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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Southern Journey of a Civil War Marine: The Illustrated Note-Book of Henry O. Gusley, Edward T. Cotham, Jr., editor (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2006. Contents. Notes. Maps. Illus. Index. P. 213. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Through his books *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston* (1998) and *Sabine Pass: The Confederacy's Thermopylae* (2004), Edward T. Cotham has established himself as the leading authority on Civil War events along the upper Texas Gulf Coast. With his editing of this journal of a United States Marine captured at the Battle of Sabine Pass, Cotham adds to our understanding the events of the Civil War along the entire Gulf Coast.

Henry O. Gusley, author of the journal, was a twenty-four year old native of Pennsylvania who joined the Marines in October 1861. His journal begins with the naval campaign to capture New Orleans in May 1862 and continues through service at Pensacola, the lower Mississippi River, the capture of Galveston, naval activity in the swamps in Louisiana and the blockade of Mobile, and concludes with Gusley's capture by the Texans in the Battle of Sabine Pass. Gusley's journal was found by Confederates on the captured Federal gunboat *Clifton* and published in installments in the *Galveston Tri-Weekly News* in the autumn of 1863. As Cotham points out, the Note-Book (as the author called it) contains descriptions of some of the most significant Civil War engagements along the Gulf Coast.

The published text is enhanced by 126 illustrations, many of them sketches by Dr. Daniel D.T. Nestall, acting assistant surgeon on the *Clifton*. As Cotham points out, "what Gusley preserved in words, Dr. Nestall preserved in his drawings" (p. 3).

In addition to the text and drawings, Cotham provides additional information about Gusley and Nestall, the United State Marine Corps in the Civil War, the United States mortar flotilla, and African Americans and the Navy. Informative footnotes complement the text.

This is an attractive and insightful volume that all students of the Civil War, especially those interested in the campaigns along the Gulf Coast, will want to own. Ed Cotham has made another significant contribution to our understanding of the nation's Civil War.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University

Texas Ranger N.O. Reynolds, The Intrepid, Chuck Parsons and Donaly E. Brice (Talei Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 25098, Honolulu, HI 96825) 2005. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 439. \$39.95. Hardcover.

Nelson O. Reynolds was a courageous, resourceful peace officer during the 1870s and 1880s when outlawry and feuding ravaged the Texas frontier. Reynolds enlisted in the reorganized Texas Rangers in 1874. He reached the rank of lieutenant while championing law enforcement during the Mason County War, the Horrell-Higgins Feud, and other turbulent episodes. Reynolds served as city marshal of Lampasas and sheriff of Lampasas County during the 1880s.

The first full-length biography of Reynolds has been written by Chuck Parsons, a noted researcher of nineteenth century Texas Rangers, and Donaly E. Brice, senior research assistant with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The book features an excellent collection of photographs, many of them previously unpublished. This thorough account of *Texas Ranger N.O. Reynolds* will be a handsome addition to any Texas history bookshelf.

Bill O'Neal
Carthage, Texas

Prairie Gothic: The Story of a West Texas Family, John R. Erickson (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2005. Contents. Illus. Index. P. 208. \$16.95. Paperback.

Even though this is the story of a West Texas family, it provides a good overview of twentieth-century history that should be welcomed to anyone interested in Texas history in general. Erickson is best known as the author of the *Hank the Cowdog* series of books.

This story of his family covers the twentieth-century history of the Texas Panhandle south to the Permian Basin. Much of the story is set in the West Texas community of Seminole.

Erickson's family provides a good example of those hardy souls who came to this forbidding territory and made a go of it. Many did not stay because life was so hard, but Erickson's forebears were a sturdy lot. Many of the characters in the book are typical of the quiet-spoken, tough, and tenacious Westerners who once stapled Western movies and television programs.

Erickson's book also includes some of his fascinating personal history and his encounters with famous Texas writers such as J. Evetts Haley and John Graves.

Donald W. Whisenhunt
Western Washington University
(emeritus)

Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas, Ed Blackburn, Jr. (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2006. Contents. Appendices. Illus. Notes. Maps. Biblio. Index. P. 412. \$39.95. Hardcover.

This book identifies the builders, architects, contractors, and jail manufacturers of county jails constructed in the 254 Texas counties from 1840 to 1940. Blackburn visited each county and interviewed local officials or historians and consulted numerous books on local and county history. The fact the author was able to gather this information and put it in a book is certainly a testimony to his determination and a valuable contribution to the Texas historical and architectural communities.

The dust jacket describes the book as a travel guide to Texas jails. To keep the traveler's interest, the book recounts some of the historical highpoints of each county, its citizens, or namesake. To do so the author relied repeatedly on information found in the *Handbook of Texas*, the *Texas Almanac*, and Leon Metz's *Roadside History of Texas*. Consequently these sections of the book add little to the landscape of Texas historical knowledge. In a few instances Blackburn litters that landscape with inaccurate dates, names, and information.

For a reader who is interested primarily in the author's main purpose, that is the history of the jails themselves, the few historical errors will not be important. As a travel guide to Texas jails it is the best available and a worthy addition to a Texana library. It should be read with caution because of the few errors, as a travel guide to the counties. Whether such a travel guide warrants a \$39.95 price tag is up to the person seeking guidance.

Tom Crum
Granbury, Texas

Harvey Girl, Sheila Wood Foard (Texas Tech University Press, P. O. Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79409-1037) 2006. Contents. Illus. P. 154. \$16.95. Paperback.

Traveling by train early in the 1900s challenged passengers in many ways. Most difficult was the procurement of edible meals that pleased the palette. Fred Harvey often traveled the Santa Fe Railway on business and he recognized the need for good food. He established the Fred Harvey Company to provide gourmet meals to travelers on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. Harvey hired waitresses of good moral character, whom he tagged Harvey Girls. After weeks of army-style training, the Harvey Girls perfected their skills. More than 100,000 Harvey Girls served food to weary train travelers from 1876 until the mid-1950s.

Author Sheila Wood Foard chronicled a coming-of-age story about a fictional Harvey Girl, Clara Fern Massie, who escaped a verbally and physically abusive father and her hard life on a Missouri farm. Massie epitomized all

young farm girls who dreamed of faraway places with hard-to-pronounce names and where women could speak up, vote, earn money, and live independent lives. According to someone she called Granny, Massie was “born with itchy feet,” (p. 26) and the only cure was travel. She ran away from home, lied about her age, and became a Harvey Girl in the great southwest. Massie transformed herself from a “hayseed” farm girl to a responsible, sophisticated young woman who reconciled with her family while assisting her ill sister. She benefited from exposure to multi-cultured travelers from all over the world and from meeting women suffragettes.

While Foard admitted taking liberties with some historical facts in her adventurous tale, she has developed an engaging story of a young woman determined to make it on her own during a time when women had little chance of exercising independence.

Cynthia Devlin
Zavalla, Texas

S. Seymour Thomas 1868-1956: A Texas Genius Rediscovered, Cecilia Steinfeldt (Texas State Historical Association, 1 University Station D0901, The University of Texas at Austin, TX 78712) 2005. Contents. B&W & Color Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 204. \$49.95. Hardcover.

Art historian Cecilia Steinfeldt’s study of S. Seymour Thomas is the first definitive study of an overlooked Texas artist whose works are displayed in the San Jacinto Monument and the White House. Her beautifully illustrated volume is a tribute to Thomas’ artistic achievements and an attempt to revive interest in his distinguished career.

Seymour Thomas was born in San Augustine, Texas, on August 20, 1868. His artistic promise appeared early when, at the age of eight, his pencil sketch won a blue ribbon at the Texas State Fair. After two other sketches won awards the following year, young Thomas became known as the “Boy Artist of Texas.”

Thomas began his formal study of art, after his family moved to San Antonio. A remarkable early painting depicts the Mission San José in meticulous, almost photographic detail. The painting earned its fifteen-year-old artist the attention of art connoisseurs who encouraged him to further his artistic career. No artist at the end of the nineteenth century could hope to succeed without a period of residence in Paris, the metropolis of the art world. In 1888, barely twenty years old, Thomas arrived in a city whose art establishment had been rocked twenty years earlier by the group known as the “Impressionists.” The loose brushwork, vivid, unmixed colors, and open-air painting of Monet and his compatriots were the antithesis of the careful, detailed canvases of San Antonio’s boy artist. Thomas turned his back on the tumult of the Paris art world and joined the traditionalists at the *Académie Julian*.

In 1892 Thomas produced a heroically sized and themed painting,

Victime Innocente. The pathos of this depiction of a dying nun and wounded soldier created a sensation when Thomas exhibited it at the Paris Salon. This painting's success in Paris and at its subsequent exhibition at the Chicago Exposition earned Thomas a commission for his best-known Texas work, a larger-than-life-size equestrian portrait, *General Sam Houston at San Jacinto*.

Thomas's success in Paris also enabled him to marry Helen Haskell, a fellow art student from San Francisco. Their marriage and his determination to provide his wife with the luxury she craved led Thomas down the lucrative path of portraiture. Until his death in 1956, Thomas painted prominent businessmen, socialites, and academics for the boardrooms and parlors of America.

Steinfeldt reminds her readers that although successful and internationally known in his lifetime, Thomas has been ignored since his death. Seymour Thomas demonstrated the same flair for capturing a subject's personality as his better known contemporaries, John Singer Sargent, James McNeill Whistler, and William Merritt Chase. Yet, as a traditional academician, Thomas' work was more controlled and more disciplined. Overall, Steinfeldt judges that Thomas lacked the "flamboyance of Sargent, the vitality of Chase, and the romantic ambience of Whistler" (p. 1). Thomas' importance lies more in his early works of Texana – his evocation of the romance of the old San José Mission and the heroics of Sam Houston – than in his competent portraiture.

Elizabeth Alexander
Texas Wesleyan University

The Mason County "Hoo Doo" War, 1874-1902, David Johnson (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2006. Illus. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 332. \$27.95. Hardcover.

Historians have given scant attention to the "Hoo Doo" War although it covered a significant area of Texas and flared up and down for over a quarter of a century. Other than brief treatments by C.L. Douglas and C.L. Sonnichsen, there is little in print. David Johnson has presented a full-length study, demonstrating his ability to find a wealth of new information by digging into neglected records. He discusses the many causes of the feud, some originating during the preceding decade. All did not become peaceful following the Civil War: the German population largely had favored the Union; cattle were rustled openly; hostiles raided settlements; and outlaws and fugitives contributed to the lawlessness. Johnson treats these factors objectively. They resulted in the violence, which cost lives as well as reputations. The actions of Sheriff John E. Clark and some Texas Rangers contributed to the continuation of the feud. The animosities existed for decades.

Although aspects of the conflict presented may be controversial, this study is a model of research for those wanting to dig further into violence in Texas on the 1870s and 1880s. The uniqueness of the Mason County War is

that it continued into the twentieth century, long after the open range and gun-toting desperadoes had become anachronisms.

If Johnson intended his work to be a definitive study, he accomplished his goal admirably. Little new will be found on this Texas feud. He has proven that there are still significant contemporary and primary sources available for the historian willing to work to find them.

Chuck Parsons
Luling, Texas

The Texas League's Greatest Hits: Baseball in the Lone Star State, Tom Kayser and David King (Trinity University Press, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX 78212-7200) 2005. Contents. Appendix. Photos. Index. P. 239. \$19.95. Paperback. \$45. Hardcover.

Tom Kayser, president of the Texas League, and David King, who covers sports for the *San Antonio Express-News*, have collaborated on a book consisting of short pieces – snapshots, one might call them – from the history of one of America's most venerable baseball organizations. Originating in 1888, the Texas League has operated every year since 1902 except for a three-year hiatus during World War II, although its member cities have changed frequently in location and number. Beginning as a Class D league at the bottom of organized professional baseball, the Texas League had become a Class A circuit by the 1920s, two rungs below the major leagues. It has remained at the level – re-designated AA in 1946 – and produced hundreds of future big leaguers and invariably offers a good brand of baseball.

Kayser and King have arranged their book in fifty-eight roughly chronological chapters, none of which is more than six pages long. The chapters span the years from the founding of the league by the ubiquitous baseball promoter Jack McCloskey, to the recent movement up to AAA-level of the hugely successful Round Rock franchise, owned by Nolan Ryan and associates. As a delightful postscript, the authors reprint an account of a Galveston-San Antonio game played in 1919 by Edward Angly, then a young reporter for the *Galveston Daily News* and later a distinguished war correspondent. Regrettably, sportswriters don't write that way anymore.

For this reviewer, the most vivid chapters have to do with the seasons, teams, and personalities of the Texas League in its early post-World War II, immediate pre-television heyday. Growing up in China, Texas, located just west of Beaumont, I saw many league games at Stuart Stadium, home of the local Exporters/Roughnecks. Especially memorable was a night game played in 1952, when Dallas pitcher Dave Hoskins became the first African American Texas Leaguer to take the field in Beaumont. One of the best pieces in the book treats the breaking of the league's color line by Hoskins and his successors.

For more systematic narrative coverage of the league's history, readers

should go to Bill O'Neal's *The Texas League, 1888-1987* (Eakin Press, 1987) and Marshall D. Wright's *The Texas League in Baseball, 1888-1958* (McFarland, 2002). But as an enjoyable collection of particular episodes that should appeal to both baseball historians and dedicated fans, *The Texas League's Greatest Hits* serves quite well.

Charles C. Alexander
Ohio University

All Over the Map: True Heroes of Texas Music, Michael Corcoran (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2005. Contents. Photos. Index. P. 176. \$19.95. Paperback. \$40. Hardcover.

Be forewarned: this book that may cost you a lot more than its purchase price. Michael Corcoran has spent most of his career as music critic for Austin newspapers, an assignment that hooked him on Texas music from the night of his first visit to that city's celebrated Continental Club. Long ago, he learned that Texas' ethnic stew is the major explanation for the variety and excellence of its recorded sounds. Corcoran organizes the sections of his book geographically as he leads us on "a musical road trip, a waltz across Texas" (p. xiv). In emphasizing the more unheralded and obscure artists – though usual suspects such as Willie Nelson and Stevie Ray Vaughan are also profiled – Corcoran will inspire even the most informed Texas music fan to seek out and acquire the key recordings of these individuals.

Arizona Dranes and Blind Willie Johnson are prime examples. Both were black gospel singers who recorded late in the 1920s and died in near anonymity. Dranes, herself blind, whipped up Pentecostal congregations with a boogie-woogie piano style that anticipated the work of Jerry Lee Lewis and Fats Domino. Johnson was a brilliant slide guitarist whose "otherworldly" (p. 167) sounds are lauded by guitarists such as Eric Clapton and Ry Cooder. Then there was Ella Mae Morse, from Paris, Texas who recorded "Cow Cow Boogie," Capitol Records' first million-seller in 1942. It was produced by Johnny Mercer. One of the great vocalists of the Big Band era, Morse always took special pride in being told she sang like a black girl. One of Corcoran's best chapters is on the Houston "hip hop" scene, which gained national exposure in the recent past. This is largely due to DJ Screw, whose codeine cough syrup habit inspired a slowed-down, bass-heavy groove, and to "gangsta" rappers, and the Geto Boys, who "pushed the envelope of bad taste so far it required extra postage" (p. 25). Finally, we get an update on the idiosyncratic accordionist Steve Jordan, who currently lives in a backyard house in San Antonio where he records in his living room and plays regular club dates in a band with his sons.

Corcoran closes his book with a tribute to vanished Austin nightclubs and his annotated lists of the greatest Texas songs, which makes an interesting comparison with *Texas Monthly's* list published in April 2004, and the essen-

tial CD recordings. This is an excellent book by a gifted writer. Texas music devotees can only wait for subsequent volumes.

Stephen Davis
Kingwood College

Inside the Classroom (And Out): How We Learn Through Folklore, Kenneth L. Untiedt, editor (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2005. Contents. Illus. Index. P. 322. \$29.95. Hardcover.

Kenneth Untiedt and the Texas Folklore Society LXII have produced a collection of essays with appeal to folklore specialists, students of folklore, and teachers. The twenty-five essays vary greatly in topics, focus, and in their relationship to teaching. For example, the reader finds a range from highly theoretical works such as Morgan-Fleming's *Folklore in Schools*, p. 84, to heart-warming stories like Pinkerton's *Small-Town Texas Wisdom*, p. 154. While many of the essays are set in West Texas or have West Texas authors, some represent different sections of the state. In general the pieces seek to define and explain folklore or they focus on the lore of groups such as cowboys, cheerleaders, teachers, Boy Scouts, athletic coaches, and Aggies.

Each of the essays is well written and the collection is well organized. Each piece appears to be written to folklore specialists – as opposed to teachers. This is not a book of pedagogy, rather it is a book valuable for the student of folklore and for the folklore aficionado. Teachers, who have limited knowledge of folklore and who wish to use it in the classroom, may find the book helpful as a reference or resource book. Admirers of the late folklorist Paul Patterson will welcome four essays of tribute to him. In general, the essays provide rich definitions of folklore, various theories about folklore, and several good examples of folklore with appeal for various age groups.

I believe the reader of *Inside The Classroom (And Out); How We Learn Through Folklore* will agree that folklore transmits values, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and a sense of family and community. Further, I believe the reader will be convinced that a teacher's knowledge of folklore, coupled with a knowledge of how to use it appropriately, can enrich the learning experience and promote student achievement.

Patsy Johnson Hallman
Stephen F. Austin State University

Nevin's History: A Novel of Texas, Jim Sanderson (Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX) 2004. Contents. Editor's Note. Novel. P. 277. \$27.95. Hardcover.

So much of the lore and literature of the Lone Star State is enshrouded in

the mystique of the Texas Rangers. Few images are associated more closely with Texas in the minds of people the world over than that of the Ranger. On horseback, with six-shooter in hand, the Ranger of popular imagination endures alongside such legends as the cowboy and the martyrs of the Alamo. In sum, the story of Texas – indeed the Texan creation myth – relies as much on the hard-riding, straight-shooting Ranger as it does the rough, self-reliant cattleman of song and cinema or the fallen heroes of San Antonio, forever enshrined in the memories of Americans everywhere.

While many historians have explored the time-honored Ranger Myth, few have dared to challenge it. With a reverence that almost resembles that of religion, scholars have been reluctant to examine the Ranger legend too closely, perhaps for fear of becoming lost in its mystique, or being accused of heresy. When revisiting the fabled frontier institution, most writers have chosen simply to accept the classic account of Walter Prescott Webb as historical canon to be believed and not questioned.

Novelist Jim Sanderson holds no such reverence for icons. In *Nevin's History: A Novel of Texas*, Sanderson offers a rare glimpse at a seldom seen side of the Ranger tradition. Through the narrative of Andrew Nevin, reporter-turned-Ranger-turned reporter again, Sanderson tells the story of Leander McNelly's Special Force of Rangers during the so-called "skinning wars" in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in the 1870s. He spins a believable yarn of bravery and brutality, of violence and vengeance, of robbers, rustlers, and Rangers divided by little more than a crooked river and the laws – both written and unwritten – of the Lone Star State. The author is at his best in painting three-dimensional portraits of John S. "Rip" Ford, L.H. McNelly, Captain Richard King, Juan Cortina, "Old Casuse" Sandoval, and others. Drawing heavily upon appropriate primary sources, he demonstrates a scholar's understanding of the day and time along the Mexican border when men of both races killed for any cause, noble or otherwise, and the value of human life was reduced to an ounce of lead or ten feet of rope. Although the writer takes the kind of literary license not allowed the historian, he succeeds in a convincing way. Indeed, historical fiction is seldom so faithful to fact, and for that the author should be commended.

Sanderson's characters are surely not shrouded in the mists of history; instead, they are rough-hewn, sometimes ruthless, ever quick to judgment, and often self-serving. While the tale leaves little doubt in the reader's mind that the Rangers resorted to torture and worse, all in the name of the law, it also removes any illusions about the nobility of their enemies. Somewhere between the heroic Rangers on this side of the Rio Grande and the riders who crossed the border and became the feared *los diablos Tejanos* of Mexican lore, the truth hopefully emerges from the realm of legend. In sum, *Nevin's History* is a story worth retelling, and surely one worth reading.

Michael L. Collins
Midwestern State University

Hers, His, & Theirs: Community Property Law in Spain & Early Texas, Jean A. Stuntz (Texas Tech University Press, P. O. Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79410) 2005. Contents. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 288. \$35. Hardcover.

Using her lawyer's skills in investigation, her historian's quest for knowledge, and her personal interest as a woman, Jean Stuntz gives a complete view of how community property became the law in the state of Texas. While tracking the origin of these laws through history and citing court cases along the way, she keeps the scope of her work strictly to laws pertaining to Texas or what would become Texas.

To persuade Spanish women to join in the spread of Spanish civilization and conquest, laws were needed to protect and expand their rights and to show their importance as part of this expanding society. Women could make contracts; own, buy, and sell real and personal property; take care of their own rights even in widowhood; sue and be sued; and give testimony in court. These laws of Castilian society were carried to the new world.

After Mexico's independence from Spain, the new constitution upheld women's rights. After Texas won its independence from Mexico and until 1840, all Texas laws followed English common law, which gave women few rights. After 1840, laws concerning martial property more closely followed earlier Spanish law.

When Texas became a state the new state's constitution continued to protect a woman's separate and community property. With few exceptions, the wife, with her husband, would jointly own property obtained during marriage, thus saving part of the family lands and other assets from a husband's separate creditors and providing some financial protection for the wife. Nine states now have marital property laws based on those originated in Spain.

Jean Stuntz's book is well written and solidly researched with ample primary and secondary sources.

Mary Crum
Granbury, Texas

Bones Hooks: Pioneer Negro Cowboy, Bruce G. Todd (Pelican Publishing Company, 1000 Burmaster, Gretna, LA 70053-2246) 2005. Contents. Maps. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 221. \$23. Hardcover.

Bruce G. Todd's book, *Bones Hooks: Pioneer Negro Cowboy*, is an important addition to the historical literature and helps to fill a void on the role African American cowboys played in the settling and the development of the Western frontier. Todd's biography tells the story of Mathew "Bones" Hooks' bronco-busting days in West Texas, the Panhandle, and the Plains. Much of the author's information was gathered from regional historical organizations and their publications, letters, scrapbooks, newspapers, and interviews with people who knew Hooks. The book is well written and easy to read. It stays focused on the subject.

Bones Hooks was a colorful character that played many roles. He was born in Robertson County in East Texas in 1867 to former slave parents. According to the author, Bones' first job at the age of seven was driving a meat wagon for a local butcher. In his younger years, he worked as a Teamster on the Keeland Farm and ranch hand on several prestigious ranches such as the DSD Ranch in Denton County, the JRE Ranch in the Pecos Country, and the JA Ranch in the Panhandle. He rode on many cattle drives and developed his skills as a "bronco buster." According to Hooks, he was not an all around cowboy but a specialist at breaking horses. He lived and worked between the Panhandle and Pecos for several years until 1896 when he finally settled in the Panhandle. Bones Hooks' most devastating experience with racial prejudice was in 1900 when he was denied participation in the World Rodeo Event in Denver, Colorado, because of his race.

Changing with the times, Bones Hooks took a job on the Santa Fe Railroad as a Pullman porter in 1909. At one of the railroad stops, Hooks accepted an invitation and challenge to ride an "outlaw" horse in Pampa, Texas, with several witnesses on hand. He was forty-two years old. From this event, several news accounts were written and stories told. The event became commonly known as "The Ride."

As time passed, Hooks married and became a community leader, a town builder, and a church and school organizer. Through his many associations and contacts, he became a Western-styled philosopher and promoted the deep-rooted cowboy tradition. He died at the age of eighty-four in February 1951. The author refers to Bones Hooks as the "last Negro cowboy" of The Plains and argues that he should be given recognition for his bronco-busting expertise and be placed in the Cowboy Hall of Fame along with the legendary cowboy Bill Pickett.

Theodore M. Lawe
A.C. McMillan African
American Museum

Fair Ways: How Six Black Golfers Won Civil Rights in Beaumont, Texas, Robert J. Robertson (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2005. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 232. \$29.95. Hardcover.

This fine book by Robert J. Robertson is more than the story of the desegregation of public golf courses in Beaumont, Texas. It also provides a readable, captivating window into everyday life under the Jim Crow system. Robertson's thorough research and personal interviews conducted with principals involved in the desegregation of public recreational facilities in Beaumont, or their close associates, provides an account of how the early Civil Rights Movement operated at the grassroots level.

At the heart of *Fair Ways* are the African American golfers and lawyers who utilized the NAACP and the court system to break down the legal barriers erected in Texas' segregation system. All avid golfers, they successfully gained access to public golf courses in a federal court decision written by district judge Lamar Cecil. A Republican and recent appointee of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Cecil courageously struck down desegregation in Beaumont, following the lead of the Supreme Court in *Brown V. Board of Education*.

Fair Ways is not a story of "great men" or powerful national organizations. Instead, Robertson focuses on the importance of what he calls "Joe Doakeses," ordinary people at the grassroots level who put themselves on the line to gain the civil rights of themselves and others. The NAACP's famous legal crusades would not have been possible without people such as the black plaintiffs in the case to desegregate Beaumont's public golf course. *Fair Ways* should be read by anyone interested in black golfing, the Civil Rights Movement, or race relations in Jim Crow, Texas.

Kevin Butler
Texas Southern University

Alabama Baptists: Southern Baptists in the Heart of Dixie, Wayne Flynt (The University of Alabama Press, P.O. Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487) 1998. Reprint 2005. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Illus. Index. P. 731. \$35. Paperback.

This carefully researched volume traces Baptists from their arrival on the Alabama frontier early in the 1800s to the present feuding between moderates and fundamentalists. An accomplished historian of southern religion who contemplated a career as a Baptist minister, Wayne Flynt sets out to explain Baptists to themselves as well as to outsiders. He succeeds in that and much more. Enhanced by the usual scholarly paraphernalia – elaborate endnotes, a thorough index, and an extensive but not exhaustive bibliography – and numerous photographs throughout the text, this is the best account to date of Alabama Baptists.

Flynt's study follows closely the usual chronological divisions of U.S. history—settlement of the frontier, the Civil War era, the New South, agrarian discontent, progressive reform, the Great Depression and WWII, and the racial turmoil of the 1960s and beyond. By doing it this way Flynt tells the story not only of Alabama Baptists but also of the broader culture in which they existed. This is a religious history that sheds considerable light on the secular landscape, and Flynt argues that Alabama Baptists, far from being mere "captives" of that landscape, were shapers as well.

There is nothing startlingly new here, but Flynt adds depth and texture too much that is already known. Examples abound, as in the erosion of Calvinism on the Alabama frontier, the practices of foot washing and church discipline, shifting attitudes on slavery and race, the expanding role of women, the debate

over biblical criticism and Darwinism, and disputes over creedalism. Particularly insightful was Flynt's discussion of the coalescence of interests since the early 1970s of religious and secular conservatives that culminated in, on one side, the Republican presidential victory of 1980, and, on the other side, the complete fundamentalist takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention by 1990.

Although not a master stylist, Flynt writes clearly, albeit wordy at times. Even so, anyone interested in southern religious history will find this work rewarding.

John W. Storey
Lamar University

Lethal Injection: Capital Punishment in Texas During the Modern Era, Jon Sorenson and Rochy Leann Pilgrim (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2006. Contents. Appendix. Tables. Notes. References. Index. P. 222. \$19.95. Paperback. \$50. Hardcover.

It is no secret that capital punishment is an integral part of the Texas Criminal Justice System. Sorenson and Pilgrim do an impressive job of desegregating a variety of relevant statistical data, case stories, and legislative records to explore this important issue.

Here the reader will find exploration of one of the central questions about the role of capital punishment in the criminal justice process – what purpose does execution serve? Sorenson and Pilgrim offer various views of capital punishment. For example, from the perspective of deterrence, do we prevent others from committing capital offenses by using execution as a potential and ultimate form of punishment? Or, is the real purpose incapacitation – that it is the ultimate method of preventing a subsequent offense? Or does it serve as retribution – is this the way of “an eye for an eye”? Through discussions, Sorenson and Pilgrim help the reader explore his personal feelings about what end he hopes this ultimate form of punishment will serve.

The reader will be reminded of the process by which we Texans arrived at the use of lethal injection as our form of execution, and perhaps will be enlightened as to the greatest question of its use: has it been applied in an impartial, reliable, and efficient manner?

Some readers will find this work too complex with its statistics and discussions. Others will find the subject too uncomfortable for “easy-chair reading.” Still others likely will miss the blood and gory details of crime stories. However, a person choosing to use this book as an opportunity to explore this important issue of national interest, which so often focuses on Texas, will find themselves engaged in a self-study of their own convictions about the use of execution as a form of punishment.

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Road, River, and Ol' Boy Politics: A Texas County's Path from Farm to Supersuburb, Linda Scarbrough (Texas State Historical Association, The University of Texas-Austin, 1 University Station DO901, Austin, TX 78712) 2005. Contents. Maps. Illus. Biblio. Index. P. 404. \$39.95. Hardcover.

Williamson County is known for its suburban status to Austin, the state capital. But there was a time about fifty years ago when the county was an agrarian backwater that few knew about or paid any attention. The major towns in the county were Georgetown and Taylor.

This book, written by the publisher of the *Williamson County Sun* in Georgetown, is the story of the metamorphosis of this county. The two driving forces in the changes were dams and interstate highways, both funded largely by the federal government.

To a large extent this is the story of the politics behind these changes, not to mention the influence of some of the people who represented this district in Congress, such as Lyndon Johnson and J.J. Pickle, at crucial times for development and obtaining federal funds.

Even if one knows little about Williamson County, this is a fascinating study for the way local and national events intertwine. Scarbrough is an excellent researcher and writer. Her work is enhanced by the fact that she is a native of the county and knows her subject intimately. This is an excellent book on Texas history and on the role of local politics in development.

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Yellow Dogs and Republicans: Allan Shivers and Texas Two-Party Politics, Ricky F. Dobbs (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2005. Contents. Illus. Epilogue. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 194. \$32.95. Hardcover.

One of the popular trends within the larger field of political history is conservatism studies. Scholars have approached this important topic in myriad ways. In *Yellow Dogs and Republicans: Allan Shivers and Texas Two-Party Politics*, Ricky F. Dobbs examines the emergence of conservatism regionally. He sees Texas as a harbinger of more recent Southern trends, and his masterful treatment of Allan Shivers' political career is a welcome addition to the literature. Argues Dobbs, "Since Shivers led Texans to Dwight Eisenhower in 1952, the rapidity and scope of transition has been impressive. . . . Today's multiracial moderate Democratic Party faces a largely white, conservative Republican Party. . . . The irony is that just fifty years earlier, white Democrats were the only meaningful participants in Texas politics" (p. 6).

Shivers first displayed his political inclinations while a student at the University of Texas. Soon after completing law school, Shivers was elected to

the Texas State Senate, where he served for twelve years. After military service in World War II, he won the post of lieutenant governor. Shivers remained in that office until Governor Beauford Jester's death in 1949 when he was sworn in as governor, a post he held until 1957. Shivers wielded immense power as governor, and the primary beneficiaries were Texas business interests. By fighting popular but "meaningless" battles over issues such as the Tidelands and communism, Shivers deflected public attention from the woeful social conditions in the state. His tenure as governor was important for the reasons Dobbs recognized; most significant by Shivers helped fuel the half-century realignment of Texas politics away from Democratic party dominance toward Republican dominance. This well-researched and elegantly written book should be of interest to both scholars and students of modern Texas politics.

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Indomitable Sarah: The Life of Judge Sarah T. Hughes, Darwin Payne, (Southern Methodist University Press, P.O. Box 750415, Dallas, TX 75275) 2004. Contents. B&W Photos. Notes. Biblio. Index. P.468. \$35. Hardcover.

"Get Sarah Hughes." Waiting on Air Force One at Dallas Love Field, Vice President Lyndon Johnson anxiously awaited the arrival of Federal District Judge Sarah T. Hughes to provide the oath of office under the most difficult of circumstances. Judge Hughes will be remembered for her role as she issued the presidential oath to Johnson only hours after the assassination and death of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963. In the memorable photograph, President Johnson, flanked by Lady Bird Johnson and Jacqueline Kennedy, faces Judge Hughes. His right hand held aloft and his left hand on the Bible, the tension of the day's events is still reflected forever in the photograph.

In his biography of Judge Sarah T. Hughes, Darwin Payne provides much more than the brief snapshot in which Judge Hughes became a part of our nation's history. Judge Hughes served as a pioneer for women in politics. From 1930 until the 1980s, she served as an activist, civic leader, legislator, state district judge, and finally a federal judge. Her contributions during six decades of service gained her many admirers and critics. She championed women's rights, civil rights, economic justice, and many other social reforms that challenged the status quo in Texas, the South, and the nation. Her career covered many tumultuous and significant years from the women's suffrage movement of the 1920s through advances made in the modern Civil Rights and Women's Rights era.

In a lively account of the life of Sarah Hughes, Payne utilizes a number of primary sources. The Sarah T. Hughes Papers at the University of North Texas, interviews with many of her friends and colleagues, and articles authored by Judge Hughes provided reliable support for this study. The author also provides clarity and insight into many of the difficult and controversial

decisions that she made from the bench. For example, she overturned a felony theft conviction for a man who was judged insane. Texas officials complained that providing indigent defendants with psychiatric evaluations paid for by the state was “expensive and impractical” (p. 291). That decision was in 1964, foreshadowing years of court challenges that involved the civil rights of those accused of a crime and the criminal justice system.

Judge Hughes also participated in many memorable cases throughout her career. As a member of the three-judge panel that ruled on the famous *Roe v. Wade* case in 1970, she provided a legal precedent that still reverberates throughout society today. In writing a succinct opinion for the group, Judge Hughes stated that the Texas law prohibiting abortions was “unconstitutionally overbroad” and “unconstitutionally vague” (p.313). In the landmark case that appeared before the Supreme Court in 1973, the nation’s highest tribunal upheld the decision authored by Judge Hughes.

“Indomitable Sarah,” the moniker that came from a headline in the *Dallas Morning News*, stated that what made Judge Hughes admirable, in spite of her controversial decisions, was “that you always knew where she stood. She stood firm” (p. 395). Darwin Payne’s readable account of this impressive woman is a solid contribution to the literature and history of women and the effort to improve civil rights in the United States.

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Indian Agent: Peter Ellis Bean in Mexican Texas, Jack Jackson (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2005. Contents. Illus. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Maps. Index. P. 426. \$35. Hardcover.

Jack Jackson was widely acknowledged as a biographer and historian of the first order. This excellent, meticulously documented volume on colorful early Texan Peter Ellis Bean continues this author’s already established reputation for blending concise research with entertaining descriptive narrative. I consider this book a “must have” for those of us who enjoy a focus on East Texas regional history and always want to know more.

Born in 1783, Tennessean Peter Ellis Bean came to Texas in 1801 with mustanger Philip Nolan. When the expedition ended with Nolan’s death and the capture of his men, Bean was taken to Spanish Mexico where he remained in various levels of captivity for the next ten years. The ever-resourceful Peter Ellis became Spanish-language proficient, honed his manipulative people-skills, and luckily avoided execution. Importantly, he developed close ties with rebels who became Mexico’s leaders when Spanish rule ended, ties that later served him well in land affairs and as Indian agent among the tribes in Texas. For his role in Mexico’s independence from Spain he received the title of colonel in the Mexican army.

Colonel Bean was settled into Texas and Mexico twenty years before the arrival of Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas," and thirty years before Sam Houston, the "Hero of San Jacinto." He was involved in public affairs long before the arrival in large numbers of American settlers in the 1820s, particularly in the eastern section of Texas, and specifically in Nacogdoches and the surrounding vicinity.

Author Jackson left no stone unturned in telling the life story of Peter Ellis Bean as it related to the times in which he lived and the people who were his peers. The interactions between Bean and the large cast of familiar early Texas characters give an added dimension to the narrative. For example, the two chapters on the Fredonian Rebellion and its aftermath provide the most illuminating account of the event I have seen anywhere.

Although *Indian Agent* is painstakingly detailed and abundantly referenced, it is a "comfortable read," one to which the serious historian will return often.

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