full life.

Margaret Swett Henson
Houston


Whenever passing by Thistle Hill, an old but beautiful edifice on Pennsylvania Avenue in Fort Worth, Texas, one may wonder who built and lived in such a wonderful place. In _Thistle Hill: The History and the House_, Judy Alter, director of the TCU Press, has provided an informative monograph on the history of the owners and the architecture of this mansion. Built in 1903 by cattle baron W.T. Waggoner, the house originally was occupied by Electra Waggoner Wharton, who enjoyed a “reputation for lavish living and glamor” (p. 10). In 1811 cattleman Winfield Scott purchased Thistle Hill and his wife Elizabeth “set a quiet standard of style” (p. 15). After the philanthropic Girls Service League owned the property from 1940 to 1976, the Save-the-Scott organization and Texas
Heritage, Inc., prevented the destruction of the estate and have created a magnificent "reminder of the city's cattle baron legacy" (p. 71).

Thistle Hill is a unique little book which not only offers a historical perspective but also a wonderful tour guide to this gracious mansion.

Janet Schmelzer
Tarleton State University


Buildings, bridges, oil wells and other historic sites enrich our knowledge of history and of people's creative thought to solve problems. Manifesting a life long fascination with engineering achievements and over a dozen years of research, T. Lindsay Baker has presented an illustrated guide to historic engineering works. Based upon what the author likes best, 103 historic sites have been described with location and suggested reading for future reference.

Depending upon your definition of East Texas, thirty historic sites have been described in detail. These include the Daisy Bradford No. 3 Oil Well, the Lucas Gusher, Dallas-Oak Cliff Viaduct, Dallas Union Terminal, Waxahachie Creek Bridge, Corsicana Oil Field Discovery Well, Cullinan Oil Refinery, Harris County Dome Stadium (the only post-1945 entry), Houston 1879 Waterworks, Houston Ship Channel, San Jacinto Monument, Elissa, Galveston Causeway, Galveston Grade Raising, Galveston Highway Bridge, Galveston Jetties, Galveston Military Fortification, Galveston seawall, Galveston Waterworks, Port Bolivar Lighthouse, Riverside Swing Bridge, Orange-Port Arthur High Bridge, Oil Springs Oil Field, Old Alcalde Iron Furnace, Republic of Texas Boundary Marker, Kelly Iron Works, Nash Iron Furnace, Porter's Bluff Highway, Paris Arbattoir, and Tyler Hydraulic Fill Dam. Appropriate drawings, pictures and anecdotes are included in each article.

The appendix of forty-one pages has 302 entries about other East Texas historical sites. These entries identify the site, the county, and a brief fact or two about the entry.

By revealing the historical significance of historic sites and presenting them in a very attractive volume. Baker has made an important contribution to the understanding and enjoyment of Texas history.

Irvin M. May, Jr.
Blinn College at Bryan

I wish this book had been around when I entered high school. It would have prevented a lot of personal agony spent wading through thick volumes of Texas history that still confuse me. And it might have made my old history teacher's job a lot easier.

Mike Kingston, who edits The Dallas Morning News' venerable Texas Almanac, has put together an interesting volume that makes Texas history a lot more understandable, starting with prehistoric Texas and ending with Texas immediately after World War II.

But the real appeal of Kingston's production lies in a back-of-the-book section called "A Miscellany of Texas History." Here, Kingston digs into the issue of who really first explored Texas, the intriguing story of Los Adaes, the Texas capital stuck over in the backwoods of Louisiana, and the famous Texas sidewheeler known as "The Yellow Stone."

For good measure, Kingston has thrown into the book the complete text of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

There are a lot of good high school and college textbooks dealing with Texas history, but few will ever be as short and interesting as "A Concise History of Texas."

Maybe Kingston's book will someday find its way into a few Texas high school history classes. When they do, Texas history will become a lot more fascinating.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


Here is the welcome and long-awaited study of the Southern Pacific Railway from the turn of the century to its recent merger with the Santa Fe. In handling the diverse and almost overwhelming source materials, Don Hofsommer has struck an excellent balance, presenting a relatively complete account without bogging down in trivial detail. The author has included maps and pictures enough to satisfy the most avid rail-buff and has devoted some attention to the changes in locomotive types and other rolling stock. But principally Hofsommer has written an interpretive narrative of the SP from its California beginnings, through the Harriman years, the Great Depression, revival during World War II, and the post-war decline of rail traffic. It is generally a friendly and sympathetic account but the author did not hesitate to take issue with certain decisions of the managers or to comment that failure to take action in some cases were
“monumental blunders.” Overall, however, he found that the SP leaders did a creditable job through an increasingly difficult era. Most probably, this study will become the definitive history of the Southern Pacific.

East Texas readers will have a special interest in the chapters on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad (T&NO) and the Saint Louis Southwestern Railway (Cotton Belt). Because of Texas’ legal restrictions the SP could not consolidate the lines it had acquired but operated them under their own names long after they had become SP property. Thus the T&NO, GH&SA, H&TC, and HE&WT (Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio; Houston and Texas Central; Houston, East and West Texas) were familiar names in Texas until World War II. For a time the SP leased the other lines to the T&NO and operated all SP railroads in Texas under that name. The acquisition of the Cotton Belt in the 1930s gave the SP a much needed gateway into St. Louis.

The Texas A&M Press has again produced a handsome and distinguished book. The large format, clear and readable type, and excellent illustrations has made The Southern Pacific a pleasure to read. It is equally valuable as a general history of a major railroad, a book of reference, or as a coffee table book which will be sure to stimulate examination and conversation.

Robert S. Maxwell
Nacogdoches, Texas


No guidebook or history volume, for that matter, can tell a reader everything about a place. Transportation, lodging, restaurants, nightlife, art galleries, theatre, sports, neighborhoods, population, climate, business, history, shopping, schools, special events, and tourist sights are expected topics. This Marmac guide also provides unusual information about art in public locations; spots to give a party; hotel safety; and the needs of foreign travelers, students, handicapped, and children. It covers more than the Texas Monthly guidebook to Houston and is written with the same light-hearted touch. You get the impression that Dale Young ate in every restaurant, slept in every hotel, and visited every site he recommended. The major deficiency is the lack of a bibliography for further information.

David McComb
Colorado State University

Contrary to neo-conservative claims, blacks continue to suffer overt and institutional racial discrimination in addition to class prejudice. Whether in employment, income, housing, or education, Houston's blacks fared no better than their national counterparts in the much-vaunted growth and prosperity of the 1970s. Their widely acknowledged stability and patience have not altered conditions in Houston's minority neighborhoods that defy John Kennedy's celebrated dictum on rising tides and boats.

Such is the grim picture sketched by Texas Southern University sociologist Robert D. Bullard, who draws on Michael Harrington's "invisible poor" theme of a generation ago. The author refrains, however, from inviting the federal intervention inspired by The Other America in the 1960s, asserting instead a need for a strengthened community structure.

While well presented, the study offers few surprises to the astute reader. A Sunday drive down Lyons Avenue or Dowling should dispel any notions of racial equality in all but the most susceptible "Houston Proud" types. One laments the absence of a bibliography and a lack of historical background in some pertinent areas. The sections on education and law enforcement are compellingly effective.

News or not, Invisible Houston deserves a thorough reading. A resulting anger at injustice is indicated.

Garna Christian
University of Houston-Downtown


Robert Wooster's study is a revisionist account of the problems faced by the United States Army and its strategic policy dealing with the Indian Conflicts of this period. Wooster, using an extensive list of primary and secondary sources, devotes his first three chapters to such post-Civil-War military topics as Army administration and responsibilities, the problems posed by the Western Indians, and the regional and national political problems faced by the United States after the war. Included in this section are some brief biographical portraits of Indian fighters.

The remaining three chapters analyze the western campaigns, starting with the Plains Campaign of 1865. He then turns to the action at Wounded Knee in 1890, culminating with Nelson A. Miles' forced retirement from his position as commanding general in 1903. The remaining part of this second section deals with the United States' involvement in the Spanish-
American War, the problems brought out by this conflict, and the resulting Root reforms of the early 1900s.

In his conclusion, Wooster sums the problems faced by the United States Army and the strategic policy dealing with the Indian Conflicts, and compares them with the military and strategic problems faced by the European powers and their involvement in the "Small Wars" of this period. Through this comparison Wooster discovers several striking similarities such as the problem of ethnocentrism and the ensuing inability to deal with "foreign" cultures, the lack of a well defined objective, similar problems of political infighting and policy implementation, and an increase in naval budgets at the cost of army budgets.

The last half of the conclusion deals with such matters as personal disputes within the United States Army, its relations with other governmental bodies, and the belief held by such commanders as William T. Sherman and Philip H. Sheridan that Civil War experiences were applicable only to conventional armies and not conflicts with the plains Indians. Wooster's conclusion was that there was no single, clearly defined strategy applied by the United States Army in these wars, which conflicts with the previously held notions about our involvement in the Indian conflicts of this period. This work and its revisionist conclusion provide strong historical value for the scholar as well as the student of modern military affairs.

Matt Nall
Nacogdoches, Texas


Albert Pike, lawyer, soldier, and author is one of the most remarkable figures in American history. Born in Boston in 1809, Pike taught school as a young man while devoting his private time to the study of languages and the writing of poetry. In addition to a strong literary bent, Pike possessed unbounded physical energy and great determination. More than six feet tall and large of frame, with hair that reached his shoulders and a beard that reached near his waist, Pike also presented an impressive appearance.

When the restraints of New England life became too irksome for his adventurous spirit, Pike set out in March 1831 for the West. Reaching Independence, Missouri, with little money and less of a plan for his future, Pike joined a party of traders and hunters bound for New Mexico. On the trail his horse broke away, leaving him to walk the remaining 500 miles to Taos. His party was caught, as well, in a ferocious snowstorm that caused a layover of five days and froze many of the expedition's horses. Reaching Taos at last, Pike accompanied another expedition to Santa Fe
but left that "city of mud" in 1832 for a trapping venture on the Staked Plains of West Texas. Finding the beaver population negligible, however, Pike traversed the caprock, crossed Oklahoma, and finally arrived at Fort Smith, Arkansas, having traveled 1300 miles, 650 of them on foot, and experiencing many hardships and exciting adventures.

While serving as associate editor of the *Arkansas Advocate* in 1833, Pike wrote an account, in the form of travel narrative, short story, and verse, of his recent adventures. These vivid memoirs, tales, and poems which first appeared serially in the *Advocate* were published in 1836 as *Prose Sketches and Poems Written in the Western Country* by Light and Horton of Boston. Pike's narrative is said to be the first book ever printed dealing with the region between Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Certainly Pike was New Mexico's first Anglo-American poet as well as its first short-story writer in English and was among the first to describe in print the Mexican borderlands.

Except for a limited reprint of *Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association* in 1917, Pike's *Prose Sketches and Poems Written in the Western Country* spent many decades out of print and in obscurity. Finally, in 1967, the book was reissued in a handsome limited edition by Calvin Horn, Publishers, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. To the earlier printings, editor David Weber added a splendid scholarly introduction, placing Pike's travels into historical context, as well as a generous number of explanatory footnotes, which add greatly to the reader's understanding and appreciation of the text. One year later *Narrative of a Journey in the Prairie* and *Narrative of a Second Journey* were reissued for the membership of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, edited by J. Evetts Haley.

Although Pike's reputation as a poet has suffered over the years, the narrative of his travels remains one of the most important as well as one of the most rare descriptions of early New Mexico and far West Texas. The Texas A&M Press is to be commended, therefore, for making the Weber edition of this classic of Americana available for the first time to a mass readership as the sixth title in its Southwest Landmark series.

Tom C. Cutrer
Texas State Historical Association
Tom Z. Parrish has authored an exciting and colorful account of the brief but impressive history of the Confederate ironclad Arkansas. The first three chapters provide an outline of the conflict in the Mississippi Valley in the summer of 1862 and set the stage for the entry of the Arkansas in the war. In these chapters the author asserts that the struggle for the control of the Mississippi River and its valley is of no less importance in deciding the war than the more famous battlegrounds of the East.

President Abraham Lincoln’s assessment of the strategic importance of this area is cited: "The Mississippi is the backbone of the Rebellion; it is the key to the whole situation. While the Confederates hold it, they can obtain supplies of all kinds, and it is a barrier against our forces" (p. 75). While this thesis is supported in other ways, it is clear that the author intends not to overpower the reader with points and counterpoints but rather to entertain and enlighten by relating a part of history that the author has found intriguing.

The heroic conduct of the ship and crew of the Arkansas in its single-handed assault on the Union’s Mississippi fleet at Vicksburg must remain a minor chapter in the War Between the States. It is overshadowed not only by the dramatic land engagements on Eastern fronts but also by the historic naval battle at Hampton Roads, made forever memorable by the first clash of ironclads, the Merrimac and the Monitor.

An argument could be made that the Confederacy would have fallen, as a matter of course, to superior land forces and that even a victory for the North in the naval conflict at Vicksburg would have accomplished little since Union troops were not committed for occupation of the area at this time. Nevertheless, the naval battle at Vicksburg and the role of the Arkansas in this Confederate victory stands on its own merits. It inspired flagging Southern hopes, kept the supply lines open to the west, and prevented the Union from taking complete control of the Mississippi for some time. Parrish encourages a new view of the Arkansas as "... a quixotic symbol of the Confederacy at war against overwhelming odds."

Parrish also presents the history, character, and motivations of leaders on both sides of the Mississippi Valley campaign. Particular attention is given to Flag Officer David Farragut, who lead the Union ships past the forts at the mouth of the Mississippi and into New Orleans, and who, with his group of wooden steamships, later faced the Arkansas at Vicksburg. The opposing commander, Lieutenant Issac Brown, receives similar analysis. A certain empathy with these men is developed which makes the climax of the conflict, detailed in the closing two chapters, come alive.
A wide selection of maps and illustrations supplement the narrative and a separate appendix provides interesting biographical sketches for seventy of the personalities mentioned in the book.

G. Milton Dodson
Nacogdoches, Texas

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In Lee's Tarnished Lieutenant, William Garrett Piston presents a defense of James Longstreet that differs from most who have written on the Confederate general. Longstreet, although highly regarded by General Robert E. Lee, who called him his "Old Warhorse," since Appomattox has been the "scapegoat" of the South’s defeat.

Most of the criticism resulted from Longstreet's delayed attack at Gettysburg. Piston insists that Pickett's ill-fated charge was Lee's fault and that Longstreet's belated order of attack was due to Lee's inability to inform and properly advise Longstreet. Piston defends Longstreet's actions from accusations by Confederate generals such as Jubal Early and John Brown Gordon who publicly blamed the Gettysburg defeat on Longstreet. Piston also downplays the suggestion that Longstreet and Lee were at odds, as some inferred from his request to be transferred to the Western Theater after Gettysburg. In the author's opinion Longstreet's Civil War record shows that he was an energetic corps commander, a master at directing troops in combat, and a trustworthy subordinate who was willing to place the cause above personal ambition. Longstreet was Lee's top general at the time of Appomattox and the two corresponded as friends after the war.

A second criticism of Longstreet concerned his postwar association with the Radical Republicans and his denouncement of the popular "Lost Cause" myth. He became a villain for joining the Republican Party and for his realistic approach to the aftermath of war, his postwar writings, and his actions in suppressing a Southern uprising in Louisiana. Piston defends Longstreet's Republican affiliation by attempting to show that he simply accepted reality and tried to make the re-admission of the South into the Union as painless as possible.

Piston also points out that Longstreet was a victim of the press. Longstreet fought most of the war in Virginia, and since he was not a native Virginian he did not receive the praise from the local press as did Virginia's native sons Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. His exploits in Eastern Tennessee also were lessened because he was not a Tennessean and because much of the area was anti-Confederate and suffered from his actions there. Longstreet was born in South Carolina, lived his youth in Georgia, and served in the U.S. Army several years in Texas, thus never finding a state to call "home".
The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with Longstreet’s youth and his military record and achievements. The second part deals with his postwar years and the loss of what hero status he had achieved.

This volume is a broad biography of the life and times of James Longstreet. However, Piston spends too much of the book in total defense of Longstreet with an absence of his shortcomings and an absence of noteworthy successes of those that may have overshadowed him. The book does offer an alternate approach to Longstreet and presents information of value to improve the image of one of Lee’s top generals.

Robert Killam
Lufkin, Texas


A Battlefield Atlas of the Civil War allows the reader to follow the American Civil War through its major campaigns and battles as they are depicted in this concise atlas with its easy-to-read maps accompanied by clear essays. Pictures located at the beginning of each section help to visualize characters.

The atlas is a joint effort between Craig Symonds, professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy, and cartographer William Clipson, head of the Graphic Arts Division at the Naval Academy. The book is a vivid narrative of the primary battles of the Civil War keyed to comprehensible maps. These maps, arranged chronologically, use simple symbols to depict such things as infantry units, artillery, and skirmish lines. The discussion in the essays refers to the maps.

The content is divided into four parts. Part One, entitled “The Amateur Armies,” covers The Anaconda Plan in the Spring of 1861 to the fall of New Orleans, April 1862. Part Two discusses how the war became organized and covers the Peninsular Campaign, March 1862, to the slaughter at Murfreesboro, January 1863. Part Three covers the period when the Confederate Army reached its peak, as well as its collapse after the fall of Vicksburg, in July 1863. Finally, Part Four deals with the Civil War as a “total war” under William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant. The book concludes with an epilogue on the surrender at Appomattox and the defeat of the Confederate Army. The atlas does not have an index, but a suggested reading list for the subject covered by each map is provided. A key to map symbols is also provided.
With its simple maps and concise analysis, this book would be useful to anyone with an interest in the American Civil War.

Teresa York
Lufkin, Texas


Gregory Coco has undertaken an important and demanding task in this book. The location of field hospitals at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1863 was only a part of his project. He has compiled a great deal of specific as well as anecdotal information about Civil War medicine. Except for the archaeological compilation, which is its primary purpose, this examination of medical procedure and practice is the book's greatest value. Readers will find the first-hand accounts excerpted here to be a gold mine of information.

The numerous photographs included represent both the strengths and weaknesses of the volume. Some of the old plates reproduced here are outstanding and informative, such as the Adams County Almshouse (p. 29) or the Black Horse Tavern (p. 145). The book's main weakness is the carelessly produced contemporary photographs, or those of houses built long after the Civil War but happen to occupy historic grounds. A man in bermuda shorts pumping gas (p. 21) or a blurred motorcyclist in front of an old house (p. 33) are best left out. On balance the book is a valuable guide to historical archaeology and an examination of the tragic consequences of a bloody war.

Allen Richman
Stephen F. Austin State University


One of the interesting aspects of the history of Texas during its days as a Republic is the story of its navy. The history of the Texas Navy was largely neglected by historians until 1960 when Tom Henderson Wells published Commodore Moore & The Texas Navy. The University of Texas Press has reissued this work in a paperback edition.

The book is a concise history of the Texas Navy and its commander, Commodore Edwin Ward Moore. The author examines Moore's life before, during, and after his association with the Texas Navy, but the work is concerned mainly with the navy itself. Wells examines the events that
led to the formation of the Navy and gives a detailed description of its ships. He also examines the problems, such as limited funding and poor harbor facilities, that Moore faced. The book also provides a clear account of the actions the navy fought against Mexico until Texas was annexed by the United States.

One topic that was closely examined was Sam Houston's opposition to the navy. The navy was formed when Houston was out of office. When Houston returned to the presidency he did everything in his power to destroy the Texas Navy, even when Texas was under the threat of a water born-invasion from Mexico. I found the account of Houston's opposition to be interesting and thought provoking.

Paul H. Varga
Nacogdoches, Texas


Historians generally agree that the South is, or at least has been, a distinctively different region of the United States. Of course, they do not agree on the precise limits of the South, let alone what makes it different. The eight essays in this collection, originally presented at a University of Georgia Bicentennial symposium in 1985, do not deliberately contrast the South with the rest of the nation but in attempting to delineate the evolution of Southern culture, they necessarily call attention to the perennial question of Southern distinctiveness.

Four of the essays deal only indirectly with "southernism" over the years. Eugene Genovese and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese describe the religious ideas of Southern slave society, and Eric Foner discusses the constitutional conventions of 1867-69. George M. Fredrickson points out that racial policy in the American South was less repressive than South African practices today, and Joel Williamson provides interesting speculations on the role of race in shaping Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With The Wind*. The remaining essays — by Immanuel Wallerstein on the meaning of Southern culture, Nell I. Painter on gender and race, Bertram Wyatt-Brown on the concept of honor in Southern literature, and Paul K. Conkin on the Nashville Agrarians — deal more directly with interpretations of the South in general. Perhaps, without doing too much damage to the variety and depth of their arguments, it may be said that these historians believe that Southern distinctiveness is largely a thing of the past. Wallerstein, for example, argues that the concept of "southern culture" began to disappear after World War II. Wyatt-Brown believes that "the theme of honor has run its course" (p. 125) in Southern literature, and Conkin concludes that Southerners have rejected the agrarians and thus sold their rural birthright
for a mess of modern economic porridge. These arguments make good reading; they may even be correct.

Randolph B. Campbell
North Texas State University


Donald R. Walker has combined original research with previous studies to provide a historical account of convict labor in Texas from 1867 to 1912. The state initially hired out prisoners because of a lack of funds. The system endured because of public apathy, and it came to an end amid general reform trends of the Progressive Era. Walker asserts that prisoners were employed any way the lessee chose with little regulation, control, or standards for the prisoner's care. It was believed that hard work would reform an individual; therefore, brutality, cruelty, and neglect often characterized the lease system that Walker claims was more concerned with profit than reform.

Walker gives a short history of the Texas prison system. He briefly mentions the women's work farm, and covers related political, legal, and economic topics from the point of view of the prisoner, the state, and the lessee. He cites many work camps in the East Texas area. He developed this fully in "The Mess in Mineola: An Account Of The Investigation Into Conditions In A Prison Work Camp, 1879," an article that appeared in the Fall 1987 issue of the East Texas Historical Journal and was awarded "Best Essay" for the year.

Because state prisons were located in Huntsville and Rusk, most of the convicts were leased to individuals and businesses in East Texas. Local historical groups could research state lessee contracts in their areas as well as county work farms which existed in many local East Texas areas. Walker limited his study to the state convict lease system due to the complexity of including county work farms.

Poor records of the early prison system prevented Walker from determining how effective the lease system was at reforming the convicts. He concludes, based on limited data, that it was no more effective than the present system. However, he shows that convict labor made a profit for the state and the lessees. Walker's book examines all sides of the prison lease system to allow the reader to decide if the system should be restored, as some politicians have advocated. Penology For Profit provides a balanced view to inform its readers about the Texas prison system. Rising costs of the current prison system and recent rulings by Federal Judge
William Wayne Justice of Tyler makes this an interesting and important book to examine.

Linda Sybert Hudson
Longview, Texas


Weaving the consistently excellent analysis of a dozen authors, the editors of this work have offered Texans clear choices and challenging interpretations regarding the quality of life in the state. In part, _Texas at the Crossroads_ succeeds because they worked from a sound design. First they thoroughly discuss recent demographic, economic, and political trends. Then, using these trends, they honestly consider policy options in several important areas of concern, including water, energy, education, highways, crime, and welfare. Throughout the book the authors use the most recent data for their analysis and trends. Often these data are presented in well-designed and easy-to-understand tables and graphs.

Most of the book is, of course, not history. But in those passages which summarize recent Texas political history, the story is clear, accurate, and interesting. And in those chapters which focus on a specific issue, the authors always place the topic in its historical context. Although some may find the statistics overdone, the criticism of interest groups harsh, or the future speculation too imprecise, _Texas at the Crossroads_ is an excellent example of social science, being readable to the interested layman and at the same time stimulating for the serious scholar. Anyone interested in one of the subjects listed would find the specific essay a well-documented beginning for research on the topic. Furthermore, these problems will be, if the authors are correct, the problems Texas faces for the remainder of this century and into the next.

Richard Bailey
San Jacinto College North


Tim McCoy, who will always be remembered as one of Hollywood’s most visually engaging Western film heroes, vividly and beautifully captures the spirit and the lure of the West and its people in this republication of his autobiography. The "Old Trails" that McCoy retravels explore his life as a cowboy, rancher, movie star, cavalry officer, and all-around showman; in every case, McCoy pauses to recall the land and the people who contributed something, both good and ill, to his life and to
examine how he responded to the events and the people who made them possible. McCoy's command of the language reveals an individual who cares not only for telling a good story, but for accurately conveying dreams and achievements in life.

The book itself is attractive. The preface, written by Ronald McCoy, and the illustrations add depth to McCoy's memorable descriptions. The book is ideal for the movie fan, the casual reader, and the serious reader as well because it explains little-known aspects of the American West. McCoy's autobiography is a highly readable and thoroughly satisfying story that is hard to put down.

Michael K. Schoenecke
Texas Tech University


The stature of Sam Rayburn continues to grow in the eyes of politicians and historians alike. In the recent presidential campaign he was accorded the rare compliment of being quoted by the candidates of both political parties. To facilitate further study of this great statesman, Tony Champagne of the University of Texas at Dallas has written for the Greenwood Press a "Bio-Bibliography" of Sam Rayburn.

Beginning with a sixty-six-page biographical sketch, Champagne provides a remarkably comprehensive and thoughtful chronicle of Sam Rayburn's career, enriching his account with fascinating vignettes and tidbits, often gathered from his own personal interviews. There follows a most useful, critical bibliography that functions also as the endnotes to the biography. Next comes an interpretive listing of Sam Rayburn's writings and speeches. Rayburn was not a prolific writer, and Champagne characterizes him as "a consensus-maker and a deal-maker rather than a speech-maker" (p. 132). The volume closes with a helpful assessment of the major archival sources on Sam Rayburn.

This book should be the starting point for any subsequent research on the great East Texas Speaker, and it establishes its author, who previously published Congressman Sam, as the leader in this field.

Edward Hake Phillips
Sherman, Texas


Here are two interesting autobiographical accounts of long careers in the oil industry. Gerald Lynch began roughneeking as a teenager near Corsicana in 1925. During the next three decades he worked in East Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, and the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico. He worked up to derrickman, driller, and toolpusher in steady progression. Champion began as a surveyor’s assistant in East Texas during the winter of 1931-32 and advanced to direct difficult survey projects in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska.

The careers of Gerald Lynch and Don Champion had many parallels. Both were in and out of work during their early years in the industry, before they settled into permanent jobs. Lynch and Champion shared the common experience of oilfield hands, moving on to keep jobs, and the pride of oilfield workers in their skill and endurance.

Champion and Lynch offer information that is useful and interesting to old hands and historians alike. Champion has a brief but informative section on field surveying techniques in his third chapter, while Lynch has numerous and extensive descriptions of changes in drilling equipment and techniques. In fact, Lynch’s book is a rig-floor version of J.E. Brantley’s monumental work, History of Oil Well Drilling (1971). Beyond technical information, Lynch includes accounts of resistance by roughnecks and drillers to new equipment and innovative approaches. As one might expect, the workers were often justified in their suspicion of engineers and other company men.

Both books contain amusing stories about the colorful characters with whom their authors worked. Champion’s tales of Barstool, Chicken Hawk, Rocky, and others, are appropriately lively — and often raunchy — depictions of genuine and familiar oilfield types. Champion shared their experiences and confronted many of the same pressing problems, such as the best way to drink bootleg whiskey: “The real problem was how to keep your nose inside that wide-mouth jar and swallow ‘Old Awful’ at the same time, without vomiting in front of your friends” (p. 11).

Gerald Lynch has his own cast of colorful characters, including Mose, Worm, Lightning, and the Healdton Flash, but he saw life in different terms: “A man’s best friend is a bank account, not a dog” (p. 99). Lynch became a driller at the age of twenty-eight, and thereafter his perspective on fellow workers was closer to that of management; colorful characters were still personal friends, but they also became job-site problems. Though Lynch seems unaware of the change of his perspective, it is still an
intriguing example of the predictable if largely undocumented change in values that follow career shifts.

There are significant differences between these two useful books. *Wood Derricks, Iron Men, and Gold Women* is an easier read because it is largely anecdotal. Unfortunately, some of the best stories, especially about the Ranger booms, are hearsay because the author was born in 1911, and he could not have witnessed all of the events he describes. Moreover, the loose structure of the book finally breaks down into scraps and remnants in the final chapter, and the reader is left to make of them what he can.

*Roughnecks, Drillers, and Tool Pushers*, by contrast, is a careful piece of prose, clear, correct, and concise. It sometimes lacks the flavor of the oilfields, but that is already in ample supply, provided by oral histories, picture books, and the recollections of other old timers. Lynch accomplishes the more difficult task of explaining how work was done. In the end, his book offers more to both general and scholarly readers.

Roger M. Olien
The University of Texas-Permian Basin


Texas Christian University Press has reprinted in the Texas Tradition Series these two works of fiction by William A. Owens. First published in 1963, *Look to the River* portrays the culture of rural North Central Texas during the early twentieth century through the eyes of Jed, a young orphan. Through his youthful point of view, the reader sees farm life in Texas, with its strengths and foibles. While working as a hireling for a small, struggling farm family, Jed determines that he wants to travel with an itinerant peddler. But confusion arises regarding his honesty and Jed runs away from his bonded obligation with the farmer. This decision led to a frightening odyssey for Jed. During his quest for vindication, he experiences life as a fugitive on the road and as an inmate in a chain gang. In many ways the maturing of Jed opens a window into issues of race, class, and criminal justice in rural Texas at the turn of the century.

Originally published in 1950, *Walking on Borrowed Land* is a remarkable evocation of life in a small Oklahoma town in the 1930s. Basing this novel on his early experiences in North Central Texas, Owens creates a vivid image of a town divided geographically and racially. The principle character is Mose Ingram, a black man from Mississippi who, after
attending college in Chicago, travels to mythical Columbus, Oklahoma, to become the principal of the Negro school. The plot focuses on his patient and dignified fight against Jim Crow, an "apartheid-like" system of legal separation of the races. It is also a compassionate portrayal of the richness and variety of a Southern black culture. Many readers who remember race relations in the 1950s will see what an accurate account *Walking on Borrowed Land* is. Others will see how much progress has been made in the years since the book was first published. Some may see that further progress is still possible.

Richard Bailey
San Jacinto College

*Sam Chance.* By Benjamin Capps. (Southern Methodist University Press, Box 415, Dallas, TX 75275), 1987. P. 269. $22.50 Cloth; $10.95 Paper.

This is a biographical novel that attempts to depict the discharge of Confederate troops at the end of the Civil War and their return home and re-adjustment to civil pursuits. The story centers around Sam Chance, a fictional character, who returns to his home in East Tennessee to visit his family and girl friend but already has determined to seek his fortune on the western frontier. Unable to convince Martha to marry him and share with him his fortunes in the West, he and Lefors, who had served with him in the late war, head West. Lefors is everything but a man of steady habits, too much atuned to ardent spirits; but the two enjoy a good relationship.

The author seeks to recapture the settlement and spirit of the West, particularly North Texas and the Panhandle, by stockmen, and, later, the small farmer. He utilizes well-known descriptive material of the land and many scenes surrounding the lives of such large, early cattlemen as Charles Goodnight, George W. Littlefield, Oliver Loving, Daniel Waggoner, and others. Sam Chance is shown as having many virtues, vices, weaknesses, and as an audacious, self-righteous, hardworking settler of the Plains. From a dugout, to a sod house, and finally to the "big house," he became a wealthy, strongly independent-minded big cattleman, who drove cattle to market in Kansas, the Dakotas, and Wyoming.

Starting with the capture and branding of wild Texas longhorn cattle, the hunting of fur-bearing animals and buffalo, Chance became an open range cattleman, and a big landowner, who defended himself against Comanches and Kiowa Indian attacks, cattle thieves, and the advances of "nestor" farmers. He introduced barbed-wire fencing to his range, improved breeds of cattle (Shorthorns and Herefords), and witnessed the coming of the railroads and the development of small towns.

After several years, he returned to Tennessee and convinced Martha to marry him and go West, promising to build her a big fine home, but he never got the "big house" built before her untimely death, longing
for the more civilized life that she had left behind in Tennessee.

The book makes interesting reading, but contributes nothing to the history of the period of 1865 to 1922, the year Sam Chance died. A good biography of some relative unknown, but important cattleman, would have been more rewarding.

Joseph Milton Nance
Texas A&M University


The basic property law for Texas, along with seven other states, was well established as early as the Louisiana Purchase and at the time Texas gained independence from Mexico. The principle which emerged was equal division of marital property between husband and wife - in other words, the community property law.

Texans need to understand the law of probate - the law which deals with the transmission of property from a decedent to his or her beneficiaries. Charles Saunders, as chairman of the Council of Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, did a superb job of editing the work of some of the finest attorneys in Texas. His purpose is to present the book in layman's language so that every Texan might have an overall view of the subject.

Through an explanation of such chapter topics as "What is Community Property?", "What is My Probate Estate?", "Federal Estate Tax," "Texas Inheritance Tax," "Should I Make a Will?", and many others, Saunders accomplishes his mission of addressing the basic solution to getting the "most mileage" from each individual Texan's estate. He presents the material in a manner that probate can be easily understood and motivates individuals to plan for proper distribution of his or her estate and to try to minimize taxes. He emphasizes the pitfalls of not seeking the professional help of attorneys, trust officers, and financial planners.

How to Live - and Die - With TEXAS PROBATE is well worth using as a guide for planning.

Joyce Swearingen
Nacogdoches, Texas


Since the era of Tom Nast in the 1860s, political cartoonists have "zinged" the pompous, exposed the corrupt, and embarrassed the
incompetent. Charles Brooks, a prize-winning cartoonist who retired in 1985 after thirty-six years with the *Birmingham News*, has continued in this tradition with the *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* — the 1987 edition.

In regard to format, Brooks is well-organized and easy to follow. Choosing 325 cartoons from approximately 140 artists, he has grouped the different selections into twenty-four newsworthy issues such as the Iran-Contra arms scandal, crime and the courts, the national executive and legislative branches, sports and drugs, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, and SDI (Star Wars). Of course, Ferdinand Marcos, Kurt Walheim, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Ronald Reagan receive special attention because of their newsmaking abilities. These cartoons also focus on such nations as South Africa, Canada, Nicaragua, and the United States.

*Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* will, however, attract a limited audience. Oftentimes, readers enjoy following a specific artist instead of numerous ones who are talented but unknown. Another difficulty also arises from the constancy of the work; too much sameness sometimes hurts the lethal effect of the "poison pen." But overall, this coffee-table work is enjoyable and, in turn, reminds the reader of world events and issues in 1987.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University


The steaming jungles of Burma during World War II provide the setting for *Last Man Out*, by H. Robert Charles. This book deals with a fourteen-month period during which more than 100,000 Allied prisoners of war died from disease, torture, starvation, and execution in Japanese slave-labor camps along the Burmese railroad.

The book focuses primarily on the traumatic experiences of two prisoners, the author and a Dutch army medical doctor named Henri Hekking, as well as a number of other American prisoners, most of whom were from Texas. While risking his own life on numerous occasions, Dr. Hekking saved more than 250 American prisoners, including the author, through his knowledge of herbs that grew wild in the jungle.

Though the book holds the attention of the reader and plays upon one's emotions, it nevertheless has a few flaws. It contains a number of flashbacks that seem irrelevant to the events of the story and at times the style of writing is both juvenile and boring. But in spite of its shortcomings, this story of the hardships endured by the Allied prisoners who were forced to build the Burmese railroad and more particularly the heroism of Dr. Hekking, make this a book well worth reading. *Last Man Out* is the first
major work about the Burmese railroad since Pierre Boulle's classic, *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, and it deserves acclaim for its authenticity as well as its humanism. With the recently renewed interest in the Vietnam War, our society needs to be reminded that the tragedies and horrors suffered by American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia occurred in the 1940s as well as in the past two decades. *Last Man Out* provides that awareness.

Mark Choate
Nacogdoches, Texas

*The Staked Plain*. By Frank X. Tolbert. (Southern Methodist University Press, Box 415, Dallas, TX 75275), 1987. P. 283. $22.50 Cloth; $10.95 Paper.

Published first in the 1950s, *The Staked Plain* by Frank X. Tolbert has been reprinted with an afterword by Tom Pilkington by the Southern Methodist University Press in its Southwest Life and Letters series. The author's authentic detailing of the life and customs of the South Plains Indians makes this book a classic Southwestern frontier novel.

The main geographical setting for the work, which takes place in the 1860s and 1870s, is the Texas part of the Staked Plain which also extends into New Mexico. The high grassy plain was the last refuge of the Comanches from white settlers and forays of the U.S. cavalry. Tolbert realistically portrays encounters between the Indians and army troops from the Indian point of view.

Through the adventures of Llano (Lonnie) Estacado Nabors, called Tex-a-see by his Comanche friends, the Antelopes, Tolbert weaves a tale which describes a man influenced by his Anglo origins while ordinarily preferring the Indian lifestyle. Lonnie eventually marries Dulce Deno, a sophisticated auburn-haired gambler and former spy for General William Tecumseh Sherman. Dulce aims to persuade her husband to leave the Indians for a safer life as a comanchero (trader) in Santa Fe.

In time the Comanches would be forced by the army troops from the Staked Plain. In 1871, however, Colonel Ranald Slidell Mackenzie's expedition into the area was doomed to failure by a great blue norther. Taking leave of the Antelopes after the storm to head for Santa Fe, Lonnie and Dulce promise return visits.

The reprinting of *The Staked Plain* in an attractive edition calls attention to the master storytelling ability of the late Frank X. Tolbert. Other books by the author which have enriched Southwestern literature include *The Day of San Jacinto, An Informal History of Texas, Dick Dowling at Sabine Pass*, and *Bigamy Jones*.

Marion Holt
Lamar University

The University of Texas first issued this book in 1964. Weddle's monograph ages gracefully but the reasons for resurrecting the work are not obvious. The book was not revised nor was the bibliography updated. The editors ignored the intervening quarter-century of scholarship. Perhaps as with Civil War books, a market always exists for lively accounts of storied events in local history — especially fables of silver mines.

Weddle wrote of Spain's unsuccessful effort in 1757-70 to advance into Central Texas by establishing a presidio and mission for Apaches on the San Saba River near present-day Menard. Historical journals reviewed the book favorably in the 1960s; that ground need not be gone over again. One interesting aspect of the book received insufficient attention, however, and may be addressed now.

Reviewers said little of Weddle's account of the complicated relationships among Texas tribes. Seeing potential support against their Comanche foes, the Apaches pretended enthusiasm for the mission, playing upon Spanish fears of French influence. Once the missionaries arrived, the Comanches regarded the newcomers as allies of the enemy and responded accordingly. The Apaches skillfully employed the Europeans as a foil, turning upon them when their usefulness waned.

With due regard to Weddle's prerogatives as author, another generation of research makes the work's perspective seem too local. Developments appearing pregnant with meaning to the San Sabans probably seemed minuscule to the viceroy — if indeed this distant outpost ever engaged his attention seriously.

Still, Weddle's solid account of early Texas history is well worth reading.

D.S. Chandler
Miami University (Ohio)


Three Roads to Chihuahua is a descriptive narrative about the major wagon routes that linked the Mexican city of Chihuahua to the United States. Chihuahua was important because it was a region rich in silver but isolated from areas of production where goods were produced. Because the area had money but no goods, men found a way to take goods to Chihuahua and reap profits. "Commerce, not the invader, after all is the
conqueror." (p. xxii) *Three Roads* is about the men, the country, the hardships, and the blood that made the three roads to Chihuahua.

Swift begins this book with a brief history of the silver mining region of Chihuahua telling how silver was found by three fugitives who bartered it for their freedom and the great economic impact of silver on the region. The book then moves on to the roads into Mexico, beginning with Cabeza de Vaca's Trail across Texas in search of "fellow Spaniards" (p. 3), then to the Santa Fe Trail which linked Santa Fe and Chihuahua. Three Roads then covers Connelley's Trail which linked Arkansas with Chihuahua, passing through present-day Fort Stockton. The bulk of the book is about the last trail to be blazed. It began at Indianola and passed through San Antonio and Comanche Spring (Fort Stockton) on its way to Chihuahua. The author tells about the men who made the trail. Some were Texas legends, such as August Santleben and John Coffee ("Jack") Hays. *Three Roads* is rich with anecdotal material about such men, and their fight to blaze trails to trade with Chihuahua and to keep them open against the elements and the Indians. Swift includes stories of the frontier battles with the Indians such as the Comanche raid against Linnville, August 1840, when the residents of that town had to take refuge in boats in Matagorda Bay.

*Three Roads* is a book rich in the lore and traditions of the Southwest. The narrative style and the anecdotal material make this an entertaining book for everyone interested in the history of the Southwest. The book could have gone into greater detail of the economic impact of the trade with Chihuahua, giving information such as how important the roads to Chihuahua were to such cities as San Antonio and Indianola. But this change to a drier history would only distract from the narrative.

Frank Pratt
Nacogdoches


As one of the last political regions on the American frontier to be settled, Arizona witnessed quite late the conflict between developing civilization and lawlessness often characteristic of the frontier. Even though early twentieth-century Arizona Territory had railroads, telephones, and other symbols of settlement, its vast isolated areas allowed outlaws to operate with little hindrance, which led to the call by ranchers and miners for the establishment of a para-military law enforcement agency to be patterned after the famed Texas Rangers.

From 1901 to 1909, the Arizona Rangers chased rustlers and bandits, quelled labor disputes, and rescued American citizens in Mexico who found themselves at odds with various forces there. With remarkable detail, Bill
O'Neal describes year by year the adventures of the handful of men who served as Rangers. While his account is quite readable, O'Neal's strict imposition of a chronological narrative greatly restricts his and the reader's ability to analyze and interpret the Rangers' work. For example, he gives little explanation of the background of the movement to eliminate the Rangers. Also, in light of the rapid demise of the Rangers, he fails to interpret the charges of brutality associated with their work. And, he does not assess the Rangers' role in history within the framework of broader Arizona or western U.S. history and fails to place the Ranger concept of law enforcement within the context of similar efforts in the region or nation.

Otherwise, *The Arizona Rangers* fills a huge void of knowledge about this short-lived, but historically important effort to establish a particular type of justice in the American West.

David J. Murrah  
Texas Tech University

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Pusateri first issued his *History of American Business* four years ago, and now provides a second edition that contains some changes and updating that strengthen its contribution to the field of U.S. economic history. He attempts to stress the humanity of business developments and focuses upon the choices and decisions of individuals as they shaped events at critical moments. As in the first edition, he concentrates upon the role of the entrepreneurs and shows how they shaped the growth and development of business enterprise and the economic currents that led to modern capitalism.

Anticipating some criticism in his preface, he states that he is not yet ready to include a woman among his list of the fifty most significant entrepreneurs in American history. Had his list contained the top 100 instead of just fifty, he would have considered including Mary Kay Ash, of Mary Kay Cosmetics, and Katherine Graham, of the *Washington Post*.

The main changes from the first edition are an additional chapter and more material included in other chapters on the twentieth century. New material dealing with advertising, cable TV, the two World Wars, and specific firms such as Apple Computer and General Dynamics has been added.
The introductory chapters dealing with the entrepreneur and the stages of American capitalism were particularly interesting and informative. Pusateri presents the material within a framework of three ages: the age of the merchant; the age of transition; and the age of managerial capitalism.

This book also contains valuable material in the appendices such as a chronology of American business, the twenty-five largest industrial corporations, and fifty major business leaders. It is a significant source of information for both economists and historians.

Charles W. Brown
Stephen F. Austin State University


Larry McMurtry, long considered an outstanding regional writer, has become quite famous nationwide since his Lonesome Dove won the Pulitzer Prize in 1987. And now Lera Patrick Tyler Lich gives us a short survey of McMurtry's fiction and of the Texas influence on it in her new book, Larry McMurtry's Texas: Evolution of a Myth. By exploring McMurtry's roots, Lich discusses "the effects of environment on a writer and his characters." This literary biography furnishes valuable insights into both McMurtry and his fiction.

The first two chapters of Lich's book delve into McMurtry's early life in and around Archer City, which becomes the fictional Thalia in his first three novels. Chapter three addresses McMurtry's residence in Houston and the fiction that resulted, while chapter four deals with McMurtry's residences outside Texas. In the last chapter Lich "explains [McMurtry's] return to Texas and his choice of a home in the mythic past of the Western frontier." But by returning to his roots, McMurtry paradoxically manages to universalize the Texas myth, depicting it as "a rambunctious brother to the American myth — the promise of a land of independence, adventure, and profit."

Lich's book, though short, makes a welcome addition to the body of literary criticism regarding Larry McMurtry's works. Her prose style remains clear throughout; she avoids overusing the jargon of her trade. Overall, Lich succeeds in her purpose — to present the influence of environment on the works of a writer.

Betty Haley
Stephen F. Austin State University

The American Revolution comes to life through the depiction of major campaigns and battles in the readable maps in this volume. They are accompanied by one-page essays that give precise analysis of battlefield action.

*A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution*, a collaboration between Craig Symonds and cartographer William Clipson, is a vivid portrayal of the primary battles of the American revolution attuned to understandable maps. These maps, drawn in black, gray, white, blue, and dark blue, are easy to read. Basic symbols indicate troop strengths, rail lines, lines of advancement, and relevant towns. The maps are arranged chronologically and are located on the left side of the book, which makes for easy reference. The discussion in the accompanying essays refers to the maps. Characters are brought to life in these essays by the use of photographs.

The book is composed of four parts, with a short introduction preceding each section. Part One covers the period from the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775, to the action at Princeton, January 2, 1777, and discusses the early campaigns, emphasizing the struggles of George Washington in organizing his inexperienced army to fight the British veterans, including the problem of desertion. Part Two focuses on the turning point of the war with the defeat of Major General John Burgoyne in the fall of 1777, and covers the battles up to the Siege of Philadelphia, December 1777. Symonds stresses in this section that despite the discrepancies among American officers, the year proved to be a turning point in the war. Part Three explains how the American Revolution turned into a global war by the entrance of France in the war on the side of the Americans. It moves from the battle at Monmouth, June 28, 1778, to the naval battles in the European waters. Finally, Part Four discusses how the war moved southward as England tried to influence the Southern colonies. An epilogue sums up the final actions that led to the signing of the Peace of Paris, and the end of the War for American Independence.

Although the Atlas does not have an index, a brief bibliography for a suggested reading list on the subject of each map, as well as a key to map symbols, is provided. With its clear narrative and simple maps, this book, written more for an average person with an interest in the American Revolution, would still be useful to anyone except perhaps the most specialized of researchers.

Teresa York
Lufkin, Texas