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## Book Reviews

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

*The Family Story of Bonnie and Clyde*, Phillip W. Steele with Marie Barrow Scoma (Pelican Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054) 2000. Contents. Epilogue. Biblio. Index. B&W Photos. P. 158. \$8.95. Paperback.

*The Family Story of Bonnie and Clyde* is a noteworthy example of family history. Phillip Steele has carefully recorded the memories of his co-author, Marie Barrow Scoma, Clyde's youngest sister, giving readers a rare glimpse into the family life of both Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. According to the authors, the two outlaws maintained and enjoyed close relationships with their immediate families. Once Bonnie and Clyde became fugitives, members of their families secretly met with them on several occasions at prearranged locations in isolated areas on the outskirts of Dallas. These brief encounters reveal that the families were willing to protect their blood relatives from harm, even at the height of the famous duo's criminal activities. Subtle commentary on the Barrow and Parker family relationships with their infamous kinsmen and the numerous family photographs of the outlaws are among the book's greatest strengths.

Overall, the authors fail to achieve their objective of writing "the most accurate story ever told about Bonnie and Clyde, their families, and their associates" (p. 14). Historians will find it problematic that the authors chose not to reference their work. Also, scholarly readers will note that the authors' account contains some factual errors. For example, Bonnie Parker's poem, "The Story of Bonnie and Clyde" (pp. 52-54), was written a few weeks before she and Clyde were killed at Gibsland, Louisiana, not in the early stages of their criminal careers, as the authors contend. For these reasons and others, E.R. Milner's *The Lives and Times of Bonnie and Clyde* (1996) remains the most complete and accurate source on the heavily romanticized outlaw couple. Despite its shortcomings, the general reader will find this book entertaining and captivating.

Kenneth W. Howell  
Texas A&M University

*Smoky: The Cowhorse*, Will James (Mountain Press Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806) 1926. Reprint. 2000. Contents. Illus. P. 245. \$16.00 Paperback. \$36.00. Hardcover.

Undoubtedly, this is the most popular of the twenty-four books Will James published between 1924 and 1942. *Smoky* is the only one of James' books that has remained in print since 1926. It won the Newberry Medal from the American Library Association in 1927 for the most distinguished

contribution to American literature for children.

This is another of the re-print editions by Mountain Press, which is in the process of reprinting all of James' books. In conjunction with the Will James Art Company, *Smoky*, as are all these reprints, is copiously illustrated by the author.

Today's readers of *Smoky*, looking through the critical lens of political correctness, may find certain passages biased or insensitive. As with many great writers of the first half of the twentieth-century, James should be read with a mind open to the times in which he wrote.

*Smoky* is still good fiction. Written in the unlettered vernacular of James, it tells the story of a mouse-colored range horse that experienced the dangers of survival in the wild. Eventually captured and broken by a sensitive and understanding cowboy, Smoky became his devoted mount to the exclusion of all other humans. Stolen, he was used in rodeos as the unriden bronc until years later when he was sold as a useless nag. The happy ending is reserved for the reader.

This book is recommended for youths of all ages and especially for public school libraries. It is recommended for anyone who likes a good Western story and for those who love horses.

Robert W. Glover  
Shiloh Ranch

*Vaqueros in Blue and Gray*, Jerry Thompson (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, Texas 78761) 2000. Reprint 1977. Contents. Introduction. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Illus. Index. P. 244. \$19.95. Paperback. \$27.95. Hardcover.

This classic, originally published in 1977, remains a comprehensive chronicle of "vaqueros" who fought as Unionists and Confederates in the Civil War, both along the border region and on the bloodier battlefields of the slave South. It merits acclaim as the best work on *Tejano* military history; not even World War II, the war generally recognized as having had the greatest impact on the course of Mexican American life, has a comparable monograph.

There are several new features to the 2000 edition. It contains a critical "Introduction" by the author wherein he reviews the current status of the literature on Texas Mexicans in the Civil War and assesses its impact on *Vaqueros in Blue and Gray*. In some cases, he tells us, new research confirms his earlier findings or expands on the record, but in other instances, new studies dispel some of his old conclusions. To update things, Thompson includes two new appendices, one an alphabetized list of Confederate *Tejano* soldiers, the other of Union participants. Attached to each entry is information

such as age, occupation, and place of birth. Félix Alamaráz, Jr., the distinguished historian from the University of Texas at San Antonio, provides a commendatory Foreword.

No other history of the Southwest can boast of a tome like *Vaqueros in Blue and Gray*. It stands as a tribute to Texas scholarship and the pen of Jerry D. Thompson.

Arnoldo De León  
Angelo State University

*Some Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys: A Collection of Articles and Essays*,  
John R. Erickson (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336,  
Denton, TX 76203-1336) 1999. Contents. Index. P. 153. \$14.95.  
Paperback.

I once heard Larry McMurtry say that he believes the land shapes the way a writer writes. For example, William Faulkner's style reflects the thick forests and kudzu of the American South with his long and complex sentences. McMurtry, in contrast, writes with a clean and concise style much like his austere and sparse West Texas home country.

If what McMurtry said is true, and I think it is, then there is no doubt that John Erickson is a native of the high plains of Texas. Erickson's newest book, a collection of previously published essays and articles, is written with the same clean, unadorned style of the "high and lonesome" Texas Panhandle. Some readers might be more familiar with Erickson's lighthearted series of books about Hank, the Cowdog, while others might know him through his four previous books in the Western Life Series published by the University of North Texas Press. All of his books, including *Some Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys*, are full of good stories, laced with lots of humor, a little history, and reflections on the life of contemporary cowboying.

Since the chapters were previously published in a variety of places over a period of twelve years, there is some repetition of themes and comments. However, if read in bits and pieces, savoring each chapter before rushing to the next, the reader can stretch the enjoyment out for miles and miles. Just like the high plains.

Kyle Childress  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, Michael A. Bellesiles (Alfred A. Knopf, 201 E 50th St., New York, NY 10022) 2000. Contents. Epilogue. Notes. Appendix. Acknowledgments. Index P. 603. \$30.00. Hardcover.

Professor Bellesiles has given us a pretty fair social history of firearms in the United States. He combed primary and secondary sources for information on patterns of ownership, use, attitudes, and governmental policies from the colonial era to the late nineteenth century. It is much more satisfying than the typical history of firearms but it is a revisionist history and the author's conclusions may well give one pause.

The author believes that today "guns are central to the identity of Americans" (p. 8), but were relatively unimportant to our ancestors. The linchpin of this theory is the undeniable fact that until the Civil War the principal gun control problem, from government's perspective, was that there were not enough of them.

Besides militia reports and gun censuses, Bellesiles used probate records to estimate the numbers and conditions of arms in private hands from 1765 to 1859. Although estate inventories appear to be quite detailed, at times they almost certainly understate firearm ownership. This reviewer has noted that Texas estate records rarely include guns even when other sources show that the deceased died armed to the teeth.

Two conclusions are especially questionable for East Texans. Bellesiles' calculations show that in the 1840s gun ownership was 27.8% on the frontier and 33.3% in the South (p. 445). He also states that in the mid-1840s "neither private citizens nor the military showed much interest in the rifle" (p. 381). This is at variance, however, with the Peters Colony Census in 1844 that showed that the 381 households held 286 rifles and another thirty-five smoothbores.

Readers wanting to know the history of guns in the United States cannot ignore this work – neither can they fully rely upon it.

Paul R. Scott  
Harris County, Texas

*Through a Night of Horrors: Voices From the 1900 Galveston Storm*, Casey Edward Greene and Shelly Henley Kelly, editors (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2000. Contents. Notes. Biblio. B&W Photos. Index. P. 206. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Casey Edward Greene's and Shelly Henley Kelly's work reveals the horrifying events and findings surrounding the catastrophic hurricane that destroyed Galveston on September 8, 1900. More than 6,000 people lost their

lives in the storm that Nathan C. Green, author of *Story of the Galveston Flood*, claimed was “a tempest so terrible that no words can adequately describe its intensity” (p. vix). Along with a preface and introduction, the book is divided into three sections: “Survivor Letters;” “Survivor Memoirs;” and “Survivor Oral Histories.” Letters from John D. Blagden and Sarah D. Hawley, memoirs from Ben C. Stuart and Gordon Gaither, and oral histories from Emma Beal and R. Wilbur Goodman are just a few examples of the entries included in the book.

The introduction contains excellent background information on Galveston’s history and demographics dating back to 1875. In 1899, it was the “third richest city in the United States in proportion to population,” according to William A Scharnweber’s *Facts about Galveston, Texas, the Deep Water Harbor of the Gulf of Mexico* (p. 65). Greene and Kelly list the population of Galveston at just under 38,000 in 1900. Between 1896 and 1898, over sixty percent of the state’s cotton crop was handled in Galveston, and in 1899, it was the nation’s leading cotton port. The storm wiped out all industrial activity. Galveston’s financial losses were estimated at over \$28 million. Over 1,500 acres of shoreline were swept clean while “thousands of houses, the wharves, rail road bridges, and telegraph connections to the outside world were lost” (p. 4).

Galveston’s Rosenberg Library is noted for its archives of local and early Texas history, and is home to many accounts of the hurricane that demolished the city. Greene and Kelly, both archivists at the Rosenberg Library, have put together numerous memoirs and histories of the storm that seem unrealistic by today’s standards, but were all too realistic on September 8, 1900.

Brian P. King  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Ten Texas Feuds*, C.L. Sonnichsen (University of New Mexico Press, 1720 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591) 2000. Reprint 1957. 1971. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 248. Paperback.

*Ten Texas Feuds* is a well-written account of ten blood feuds in Texas from Shelbyville to El Paso. Blood feuds are a part of the frontier and Southern heritage of Texans; no matter how good the citizens of a town or county are, when push comes to shove, they will fight. C.L. Sonnichsen spent over twenty years tracking down the stories of feuds throughout Texas. He talked with the local old-timers, viewed county records, and looked up old newspaper stories to verify as many facts as possible. The ten feuds cited in this book are the ones that he thought were the best of all those collected.

Sonnichsen believed that the feuding in Texas started when the citizens of an area got tired of lawlessness and gathered together to take the law into their

own hands. Texas justice meant defending a family's honor, protecting the people from outlaws and renegades, and standing up for one's rights when those in power no longer did so. Lynch Law prevailed in most Texas counties, giving citizens the right to defend themselves when the law did not. The reprint of this book will be beneficial to those interested in looking into some of the local history of Texas. It is filled from cover to cover with the stories of ordinary Texans who stood up for themselves and defended what was theirs. This is a book that any collector of Texana or folklore will definitely want in their collection.

Donna C. West  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*The Lost Colony of the Confederacy*, Eugene C. Harter (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 7843-4354) 2000. Reprint 1985. Contents. Notes. Appendix. Illus. Index. P. 141. \$16.95 Paperback. \$29.95 Hardcover.

Following the Civil War, many Southerners chose to leave their homes and loved ones for Brazil rather than try to exist in the world of Reconstruction. The exact number of those who immigrated is not known, but it was sufficient to establish and maintain not only colonies but Southern traditions as well. These colonists and their descendants, who are ignored in traditional histories concerning the Civil War, are the focus of Eugene C. Harter's work.

In writing this history, Harter, a descendant of the "*confederados*," relied on personal letters, diaries, newspaper articles, and oral histories. He uses these sources to detail the Southerners' reasons for leaving their homeland and for staying once tensions in the United States had subsided. Central to his argument is that the expatriates did not meet with great hardship, as some contemporary accounts contended, but were, in fact, successful, and some achieved great wealth. The author also discusses how the *confederados* assimilated as well as contributed to Brazilian society, becoming fully recognized citizens in the process.

Those interested in Civil War history may consider this book a welcome change from histories that tend only to re-analyze popular battles and personalities. There is no discussion of Bull Run and General Robert E. Lee is mentioned sparingly, although the author does detail the fallen leader's disapproval of those who reestablished themselves on the South American continent. Harter stays true to his objective, providing the story of those individuals who felt they had been left without a country following the war. This history of those who fled the United States is not comprehensive, and in

all likelihood it never will be, given the lack of official records, but its incompleteness does not render it useless.

Josh Flores  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Hispanics in the Mormon Zion, 1912-1999*, Jorge Iber (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2000. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 196. \$34.95. Hardcover.

The Hispanic population in Utah had its beginnings early in the twentieth century, when demand for unskilled labor drew Mexican immigrants to the state. In 1910 there were over 166 people of Mexican birth in the state, but their numbers grew tenfold within ten years. Hispanic organizations were created in Utah during the 1920s to serve the needs of the growing community, among them the *Rama Mexicana*, or the Mexican Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The *Rama* served as a mission and as a place for social activities and networking for everyone in the Spanish-speaking community, regardless of faith.

The Depression of the 1930s had a profound impact on the Spanish-speaking community, as wages dropped and unemployment increased. Members of the Hispanic community worked together to help one another, and *Rama* leaders worked hard to assist their constituents during this trying time.

The economic surge produced by World War II increased the demand for labor tremendously. Continued missionary work by the *Rama* expanded the numbers of Hispanic Mormons, but their Roman Catholic peers viewed them with suspicion. The Spanish-speaking community of Utah became more diversified with the introduction of Puerto Ricans laborers. Social and cultural differences between the two groups created some animosities, and attempts toward closer relations among the Hispanic population did not develop until after the war.

The Hispanic population of Utah faced increased discrimination and lack of opportunities after the war. Late in the 1960s, organizations such as SOCIO (Spanish Speaking Organization for Community, Integrity, and Opportunity) advocated more rights and better treatment among the Spanish-speaking population of Utah. But by the mid-1990s, the community became polarized along ethnic and religious lines.

Jorge Iber's work, which is organized into six easy-to-read chapters, is well researched. Fans of books written by Mexican-American historian Arnoldo de Leon are sure to enjoy this book.

Son H. Mai  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Great Plains Cattle Empire: Thatcher Brothers and Associates (1875-1945)*, Paul E. Patterson and Joy Poole (Texas Tech University Press, Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79410) 2000. Contents. Epilogue. Notes. Biblio. B&W Photos. Index. P. 211. \$28.95. Hardcover.

Paul E. Patterson and Joy Poole have written an interesting history of the cattle industry, 1875 to 1945. Patterson, who managed the Diamond A Cattle Company for twenty-six years, has written extensively on western themes. Poole, former administrator of the Blue Horses Pioneer Museum in Trinidad, Colorado, is now director of the Fort Collins Museum in Colorado. The authors used some personal correspondence and other primary materials. For example, Poole researched the records of the Bloom Land and Cattle Board; Frank G. Bloom was one of the pioneers in the Great Plains cattle industry. But secondary sources, rather than primary, seem to dominate this book. Still, the writing is crisp and the story interesting. If one knows nothing about this subject, this quick read is a good place to begin.

*Great Plains Cattle Empire* deals with Henry W. Cresswell, Burton C. Mossman, William E. Anderson, and others who were leaders in the cattle industry that proliferated after the Civil War. The book deals primarily with the influence of John A. and Mahlon D. Thatcher, and later Bloom, on the cattle industry. The Thatchers and Bloom were transplanted Pennsylvanians. The Thatcher brothers profited initially in the mercantile business as thousands of emigrants passed through Colorado on their travels west. Soon they owned the First National Bank of Pueblo, Colorado and achieved further success in mining and ranching. Bloom soon joined his friends in Colorado.

After the Civil War railroads began to tie East to West, and cattlemen, seeing the potential of new markets, began driving their herds north. The danger of the occasional Indian or rattlesnake paled to the scarcity of water, as cowboys and cattle grew hoarse with thirst. But for those hardy souls who made it to the grasslands of Colorado or Nevada, the profits could be enormous. Bankers, land speculators, and investors from the East quickly descended on the nearly eleven million acres of the Great Plains. Cattle companies formed by the dozens.

As the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains filled with settlers, some new and some old, the Thatchers and Bloom reaped the profits. When word spread that the Thatchers were men to be trusted, cattleman and miners stored their currency, gold, silver, and other valuables in the Thatcher's safe. The brothers also sold drafts on deposited goods, thus eliminating the danger of carrying around one's entire life savings.

The 1870s brought change to the Great Plains. Villages grew into towns. Overstocked ranges, immigrants seeking land, and barbed wire forced men like the Thatchers to seek new outlets for their business ventures. The winter of 1878 when thousands of cattle died in the elements was particularly harsh. Companies such as the JJ Ranch sold their brands to eastern investors and relinquished their claim on 2.25 million acres of public domain.

When range rights were contested by homesteaders, the Thatchers and Bloom began buying patented lands, especially those that contained surface water. Working through other cattle companies, such as the H.W. Cresswell, branding the Bar CC, and the Anderson Cattle Company, branding the Diamond A, the three friends formed one of the largest cattle conglomerates in the livestock industry. At one time, the Bloom Cattle Company laid claim to over two million acres in Montana.

The authors intertwine pictures of success with harsh winters that claimed thousands of cattle. The Panic of 1873 sent many scurrying back east. The cyclical nature of the cattle industry made initial investments worthwhile, but when more cattlemen and investors gutted the market, times were hard again. The story of the Great Plains Cattle industry, and notably the story of the Thatchers and Bloom, is a story more about determination and perseverance than about cattle and cowboys.

Randy Harshbarger  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Galveston and the 1900 Storm*, Patricia Bellis Bixel and Elizabeth Hayes Turner (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2000. Contents. Bibliographical Essay. Map. B&W Photos. Index. P. 174. \$60.00. Hardcover. \$27.95. Paperback.

At first glance, this publication appears to be a coffee-table popular history, but careful reading reveals that it is not only a well-researched work on the storm that struck Galveston in 1900, but also a fine early history of the coastal Texas city. The authors include a brief yet fascinating account of Galveston through the words and thoughts of some of the Island City's early inhabitants. Black-and-white photos show the city's beautiful architecture before the turn of the century and add character to the work. The introduction provides a solid background for the main theme – the hurricane of 1900. In this section, much of the story of the storm is splendidly retold by those who witnessed its destruction. Chilling accounts describe the rising water, the "storm surge," and the sound of shattering glass, as "if the rooms were filled with a thousand little devils, shrieking and whistling" (p. 26). The final section details the grieving, followed by cleanup, repair, and rejuvenation of a battered city. Special attention is given to progressivism in Galveston, including the women's suffrage movement and the organizations that came to Galveston's rescue. The book also takes a look into the African American communities of the city at the period.

*Galveston and the 1900 Storm* is tastefully designed and well organized. Although footnotes or endnotes would have been a bonus, their absence does not lessen the historical legitimacy of this work. With its rich inclusion of more

than four dozen black-and-white photographs, this publication is appropriate for both scholars and a more general audience.

Craig Wallace  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Pavie in the Borderlands: The Journey of Théodore Pavie to Louisiana and Texas, 1829, Including Portions of his Souvenirs atlantiques*, Betty Black Klier (Louisiana State University Press, P.O. Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5053 2000. Contents. Illus. Map. Appendices. Biblio. Index. P. 280. \$49.95. Hardcover. \$24.95. Paperback.

Théodore Pavie was an eighteen-year-old, melodramatic, brooding Romantic in 1830. In Paris Pavie moved among the time's intellectuals: novelists Victor Hugo, painter Eugene Delacroix, America's Fenimore Cooper, and England's Walter Scott, among others. But the sophisticated world of Paris was not for Théodore Pavie. His suffering soul required the balm of primitive nature and communication with the Noble Savage. And the most primitive nature that Pavie could find was in America's southwestern borderlands, on the Texas-Louisiana border. It helped that he had Pavie kinfolks whom he could visit already living in Natchitoches.

Betty Black Klier's *Pavie in the Borderlands* is the story of Théodore's nine-months visit to the newborn, fast growing United States. He traveled overland from New York to the Ohio River, then down the Ohio to the Mississippi and New Orleans, up the Red River to Alexandria, Louisiana, and by horse to Natchitoches. Pavie was amazed at life in the States, both natural and social, and to our advantage he wrote down his thoughts and descriptions of his travels in letters home and in a later publication, *Souvenirs atlantiques*. His love of nature did not preclude his pot shooting alligators, herons, buzzards, and anything that moved along the bank as he glided down these mighty rivers.

Pavie's richest descriptions are of the southwestern Borderlands, between Natchitoches, through the lawless Neutral Ground, across the Sabine to Nacogdoches. This area was a cultural sink, consisting of a gumbo of French settlers of Natchitoches (which includes the Pavies), the Spanish colonists who had inhabited what became of the Neutral Ground, thousands of dispossessed local, migrant Indians, Negroes both free and enslaved, and hordes of Anglos marching westward but stopped at Mexican Texas.

Readers will therefore be forever indebted to Pavie for his observations of nature and life in this vanishing world of the Texas-Louisiana frontier. He gave us eyewitness accounts of the riverboat world and of slavery ("the great vice of American society"), and of vagabond Indians (who were below Negroes in the pecking order). He described in detail the abundance of deer

and wild fowl and the now extinct passenger pigeon and the Carolina parakeet. He wrote eyewitness accounts of a social and natural world that are gone beyond the memory of man. He gave us a treasure.

For all of the important sights that Théodore Pavie did write about, it seems petty to be critical of his style, one which was Romantically popular then but is Classically superfluous now. Pavie loved simile and metaphor and protracted figures of speech. He gloried in the extravagance of language, and his style frequently gets in the way of clarity. His feelings poured over every description. And he frequently invents episodes and dialogue as he Romantically wished them to be, not as they were.

If one read only Pavie's letters home to his family, he would assume that he was dealing with an emotional basketcase. Pavie goes through continual emotional crises – congenital melancholy and homesickness! – during which he cries all night long. He wanders in the dusk about his uncle's house brooding and moaning. He cultivates sadness, wallowing in the sympathy he gains from the females of his uncle's house. His yearning to see his older brother Victor borders on abnormality. I marvel that one of such a super-sensitive disposition could ever become a world traveler, which he did. And if I were teaching early nineteenth century literature, I would assign my students to read Théodore Pavie to study a full-blown Shelleyan Romantic: "I fall upon the thorns of life, I bleed!"

But this "basketcase" returned to his home in France, achieved considerable aesthetic distance between himself and his experiences in the Borderland, and wrote his *Souvenirs atlantiques* in a much happier mood than he was in when he was writing about his experiences to the folks back home. Pavie painted some fascinating pictures of the Borderland, and showed us people and places and things that we would never have known about had he not written about them.

To Betje Black Klier, the author, editor, and translator of *Pavie in the Borderlands*: she has all my applause. She has done highly professional, far-reaching research! She has the investigative tendencies of a supersleuth, with the academic energy and enthusiasm of a graduate student. She has ranged far to follow her sources to their resting places, and she has contributed immeasurably to our knowledge of the Texas-Louisiana Borderlands.

Francis Edward Abernethy  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*Texas Painters, Sculptors & Graphic Artists: A Biographical Dictionary of Artists in Texas Before 1942*, John and Deborah Powers (Woodmont Books, P.O. Box 50103, Austin, TX 78763-0103). 2000. Contents. Biblio. Appendices. P. 606. \$125. Hardcover.

From Henry McArdle's "Dawn at the Alamo," which hangs in the Texas capitol, to Julian Onderdort's impressionistic paintings of Texas hillsides covered with bluebonnets, artists have furnished images that capture the immense variety of the Lone Star State. John and Deborah Powers' new biographical dictionary, *Texas Painters, Sculptors & Graphic Artists*, provides an essential guide to the story of Texas artists prior to World War II. It will be useful to collectors, dealers, museums, and libraries.

Many of the artists included are relatively obscure. To make their selections, the Powers relied on city directories and census reports and identified many individuals not found in any other source as "artists." Most of these self-proclaimed artists also had other occupations as homemakers, surveyors, journalists, physicians, scientists, or military officers. Criteria for inclusion in this dictionary embraced an artist's formal training in art, his or her exhibitions, critical appraisal, and historical interest.

A brief biographical sketch begins each entry. This is followed by a list of exhibitions, collections, affiliations, and references. The authors make no attempt to judge the merits of an artist's work save through brief summaries of critical comments. For well-known artists such as Frederick Remington or Georgia O'Keefe, the biographical sketch focuses on the artist's Texas connection and makes no attempt to describe his or her full career.

*Texas Painters, Sculptors & Graphic Artists* is a comprehensive and well-designed guide to the mosaic of Texas art prior to World War II. It should be an essential addition to any reference library.

Elizabeth Alexander  
Texas Wesleyan University

*The Wichita Indians: Traders of Texas and the Southern Plains, 1540-1845*, F. Todd Smith (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2000. Contents. Maps. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 206. \$32.95. Hardcover.

This third volume in Smith's trilogy on the Caddos and Wichitas focuses on the latter's stature as farmers and traders in northeast Texas prior to statehood and their dealings with neighboring tribes and colonial powers. The Wichita name comprises several groups, including Guichitas, Taovayas, Tawakonis, Wacos, Iscanis, and Kichais. After providing a culture sketch, Smith traces the fortunes of these groups through eras framed in terms of

Euroamerican engagement. Wichita villages were stations for intertribal trade and thus encouraged Spanish and French inroads, after which the Wichitas thrived as middlemen. The Spanish solidified their influence among the Wichita groups through the 1700s, and then saw it wane. A lull “between empires” after 1804 was exploited by American merchants and filibusters, prior to the brief reigns of Mexico and the Texas Republic. The Wichita groups responded to shifting influences by relocating their village sites several times and by striking intertribal alliances that gave them maximum protection for minimal commitment. They were able to maintain relatively peaceful external relations until late in the parade of intrusions.

The Wichitas' eighteenth-century experience with the Spanish and French has been well studied, though embedded in regional histories, monographs on other tribes, and archaeological and ethnohistorical reports. Their distinct role in the turbulent first half of the nineteenth century has not had so much attention. In any case, outside of W. W. Newcomb's volume in 1976 for a general audience, no separate Wichita narrative history has been published. With a superb command of the sources, and in writing brisk and clear, Smith furnishes such a history.

Daniel J. Gelo  
University of Texas at San Antonio

*The Great Galveston Disaster*, Paul Lester (Pelican Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054) 2000. Contents. Illus. P. 516. \$17.95. Paperback.

*When The Heavens Frowned*, Joseph L. Cline (Pelican Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054) 1946. 2000. Reprint. Contents. Illus. P. 221. \$19.95. Paperback.

The centennial of the 1900 Galveston Storm sparked renewed interest in the worst natural catastrophe in the history of North America. The catalyst for this phenomena was the publication of Eric Larson's *Isaac's Storm*, a *New York Times* best seller. Several publishing houses, hoping to cash in on the anniversary, reprinted earlier books on the storm. *The Great Galveston Disaster* and *When The Heavens Frowned*, published by Pelican Press, are two such efforts. *The Great Galveston Disaster*, published immediately after the storm, is a compilation of personal interviews and newspaper articles about the storm. *When the Heavens Frowned* is the autobiography of Joseph Cline, the assistant meteorologist in Galveston on that fateful day in September.

Unfortunately, the quality of the reprints leaves much to be desired. The photographs, especially in the Cline book, appear blurry. Because both books are sensational, Pelican Press should have hired an historian to comment on some of the more controversial sections in each book. For example, the

original publication of *The Great Galveston Disaster* caused quite a stir. Besides vividly describing the destruction wrought on the Island City, the book contained several eyewitness accounts that accused some black Galvestonians of looting and disfiguring the corpses of white Galvestonians. The vivid images of law enforcement officials arresting looters whose pockets contained jewelry-laden, amputated fingers of white victims fanned the flames of racial hatred throughout the United States. Also, in his chapter on the 1900 storm, Joseph Cline did not mention a serious difference of opinion between himself and his brother, Isaac, over the need to warn the citizens of Galveston about the potential severity of the storm. This contradicts Eric Larson's interpretation of that event.

With a little more time and effort Pelican Press could have produced useful reprints of two important early books on the 1900 Storm. Hopefully, students of the Galveston Hurricane will not have to wait another one hundred years before meaningful reprints of these important books reaches the bookstores.

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*Turn Out the Lights: Chronicles of Texas During the 80s and 90s*, Gary Cartwright (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas, 78713-7819) 2000. Foreword by Robert Draper. Acknowledgments. P. 282. \$19.95. Paperback.

Readers of *Texas Monthly* will recognize Gary Cartwright from his many years of excellent contributions to that magazine. *Turn Out the Lights* is a collection of his best work, most of it previously published in *Texas Monthly* during the past twenty years. Unlike many other compilations, this one contains an abundance of enjoyable and highly recommended reading.

Cartwright is among the foremost observers and critics of contemporary Texas. Perhaps most impressive is his ability to tell stories about a broad range of topics. There is something for everyone in this collection. From an expose on psychic healers ("Touch Me, Feel Me, Heal Me! Exposing Psychic Surgery, or the Case of the Smoking Panties"), to a prophetic tale of a recent Dallas Cowboys reunion, Cartwright provides insightful commentary on an amazing array of topics. A personal favorite has to be the chapter entitled "The Last Roundup," which juxtaposes two of the dominant mythological characters in Texas history, cowboys and oil millionaires, in a heartbreaking story about the collision of past and present in the rangeland of West Texas. Do not miss this one.

The one essay in this collection not previously published, "My Most Unforgettable Year," is Cartwright's take on the assassination of President

John F. Kennedy and the impact that event had on Texas, Dallas, and him. Obviously a seminal event in Cartwright's life, the assassination and various conspiracy theories surrounding it are well-covered in several other chapters as well. Whether a reader's interest lies in the conflicting accounts of the Kennedy assassination or simply in good stories well told, reading *Turn Out the Lights* will be time well spent.

Mark Daniel Barringer  
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*The Texas Sheriff: Lord of the County Line*, Thad Sitton (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Avenue NW, Norman, OK 73069-8218). 2000. Contents. Illus. Epilogue. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 253. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Thad Sitton has crafted a well written social history of rural law enforcement in Texas that is based on solid scholarship and rich in anecdote. During the first half of the twentieth century, the county sheriff "was still the 'high sheriff' – master of the county courthouse, feudal lord of the county territory, manhunter, and keeper of bloodhounds" (p. xii). Lawman, politician, jailer, personal mediator, and all-around problem-solver, the sheriff held power far beyond the formal definition of his office. He enforced the law informally and personally. Local transgressors – potential voters in the next election – often received more lenient treatment than "outsiders" accused of the same offenses. In addition to statutes, rural sheriffs also sustained the social *status quo* desired by the electorate. Such enforcement ranged from preservation of strict racial segregation to occasional toleration of local gambling, prostitution, and bootlegging operations. Voters expected sheriffs to "get rough" sometimes while maintaining order, though the degree of acceptable violence varied according to county traditions. Some lawmen, such as Bee County Sheriff Vail Ennis, who killed eight men before voters removed him from office, clearly abused their authority. Others served for decades without drawing a weapon. After 1950, increasing attention to civil rights and expanding state and federal regulation over law enforcement, especially the creation of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and the Texas Jail Standards Commission, restricted the power of rural sheriffs.

Sitton constructs his history from appropriate secondary sources and voluminous contemporary newspaper reports. But the real strength of *The Texas Sheriff* lies in the over three dozen personal interviews with "old-style" Texas sheriffs that provide most of the narrative. The author wisely allows the participants to describe much of the action, and their voices imbue the book with a strong sense of time and place. Despite his reliance on the "old-timer's" accounts, Sitton presents a balanced assessment of his subjects. He frequently

juxtaposes a specific lawman's kindness to his constituents with the same officer's extreme brutality toward "outsiders" or racial minorities, leaving the reader to reconcile such extremes of behavior.

Thad Sitton has produced a laudable combination of solid history and engaging writing. Students of criminal justice, lovers of Texana, and admirers of skillful storytelling will find *The Texas Sheriff: Lord of the County Line* rewarding reading.

Roger Tuller  
State University of New York College at Cortland

*The Jack Ruby Trial Revisited: The Diary of Foreman Max Causey*, John Mark Dempsey, editor (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2000. B&W Photos. References. Index. P. 202. \$29.95. Hardcover.

On November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas. Two days later, as city police officers were transferring Oswald to the Dallas County jail, Jack Ruby walked unchallenged into the basement of City Hall and shot him to death. Three months after Oswald was murdered, Dallas became the site of Ruby's trial for murder. Focusing solely on the proceedings of this case, John Mark Dempsey revisits this famous and controversial episode in Dallas' history.

Dempsey approached the Ruby trial from the perspectives of the sequestered members of the jury by editing the diary of Max Causey, who was the first juror selected in the case and the eventually served as foreman of the jury. He utilized Causey's written memoir, court records, newspaper accounts, and interviews with surviving jury members. Dempsey reveals many different facets about the daily experiences of jury members during the trial, but several key points are repeated throughout the book. Causey and other members of the jury believed that Ruby acted on his own in killing Oswald. Causey stated, "... Ruby was not stable enough for the Mafia or the CIA to put any stock in at all" (pp. 3-4). The author also reveals that the jury had no second thoughts regarding Ruby's guilt and based its decision on facts presented before them, not a desire to vindicate the city of Dallas. Dempsey discloses that lead defense attorney Melvin Belli was unable to convince the court that his client suffered from psychomotor epilepsy and had killed Oswald while experiencing a seizure caused by the disease. If Ruby had pled guilty and thrown himself upon the mercy of the court, the jurors contend that they probably would have sentenced him to life in prison rather than giving him the death penalty.

Dempsey's book serves as a good introduction to the Ruby trial. Although repetitious at times, the author has done an adequate job of editing and

researching his work. Both the scholar and the general reader will find this book accessible and informative.

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*Widows by the Thousand: The Civil War Correspondence of Theophilus and Harriet Perry, 1862-1864*, M. Jane Johansson, editor (University of Arkansas Press, 201 Ozark Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72701) 2000. Contents. Illus. Notes. Index. P. 333. \$34.95. Hardcover.

I must confess.

Knowing only the title to this book when I was asked to review it, I wondered if it would be a knock-off of a chapter, similarly titled, in Randolph Campbell's splendid work, *A Southern Community in Crisis: 1850-1880*.

I need not have worried. This is genuine, a piece of history expanding on a trove of correspondence which Campbell discovered well over a decade ago at Duke University and had incorporated only in part. The author graciously acknowledges his help and guidance.

At the onset of the Civil War, Theophilus and Harriet Perry, natives of North Carolina, were living in Marshall where he had established a law practice. Hesitant to defend secession, he entered the army eventually. This is a record of the entire correspondence between and among husband and wife and members of their respective families before his death at the Battle of Pleasant Hill, the day after the Battle of Mansfield.

Johansson opens each year of the letters with an essay on the course of the conflict as it affected a family shattered by the war and themselves as individuals. She used service records, census returns, and other sources to identify others who figure in the letters.

Sad, poignant, and compelling, the book is a story encapsulated in the title. With one sickly child and another on the way, Mrs. Perry anguished at her fate in a letter to a sister back home in North Carolina:

"I don't know what is to become of us – we are strongly scourged if any people ever were ... I very often wish to be with you all, but I should then be so far from Mr. Perry. I could not hear from him hardly ever – I want to stay as near him as I can while he lives – for I have no idea he will ever return to stay – war makes widows by the thousands."

For one to whom some of the names in this book are almost as familiar as those of his own family, reading this book is much like turning the pages of a family photo album.

Mrs. Johansson is an adjunct professor of history at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. She is the author of *Peculiar Honor: A History of the 28th Cavalry, 1862-1865*, which won the East Texas Historical Association's Ottis Lock Award for Best Book of the year in East Texas in 1999. Theophilus Perry served in the 28th.

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