Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

1992-93 Texas Almanac & State Industrial Guide. The Dallas Morning News (A.H. Belo Corp., P.O. Box 655237, Communications Center, Dallas, TX 75265; Distributed by Gulf Publishing Co., Box 2608, Houston, TX 77252-2608) 1991. Illustrations. Index. P. 656. $10.95.

For more than 130 years, Texans have had valuable and up-to-date information on their state easily available in the Texas Almanac. From election returns to educational statistics, cotton production to stream flows, population to highway mileage — it’s all there. Especially in recent years, under the editorship of Mike Kingston, new features seem to appear each year. The 1992-93 edition is no exception. The editor himself prepared two of these — a brief history of Spain in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Colombus’s voyage and a breakdown of the political leanings of the state’s counties based on their voting records since 1968. Both are interesting and useful.

Less satisfactory is a history of Central Texas by associate editor Mary G. Crawford. Whatever Central Texas is (and Ms. Crawford never sets out its boundaries), San Antonio is not in it. By including the Alamo City, the author is never able to develop coherent themes in the economic, political, and cultural history of the area, since the history of San Antonio is so much at variance with the areas north of it because of the city’s Hispanic flavor and its economic and political ties to South Texas. There is a great deal of interesting and important information about the state’s heartland there, but the article leaves this reader rather unsatisfied as to what it all means.

No work this all encompassing can be without errors. Stephen F. Austin State University is not a part of the State University System, for example. But the real marvel is that year after year the Almanac provides readers a mass of accurate and useful information about the state. This year’s edition lives up admirably to a long tradition of excellence.

James V. Reese
Stephen F. Austin State University


In this, the first in a series of books the author plans on historic Texas towns, Joe Tom Davis effectively deals with a series of early communities that played pivotal roles in early Texas.

East Columbia, founded by Josiah Bell, was first known as Marion or Bell’s Landing in 1824, and eventually became a bustling shipping point and major steamboat landing.
A few miles to the west is old West Columbia, also founded by Bell. It became a hotbed of revolutionary sentiment and even served as the capital of the Republic of Texas at one time.

Egypt, the oldest town in Wharton County, reportedly got its Biblical name when early settlers found a fertile farming location but were later hammered by a severe drought.

Matagorda was founded by Elias Wrightman in 1829 and eventually became a major seaport and one of the largest towns in Texas. A new town, Bay City, took away much of Matagorda’s glory in the 1890s.

Texana was the first town in Jackson County and an important military post during the Texas Revolution. The Allen brothers sought the community as the center of their commercial development before they turned to Houston, but failed to reach an agreement with a landowner for property.

Helena was a haven for outlaws, rustlers, and gunfighters after the Civil War. The town died when the county’s richest rancher, whose son had been killed at Helena, played a role in diverting a railroad line away from the community.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


This is the second volume of a trilogy on European exploration and settlement in the Gulf of Mexico. Weddle’s _Spanish Sea_ appeared from the same press in 1985. This new work begins with La Salle’s incursion and concludes with French expulsion from the Gulf.

In advancing the established view that the Spanish only reacted to real or presumed French initiatives in Texas and the Northern Gulf, the author stresses a point easily overlooked today — in the early 1700s, Europeans still knew practically nothing about the region and its peoples. Only in the 1690s did a few Europeans recognize the true location and significance of the Mississippi.

Weddle is at his liveliest in describing the explorers’ hardships. Anyone who has struggled through the thickets and bottomlands of East Texas or Louisiana will sympathize with the hapless Spaniards and Frenchmen slogging through sloughs and bogs. The author emphasizes the different methods of the two groups. The Spanish, following traditions dating from the Christian Reconquest of Castile, favored large, carefully prepared overland expeditions (_entradas_); the French preferred traveling the network of rivers and streams by canoe and _bateau_. Weddle argues that the French
had the more sensible approach in the heavily wooded and well-watered country northwest of the Gulf.

The author concludes with a discussion of eighteenth-century map-making and the difficulty of determining longitude up to the 1760s, the "Edge of Enlightenment" (p. 326). He notes that although scholars have emphasized the better-known French accomplishments in mapping, "French dominance of eighteenth-century mapmaking, especially in relation to the Gulf of Mexico, was due in large measure to the successful exploitation of Spanish sources" (p. 346).

This well-written book goes down smoothly but a few problems deserve mention. The unity of the overall theme becomes harder to maintain when three European nations are carrying out unconnected ventures in different parts of the Gulf. Also, the final section on advances in map-making and navigation is valuable, but dangles uneasily from the end of this long narrative. Finally, the reader wishes repeatedly for a good reference map. Weddle remarks that the work was not meant to be a "map books" (p. x), but he uses modern placenames to make his account of explorations intelligible. The French Thorn needs a two-page map of the great crescent from Tampico to Tampa, giving current names of towns, rivers, and coastal features. The book contains over twenty interesting seventeenth- and eighteenth-century maps; surely a modern one, enabling the reader to follow expeditions easily, would not make this excellent work a "map book."

D. S. Chandler
Miami University

Illustrations of the Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America, by John Cassin; introduction by Robert McCracken Peck (Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, University Station, Austin, TX 78712) 1992. B/W & Color Photos. Notes. Index. P. 298. $34.95.

The name of Cassin is familiar to any bird-watcher who has visited western Texas, for the Cassin's Kingbird and Cassin's Sparrow are among the common birds of the region, yet few people know much about John Cassin himself. Even those who recognize him as one of the great ornithologists of the nineteenth century are unaware of his wonderful and rare book, Illustrations of the Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russian America. Now, with the publication of this well-done facsimile of the original, his major work has become accessible to all. Cassin prolifically gathered information about the wondrous new birds collected in the American West, and this book, first published in 1856 after considerable effort, is a synthesis of his vast knowledge. It contains the first color plates and descriptions for fifty birds new to science during this period. These were the days of exploration of the American West, when
dedicated naturalists undertook exciting and often dangerous expeditions into new terrain to collect specimens for museums back East. Much of this material was sent to Cassin at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, forming the basis for his book.

The significance of the publication of this facsimile cannot be overemphasized. Cassin was one of the great museum men of his century, renowned for his accuracy and depth of knowledge, but his original work is so rare that almost no one has seen it. Though our classification of birds has changed considerably, the original descriptions here are remarkably accurate and they formed the basis upon which later ornithologists built. The introduction tells us about Cassin himself and his relationships with the other ornithologists of the era, including Audubon and Baird. The plates vary in quality, but the rest of the art of George Gorgas White and William Hitchcock compares favorably with that of other better-known artists. Anyone who has enjoyed Audubon's work will find these lithographs interesting.

Many favorite Texas birds, included the Roadrunner and House Finch, were described in detail for the first time in this book. Others, such as the Plain Chachalaca and Green Jay, are highly-sought by bird-watchers visiting Texas and are found only in a few sanctuaries along the Rio Grande. In Cassin's day South Texas was a wild frontier, and it is fascinating to read about the pristine habitat, now highly altered. The pretty Black-Capped Vireo, here described for the first time, is now an endangered species making its last stand in the Texas Hill Country, causing conflict between developers and environmentalists.

The publication of this facsimile should be of great significance to historians, ornithologists, and nature-lovers alike. It is a critical historical link between the era of Audubon and modern ornithology; it offers a fascinating window on the changing world of bird study, and it gives us a brief glimpse of the natural splendors of an unsullied western North America.

David E. Wolf
Nacogdoches, Texas


In 1913 certain leaders of the Cattle Raisers Association sought to create more cohesiveness among the wide-spread ranchers of Texas. It was decided that a modest publication containing the biographical sketches of the leading men of the Cattle Raisers Association would help achieve this end as well as boost membership in the organization. Thus, through private subscription, *History of the Cattlemen of Texas* was published in
Dallas in 1914. It was an extremely limited edition — ninety-four copies — which were sold to subscribers and to print-on-demand customers.

The author of the book is unknown. However, Harwood Hinton, the reprint editor, strongly suspects it was Russell Evan Ward, a well-known rancher of San Antonio. Not only did Ward possess the academic capabilities of such a project, but he was an association stalwart. Further, according to Hinton, the best biographical sketch in the book is that of Ben Q. Ward, Russell’s father.

There are biographical sketches of fifty-nine men and one woman. All seem to have been association members and each had their interesting historical vignettes to relate. The sketches varied in length and the ages of those featured ranged from thirty-eight (Russell Ward) to seventy-seven (Charles Goodnight). Virtually all had started with little or nothing and had built vast cattle empires. The one woman singled out for “meritorious achievement” who, in spite of being widowed with seven children to raise, managed to expand her holdings to 40,000 fenced acres. Amazingly, fifty of the fifty-nine ranchers were associated with the banking business though few had formal education.

The book was a rarity from the beginning and the passage of time and natural attrition consigned the few copies to virtual oblivion. Fewer than a half-dozen copies emerged over the next fifty years. Several notable authorities on ranching were unaware of the book’s existence until it was rediscovered in the 1970s.

The re-print of History of the Cattlemen of Texas is the first of a series of projected reprints to be undertaken by the DeGolyer Library. This book is the beginning of the Library’s Cowboy and Ranch Life series and is published by the Texas State Historical Association. The series will make selected rare volumes available at comparable prices and will be hardback, facsimile reproductions of the originals. Cowboy, Texana, and western fans in general will eagerly await the rest of the series. Recommended for public, college, and university libraries.

Robert Glover
Tyler, Texas


Covered in the seventeenth volume of the Papers Concerning Robertson's Colony in Texas is Robertson's suit against Houston and the problems Robertson encountered to prove the number of families he had
brought to Texas in his effort to claim the premium lands due him for introducing each 100 families. He was entitled to five leagues and five labors for each multiple of 100 families he brought to Texas. Titles to the premium lands that he had selected and claimed were clouded by claims of individuals to eleven league grants from the Mexican government and Department of Coahuila y Texas. In telling his story, Dr. McLean is handicapped by the records concerning the validity of the eleven league grants having disappeared from the Robertson County courthouse and other records lost in a fire in the Milam County courthouse in 1874.

On page 59, McLean speculates, without the citation of any sources, that Sterling C. Robertson may have married at some time after December 18, 1837, when Robertson had had the Congress of Texas declare legitimate his two sons born of Fanny King and Rachel Smith. McLean thinks that since they were not mentioned in Robertson's will that he had "deliberately disinherited them," or possibly they had died or been murdered by the Indians; or that they had "married again," and that Robertson "felt they would be taken care of." This is all speculation.

A large part of the introduction to this volume deals with Mexican agents operating in Texas to stir up various Indians against the Anglo-American settlers in East Texas and in the Robertson Colony area, reaching down as low as the Guadalupe River. Numerous Indian attacks are reported; defense plans of the Texans are cited; and forts for protection are discussed. Among the attacks, McLean mentions that late in June 1840, a band of Cherokees and Kickapoo Indians from Oklahoma Indian Territory attacked the home of J.M. Tidwell, near present-day Calvert, killing Tidwell and capturing his wife and three children; "took them to Coffee's Trading House in Indian Territory" (p. 91.). McLean mistakenly places Coffee's Trading House in Indian Territory (present Oklahoma), when it was actually on the south bank of Red River in northern present Grayson County, Texas.

McLean gives as full an account as available records will permit of the education of Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson at Jackson College, Colombia, Tennessee, from April 1837 to May 1, 1839, and the problems encountered in financing his education. While in school in Tennessee, E.S.C. Robertson was much embarrassed when he learned that his father had acknowledged him as one of his illegitimate sons. Upon his return to Texas, he was appointed assistant clerk in the Post Office Department by Major Robert Carr, Postmaster General, effective May 10, 1839, and a month later promoted to chief clerk; and on October 9, 1839, to acting postmaster general of the Republic of Texas, relinquishing the office on January 8, 1840, to John Rice Jones, Jr., and resumed his former post of Chief Clerk to January 22, 1840, when he resigned, explaining that personal business required him to return home. He was still only nineteen years of age.
Volume XVII contains a list of postoffices in Texas in 1840, a list of postal routes, and the names of those who contracted to carry the mail. This volume is valuable for the documents that it contains.

Joseph Milton Nance
Texas A&M University


At his death in June 1991, Leland Sonnichsen had spent sixty years on the southwestern border, teaching, writing, and spreading good cheer. For forty years (1931-1972) the genial professor taught English at the University of El Paso and along the way became an authority on the history and folklore of the region. At retirement he moved to Tucson, edited the *Journal of Arizona History* for five years, then turned to fulltime writing. Sonnichsen also was a popular speaker, and in his lectures, public addresses, and talks frequently reflected on his experiences in academe and poked fun at the world about him. *Final Harvest*, assembled by Nancy Hamilton, a long time friend, presents seven essays (several afterthoughts) drawn from various sources — published and unpublished — that capture the essence of the man and provide a delightful sample of his opinions and convictions.

The slim volume opens with a foreword by Max Evans and an introduction by Nancy Hamilton. The fun then begins. Sonnichsen comments on his doctoral training at Harvard; his early years at UTEP; his philosophy of teaching; the folklore of academe; decadence in Western pulps; launching the Western Literature Association; and his writing interests in Arizona. A folklorist and self-styled "grass-roots historian," Leland preached that our personal folklore (i.e., our attitudes and assumptions) vitally influenced our lives. He never hesitated to draw on his knowledge of English literature, folksy humor, the Bible, and unforgettable interviews to tilt at people, situations, and ideas. He boldly chided J. Frank Dobie on his provincialism and needled Larry McMurtry for fadism. In his last years, despite fading eyesight, Sonnichsen published an array of books on a favorite subject — Western humor.

*Final Harvest* is a handsome paperback enhanced by a list of Sonnichsen’s books (28) and a photo of "Doc." Friends, admirers, and aficionados of the Southwest will treasure this personal portrait of a memorable individual.

Harwood P. Hinton
Texas State Historical Association

Although billed as a "new edition," this is essentially a reprint of the 1971 hardcover issue from University of Texas Press with few textual changes: primarily, a revised preface and two additional sentences at the very end. The main improvement is in appearance, with drawings by El Paso artist Jose Cisneros gracing the cover and the chapter headings. There is also a new, much-needed map.

Tragic Cavalier, drawn from the Bexar Archives and a wide range of secondary sources, was Almaraz's doctoral dissertation at the University of New Mexico in the late 1960s. It remains his most significant work. The focus is on provincial administration in the prerevolutionary period — dry reading for the nonspecialist — until the Hidalgo revolt in Mexico intensifies the drama.

Salcedo's role in the early years of the revolution was both ironic and tragic. Taken prisoner during the Las Casas rebellion at Bexar, he later presided over the military tribunal at Chihuahua that condemned Hidalgo. Salcedo's own death sentence, ultimately, arrived by way of the Neutral, Ground and East Texas with the Republican Army of the North.

Unfortunately, the author presupposes the reader's knowledge of much relevant history and geography. No clear indication is given of the location of certain key settlements, such as Presidio de Rio Grande (which the map places on the wrong side of the river) and La Bahia, which in 1812 was not on "Espiritu Santo Bay," as the author intimates (p. 164), but at Goliad.

Such criticism notwithstanding, the book fills a gap, as the author intended (p. ix), in "the story of Texas in the early nineteenth century."

Robert S. Weddle
Bonham, Texas

Pioneer Women in Texas, by Annie Doom Pickrell (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1991. Index. P. 488. $29.95.

In 1929 the E.L. Steck Company published Annie Doom Pickrell's Pioneer Women in Texas. Her work was among the first to present frontier life from the female viewpoint, and, as such, certainly remains significant enough to warrant last year's reprint by State House Press. The author, a graduate of The University of Texas and a descendant of early Texas settlers, presents seventy-five biographical sketches. She obtained information from research and interviews, but primarily through contributions by the friends and families of her subjects. Pickrell then organized her "data" into essay form, in the hope of preserving "a correct idea of
While the author deserves praise for such a groundbreaking contribution, the work is of questionable value by today's standards, and some readers will be disappointed. It offers an "old-fashioned," stereotypical, and even romantic view of women's lives in early Texas. Pickrell emphasizes the activities of political and military husbands while long-suffering wives frequently are relegated to the background. Even though the sketches are short and pithy, if somewhat tinged with purple prose, they are far from politically correct: Indians are bloodthirsty and "savages" (p. 5); women are innocent and charming; men are big and strong; and love, of course, is "inevitable" (p. 6). In addition, readers should be aware that the author allowed contributors final approval of their own essays, which may have resulted in some question of objectivity.

Still, when viewed in the context of its time, the book is quite remarkable. It is not important as great literature, but as a contribution to the social history of a region and an era. While far from definitive, it has served to inspire later generations of historians. So, despite its shortcomings, Pioneer Women in Texas is noteworthy as the ancestor, dinosaur though it may be, of women's studies in Texas.

Vista K. McCroskey
University of Texas at Tyler


Matilda Houstoun's travel account of her first trip to the Republic of Texas (1842-1843) is an excellent choice for the initial publication of The Library of Texas project. The purpose of the project is to present new, attractive, and scholarly editions of nineteenth-century primary Texas sources which will appeal to the general reader yet answer the needs of students and scholars.

The noted East Texas scholar, Marilyn McAdams Sibley, has admirably achieved the goal of The Library of Texas publisher in carefully editing and annotating Texas and the Gulf of Mexico; or, Yachting in the New World (1844) along with providing an Introduction which analyses the life and writings of Matilda Houstoun. The "Notes" correct factual errors and give information about people, places, and events mentioned by the author.

Mrs. Houstoun was an upper-class Englishwoman and wife of an English army officer, Captain William Houstoun, who loved adventure.
In *Texas and the Gulf of Mexico*, the author told about crossing the Atlantic on the private yacht, the *Dolphin*, visiting Texas, and returning to England. She also wrote about a number of ports-of-call, including New Orleans. It was the Republic of Texas, however, whose history she recounted at some length and which received the most attention in her armchair narrative.

Persons interested in East Texas will especially appreciate Mrs. Houstoun's observations since it was this section of Texas which she visited on her first journey to the New World. She had occasion to view only the Galveston-Houston area. Overall, Mrs. Houstoun held a quite favorably opinion of Texas and Texans, though not overlooking some faults. Like Texans themselves, she foresaw much promise in the future development of the Republic.

Marion Holt  
Lamar University


The University of Texas at Austin invited the distinguished historian Howard R. Lamar to give the first George W. Littlefield Lectures in American History in 1986. Those three lectures comprise this book. Their theme is that Texas was at first a crossroads from the American South to the Southwest and now from those areas and from Mexico to the world. Professor Lamar sees thus the "Texas Crossings" as a symbol of the state and of the American West: a mobility of free people always on the move, whether from the South into Texas in 1836 or from Mexico into the state in 1986. The myriad comings and goings of settlers, immigrants, and travelers contributed, according to Professor Lamar, to the state's uniqueness and represented the history of the nation as well as Texas.

The book is a synthesis of well-known historical events and facts brought together in a rather anecdotal fashion. As one has come to expect from the work of Professor Lamar, the essays are well-written with subtle humor and demonstrate a familiarity with and a wide-range of knowledge about Texas and the West. General readers and professional historians will enjoy and profit from the intellectually stimulating essays. They are a worthy start to a fine project honoring George Littlefield.

Robert A. Calvert  
Texas A&M University

Intrigue, materialism, factionalism, inequities, stubbornness, jealousies, ignorance, and sadness, are all words to describe the Western Cherokee group referred to as the "Texas Cherokees" in their plight to find a home in East Texas. Beginning with settlement in the undefined boundary area of the United States and Spanish Texas called the Neutral Ground, a group of Cherokees attempted to settle among other Indians, Anglos, and Spanish/Mexican claimants to the land and struggled for twenty years to get title to that land. Most of their problems came from within because of dissension over leadership and how that leadership and liaison dealt with Mexican officials. They were unable to get inter-tribal agreements worked out before Anglo-empresario grants were issued on the land on which they lived and the development of the Texas Revolution caught them in the middle, not being able to get all Cherokees to side with or against either of the belligerents. Since the setting is East Texas, this book gives an excellent history of the populating and problems concerning this for the 1820-1840 time period.

This book explains well the Cherokee leadership of Duwali ("Bowl") and Gatunwali ("Big Mush") and their attempts to be on the "right side at the right time." Also described is the Cherokee culture, including clan revenge, constant village movements, farming, and other Indian problems, specifically the conflict with Osage, Tawakoni, and Comanches. The worst blow to the Cherokee attempt to gain title to lands in East Texas came with the death of three major Mexican officials in 1832, Generals Teran and Piedras, and Governor Letona. The increasing population of Anglos flowing into Texas decreased their chances even more. The "Hopeful Accommodation" the author calls the period from 1828-1835 never worked out and left the Cherokees without title as the Texas Revolution was fought and won.

The description of Cherokee/Texas relations after the revolution is well described, blaming many of the problems on Duwali's mistake of continuing to play Texas against Mexico in the hope of being on the winning side throughout the first years of the Republic when Mexico was still at war with Texas. Disregarding Sam Houston's stand, an investigative committee reported in 1837 that the Cherokee were savage, ruthless, and not deserving of the lands in question. The repressive policy of President Mirabeau Lamar will take care of the Cherokee situation by defeating them and sending the remainder to Oklahoma in 1839. However, the author carries the remanent Cherokee problems through the Republic Era and future Mexican invasions.
This is an excellent brief book on the Cherokee story, tying it in with both Eastern and Western Cherokee differences and likenesses. The sketches add flavor and maps help the reader determine the declining boundaries of the disputed lands. The footnotes and bibliography include excellent primary and secondary sources on not only the Cherokee, but the Texas situation for the twenty years the Cherokee were here.

Linda Cross
Tyler Junior College


The Texas Rangers were but a small component of the forces collected under Zachary Taylor for the war with Mexico. They never numbered more than a few hundred, and often fell short of even that. However, the Rangers made contributions far beyond their numbers. This book describes the role of the Texas Rangers in the Mexican War.

Were Wilkins to discuss merely the battles, which he does ably, this work would be a short story. Fortunately, he includes the antecedent decades in Texas during which the Rangers acquired the skills and motivations that produced their notable success in Mexico.

It all started with the Indians, and it developed with Samuel Colt. Frontier defense against Comanche raids taught Texans that quickness and mobility compensated for small numbers. And Colt's five-shooter gave the Rangers an edge in firepower. Topping it off, the Rangers had motivation, the on-and-off conflict during the republican era with Mexican soldiers. And they remembered Mier. When war came, the Rangers were a prime fighting force, flexible, aggressive, confident if not cocky.

Rangers tended to come from the farms of Texas. They were volunteers who committed six months to the war against Mexico, and were unwilling to accept regular status, with its uniforms and discipline. They came to do a job, and when their time was up they often left. Manning was a problem, as was discipline, but results were praiseworthy.

The Rangers acquitted themselves nobly, especially in small units or as individuals. They had a knack for finding the enemy, finding the best routes, and making Taylor's campaign a success. And they had the right tacts and the right tools for the house-to-house battle of Matamoros. They were excellent fighters, if not very good soldiers.

Wilkins has spent years examining the role of the rangers. He has put together a nice little book that will be an asset to the literature.

J. Herschel Barnhill
Tinker AFB, Oklahoma

Published to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Diocese of Beaumont, the history of early Christianity brought to East Texas by the Franciscans is retold as an introduction to Catholicism in Southeast Texas. The histories of the various dioceses of Texas from Galveston, 1847, through Tyler, 1986, will be of interest to students of religious history.

Biographies of the three Beaumont bishops — Harris, Boudreaux, and Ganter — are included with accounts of their episcopacies, a section on the ethnic diversity of the diocese, and a section on education provide other historical details.

The human interest stories are particularly interesting. Our area of Texas at one time was part of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, headed by Bishop W.J. Nold, who lost his eyesight due to illness. Bishop John Morkovsky was appointed apostolic administrator to assist Bishop Nold. After being blinded in one eye by an assailant, Bishop Morkovsky was fond of saying that "ours is the only diocese in the whole Catholic Church that has two bishops and only one eye!" Another interesting fact: the current bishop of Beaumont is the only Catholic bishop in the world to also be an Aggie!

Although some minor date inaccuracies appear (Bishop Fiorenza was still in high school in 1947; Frs. Jacobson and Nolan died in 1978) the book presents the lives and experiences of the people of the Diocese of Beaumont in an interesting manner. This book will be a treasure in the home libraries of all Catholics in the Golden Triangle.

Rosemary Geraci
Lufkin, Texas


This book is a good sequel to Carlos Casteneda's seven-volume Catholic Heritage of Texas. The book brings us to the opening of the twentieth century. It shows the growth and development of the Roman Catholic Church in the state of Texas, as far as the jurisdictions and the hierarchy involved in the jurisdictions are concerned. The model of church studied is the hierarchical one. This leaves open a field for the study of the Roman Catholic Church in Texas as far as the grass roots level as model, a study that is needed.
James T. Moore follows the model that Castaneda followed in his monumental work — that of the heirarchy and jurisdictions. Moore's contribution is a valid continuation of Castaneda, and Moore's work is further in depth than Castaneda's because of the lesser time frame that he writes about. Moore's very interesting contribution to the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Texas is his biographical etchings of some of the prelates who were placed in charge of the Church on the frontier of Texas. They certainly were/are interesting characters and show the ruggedness of the situation in which the Church had to adapt and grow in a frontier atmosphere.

Moore's contribution is a welcome addition to the historiography of the Church in Texas, and it certainly opens new avenues of investigation for future monographs on the subject. Perhaps it can be an impetus for other Christian sects to initiate studies of their history in Texas; and, if this has been done already, to up-date their histories. It might be a stepping-stone for a joint effort to write about the Christian Church in Texas.

Rev. Dr. Barnabas Diekemper, O.F.M.
St. Francis Convent
Springfield, Illinois


When Lawrence Welk died, older folks remembered and younger folks wondered about references to his having played at the great Baker Hotel in Mineral Wells, home of Crazy Water crystals. And who in recent decades has driven westward from Mineral Wells, seeing the Baker Hotel protrude like a finger into the sky, and not wished to read again the story of Mineral Wells, remembered in fragments from Grandmother having brought home crazy water crystals and depression-glass dishes turned a golden amber in the hot mineral water? This excellent book will satisfy the curiosity of the uninformed young and old folks with memories.

Dozens of Texans, including Jim Conrad, ETHA, aided the author's admirable research. Surely Paul Patterson, cowboy poet, told the tale of one well where a mentally ill woman took a few drinks and went sane on the spot. In folklore it became "Crazy Woman Well," later "Crazy Well," producing "Crazy Water" and (folk years later?) crazy water crystals. In the skilled hands of Gene Fowler, similar folklore becomes history.

Fowler has told of the four strengths of water available: 1. Mild for nervousness, 2. Stronger for sound sleep, 3. Even stronger for prompt liver action, 4. And the strongest cathartic, which was like taking a ramrod to a clogged up shotgun. Yes, this could be said on the Mineral Wells radio.
When W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel broadcast "Remember, friends, there ain't gonna be no runoff," he meant only in politics.

Only a confident writer would use a preface by the brilliant Larry L. King, who casts some doubt that one could get relief from indigestion, piles, neuralgia, rheumatism, and cancer at Mineral Wells, but infers that Hot Springs, Arkansas, could do no better. Fowler even finds a medical source to say it is "an error to suppose that all the reputed beneficial effects of mineral waters were .. imaginings" (p. x).

The trains to Mineral Wells brought such as Marlene Dietrich and Jack Dempsey, but a quote from King is better for a short review: "Mr. Fowler's book is ... an engaging, informative, and often amusing tale of a 'magic' industry that is virtually no more" (p. xii). No folklorist or folk historian should be without it.

James W. Byrd
East Texas State University

Charles E. Linck
Commerce, Texas

_A Texas Scrap Book: Made Up of the History, Biography, and Miscellany of Texas and Its People_, by D.W.C. Baker (1875), introduction by Robert A. Calvert (Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, University Station, Austin, TX 78712) 1991. Illustrations. Index. P. 727. $25.95.

_A Texas Scrap-Book_ is the tenth publication in the Texas State Historical Association's Fred H. and Ella Mae Moore Texas history reprint series. Like most of the other editions in this series, it is a valuable contribution. Originally published in 1875, the only other reprint of this volume, done by Steck Company in 1935, is also a relatively rare book. Unlike the Steck reprint, which was a facsimile edition only, this edition includes an introduction by Robert Calvert which provides biographical information about the author and a brief history of the book itself. This edition also includes the excellent index produced by Richard Morrison in 1984. According to Calvert, the original edition never sold well and the publishers lost money on the venture. That will hopefully not be the case with this edition.

_A Texas Scrap-Book_ is a 657-page compilation of material published by and about Texans collected from a variety of sources, including the _Texas Almanac_; various newspapers published in Galveston, Austin, and other Texas cities; and early books published about Texas, including Baker's own history of Texas. _A Texas Scrap-Book_ provides valuable information about early Texas as well as a window on the Texas of the 1870s, providing a picture of, as Calvert points out, "what Texans were like at
the time: patriotic, maudlin, colorful, and insensitive about race and ethnic groups" (xxii).

The most disappointing section of Baker's book is the biography section. Ordinarily, subscription books of the 1800s often presented hundreds of biographies of locally prominent individuals compiled by the individuals themselves or from material they made available. Presumably, these individuals and their relatives would purchase the books. In this case the biographies are brief — sometimes as short as three lines — and are limited to only the most prominent personages of the Republic period. Thus they provide little useful information not readily available in other sources. Still, the book is a treasure trove which will be dipped into and appreciated by all who have an interest in the history of the state.

Cecil Harper, Jr.
North Harris College


This book features the perceptions of Gerald D. Nash about the perceptions of other historians concerning the American West between 1890 and 1990. There is very little emphasis on Texas material in it. Nash attempts to demonstrate that the vision of the West held by successive generations of historians were as important as the historical record in shaping their writings. He identifies four major concepts reflected in their studies; the West as a frontier, as a region, as an urban civilization, and as a mythical utopia. He also identifies alternative hypotheses. His primary aim is to provide an interpretive synthesis of these concepts.

Nash deduces that major events which occurred when historians were young conditioned their particular views of history. According to him, historical interpretations were bound up closely with the passage of generations. He analyzes and describes changing views by presenting portraits of several research scholars. Among the many cited are: Frederick Jackson Turner, Ray Allen Billington, Arthur M. Schlesinger, and Frank Norris. Nash concludes that in writing about the West, these scholars "have also been writing about themselves, about their own social, economic, and cultural backgrounds, their geographical location and their environment." (p. 259). This observation by Nash has been pointed out by many writers. For example, Henry H. Ellis wrote at the turn of the century that "Every artist writes his own autobiography" (*The New Spirit, Tolstoi II*).

Nash reminds us that historical facts have an independent or objective existence apart from the concepts of historians. But thoughtful research scholars are aware of this, and they attempt to narrow the gap between their perceptions and reality through two methods. First, they study and become more aware of their own prepossessions and the society
in which they live. Second, they apply the scientific method in the analyses of their findings. Interpreting historical events is a matter of responsible judgment; that is, the development of a sense of knowledge sufficient to comprehend the evidence.

Valentine J. Belfiglio
Texas Woman's University


By his own admission, Glenn Justice presents only one-half of the story of the Mexican Revolution on the Texas border in this monograph published by Texas Western Press. Nevertheless, the one-half that Justice does present is well-researched, well-written, objective, and makes for interesting reading.

Justice's account of the bloody Battle of Ojinaga is especially good. Here the Federal army of General Pascual Orozco, financed by the wealthy Terrazas family of Chihuahua (the largest land owners in Mexico), fought off Pancho Villa's ragged Division of the North for several days before Villa himself led a successful assault against the town on January 10, 1914. Villa's men raped and plundered, shot the seriously wounded, and executed hundreds of Federal prisoners. With some 4,500 refugees fleeing across the Rio Grande, the road through the desert from Presidio to Marfa became jammed.

On Christmas Day, 1917, some eight months after the United States entered World War I, forty Mexican raiders attacked the ranch of Lucas Brite in northwestern Presidio County, leaving three men dead. The 8th Cavalry pursued the raiders in Mexico, killing ten of the men at Piles, Chihuahua.

Widespread terrorism came to the region, not with Mexican revolutionaries, but with the legendary Texas Rangers. On January 14, 1918, in retaliation for the raid on the Brite Ranch, Rangers surrounded the village of Porvenir, upriver from Pilares, Chihuahua, on the Texas side of the river. Here some 140 poor Hispanics, none of whom had been involved in the raid on the Brite Ranch, were eking out a living as tenant farmers. Finding only one old gun in the village, the drunken Rangers, or "Los Rinches" as they came to be known on the border, separated the men from the women, and took fifteen of the men off into the night and ruthlessly executed them. As the women and children of the village fled to Mexico for safety, Harry Warren, the aging schoolmaster at Porvenir, tried to get the news of the massacre to the outside world. Despite an army coverup, a host of Ranger lies, and an unsympathetic Texas
populace, what had happened at Porvenir did become known to the outside world. No criminal charges, however, were filed against the Rangers.

Two months after the Porvenir massacre, fifty Mexican raiders struck the ranch of Ed Neville, located some six miles upriver from Porvenir, killing the son of the ranch owner and the ranch cook, who was mutilated horribly in front of her two children. The 8th Cavalry chased the raiders into Mexico and killed thirty-three at Pilares, Chihuahua.

Well into 1919, the army continued to launch punitive expeditions into Mexico in pursuit of rustlers and bandits. Largely in retaliation for the capture of two American aviators in Mexico, the army raided the Mexican village of Carrizo Springs where four alleged bandits were captured. The captives were turned over to the Rangers, who shot them.

Anyone interested in the history of the rugged and remote Big Bend during the era of the Mexican Revolution will want a copy of this book. Don't expect to see brave Rangers riding off into the sunset, however, for you are more likely to learn of a reign of terror imposed on the Hispanics of the region — a terrorism that was inexcusable but probably not as bad as that inflicted on Mexican-Americans in the lower Rio Grande Valley during the same era.

Jerry Thompson
Laredo State University


In writing his biography of Jesse Chisholm, Ralph Cushman sought to establish belated recognition of Jesse's significant contributions to the history of the Southwest as well as an appreciation of his remarkable stature as a man. Cushman has succeeded on both scores. Despite many minor errors and some clumsiness in organization and style, Cushman's narrative is readable, colorful, and absorbing. Academic historians will find Cushman's documentation disappointing because of his abbreviated footnote form and his heavy dependence on outdated sources, but he tapped a unique and most valuable source, the reminiscences of Andrew Jackson Houston, who knew Chisholm personally, as did his noted father, Sam. The book is organized around tales the younger Houston told Cushman over a three-year period in the 1930s, tales which provide fresh insight on the two Houstons as well as on Jesse Chisholm.

Thanks to Cushman (and Andrew Houston), Jesse Chisholm no longer can be considered a minor Southwestern figure for whom a cattle trail was named (perhaps accidentally). Jesse was a precocious pathfinder and guide and also one of the most valued interpreters and peacemakers.
in the greater Southwest. One-fourth Cherokee, he was at home in the redman's world as well as the white's and served both civilizations well, though often pained by the excesses of each, including the disgraceful treatment of the Cherokees of East Texas. The West and the nation could have benefited greatly from having more Jesse Chisholms, and so could we today — and tomorrow.

Edward Hake Phillips
Sherman, Texas


Mike Cox, who is the public information officer for the Department of Public Safety, has written about a favorite subject — and one he knows well — the Texas Rangers. In the main, he has woven Ranger history and tradition in an episodic format around its most famous captains. Consequently, the reader will be treated to fascinating stories: Jack Hays and his fight with Comanches at Enchanted Rock (near Fredericksburg) in 1840; "Rip" Ford contesting Juan Cortina along the Rio Grande in 1860; Leander McNelly battling Mexican banditti and stacking their corpses in the Brownsville square in 1875; and Frank Hamer tracking down Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in 1935.

This book, however, is not for serious historians. Cox had no intention that it would be. In the preface he admits that his audience for _The Texas Rangers_ is children who, he hopes, "will both enjoy it and learn something from it" (p. x). He has also added dialogue to the stories to make them "more interesting to read" (p. ix). And concerning the last two chapters, having to do with gambling in Galveston and the dinosaur — track thief, he has compiled historical fiction, but in an interesting and well-written manner.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University


This volume goes beyond its title to provide the most careful account now available of Laredo politics from 1846 to 1900. The first chapter on the period before the Civil War describes the development of prominent leaders in local business and government, especially the Benavides and Martin families. They formed a diverse group of Tejanos, immigrants and
Anglos, often related by marriage. Santos Benavides became a Confederate colonel and defended Laredo against Union advances, but lost power in local government during Reconstruction to Republicans led by Samuel M. Jarvis. The Democrats followed the Benavides family to regain control in 1872, but leadership shifted in 1876 to the Raymond Martin faction.

Railroads, coal mining, and sheep raising stimulated local economic and political competition in the 1880s. New arrivals joined Republicans and Benavides supporters to adopt a reform label, using sandals as symbols of the people and calling themselves "Guaraches." Accepting the boot as their symbol, Martin followers won the election in 1884 as "Botas." Intense competition including charges of corruption and the use of alcohol to attract voters in the city election in 1886 resulted in a Bota victory followed by a riot in which at least seventy-five persons died or received wounds. The Botas maintained their dominance until the Guaraches won the city election in 1894 as Independents. Yet by 1896 former Botas had become leaders in the Independent Club that continued to control local politics into the mid-twentieth century.

Jerry D. Thompson, author of several volumes about the Southwest, has researched this topic thoroughly. Readers will find the account lively despite a few typographical errors and index omissions. Although the changing political alliances and election process of the 1890s might have been further clarified, the analysis is generally sound. This study will join Evan Anders' *Boss Rule in South Texas* as the best books on border politics.

Alwyn Barr
Texas Tech University


*Merejildo Grijalva: Apache Captive, Army Scout* is volume 96 in Texas Western Press' Southwestern Studies Series. The book traces the life and career of Merejildo Grijalva from his capture of the Chiricahua Apaches in 1849 through his career as an Apache scout in Arizona in the 1860s and 1870s. After ten years of captivity, Grijalva escaped from the Indians. He soon found employment with the United States Army as an interpreter and a scout. He spent several years in the New Mexico territory, then transferred to Arizona where he guided Army patrols against renegade Indians. Grijalva's skills as a scout, in Sweeney's opinion, led to the defeat and capture of Cochise.

The book follows a chronological format but the number of obscure locations mentioned in the work can confuse the reader. The book is well
researched but the writing style is cumbersome and clumsy. Most impor­tantly, Sweeney never explains why Merejildo Grijalva, and not some other Army scout, is "the most notable Apache scout in Arizona and the 1860s and 70s."

Donald Willett
Texas A&M University at Galveston


After writing an account of the army in Reconstruction Texas, William L. Richter now offers an administrative history of the related Freedmen's Bureau in the state. In chronological order, he devotes four parts to the periods of command by the assistant commissioners for Texas. Edgar M. Gregory is described as concerned about fair labor contracts and payments, legal status, and education for former slaves, who met considerable intimidation in the postwar period. But Gregory had limited man­power and seemed unable to communicate well with Anglos who arranged his removal. The author finds Joseph B. Kiddoo not quite as protective of African American interests and influenced more by conservative white Texans. Charles Griffin, also army commander for the state, extended bureau efforts to new areas with better support. Education efforts declined as Griffin devoted time to administering the Reconstruction Acts for reorganizing state government until yellow fever killed him and disrupted bureau activities. Joseph J. Reynolds reduced bureau efforts, under pressure from the military district commander, while supervising state government restructuring. Richter considers the local bureau officers — northern, southern, military and civilian — and finds most honest and efficient in the face of excessive paperwork and frequent threats of violence. While the bureau helped freedmen make the transition to freedom, the author believes the agency could have done more with proper army assistance and better leadership.

Research for the volume appears thorough, especially in army and bureau papers. The writing style is usually clear, although colorful phrases sometimes result in overstatements. Accounts of local agents seem encyclopedic in detail and sometimes repetitious. Richter's analysis is best on internal bureau and army relationships and conflicts. His accounts of the extensive violence directed at freedmen and bureau officers also are convincing. Yet an understanding of how the violence and problems of bias in civil courts and government led to the Reconstruction Acts is not developed. Instead the political motivations of bureau officers in registering black voters and reorganizing the state government appear overstated or inadequately analyzed. African Americans remain a shadowy group in
this account, but their relationship to the agency may be considered fur­ther in Barry A. Crouch, The Freedmen’s Bureau and Black Texans (1992). Richter’s interpretation seems to have changed from a neo-Dunning school criticism of federal action in his army study to a post-revisionist view in this volume that the bureau could have accomplished more.

Alwyn Barr
Texas Tech University


Judicious in his revisionism, Barry A. Crouch aptly refutes the traditionalist view that the Freedmen’s Bureau in Texas, and elsewhere in the post-Civil War South, failed as a tool of Congressional Reconstruction. Using the microhistorical method of inquiry, with Tyler and Smith County, Texas, as his chosen microcosm, Crouch clearly and persuasively develops his contention that the Freedmen’s Bureau in Texas did make an honorable attempt to fulfill its federal mandate — to aid freed slaves and destitute whites — and that it set important precedents in the areas of Negro education and the black franchise.

Avoiding any pretense of apologia, and supported by long neglected data in the National Archives, Crouch skillfully presents the Freedmen’s Bureau as one of the most unique, misunderstood, and maligned ad hoc reform agencies ever devised by a democratic government in the name of social and political freedom and equality. Appropriately, he pays special attention to the Bureau’s sub-district agents who, contrary to Southern myth, were not all lazy and mean-spirited brigands of the abolitionist ilk. To be sure, the Bureau’s ranks also included men such as William G. Kirkman, who was murdered in 1868 while opposing those who menaced the Reconstruction ideal in northeast Texas.

This important little book suffers, however, from an inordinate number of annotated endnotes which could have been better used in the text; so placed, the endnotes become intermittent asides and often slow the narrative. Too, the author tends to be repetitive in his defense of the Bureau’s agents and wards. But on the whole, the work is scholarly, pleasantly polemical, and well presented. Crouch’s writing style, his research skills, and his obvious depth of subject knowledge, make The Freedmen’s Bureau and Black Texans a valuable addition to Reconstruction historiography.

George Knight
Tyler Junior College

In this, his first published work, James Henry Davis of Hughes Springs, Texas, has done an interesting study of a little known Confederate Unit. He has taken this obscure outfit, consisting of eighty-five men from his immediate vicinity, and traced their journey through the Civil War from enlistment to discharge and beyond.

Davis begins with the company's formation at a rural church near the banks of Black Cypress Bayou in Cass County, Texas. He follows them throughout the balance of the conflict. Captain William Cocke Young, after whom the small Methodist Church and community was named, and his brother, the Reverend Thomas R. Young, its first pastor, organized the company. Davis follows the company's travels from a big send off at Resse Hughes' plantation, near Young's Chapel, to Camp Reeves on Red River, where they joined other outfits for training. From there they went into Oklahoma, then Indian Territory, to Fort Gibson, known later as the graveyard of the army. Here they received further preliminary battlefield experience.

The author deals with Indian fighting in the Civil War as the company joins the Cherokee Confederates and later meet Chief Opothleyahola and the Creeks.

The Cypress Rangers' first major encounter was at the important battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. This was their first time to face Yankees in uniform. Until then, it had been "Indians only." A copy of the famous King and Allison illustration of "The Battle of Pea Ridge," appears in the book with other pictures, maps, and illustrations.

The Texans withdrew to the Boston Mountains, then headed back to winter quarters on Horsehead Creek. After a much needed rest, they turned east in the direction of the Mississippi River, not knowing what fate would befall them next.

Chapter IV finds the Rangers at Corinth, Mississippi, an important railroad crossroads. This turned out to be the bloodiest battle of the war for them. From there they made a hasty retreat. They had an unexpected swim in the Hatchie River and met up with "Old Abe," the Civil War Eagle, now immortalized in bronze atop a towering monument in the Vicksburg Battlefield Park.

The Holly Springs raid came soon afterward, followed by the valiant effort to save Vicksburg. From there the Rangers went on to meet Sherman in heavy skirmishing at Rome, Georgia. The battle of Atlanta followed with final participation of the Rangers in the unsuccessful try to re-take Nashville.

The book is even more interesting because of its vignettes about
individual soldiers, and their loss of life, capture, suspected desertion, religion in the camps, and other homilies of military life. In a final chapter, Davis deals with what happened after the war, tracing the lives of some of the soldiers down through their descendants to the present. It is a most engrossing book that is hard to put down once started because of the author's special touch and his insight into the day-to-day lives of his real life characters.

Fred McKenzie
Avinger, Texas


Texas was the only Confederate state which had to battle Indians on its frontier while joining the larger war effort against the Union. Prior to the Civil War, Texas Rangers learned to fight Indians by employing revolvers and tenacious mobility against Comanches and Kiowas, and during the 1850s the United States Army deployed one-fourth of its manpower into dozens of Texas outposts. But years of concerted campaigning by Rangers and the military had not halted the murderous raids in frontier counties when war erupted between North and South. After United States troops left Texas the Confederacy could not provide replacements, forcing Texans to provide their own frontier defense. An additional problem developed as gangs of Confederate deserters and draft dodgers gravitated to the frontier counties and defied authority with increasing boldness.

Scant funding was available from the Texas or Confederate governments, but Texans who previously had served in Ranger companies provided their own guns and horses and rode in defense of their home counties. David Paul Smith opens *Frontier Defense in the Civil War* with a description of the conflict between Indians and settlers in Texas during the antebellum period. In subsequent chapters he meticulously details the organization and exploits of the various units — Texas Mounted Riflemen, the Frontier Regiment, Bourland's Border Regiment, Rangers, minutemen, and informal militia — which struggled with little fanfare or military glory against Indian marauders and renegade Confederates. Smith argues convincingly that these beleaguered defenders held their own during the Civil War, in contrast to the popular view that the wartime frontier collapsed with ineffectual resistance from inferior troops. This chapter of Texas history has never been presented with such panorama and authority, and
Smith's well-researched account of the frontier counties during the Civil War will make a valuable addition to any Texana bookshelf.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College


There have been tens of thousands of books on various aspects of the Civil War, yet that conflict still generates extreme interest. Craig L. Symond's latest contribution admittedly says nothing new about what he terms "the greatest battle in the history of the Western Hemisphere" (p.1), but the maps allow the reader to trace the movements of the armies throughout this campaign almost hour by hour.

Symonds sets the stage with a brief description of the Confederate victory at Chancellorsville in early May 1863. Heartened by this success, Gen. Robert E. Lee then decided to take his army, and the war, into the North. Because Lee's cavalry were unable to provide him with information about the whereabouts of Union Gen. George Meade's army, the momentous three-day battle began when elements of the two armies ran into one another near the town of Gettysburg. Over the next three days, thousands of young American men were killed or wounded before Lee finally headed back to Virginia in defeat.

Among this book's unfortunate shortcomings are instances where the map and accompanying text disagree with regard to the directions of troop movements (pp. 16-17, 22-23, 50-51) or commanders' names (pp. 14-15). Pickett's Charge, which struck the center of the Federal line, is incorrectly stated as having hit the Federal left (p. 67), although the correct location appears later (p. 85).

Once past a few problem areas like these, the reader will find this atlas to be "user friendly." Each of the full-page maps is faced with a single page of explanatory text with key numbers showing the locations of specific incidents. The last map shows the Gettysburg area as it appears today, and gives a suggested route by which a visitor might tour the battlefield and follow the chronological flow of the battle.

James M. McCaffrey
University of Houston-Downtown.