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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Cartwrights of San Augustine, by Margaret Swett Henson and Deolece Parmele (Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 SRH, University Station, Austin, TX 78712), 1993. B&W Photographs. Appendix. Index. P. 337. \$39.95 Cloth.

Dr. Ralph Steen sent me a post card of the British Museum one summer when he was in London. He allowed as to its being nice but "new" by San Augustine's standards. We in San Augustine have often been known for being the oldest and the best, regardless of the subject. Knowing the Cartwright family initiated this book, I was afraid we were in for more of the same. I was wrong.

The Cartwrights of San Augustine is a beautifully written book which tells the story of the Cartwright family while documenting the history of San Augustine and the Redlands. The author begins the Texas story of the Cartwrights when John and his wife Polly Crutchfield settled in the Ayish Bayou District in 1825 with their family. Their children were Matthew, who married Amanda Holman; Robert G., who married Mary Lanier; Dicey Hoskins, who died young; George W., who married Ann Oliver; Mary, who married William Garrett; Clementine, who married Sanford Holman; Martha, who lived only two weeks; J. Clinton, who married Elvira Holman; and Richard Hankins Cartwright, who married Ann Berry.

The Cartwrights made money providing services and supplies to the settlers in the sparsely settled new country of Texas. John Cartwright brought a cotton gin, blacksmith tools, and saleable merchandise to Texas when he came. His sons continued the business after his death. They used the money they made to speculate in land, which carried them to all parts of Texas.

This book is concerned primarily with their eldest son, Matthew Cartwright, and his family. The children of Matthew, who had amassed the fourth largest estate in Texas by 1870, all moved to Terrell, Texas, except Columbus. Columbus Cartwright and his family remained in San Augustine where his descendants still live.

The Cartwrights were a large, illustrious family. Best known to Texas historians of today is probably Summerfield G. Roberts who has been recognized for his contributions to the history of our great state. One of my favorites was Judge Regan Cartwright who died a few years ago in Houston.

George L. Crocket wrote *Two Centuries in East Texas*, a history of San Augustine and the Redlands, published in 1936. Crocket's book had numerous mistakes in it, but he did not have the sources available that are available today. If Rev. Crocket was half as good at saving souls as he was at saving East Texas history, hell will be half empty.

The Cartwrights of San Augustine will not supplant Crocket's book, but it does document the history of San Augustine and the Redlands while telling the story of the Cartwrights in the settlement of Texas, the Fredonia Rebellion, the Battle of Nacogdoches, the Texas Revolution, the Mexican War, and even the Civil War.

The Cartwrights of San Augustine is well documented with the vast family collection of documents and the standards of the period. Of special interest to East Texas is the numerous citations to the Blake Papers which are transcripts of the Nacogdoches Archives.

When the author described John Cartwright standing with his sons atop the bluff at Natchez on the great Mississippi River, I swear I got a whiff of crawfish. I like her style.

I wonder if Margaret can save souls!

Willie Earl Tindall
San Augustine, Texas

Freedom's Lawmakers: A Directory of Black Officeholders During Reconstruction, by Eric Foner (Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016) 1993. Illustrations. B&W Photographs. Indexes. P. 290. \$75.00 Hardcover.

The period of Reconstruction was fraught with numerous economic, social, and political concerns. No problem, however, provoked more controversy or bulked larger in scope in the immediate post-war years than that of the considerable number of newly freed slaves assuming public office.

As the subtitle states, this book is a directory of black officeholders during Reconstruction. In this carefully crafted work, Eric Foner succeeds in creating an intriguing work as he presents comprehensive biographical information on the lives of over 1400 public officials whose positions run the gamut from census marshal to constitutional convention delegate to constable to customs official to congressman.

It appears that the information presented in this book is intended to dispel the view of some that blacks were incompetent, corrupt, and general unfit for public service. As stated in the introduction, "These judgments stemmed from a combination of racism and an apparent unwillingness to do simple research about black officeholders" (p. xii). Eric Foner's work is an impressive scholarly effort to lift from the pages of historical obscurity the lives of many black office holders whose life stories would otherwise be generally unknown to history.

The bulk of the book is an alphabetical listing of 1,465 black public officials. The entries vary in length, but each contains the name, date, and place of birth and death, if known, free or slave status before the Civil War, state of literacy, and occupation. There follows a succinct bibliographic amount of each entry which, of course, chronicles the public office or offices held. At the end of the book there are five indexes. Each entry is indexed by state, occupation, office held during Reconstruction, topic, and birth status (slave or free).

This thoroughly researched work, which draws from various sources, evidences careful scholarship. What results is an important and exhaustive

reference work that considerably broadens the field of historical knowledge for students of American and Texas history.

Brooke Tucker
Houston Baptist University

The Newton Boys, Portrait of an Outlaw Gang, by Willis and Joe Newton, as told to Claude Stanush and David Middleton (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1994. Index. P. 332. \$16.95 Paper. \$24.95 Hardcover.

"We weren't thugs. All we wanted was the money, just like doctors, lawyers and other businessmen. Robbing banks and trains was our way of getting it. That was our business" (p. xi). The "businessman" was Willis Newton, leader of a gang of bank and train robbers composed primarily of three of his brothers, Jess, Doc, and Joe. Born near Dallas in 1889, Willis was the middle of eleven children. The father of this clan was a shiftless tenant farmer who moved his family virtually every year – Willis attended school just once, for a few weeks when he was twelve – while the mother admiringly read outlaw stories from cheap magazines to their children at bedtime. "Willis," she later confided, "I guess if I had been a man, I'd a-been a bank robber or outlaw too" (p. 26).

The boys began to ride the rods on freight trains at a young age, and soon they experienced trouble with the law. Incarceration proved highly educational: "They don't reform people they send to the penitentiary and jails," observed Willis. "They go down there and learn more" (p. 264). With knowledge and encouragement gleaned from experienced inmates, Willis and his brothers began robbing banks in a businesslike fashion. They used nitroglycerine, concentrating on banks in rural communities which had square "lug" safes (urban banks already were installing road safes which "screwed" into concrete vaults and had no cracks into which nitro could be poured).

The Newtons carefully studied banking operations, law enforcement methods, and security and communication systems. They utilized the best automobiles for getaways, planned and checked out escape routes, and operated at night to avoid dangerous daytime robberies. These professionals looted eighty banks and six trains, from Texas to Canada. But in 1924, when Willis attempted to pull off a million-dollar train holdup near Chicago, a non-relative gang member panicked and shot Doc several times. Although Doc survived, his injuries resulted in the capture of the gang and prison terms resulted.

The Newtons eventually settled in Uvalde, where in 1973 Claude Stanush and David Middleton interviewed Willis and Joe (they were eighty-four and seventy-two, respectively; Jess recently had died and Doc was confined to a nursing home). *The Newton Boys* is a transcript of the interviews, which were dominated by Willis, although Joe made significant contributions. The photo

collection is excellent, and the book offers a fascinating look at the hardscrabble existence of Texas tenant farmers early in the twentieth century.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College

Southern Agriculture During the Civil War Era, 1860-1880, by John Solomon Otto (Greenwood Press, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007) 1994. References. Index. P. 171. \$49.95 Cloth.

In this first book-length history of Southern agriculture, 1860-1880, Otto correctly argues that a revolution occurred that "transformed Southern labor, marketing, transportation and agricultural practices" (p. ix). Chapters cover Southern Frontiers and Southern Agriculture (1607-1860), The Civil War and Southern Agriculture (1860-1865), Political "Reconstruction" and Southern Agriculture (1865-1870), Political "Redemption" and Southern Agriculture (1870-1880), and Southern Agriculture and the Southern Frontiers (1860-1880). The author failed to define the South but apparently meant the Confederate states plus Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri, but not present day Oklahoma.

Otto believes that "by 1860, this westward migration of Southern agriculturalists was reaching its political, if not natural, limits" (p. 17). However, Randolph Campbell, in *An Empire for Slavery*, revealed that in 1861 Texas slavery was still expanding. Using perceptive examples from Southern states, Otto correctly concluded that "between 1860 and 1880, Southern agriculture underwent the most tumultuous transition in its long history" (p. 102).

Texas historians will note Otto's interesting comments on Texas land policy, cattle, and immigration. This book could have been strengthened by using more scholarship from Campbell plus Samuel Evans, Terry Jordan, Richard Love, and the Texas Crop and Livestock Services' *1866-1984: Texas Historic Crops Statistics* and *1867-1985: Texas Historic Livestock Statistics*. Otto's survey contributes to our understanding of Southern agriculture and will be a convenient point of departure for future study.

Irvin M. May Jr.
Blinn College at Bryan

Bad Hand. A Biography of General Ranald S. Mackenzie, by Charles M. Robinson, III (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1993. Illustrations. B&W Photographs. Footnotes. Bibliography. Index. \$29.95 Cloth.

Bad Hand is a revealing examination of the career and personality of Ranald Slidell Mackenzie, a tragic hero of the nineteenth century whose mutilated right hand caused Western Indians to call him "Bad Hand." The son of a controversial naval officer, Mackenzie attended West Point and graduated in 1862, first in a class of twenty-eight. He distinguished himself in Civil War

combat, repeatedly exhibiting extraordinary boldness and a mastery of cavalry tactics. Regarded by General Ulysses S. Grant as "the most promising officer in the army," he was wounded six times and brevetted to the rank of major general by the age of twenty-four.

Mackenzie remained in the regular army after the war, in 1870 accepting the colonelcy of the Fourth Cavalry. Impatient and frequently irritable, Mackenzie also was hard-working and resourceful, and he soon transformed his regiment into the army's best Indian-fighting outfit. Mackenzie and the Fourth were stationed wherever the Indian threat was greatest, including hard service in Texas from 1871 through 1875. Mackenzie received a richly deserved promotion to brigadier general in 1882, and the next year the shy bachelor became engaged to a widow whom he apparently had loved from afar for many years. But his success and happiness were destroyed by the collapse of his health. His mental abilities noticeably deteriorated, and an earlier abstinence from alcohol was replaced by habitual drinking. Mackenzie was granted a lengthy medical leave after a nervous breakdown, but when he resumed his duties doctors became convinced he was insane. Mackenzie was retired from the service at the age of forty-three and placed in an asylum. Later he was released to the care of a devoted sister, but he became increasingly childlike and died when he was forty-eight.

Charles M. Robinson, III, the author of *Frontier Forts of Texas* and *The Frontier World of Fort Griffin*, has written a fascinating biography of *Bad Hand*. The book is filled with period detail and insightful combat analysis. Most interesting of all are the theories regarding Mackenzie's illness, first advanced by Robinson in a paper presented to the Texas State Historical Association. For years it was suggested that Mackenzie was the victim of syphilis. But Robinson argues convincingly that his numerous wounds, a fall from a wagon onto his head, and the hardships and overwork of constant campaigning were likelier causes of his incapacity. *Bad Hand* is a stimulating and perceptive book about one of the giants of the last frontier.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College

Civil War Shadows in Hopkins County, Texas, by June E. Tuck (Walsworth Publishing Company, Marcelen, MO) 1993. B&W Photographs. Index. P. 405.

This work is obviously a labor of love – one suspects a life-time labor – by one who is a native of Hopkins County. The review of this typewritten book is succinctly stated in the author's preface: "My feeling came to be that a more vivid description of the people, events and the times could be had by reading the words of the participants than by attempting to summarize in my own words what had been written by the contemporaries on the scene."

True to her credo, Tuck fills the next 404 pages with verbatim reproduced letters, lists, rolls, and manuscript documents which she has collected from various archives. Outside of the first two-and-one-half pages of narra-

tive, there are only a few sentences and paragraphs scattered throughout to explain the period of time to which the documents relate. Nonetheless, history buffs as well as scholars and students will be fascinated by reading the poignant Civil War letters which bring home again just how uncertain life was in those times.

Although exact citations are lacking it is apparent that the author succeeded in acquiring from the national archives and the Department of the Army copies of official federal correspondence. These relate to events in and around Hopkins County during Reconstruction. This reviewer was surprised to learn that this quiet, rural section of northeast Texas was troublesome enough for federal authorities to station a permanent military cadre, complete with stockade, at Sulphur Springs. In reading the cryptic official reports filed by Yankee officers at the post, one gets the uneasy feeling that the Civil War did not end at Appomattox: indeed, that a guerrilla continuum flared and sputtered in the creek bottoms for some years afterwards.

The section on Reconstruction is followed by a chapter entitled Civil War Soldiers, which contains the names and brief service statements of hundreds of area veterans. The author's source for this valuable inclusion is a bit confusing but may have come from old newspaper accounts. It is apparent however, that the author has a talent for ferreting out primary sources. Anyone who has tried to locate the best government documents and have them copied by corresponding with "E"-type employees can appreciate the author's perseverance and success. Particularly laudable is a section of photographs of Hopkins County Civil War soldiers, although one mysterious woman appears in this section. Photo credits would have been helpful.

Genealogists, some Civil War buffs, and those interested in East Texas county histories will want to include this book in their collection.

Robert W. Glover
Shiloh Ranch

Ben McCulloch and the Frontier Military Tradition, by Thomas W. Cutrer (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill & London, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288) 1883. B&W Photographs. Notes. Selected Bibliography. Index. Maps. P. 402. \$34.95 Cloth.

Thomas Cutrer has produced a well-written, well-researched biography of an interesting and important figure in both Texas and American history. Ben McCulloch, an intelligent, thoughtful, rough-and-tumble man, was drawn to war as inexorably as the moth to the flame; and to continue the well-worn metaphor, in time he was consumed by it. But before his death at the Battle of Pea Ridge, he crammed into his fifty-one years no less than five armed conflicts, not counting duels or other deadly adventures. If one adds to the list his readiness, nay eagerness, to fight the Latter Day Saints in the so-called "Mormon War" of 1858 and the bandidos in the "Cortina War" in Texas and Mexico, there would be seven. In fact, Cutrer presents the convincing

argument that the very ferocity of his demeanor led the Mormons to realize their necessity to capitulate to the mandate of president James Buchanan and the United States government.

McCulloch's niche in history would have been more prominent had he not been a warrior whose lineage was linked to a dying breed, for he fell into the early American-Jacksonian mold, which is to say a soldier, who, albeit able and brave and well-read, was still amateurish. The end of the tyro and the rise of the professional began with John C. Calhoun's long tenure as secretary of war, was solidified by another secretary, Jefferson Davis, and was signified by the Civil War. It is ironic that Southern Democrats destroyed the tradition of so many other Southern Democrats.

Simultaneously, opportunities were raised for the Democrats' enemies, the Whigs. For all McCulloch's obvious abilities, he was already an anachronism by 1861, "a Jacksonian Democrat in an officer corps whose critics charged it with rampant Whiggish elitism" (p. 316). Although dedicated to soldiering, Ben McCulloch never rose above the status of talented amateur. He remains, however, a loyal son of Texas, a slain Confederate hero, and a legendary figure.

James W. Pohl
Southwest Texas State University

Tainted Breeze: The Great Hanging at Gainesville, Texas, 1862, by Richard B. McCaslin (LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA 70892) 1994. B&W Photographs. Appendices. Index. P. 233. \$29.95 Hardcover.

Historians have recognized the importance of internal dissent in undermining the efforts of the Confederacy at least since the publication in 1924 of Albert B. Moore's *Conscription and Conflict in the Confederacy*. Subsequently, they have devoted much energy to explaining the dissent, but have spent little time looking at the Confederate reaction. Richard McCaslin's *Tainted Breeze* – an important contribution to the development of that historiography – examines the suppression in 1862 of a potential uprising in five counties in northern Texas.

Events in north Texas are particularly interesting because the response appears to have been out of line with the actual threat. The charges leveled against most of those accused of treason rested primarily on rumor. Even then, little suggested that the individuals associated with what was known as the Peace Society intended treason. Most if not all of them were neither abolitionists nor sympathetic with abolitionism. When a similar movement was uncovered in Arkansas the previous year the response was relatively modest, with those charged being forced to enlist in the Confederate army. In Texas the result was the execution of twenty-two men, known as the Great Hanging, and the subsequent deaths of many more. Why this particular community reacted so violently to dissent is the central focus of this work.

McCaslin's main point is that it was not the nature of the dissent but the community's perception of it that determined the response. The Texas Peace Society existed in a community, on the state's borders with the Indian Territory and the homelands of the Plains Indians, that historically had feared any threats to stability. Commonly the danger of instability was seen as threatening enough that vigilante justice was used to suppress it. By 1862 unusual fear and a tradition of vigilante action created the ideological framework for reacting to the Peace Society. Prominent local slaveholders, operating under the authority of popular sanction in what was known as the Citizens Court, acted decisively. They arrested men, refused to turn them over to other authorities, tried them, and then ordered seven executed. When that did not appease the community, the Court executed fourteen more.

The Great Hanging set the stage for the spread of violence. In the end forty-two men died and McCaslin shows that the impact of the violence was even longer lasting. It contributed to continued hostility and social tension through the rest of the war. The violence-spawned fear added to the domestic crisis of the Confederacy, generating additional antagonisms and conflict. McCaslin's close examination of this event throws new light on the social history of the Confederacy and uncovers the dynamics not only of dissent but also of its suppression. He also adds to our knowledge of Civil War Texas, that too often ignored "dark corner" of the Confederacy.

Carl H. Moneyhon
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The Campaigns of Walker's Texas Division, by J.P. Blessington (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1994. B&W Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 332. \$29.95 Hardcover.

Walker's Texas Division was the largest unit of Texans in the Confederate Army, and they upheld the heritage of Lone Star fighting men admirably. The division served in the Trans-Mississippi, the most neglected department in Civil War history, as a fast-marching, hard-hitting unit that faced the foe whenever called upon to do so. This history is well worth remembering.

Joseph P. Blessington served in the division as a private, and shortly after the guns fell silent he took pen in hand to record the history of the unit. Historians are indebted to him for his tremendous work because his book helps plug a historical gap.

The division's history is told through every march and battle as only a soldier who felt the heat, cold, and rain could. In reading the volume, one realizes that Private Blessington wanted the reader, sitting in the comfort of his easy chair, to understand that there is much more to war than fighting.

And there was fighting. Battles hidden deep in the shadows of Gettysburg and Shiloh, battles with strange names to those who do not study the Trans-Mississippi, such as Milliken's Bend and Jenkins' Ferry, where historically

obscure brigades formed their units and fought black and white Union soldiers in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Blessington also records two strange facts that reflect the attitude of the Confederate soldier in attempting to understand the events he could not control, the surrender of Vicksburg and the retreat of General Nathaniel P. Banks at Mansfield. The former was attributed to a conspiracy between Generals John Pemberton and Ulysses Grant to surrender the gray army before the need to do so, and to surrender on July 4 to add insult to injury; the latter was a result of a captured Confederate officer giving Banks misleading information.

In reading Blessington's work, originally published in 1875, the reader can see what I refer to as the "myth of war," the adding of romance to the horror of the battlefield which all too often causes the young to wish for a war of their own; this, too, reflects the time that the book was written, a time when aging veterans met to recall the days of their youth when they charged the enemy amidst shot and shell. But in 1875, they heard the cheers of the audience rather than the screams of the wounded.

David Stroud
Kilgore, Texas

Women & Children of the Alamo, by Crystal Sasse Ragsdale (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1994. B&W Photographs. Glossary, Bibliography. P. 114. \$14.95 Paper. \$21.95 Hardcover.

The fate of Travis, Bowie, Crockett, and the other defenders of the Alamo is well known, but there were other participants in the siege of the Alamo. These were the women and children who either accompanied their husbands and fathers, or who sought refuge from the vengeance of Santa Anna. This slim volume examines six of these lesser known participants of the siege of the Alamo.

These six, Juana Navarro Perez Alsbury, Madame Candelaria (born Andrea Casteñon de Villanueva), Susanna Dickinson, Concepcion Charli Gortari Losoya, Ana Salazar de Esparza, and Enrique Esparza survived the final assault on the Alamo on March 6, 1836. All told tales of the Alamo's fall, usually to journalists and late in life. Ragsdale uses these accounts as the basis for this book. For the most part she succeeds in relating the stories of the women and children who survived Santa Anna's attack on the Alamo.

The story of the siege of the Alamo forms the background to the profiles of these survivors. In each case the same facts are presented, which tends to become repetitive. The material becomes more interesting when it reveals the later life and destiny of each of the six. The most famous is Susanna Dickinson, because she and her daughter, Angelina, were the only Anglo survivors of the battle. But the stories of the five *Tejana* women are more interesting, because they focus on a little known facet of Texas history, the importance of women, particularly *Tejanas*.

The book begins with a physical description of the Alamo and its siege. The chapters about each of the six could stand alone and be effective. Primary sources are cited in the bibliography, which is subdivided by chapter and subject. It should be noted that direct quotes or obscure facts are not cited as to their source.

Women and Children of the Alamo provides another look at the siege of the Alamo and the actions of the participants on both sides, especially during the final assault and the events immediately afterward. This volume could provide a good start for further investigation into this aspect of the Texas History.

Michael R. Bryant
Mesquite, Texas

A Long Ride in Texas: The Explorations of John Leonard Riddell, edited by James O. Breeden (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-5465) 1994. B&W Photographs. Index. P. 115. \$24.50 Hardcover.

John Leonard Riddell, a New Yorker educated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Ohio medical schools, served as chemistry professor at the University of Louisiana (Tulane) from 1836-1865. A prolific writer on botany, chemistry, geology, physics, and medicine, Riddell earned an international reputation as an acute observer.

This account of his horseback trip from Houston to San Antonio in 1839 and the legendary San Saba silver mine predates by a decade similar scientific observations of Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, who has been considered the "father" of Texas geology. The editor added an article written by Riddell in 1879 about the geology and mineral deposits along the Trinity River in southeastern Walker County.

Botanists and geographers will enjoy Riddell observations, but so will historians and the general public. His worries about being attacked by Comanches in the San Antonio area and his struggle to cope with the miserable weather ranging from hot and dry to heavy rains while camping with all of his botanical gathering gear are vivid and entertaining.

The editor provides an excellent biographical sketch of Riddell and documents the narrative and the travelogue with ample notes. This is a significant contribution to the scientific and travel literature of 1839.

Margaret Swett Henson
Houston, Texas

Fighting the Good Fight: The Life and Work of Benajah Harvey Carroll, by Alan J. Lefever (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1994. B&W Photographs. Appendices. Endnotes. Selected Bibliography. Index. P. 180. \$19.95 Hardcover.

B.H. Carroll, longtime Texas Baptist preacher, denominational leader in the Texas and Southern Baptist Conventions, pastor of Waco's First Baptist Church for twenty-eight years, and founder of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), is the subject of this biography by Alan J. Lefever, archivist and adjunct professor in church history at SWBTS in Fort Worth.

Lefever, utilizing a wide and impressive range of sources, traces Carroll, a physical (6' 4" tall and weighing over 260 pounds) as well as a spiritual giant, from birth throughout his life which involved several controversies that displayed Carroll's bulldog determination. He never backed away from fights, and believing himself always right, won almost all of them. The author, in the process of narrating Carroll's story, reveals to the reader hitherto little known facts about his subject, who is depicted not as a saint but as a man with human frailties, which delineates Carroll more realistically.

Carroll is prominent for several reasons. He helped unite the separate Baptist groups to form the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1886; stood for, and thereby helped define, "Baptist Orthodoxy" throughout numerous altercations; and consequently gained recognition and a leading role for Texas in the Southern Baptist Convention. Additionally, he was an outstanding pastor of Waco's First Baptist Church and became a great teacher and educator whose crowning achievement was the founding of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (presently the world's largest) in 1907, which grew out of the Theological Department of Baylor University that Carroll had created earlier.

Utilization of fewer and shorter direct quotes and incorporating these facts into the text would have improved this work. A few inconsistencies exist, such as the 1868 Spring Hill revival on p. 22, but which on p. 79 supposedly occurred in 1867. Overall, however, this is an enjoyable, intriguing, timely, and worthwhile study which presents an exemplary overview of early Texas Baptist history. Additionally, this portrayal of B.H. Carroll is particularly relevant and demands attention since it provides another perspective from which to view the widespread controversies encompassing Texas, Southwestern and Truett Seminaries, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ron Ellison
Beaumont, Texas

Life on the King Ranch, by Frank Goodwyn (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1993. B&W Photographs. Glossary. P. 293.

This reprint of Frank Goodwyn's biographical narrative of his life on the King Ranch reveals not only its impact on a boy but also of a part of Texas

now gone. Beginning in 1911, Frank's intimate knowledge of that seemingly timeless yet restricted world of ranching Texas developed from his formative years as an integral part of the lives of his father and the Hispanic *vaqueros* he bossed at Norias, the lower spread of the King domain. The foreboding terrain of desert range, from which developed the *charro* culture of the Mexican Texas, ruled them all.

Not a history but rather the unique story of one youngster's passage into adolescence, this series of anecdotal vignettes of ranch life capture the spirit and times of the increasingly scientific and technological dominance of running one of Texas's largest cattle ranches among and with an Hispanic culture in place on the Rio Grande long before the beginning of the first Anglo cattle drives to the northern railroads.

Although the whoppers and tall tales indicate Frank Dobie's impact on Goodwyn, his book is much more than another bundle of frontier yarns. This biographical recollection, bubbling with a rare mixture of a growing boy, a frustrated spinster teacher, families, folk magic, telephones, spirits, automobiles, legends, and horses and cattle, evokes the mystery of a special group of people long gone. *Life on the King Ranch* is worth reading again, as well as for the first time.

Melvin Clarno Johnson
Texas Forestry Museum

El Rancho in South Texas, by Joe S. Graham (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203-3856) 1994. B&W Photographs. Bibliography. Index. P. 121. \$10.00 Paper.

Some well-deserved attention on ranching as an institution in North America is the focus of the exhibit entitled *El Rancho in South Texas: Continuity and Change from 1750* and Joe Graham's printed guide to the display he helped develop. This work focuses on South Texas, the region in which ranching in what is now the United States began from Spanish/Mexican roots.

The text relies on primary sources from interviews of people with first-hand knowledge as well as on secondary sources by writers such as David Dary, Jo Mora, Sandra Myres, Americo Paredes, and others. Graham's intensive research on *vaqueros*, as well as on South Texas folklore, folk life, and material culture, enlivens the work, Graham also offers case studies of two South Texas ranches – the de la Garza family's El Randado and the Jones family's Alta Vista, both excellent examples of contemporary ranches with strong *vaquero* influence.

The black-and-white photographs, many taken by Graham himself, combine with others from the Conner Museum at Texas A&M University at Kingsville, with which Graham is associated, and from family collections, especially the Jones family, whose archives, lamentably destroyed in a fire in June 1994, are now lost. Depicted are structures, wells, dipping vats,

windmills, livestock, *vaqueros*, and much more in this perceptive look at an important economic factor in a large part of the American West.

Lawrence Clayton
Hardin-Simmons University

In the Shadows of the Big Thicket, by Mildred Lowery (Best of East Texas Publishers, P.O. Box 1647, Lufkin, TX 75901) 1993. P. 109.

In the Shadows of the Big Thicket, by Mildred Lowery of Lufkin, is a comfortable read. Lowery writes easily, sympathetically, and vividly of a young man's growing up in the Big Thicket some time in the last century. Josh Runnels was ten years old and living in San Augustine when his father died, leaving him an orphan. His mother had died earlier. Young Josh moved south to live with his grandparents on Brushy Creek, a tributary of Village Creek in the Big Thicket.

Shadows is about Josh's growing up under the tutelage of his grandfather, J.J., and about his learning to live in and love the depths and the insides of the Big Thicket. J.J. teaches Josh about hunting and fishing. He teaches him the trees and the trails and the plants and the animals that make the Thicket their home. Josh's education is about people, too, and some of the chapters deal with his experiences as his trail crosses the lives of other people in the Thicket. On one occasion and in one chapter, John and J.J. find the skeleton of a young man who died in the Thicket and are brought into the family's suffering first at the loss and then at the discovery.

Another time Josh hears that the revenuers are planning a raid on one of the Big Thicket whiskey stills. Territorially looking after those who have become his own people. Josh rides to warn the bootlegger and then leads the revenuers off on a wild chase that leaves them mired in a swamp and then glad to get out with their lives intact.

In another chapter, Josh and his buddy Hal explore the Thicket when they are twelve or thirteen years old. Led by the spirit of adventure and the excitement of going deeper and deeper into the Thicket, the two boys eventually wander until they are lost. They spent two long days and two very educational nights in the big woods before J.J. finds them and leads them out.

By the concluding chapter, Josh is twenty-two. He has grown up as a loving and dutiful grandson, a brave fighter and a strong hunter, and a good manager with his own farm. He finds a sweetheart who is cut from the same Big Thicket cloth as he is, and even though they do not start courting with any intensity, the reader knows that their destinies in the Thicket are entwined.

Shadows is not a novel. It is too episodic, each chapter having its own story. The reader's main problem with the book, however, is with its setting, its history, and geography. One knows it takes place in the Thicket, but the Thicket can be variously defined and located. In my mind the stories were set somewhere around the Tyler-Hardin County line.

Nor am I sure when the stories take place. Nothing historical is mentioned to give the reader a clue; no governor or president is referred to. The Civil War is not mentioned, nor is the time of the families' coming to the Thicket. Trains *are* mentioned, so I decided the story took place in the 1880s.

Once the reader decides where and when, he can read on with pleasure and with genuine interest in the characters' destinies. Reading *In the Shadows of the Big Thicket* is like hearing stories about the ancestors of one's Big Thicket friends.

Francis Edward Abernethy
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Elmer Kelton Country: The Short Nonfiction of a Texas Novelist, by Elmer Kelton (TCU Press, Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129) 1993. B&W Photographs. Index. P. 352. \$14.95 Paper. \$25.00 Cloth.

In 1968, Escal Duke, professor of Texas history at Angelo State University, invited a columnist and "Western pulp" writer to speak to his classes. A student then, I was somewhat disappointed in my professor for a professional indiscretion. Several minutes into the presentation, however, my classmates and I recognized that this fiction writer was also a folklorist and historian in the grand tradition of Dobie, Webb, and Bedechek. Now, two and a half decades later, Elmer Kelton is receiving the critical attention (and readership) he deserved then. What many consider his trilogy, *The Time it Never Rained*, *The Good Old Boys*, and *The Day the Cowboys Quit*, are taught and studied in many universities. Unfortunately – even with the new covers on his old paperbacks – Kelton doesn't get the rack space of L'Amour or Hillerman, or even the new publishing "series" authors. Nevertheless, to first-time readers of Kelton, like my students this summer, his work has become a major repository of the fact, fiction, and myth of the Southwest.

Elmer Kelton Country: The Short Nonfiction of a Texas Novelist provides source material for students of the author's fiction along with his views on the land, its caretakers, its wild and domestic denizens, and the sport of rodeo. Highlighted by major pieces published in *Texas Monthly* and *Persimmon Hill*, the majority of articles are from San Angelo's *Livestock Weekly*. The work is divided into six sections: LAND AND WATER – first-hand experiences, profiles of persons and geographies, and the background of the "big dry" as it appears in *The Time it Never Rained*, the problems of too much rain, the huge range fire of 1988, and constant comment on land and resource management; PLOWS AND COWS – specific facts and profiles of "real" farmers and ranchers, articles on sheep and cattle raising, the "crossover generation" of old timers bringing their character traits and skills into the "new way" of doing things, chuck wagons, and "outlaw steer" prototype of Dobie's longhorns, horse training, a historical-folk analysis of the disappearance of the cowboy; OLD TIMERS REMEMBER – profiles of those that "did," and at least one (Rachel Bingham, ranch cook) who would never do it again; THE WAY IT WAS – the buffalo, a shootout, land

rush, fabrications and folklore, an Indian battle; *RODEO LIFE* – profiles and activities; *WRITING ABOUT THE WEST* – a tribute to Omar Barker, humorous and witty discussions about Kelton’s fictional “way of going.”

This is a valuable sourcebook for folklorists and historians of the Southwest. And although literary critics will search it for factual donces and authorial strategies in Kelton’s fiction, this compendium is not meant to collect library dust. *Kelton Country* would be a fine addition to a bathroom reading rack, a trusty companion on a trip West, or a fine gift for retired cowboys or ranchers knowledgeable in fact, fabrication, and folklore – and the “truth” of each.

Lee Schultz
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Longhorn Legacy, by Lawrence Clayton (The Cowboy Press, Abilene, TX) 1994. Notes. P. 61.

Cattle rustling brings back memories of Rusk County. At daybreak of the day of my father-in-law’s funeral, his nephew and I rode with rifles off safety to prevent white trash from getting one of his fat steers they had shot. Understand?

Graves Peeler, inspector for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, knew incidents like this well. *Longhorn Legacy* relates cattle rustling events along the Trinity River in Liberty County, on the Ramsey Prison Farm, and in Matagorda County. After ranching in Fort Bend County, Peeler moved to McMullen County where from his ranch he went arrowhead collecting, trophy game hunting – a collection now housed at Texas A&M University, Kingsville – and purchased high quality Longhorns.

Peeler’s greatest achievement during his ninety years was to become the “Savior of the Longhorn.” Influenced by his father and J. Frank Dobie and financially supported by Sid Richardson, Peeler, an expert Longhorn buyer, collected the world’s largest herd of Longhorns. Clayton believes that the Longhorn registry would not have been possible without Peeler.

Irvin M. May Jr.
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Civilizers: The DuVals of Texas, by Roy L. Swift (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1992. B&W Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 577. \$32.95 Hardcover.

This well-researched, anecdotal history concentrates on four generations of the DuVal family in Texas and is entertaining and informative reading. The author is an accomplished writer reminiscent of the nineteenth century’s Francis Parkman whose sweeping narrative and descriptive prose chronicled the French settlement of Canada. From 1835 through the 1930s, the DuVals were lawyers, judges, soldiers, lawmen, and writers who helped shape Texas.

Most of their activities took place in and around Austin and San Antonio, but occasionally touched East Texas and the Rio Grande.

Williams Pope DuVal (1784-1854), the patriarch of the Texas DuVals, descended from Huguenot immigrants to Virginia. He did not reach the Lone Star State until 1848, but he set the pattern of public service followed by his descendants. A congressman from Kentucky in 1813, he became the territorial governor of Florida from 1822-1834. A great raconteur, his adventures were used by Washington Irving for Ralph Ringwood in *Wolfert's Roost* in 1855. Two of the three sons of DuVal came to Texas in 1835 and served with Fannin at Goliad; Burr H. died in the massacre but John Crittenden (1816-1897) escaped to become a surveyor, Texas Ranger, and the author of *Bigfoot Wallace* (1870) and *Early Times in Texas* (1892). The third son, Thomas Howard (1813-1880), moved to Austin in 1946 where he practiced law and rose through the legal profession to become the first U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas that stretched from Tyler to San Antonio and the Rio Grande. Opposed to secession, he fled Austin in 1863 and made his way to Washington, D.C.

Judge Thomas H. DuVal's son and grandson continued the tradition in the legal field. Burr Grayson DuVal (1842-1893) served in the Confederate army, as did his brother-in-law, lawyer Charles Shannon West, the husband of Burr's sister, Florence. After the war Burr was a rancher and business man and moved to San Antonio where he became a U.S. marshal and then clerk of the U.S. District Court.

The last half of the book focuses on Judge DuVal's grandson, DuVal "Bud" West (1861-1949). He grew up in Austin, but moved to San Antonio to serve as deputy clerk in the U.S. District Court, deputy U.S. marshal, and assistant district attorney in the federal court. In 1898 he prosecuted his former Austin friend, William Sidney Porter (O. Henry), for bank fraud. In 1915, DuVal West became President Woodrow Wilson's special agent to Mexico to confer with, and assess, Generals Villa, Zapata, and Carranza, who vied for the presidency and wanted the recognition of the United States. West's boyhood friends, Albert Sidney Burleson, Edward M. House, and Thomas Watt Gregory, serving President Wilson, had secured that appointment and also his elevation to judge of the Western District Court, thereby following the footsteps of his grandfather.

The author's access to family papers provides interesting details that make the story come alive for general readers. Historians will find useful resource material in the narrative and voluminous notes.

Margaret Swett Henson
Houston

Gus Wortham: Portrait of a Leader, by Fran Dressman (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1994. B&W Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 284. \$29.95 Hardcover.

This gracefully written biography of philanthropic businessman Gus Wortham is another reminder of how much of Houston's history is written in the ink of a ledger.

Not a typical Horatio Alger hero, this son of an established insurance man nevertheless succeeded far beyond almost all his contemporaries in establishing a national empire, forging a niche in the local and state power structure, and immortalizing himself through generosity to the arts and culture of the Bayou City. Indeed, author Fran Dressman depicts the American General tycoon as the last of the Southwestern gentlemen whose individuality branded their names on their enterprises and their generation.

Dressman, director of Constituent Communications at the University of Houston, has integrated abundant archival materials, personal communications, interviews, and principal secondary works of the period into a welcomed account of the man and his times. Her mastery of the subject eases the general reader over the technicalities and terminology of the trade, even managing to make mergers, buyouts, and stock sharing more interesting than logic would dictate. The author adroitly fits her material into larger historical themes, the hallmark of effective biography.

While not uncritical, Dressman declines to dwell on the controversial or negative. Wortham's close relationships with Ben Barnes and other fallen political figures suggest more elaboration. His contribution to right-wing causes identified with colleagues also remains unclear. It is a matter of curiosity that no interviewee divulged even an undignified story in an unguarded or vindictive moment.

A footnote offers an interesting insight into this captain of industry's decision-making. A departing government official asked Wortham's opinion of the man's salary value on the private market. Wortham responded with a generous estimate, but later hired the fellow at the same lower salary offered him by a competitor.

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