BOOK REVIEWS


For generations of teachers and students of Texas history, *Texas, The Lone Star State*, now in its fifth edition (1988), has served as the "standard" text. This new book by Robert A. Calvert of Texas A&M University and Arnoldo De León of Angelo State University offers an alternative that many will likely welcome, so a brief comparison of the two texts seems in order.

First, whereas the older text consists of a mix of chronological and topical chapters, *The History of Texas* is organized strictly along chronological lines. Second, Calvert and De León devote somewhat less space to the early nineteenth century and give much more attention to the twentieth century. For example, they cover the years from 1821 to 1846 in two chapters and approximately fifty pages and devote six chapters and more than 200 pages to the twentieth century. By contrast, *Texas, The Lone Star State* has four chapters and nearly 100 pages on the 1821-1846 period and six chapters but only a little more than 100 pages on the twentieth century. Reactions to these differences in coverage will differ, of course, according to the interests and purposes of each instructor. But many will welcome a text that places greater emphasis on more recent history. Finally, there is the matter of price. *A History of Texas* is available in paper for less than $25.00; *Texas, The Lone Star State* is considerably more expensive.

Calvert and De León present a thoroughly multi-cultural view of Texas History. Virtually every chapter contains material on Tejanos and black Texans. The Indians receive attention where appropriate, and the authors describe the contributions of the many European immigrants in a predominantly Anglo-American society and culture. The text also reflects recent advances in women's studies in that it presents information on the role of women in Texas throughout the past.

Calvert and De León have incorporated in their text much of their own research as well as the newest work by other scholars. The inclusion of recent scholarship in social history and demography is especially notable. The interpretation of Reconstruction is thoroughly revisionist and should contribute to a better understanding of an era that is probably the most misunderstood and misrepresented in Texas history. Lists of major books and articles at the end of each chapter offer hundreds of the newest sources on Texas and make the book a useful bibliography as well as text.

Specialists in particular periods of Texas history will undoubtedly wish for more detail on their interests. East Texans, for example, may be dismayed to find no mention by name of Mission San Francisco de los
Tejas as the beginning of Spanish settlement in that region. Textbooks can hardly be all-inclusive, however, and Calvert and De León have replaced every piece of information that the reader might expect but not find with other interesting and significant material.

In short, this is a solid textbook that gives more attention to the twentieth century than is found in existing texts and reflects recent emphasis on the roles of minorities and women in the shaping of our history. All teachers of Texas history should review it for adoption.

Randolph B. Campbell
University of North Texas

The Bexar Archives (1717-1836): A Name Guide, by Adan Benavides, Jr., Editor (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713) 1990. P. 1040. $60.00 Hardcover.

All serious researchers dedicated to the Spanish colonial and Mexican periods of Texas history are acquainted with the Bexar Archives. Scholars of senior rank, before the advent of the guides to the microfilmed edition, will recall exasperating experiences trying to reconcile information listed on calendar cards with the content of the documents themselves. Now, after years of patient waiting for the fulfillment of a promise, Adán Benavides has provided a legitimate shortcut to preliminary research with a hefty volume entitled The Bexar Archives (1717-1836): A Name Guide.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, convinced that the Spanish and Mexican records occupied too much space in the courthouse (not to mention their haphazard arrangement), the governing commissioners of Bexar County determined that the then-recently established University of Texas at Austin was a suitable depository. Accordingly, in September 1899, the commissioners approved an agreement by which the Bexar Archives would be transferred to the university for preservation, organization, translation, and consultation — until the county government could construct an adequate depository. Just prior to the actual transfer, the commissioners ordered retention of a corpus of documents deemed necessary for the conduct of county business, such as land deeds, marriage records, wills and estates, and Spanish mission records. Separated from the crates conveyed to Austin, these records, popularly called the Bexar County Archives, remained loosely clustered until 1923 when Carlos E. Castaneda inventoried their contents for his master’s thesis project, later published as A Report on the Spanish Archives in San Antonio.

Meanwhile, the massive bulk of the Bexar Archives, when finally inventoried and classified, consisted of 80,795 documents representing an aggregate of more than 250,000 manuscript pages and over 4,000 pages of printed matter. A half-century later, beginning in the 1960s, the custodians of the Bexar Archives launched an ambitious copying project that culminated in a microfilmed edition of 172 reels and that became available
to researchers at other institutions either through interlibrary loan or outright purchase.

The seminal idea for a guide to names associated with the Bexar Archives probably occurred to several individuals at different times, but it was Adán Benavídes who persistently explored the possibility of uniting the skills of computer technicians with the resources of sympathetic benefactors to assist him in transforming his concept into a functional research tool. To achieve a modicum of control over an undertaking that easily could have discouraged the most talented innovators, Benavídes consulted both the product and the chief compilers of the Documentary Relations of the Southwest Project at the University of Arizona. Encouraged by their success, he opted to isolate 30,000 manuscripts in the Bexar Archives that fitted the conceptual framework for extracting data about individuals whose surnames (and in some instances only a given name), were alphabetized, followed by a litany of activities with corresponding dates and microfilm reel and frame numbers. For researchers in pursuit of topics instead of names, Don Adán included a minutely detailed index and a glossary of highly specialized terms. A feature that is truly commendable about this guide is the intermittent appearance of women’s names which shatters the myth that Hispanic society in Texas was exclusively male-oriented.

For remarkable dedication and perseverance that resulted in The Bexar Archives: A Name Guide, Adán Benavídes has won the respect and gratitude of researchers everywhere.

Félix D. Almaráz, Jr.
The University of Texas at San Antonio


At last a glaring gap in Texas historiography has been admirably filled. Now the only slave state without a book-length study of slavery is Delaware (which probably does not need one). But Randolph B. Campbell’s An Empire for Slavery is not just a space filler. It is an exemplary classic in both content and style.

Campbell covers Texas slavery from the arrival of Estevanico in the Narvaez expedition in 1528 to the simultaneous arrivals of Major General Gordon Granger and freedom on “Juneteenth,” June 19, 1865; but his major focus is slavery’s development as increasing numbers of Southern Anglo-Americans flooded into the area from 1828 to 1865, some of whom brought with them their slaves and ideas. After this overview, he switches to topical chapters on which Texans’ economics and law, attitudes and defensiveness about slavery, the slaves’ physical (work, responsibility, and
treatment) and social (family, religion, music, behavior, and desire for freedom) situations, and the impact of the Civil War culminating in freedom on Juneteenth (still a holiday for many Afro-American Texans). This dual (chronological/topical) approach allows him to describe and explain both institutions and individuals, actions and attitudes, Afro-Americans [he uses the term, Negro] (slave and free) and Anglo-Americans (owners and non-owners of slavers). He covers all the major topics and addresses all the important issues.

Just as impressive as the book’s comprehensive content are Campbell’s styles of exhaustive scholarship and balanced presentation. Along with traditional manuscript and published sources and existing scholarship, Campbell (the forthcoming Texas Handbook’s county history editor) effectively uses probate, tax rolls, and other county records as well as W.P.A. slave narratives. While not an econometrician, he has made numerous statistical studies which he summarizes in seventeen tables and nine maps. But he balances these numbers with personal anecdotes and analysis to preserve his narrative flow. Even more notable is his even, balanced tone and approach in dealing with a subject which inevitably arouses strong feelings. Although he repeatedly stresses his assumption of slavery’s immorality, he sees history (and organizes this book) not as a theory to be proved, but as a series of questions to be answered, which may encourage the study’s use as a textbook. Even with the subject/topical access limitations of its index, An Empire for Slavery is enjoyable, imperative reading for scholars of Southern, Afro-American, or Texas history. Those who know “Mike” personally because of his participation in sessions of the East Texas Historical Association will be especially interested in the most recent example of his scholarship.

Robert G. Sherer
Tulane University


Andreas Reichstein, American scholar at the University of Freiburg, West Germany searched for the contributing factor which led to the Texas Revolution. He examined traditional views that the conflict was caused by cultural and political differences; westward expansion of the frontier; manifest destiny; and a conspiracy to expand the slave states. His criticism of these interpretations was that no foundation was laid for the events which conflicted, each treated the revolution as part of a greater phenomenon, and all left many unanswered questions.

Reichstein’s book is a comprehensive study of persons, motivations, and conditions which brought about the Texas Revolution. Popular history
buffs may find this ponderous reading, but to those interested in the why of history, it will be fascinating because he used material never before published. He found "a bundle" of factors bound by common interest in Texas real estate speculation, yet he credited Stephen F. Austin's change in attitude from one of cooperation to confrontation as that spark which united the Texans to oppose the Mexicans.

This outsider's objective analysis of one of the most important events in Texas, United States, and Mexican history added Europe's vested interests in the Texas Revolution and brought an international dimension to those seemingly local events of 1836. Jeanne Willson should be praised for her gratis translation of the German publication which allowed this important historical contribution to be shared beyond the German reading public.

Linda Hudson
Longview, Texas


Historians have long needed a reliable study of the San Antonio campaign of 1835. Using a solid array of primary and secondary accounts, Alwyn Barr has filled that gap with his brief Texans in Revolt: The Battle for San Antonio, 1835. As the conflict between many Texans and the rest of Mexico took a violent turn that fall, skirmishing broke out around strategic Bexar. The Texans, having failed to lure the Mexican defenders from their positions, nearly lifted their loose siege until informed that their opponents were in even worse condition. The ensuring house-to-house struggle finally ended with the negotiated surrender of Mexican forces.

Barr's analysis is generally persuasive; his brief biographical sketches and discussions of the soldiers' backgrounds are particularly good. He concludes that the Texans, whose army remained in a constant state of flux due to command changes, reinforcements, and withdrawals, outnumbered their foes until after the assault began. Stressing the superior firepower of the rifle-toting Texans, Barr also captures the peculiarly democratic nature of the rebel forces — commanders explained and counseled rather than ordered.

Less convincingly, Barr argues that morale problems forced General Martín Perfecto de Cos to surrender. Although this may have been the case, the monograph's Texas slant allows the reader little feel for events behind Mexican lines. Barr's gentle treatment of Cos, who handled his cavalry poorly and failed to secure sufficient supplies, also seems overly generous. But these are minor points. Barring the discovery of new
materials illuminating the Mexican perspective, this will be the standard account of the San Antonio campaign of 1835.

Robert Wooster
Corpus Christi State University


Concentrating primarily on events between 1900-1920, this important study traces the involvement of Protestants, mainly American missionaries and Mexican ministers and converts, in the Mexican Revolution. Influenced by Max Weber, Deborah J. Baldwin, an historian at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, is more concerned about the ideological than theological and philosophical aspects of Protestantism. That is, Protestantism as a force for sociopolitical change is more important to her work than specific beliefs about God and the human condition. And as Baldwin sees it, Protestantism in Mexico, pointing toward liberal democracy, economic advancement, and educational reform, easily coalesced with the nascent liberalism of the Mexican Revolution.

Although Protestantism in Mexico never embraced more than two percent of the population at this time Baldwin convincingly insists that it was a significant force. Protestant missionary activity centered in northern Mexico, especially along major transportation and commercial routes, and won converts among the middle-class, particularly artisans and teachers. Coincidentally, the revolution was not only intense in this region, but also had the support of local Protestants. As Baldwin shows, however, American missionaries and Mexican Protestants contributed to the revolution in different ways.

Prior to 1905, American missionaries, indebted to the Porfirio Diaz regime for allowing them into the country, avoided political commentary altogether. This changed as younger men and women, influenced by the social gospel movement back home, arrived on the field. Convinced that salvation was social as well as individual, this new generation was less inclined to ignore social and economic injustices. Ultimately, as the revolution became more violent, American missionaries generally returned home, where they lobbied President Woodrow Wilson to grant diplomatic recognition to Venustiano Carranza and to abstain from military intervention in Mexico. Meanwhile, Mexican Protestants actively joined the revolutionary cause. Having already broken with tradition on the issue of religion, it was relatively easy for them now to pursue drastic economic and political changes. They usually took civilian positions in the Carranza government, often devoting themselves to educational programs.

Though somewhat repetitious, Baldwin has produced a useful book.
Her research in Mexican and American religious newspapers and archives is thorough, and her prose, while not scintillating, is clear and free of jargon. Enhanced by numerous tables, maps, an adequate index, and notes at the end of each chapter, this work will be of interest primarily to scholars.

John W. Storey
Lamar University


In this volume, revision of a University of Texas doctoral dissertation (1986), James Marten, assistant professor of history at Marquette University, describes the role and activity of Texas dissenters during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Marten contends that these individuals dissented from majority opinion for a variety of reasons. Some were extremely high-minded individuals dedicated to preservation of the American Union and opposed to secession on principle. Others, fearful of social or political implications of secession and war, merely wished to protect their own self interest. Most of these Texas dissenters did not advocate the end of slavery or equality for blacks. "A common denominator," writes Marten, "was the explicit or implied criticism of southern society" (p. 31).

Much of the information presented by Marten has been published in earlier works. The story of prominent Texas Confederate Unionists such as James W. Throckmorton, Ben Epperson, Sam Houston, and William Pitt Ballinger has been told before as has also that of Texans Andrew J. Hamilton, George Washington Paschal, and Edmund J. Davis who gave active support to the Union cause. Marten does provide a service by bringing the story of these individuals together in one work. He also shows that most of these dissenters later united with their former Confederate adversaries in support of white supremacy and the Lost Cause.

The work is well written and the author has consulted most of the major primary and secondary sources.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University


Texas has been a magnet for the type of character the authors have chosen to use as a foil about which to weave a story of the life and times
of East Texans immediately before, during, and after the founding of the Republic. Semi-scoundrel, entrepreneur, land speculator, man of affairs, family man, but ready at the least provocation to drop everything to get into the thick of a brawl or a full fledged gun firing fight, that was John S. Roberts.

When he wasn't engaged in fighting at the Battle of New Orleans, the Fredonia Rebellion, the Battle of Nacogdoches, the Storming of Bexar, Cherokee Indian campaigns, and the Cordovan Rebellion, he found time to wheel and deal in land, operate a mercantile business, be a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and spend endless hours in court battles relating to some of his rather shady and unethical business and land manipulations. The reader is constantly kept in suspense wondering in what next scrape Roberts will find himself.

One very important and interesting feature of the book is the copious, well-researched set of footnotes that follow each chapter. Every person named is completely identified as to his background and place in Texas history.

A first reading is pure enjoyment. A second reading makes you aware of the tremendous amount of factual Texas history you have absorbed.

Along with the other East Texans such as Houston, Rusk, and Starr, John S. Roberts may now take a place as a true Texian patriot.

Charles K. Phillips
Nacogdoches, Texas


Archivists such as myself derive a great deal of pleasure from seeing primary papers published, and this book brings much joy indeed. Compiled from 120 letters of Lieutenant Napoleon Jackson Tecumseh Dana written to his wife, this narrative of grand adventure on the border of Texas and into Mexico is a treasure of information about army life, military tactics, Mexican-Texan relations, and the day-to-day toil of the Mexican-American War.

Dana’s writings represent the largest such collection of Mexican-American War letters discovered to date, and his keen eye for detail and description only add to the quality of his work. A graduate of West Point at the age of twenty in 1842, Dana brought an enthusiastic, yet critical eye to the military world. Much of the story he told of his experiences in Texas occurred on the banks of the Nueces, at Fort Brown, and across the Rio Grande into Mexico. He provides a good, but second-hand account of the Battle of Palo Alto and, with much detail, a wonderful eye-
witness story of the cattle of Monterrey. Wounded at the battle of Cerro Gordo, Dana ended his saga by returning home. As editor Ferrell explains in the book's introduction, Dana lived out a long career in banking, in the military during the Civil War, and in government service.

Although the editor selected only the passages from Dana's long epistles which dealt with the war, he left just enough of Dana's very personal remarks to his wife to make the reading surprisingly titillating. He also allows us to recognize Dana's racism and perhaps very typical Americanism of the mid-nineteenth century. An extremely readable work, thanks to Ferrell's modernizations of spelling and insertions of paragraphs, *Monterrey is Ours!* will be useful for both primary research and general classroom reading.

David J. Murrah
Texas Tech University

*Shield of Republic/Sword of Empire, A Bibliography of United States Military Affairs, 1783-1846*, by John C. Frederiksen, compiler (Greenwood Press, Inc. 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881) 1990. Bibliography. Index. P. 446. $65.00 Hardcover.

This excellent bibliography covers the six decades of American military and naval experience between the American Revolution and the Mexican-American War and is an update, extension, and supplement to the author's previous work, *Free Trade and Sailors' Rights*.

Divided into five chapters, the first is a bibliography of the entire sixty-year period and is strictly chronological with wars segregated from political and diplomatic events. Chapters Two and Three deal with the United States Army and Navy. Sub-topics include administration, personnel, policy matters, etc. Chapter Four could be entitled "Miscellany," for it includes all that the compiler could not place anywhere else. The compiler uses the title, "Militia, Canada, Indians." Finally, Chapter Five is devoted entirely to biographies.

Frederiksen suggests that this bibliography be used as a companion piece to his earlier work. This reviewer regrets that this present volume does not supplant completely the other; however, that is the only criticism and perhaps costs. Together, both volumes contain about 12,000 items. Entries are cross-referenced and the indices complete. In sum, this bibliography is welcome, and it should remain the standard for many years.

James W. Pohl
Southwest Texas State University

"I think ... that during the whole war our president & many of our generals really & actually believed that there was this mysterious Providence always hovering over the field & ready to interfere on one side or the other & that prayers & piety might win its favor from day to day ... But it was a weakness to imagine that victory could ever come in even the slightest degree from anything except our own exertions" (p. 59), said General Edward Porter Alexander in the original manuscript of Fighting For the Confederacy. Written only for his children and a few intimate friends, the account of his experiences with both the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee can be blunt. "I have not hesitated to criticise our moves ... no matter what General made them" (p. xvi) he wrote to his sister.

With extensive editing and revision, the manuscript became the basis for the classic Memoirs of a Confederate. Here skilfully reassembled and compiled. Alexander's original commentary is delightful.

Intelligent and perceptive, his patience sometimes wore thin: "I see in Gen. Jackson’s ... conduct a sort of faith that he had God on his side & could trust to Him for victory without overexerting himself & his men" (p. 97). He could be prudent: "General Lee in person ... came up to where I was on the line & for the first time I saw him in a temper ... what it was about I never have exactly found out yet ... the old man seemed to be feeling so real wicked I concluded to retain my ideas exclusively in my own possession" (p. 213). Concerning General Polk: "The Lord had made him a splendid bishop ... so all our pious people (with) the conviction that the Lord would surely favor a bishop ... made him a Lieutenant General which the Lord had not" (p. 289).

Jewels like these abound throughout — no one has ever said it better!

Bob Bradfield
Boulder, Colorado


Nathaniel Lyon (1818-1861), Connecticut born, West Point graduate, and career infantry officer, died at the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Missouri, on August 10, 1861. He played a minor role in mid-nineteenth-century military history and became a "hero" only because
he was the first of his rank to be killed in the nation's most significant war.

In a thorough, yet rather unsympathetic biography (but then Lyon engendered little sympathy), Christopher Phillips has provided a superbly researched, well-written, and generally judicious account of this "damn-ed yankee" whose army service included the Seminole War, the Mexican-American War, "Bleeding Kansas" (Lyon was anti-slavery and anti-black), and the frontier.

Driven by a perverted sense of duty, one Iowa volunteer private described Lyon as a man "devoted to duty, who thought duty, dreamed duty, and had nothing but 'duty' on his mind." (p. 246). Lyon, whose punishments bordered on the sadistic, was roundly hated by the soldiers who served under him. Dr. William A. Hammond, a post surgeon, observed that he had never met a man "as fearless and uncompromising in the expression of his opinions" and "so intolerant of the views of others." An "incorrigible person," Hammond believed if Lyon had lived in the fifteenth century he would have been burned at the stake (p. 82).

Because of Lyon's St. Louis actions in attempting to keep Missouri within the northern orbit, Phillips contends that he was largely responsible for the internecine conflict that raged in that state during the Civil War. This latter judgment may be somewhat unfair as there were many additional factors which led to Missouri's own civil war.

The major flaw with this monograph is the lack of maps, especially for Lyon's participation in the Missouri conflict. It is incredibly difficult to follow battle sequences only from a narrative. Nevertheless, Phillips' study of Lyon's life will surely be the standard account for many years to come.

Barry A. Crouch
Gallaudet University


_Cracker Culture_ attempts to explain the differences between Southerners and Northerners prior to the Civil War. The author concludes that the most important cultural distinctions originated when Celts from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Cornwall permanently established their way of life in the antebellum South.

McWhiney reveals the distinctive cultural elements. These are settlement, heritage, herding, hospitality, pleasures, violence, morals, education, progress, and worth. Based upon an excessive reliance on travelers accounts — some of which were biased and of doubtful value — these chapters identify and compare Southern and Celtic lifestyles. For example, "the rash and the insolent in the Old South as well as in premodern
Scotland, Ireland, and Wales rarely died in bed, unless put there by a mortal wound.” (p. 170) McWhiney believes that “from the Celtic pastoral tradition emanated a whole network of interrelated customs and beliefs that separated Celts and Southerners from Englishmen and Yankees” (p. 78). He argues unconvincingly that a Southerner “could not understand why anyone would work when livestock could make a living for him; indeed he doubted the sanity of people who labored when they could avoid it.” (p. 79)

*Cracker Culture* discusses values. As the two sections neared the Civil War, white Southerners were “more hospitable, generous, frank, courteous, spontaneous, lazy, lawless, militaristic, wasteful, impractical, and reckless than Northerners who were in turn more reserved, shrewd, disciplined, gauche, enterprising, acquisitive, careful, frugal, ambitious, pacific and practical.” (p. 268)

While there may be some merit to this conclusion and to the importance of Celtic culture, other significant factors existed in the South. In evaluating the impact of the Celts, regretfully ignored was the significance of agriculture with slavery and the impact of the Southern environment.

Readers of the *Journal* will find a fascinating, complex book with interesting anecdotes. While thought provoking and readable, this book is not a definitive explanation of the origins of Southern or East Texas culture.

Irvin M. May Jr.
Blinn College at Bryan and
College Station


During the Summer of 1862, beleaguered General Robert Lee, still pinned to the Peninsula by General George B. McClellan’s huge army, directed the already-famous Stonewall Jackson to debauch from the Shenandoah Valley into north-central Virginia to counter the threat posed to the left flank and rear of the Army of Northern Virginia by a new Federal force assembling there under General John Pope. The bombastic Pope, just arrived from the West, was threatening confiscation of food supplies and retaliation against civilians for depredations committed by Confederate guerrillas — measures which would become common two years later. Lee’s letter to Jackson said, “I want Pope to be suppressed!”

Pope’s army had a two-to-one advantage in numbers, but Lee slipped General A.P. Hill’s bill division out of the Richmond lines and dispatched it to bolster Jackson. Now the crusty Confederate commander envisioned a sudden strike against a portion of the widely scattered Federal
forces, hoping to defeat them in detail. Instead, when a Federal column made contact with Jackson’s force at Cedar Mountain, the aggressive Federals struck first, driving the astonished Confederates back. The Federal assault was unsupported; when Hill’s Division hurried forward, the Confederates launched a counterattack which drove the Federals from the field.

Inconclusive, as were so many Civil War battles, the nearly-forgotten Battle of Cedar Mountain was a bloody encounter for the time: casualties totalled more than 4000. When the Fifth Texas camped on the battlefield a month later, a favorite occupation was to stand in one location and see who could pick up the most bullets without moving his feet — the winner collected more than forty.

Well-known historian Robert K. Krick has produced a tightly-woven narrative, based on letters, diaries, post-war memoirs, and official reports. His book’s only fault lies in the assumption that readers already are familiar with the engagement and need only to be filled in on the details. A map of northern Virginia for proper strategic location is needed badly; graphics of the battlefield itself are very good. Photographs included are not particularly helpful and many, unfortunately, did not reproduce well.

Bob Bradfield
Boulder, Colorado


It is estimated that over 7,000 books have been written about Abraham Lincoln, which is probably more than any human being in history. One would think that the last thing we need on Lincoln is another book, especially an encyclopedia. But because there is so much written on this great American is the reason we need this work by Mark E. Neely, Jr. We need a fact-filled volume that can be used for those questions on Lincoln that pop up every so often and this work certainly fills the bill.

Compiled by one of the foremost Lincoln scholars of our time, this large, 356-page volume is superbly written and illustrated. Each entry is concise, to the point, and opinionated. Neely not only profiles Lincoln’s contemporaries, he covers all the important Lincoln’s advocates of his and our time, including writers, artists, and collectors. Every facet of Lincoln’s life is covered including how he really felt about such things as family and friends. Just what was Lincoln’s views on race, the Civil War, his in-laws, etc.? The Assassination, Texas Annexation, and Reconstruction are a few of the entries covered in great detail. Complete listings, state by state, of the result of Lincoln’s elections and why he ran and why he won are here. Space limitations do not begin to permit me to detail the complete scope of this work.
This is not just another Lincoln book of facts. This is really very enjoyable reading. Years of research and editing of the highly acclaimed “Lincoln Lore” by Neely has resulted in a first-class publication. If you are an avid Lincoln buff, this book is a must. If you are interested in American History, the Civil War, or just curious about the life of the saviour of the Union, this book is still a must.

Mike Cavanaugh
Cinnaminson, New Jersey


Typical Texas history such as that written by James T. DeShields, Carl Coke Rister, and J.H. Wilbarger pictured the Comanches as frontier raiders. The crafty varmints struck frontier outposts like the one settled in 1836 by the Parker clan, committed atrocities, and then fled retribution at the hands of John S. Ford, Earl Van Dorn, or Sul Ross. According to the author, this perspective prevented any appreciation of these Indians or why Cynthia Ann Parker chose to become one of them. He used narratives of the original raid and of the return to the Parker family to reinterpret her story.

Cynthia Ann Parker, who was nine years of age at the time, saw the murder, mutilation, and rape and was carried off together with four other captives, but chose to remain with the Comanches for twenty-five years. She married a war chief, bore at least three children, and was an unwilling repatriate after the fight with Sul Ross and the rangers on the Pease River in 1860. Together with her daughter (Prairie Flower), Cynthia Ann Parker was returned to the Parker family, but she never found her place with them. And when the baby caught a fever and died, the mother soon followed from grief. Only later was she allowed to return to her people when her famous son, Quanah, had her reamins moved from the Fosterville cemetery (near Poynor) to Fort Sill. Her case excited widespread interest as seen in a grant of land and appropriations for a pension and for a monument.

In examining archives and books and in interviewing descendants, Ramsay found much more about the recapture and death of Cynthia Ann Parker than her life with the Comanches. The author fleshed out her story with other captive narratives and the Comanche life, but he found little direct evidence extant of Cynthia Ann Parker with the Comanches. The book also needed a map.

William Enger
Trinity Valley Community College

With gentle yet clear and steady wisdom, Mildred Lowery has captured much of what growing up in Texas, particularly East Texas, was in earlier times. Her memoirs of that now vanishing life are an important contribution. They preserve true Americana for future generations.

Lowery’s style is direct, open, honest. She knows well the importance of verbal economy. Her ability to use illustrative anecdotes enhances this small volume’s charm and value as a meaningful recording of typical experiences in Texas.

Writers in the Anglo-American tradition long have made effective use of metaphoric analyses of the human condition by focusing on seasonal holidays. Lowery understands this established practice. Her accounts of shopping for Christmas presents evoke an innocence as well as a wisdom of the heart with which many Texans — especially those past fifty years of age — will identify immediately and warmly.

From Shawnee Prairie is a small treasure. Readers caught up in the hurry of freeway existence will find it a comfort; those who grew up in circumstances which gave Lowery the heart’s wisdom to write such a moving remembrance will be grateful for her skill in preserving much that is important to the understanding of who and what we Texans are.

Kenneth W. Davis
Texas Tech University


Published in 1939, Cattle Kings of Texas was reissued in 1968 and again, but with a new foreword and index, in 1989. The book is a collection of articles about many of the state’s leading cattle raisers of the nineteenth century which first appeared in The Cattleman Magazine. Included are such prominent ranchers as C.C. Slaughter, John Chisum, Shanghai Pierce, Murdo Mackenzie, Richard King, and Charles Goodnight. The articles are not biography in the strictest sense, but they do recount some of the major episodes in each rancher’s life, with an emphasis on ill-fortune, trouble, and disaster encountered by the subject of each tale. The book has more than one hundred photographs of western scenes by Erwin E. Smith and W.D. Smithers. It contains few of the scholarly trappings often associated with studies of this kind; indeed, it was written for a general audience.

It is an interesting book that has remained popular, especially among young readers. In some ways, that is too bad, for the book still contains the same errors of fact and misconceptions that first appeared in 1939,
and it is woefully insensitive toward Indians and other minority groups. Nonetheless, many people insist that the book is a classic of Texas history.

Paul H. Carlson
Texas Tech University


Wanda Landrey's enthusiasm in compiling these yarns and recipes is evident on every page and this is much more than just another regional cook book. She interviewed 140 persons who lived or worked in the dozen places she featured. From a unique black hotel in Trinity with embroidered napkins and crystal, to an antebellum health resort that featured wild game, to the ordinary Harvey House restaurants in railroad depots, Landrey touched on a Big Thicket life few persons know existed. She tested the delicious recipes that vary from plain to exotic fare and that gave each place its own personal charm. Many photos add to the narrative and a map indicates the locations.

Other aspects of boardinghouse life included boiling sheets to get rid of grim left by roughnecks. The stories of hardships, eccentrics, lumber barons, romances, and how Ginger Rogers entertained local boarders until she was kidnapped, add spice to this educational, entertaining, and amusing book for anyone interested in the Big Thicket, good food, or the social history of small town life.

Next to teaching school, running a boarding house was the most respectable way women earned their living in the past and most of the places were owned or operated by women. It was more profitable than teaching school, but a lot more work. As Landrey meandered through the Thicket for ten years collecting this material, her labor of love became a treasure with a mystique that defies description — like the Big Thicket. I liked it!

Linda Sybert Hudson
Longview, Texas

"Hello, Sucker!" The Story of Texas Guinan, by Glenn Shirley. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709), 1989. Photographs. Index. P. 124. $15.95 Hardcover.

"Hello, Sucker!" The Story of Texas Guinan could be accurately titled The Life and Times of Texas Guinan. While the reader might not come away with a perception of the real-life person underneath the flamboyant public persona, a very complete coverage of her entertainment career and the times that spawned it is provided. Texas Guinan and the
era were equally flashy and outrageous, and probably no character of the
times better personified the gaudy, bawdy period.

Glenn Shirley covers Texas Guinan's life and career from her birth in Waco, Texas, in 1884 to her death in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1933. Mary Louise Cecilia Guinan became known as "Texas" Guinan at age fourteen while participating in a frontier day celebration in McLennan County. From that point Texas pursued a career in entertainment that encompassed wild west shows, vaudeville, Broadway musicals — including a Ziegfield extravaganza — and the movies. She could do it all — ride, rope, shoot, and sing. The author covers it all and in doing so gives us a vivid picture of a background of Tin Pan Alley, Broadway theatrical companies and personalities, and the birth of the movie industry and the Hollywood Western.

Shirley also covers the best known career of Texas Guinan, that of speak-easy queen, complete with photographs and newspaper clippings. All of which makes a lively chronicling of the problems officials had of riding herd on a rebellious society intent on flaunting Prohibition.

When Texas Guinan died on a tour through the Northwest with a troupe of forty fan-dancers her body was returned to Broadway to lie in state. Over twelve-thousand people filed by to pay tribute. The stage and radio entertainer, Jack Pearl, commented, "She was the most lovable and honorable girl Broadway has ever known."

Glenn Shirley has done an in-depth coverage of Texas Guinan’s entertainment career and in so doing has presented a vivid social history of a most colorful period in America’s story.

Hazel Shelton Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University