BOOK REVIEWS


Once again Robert Weddle, Spanish Knight of the Order of Isabel la Catolica, has proven why he is called the “Dean of Texas Colonial History.” In this small but impressive volume (196 pages), Weddle gives fresh insight into eighteenth-century Texas. Through a meticulous research and expertly crafted narrative, he makes us part of the expedition – the heart of the story. We move with him through modern Texas, tracing the route of the expedition over today’s geography and march with the expedition as we read Captain Juan Angel De Oyarzun’s diary. De Oyarzun wrote detailed descriptions of the flora, fauna, and geography along the march. Carol Lipscomb’s expertly and beautifully done translation, along with Weddle’s detailed notes, transports us to mid-eighteenth-century Texas in the fall of 1759. As we read the diary in the book’s appendix, we cannot help but feel part of the expedition.

Despite problems interpreting syntax in the original documents, the finished project is readable. Weddle carefully explains the rationale behind the punitive expedition of 1759, especially the massacre at the San Saba Mission near Menard, Texas, which he described in detail in The San Saba Mission: Spanish Pivot in Texas. The present book tells “the rest of the story,” as radio commentary Paul Harvey would say.

The author does not stop with a recounting of the expedition and a translation of De Oyarzun’s diary. He includes the back-story – the political and economic forces and their complexities that led to the massacre and the expedition. These complexities include European (Spanish and French) and Native-American (Comanches, Apaches, Taovayas, Wichitas, Iscanis, Tawokonis, and others), alliances and antagonisms. We are presented with a picture of how these circumstances precipitated the events and affected the area’s inhabitants and Texas in mid-eighteenth-century America. The circumstances included such events as the Seven Years (French and Indian) War, and even the American Revolution. For continuity Weddle carries the story into the early nineteenth century with Anglo-Americans became an increasing factor in Spanish Texas.

Whether one wishes to read the book from the beginning, read the diary first and then the narrative, or, as I found myself doing, going back and forth between the two, you will be drawn into the story. The reader will experience the rain falling on the troops as they draw near their objective. He will also be part of the battle between Spanish and Indian forces which, thanks to De Oyarzun’s abundance of detail and Dr. Lipscomb’s skillful translation, comes
alive on the pages of the book. One will find themselves, as I did, wishing the author had not waited so long to write this book and thankful he has finally done so.

I assume some criticism of the book is required to balance the flow of praise. I did notice a couple of typographical errors along the way. One dealt with the weight of the meteorite commented on in the book, and the other was the use of 1685 instead of 1785 when speaking of Vial’s diary. It was evident as to what they were – typos – and in no way do they distract from the book and its story. That done, I can only say that for all who are interested in this period of Texas history, this is a must read, as are all of Weddle’s books. Even those who have only a passing interest in the period, but enjoy Texas history, will find the book worth reading. Publishing of this book confirms that there are still treasure nuggets of historiographic interest from this period to be found and brought to light.

Paul E. Sturdevant
Paris Junior College-Greenville


Arguably, one of the most far-reaching historical events of the last millennium was the centuries-long invasion of the American continents by Europeans. The period 1680 to 1780 was the crucial time for this cultural encounter and exchange played out in the Spanish borderlands of Texas as the invasion swept our hemisphere. Juliana Barr, of the University of Florida, brings us a brilliant re-analysis of the interactions of Native Americans and Spaniards across the frontier from “the kingdom of the Tejas” in the east to San Antonio de Bexar and San Juan Bautista in the south and San Saba to the west in her new volume Peace Came in the Form of a Woman.

With remarkable insight and cultural perspicuity, Barr filters the early Texas story through a new historical lens. She distinguishes the biases of traditional European male-oriented accounts from the indigenous perspective that viewed cross-cultural interactions in light of different gender and kinship relationships. From the book’s opening Introduction, the reader is stunned with the inversion of historical understanding. Barr asserts that the driving force of Eighteenth-Century interactions was one of “Indian dominance” (p. 7), that forced the Spaniards into retreat, accommodation, and resistance. Spanish missionaries, military officers, and diplomats found themselves in a
land where they were permitted affiliation only on the grounds of unfamiliar political rules of engagement – rules that involved gender-nuanced kinship and group identity. For Indians, the presence of women suggested peaceful intentions and the avenue to alliance.

Above all, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman* is a first-rate historical study with layered and detailed argumentation written by a scholar possessing an astonishing command of the primary documents. This volume should win a frequently used spot in the libraries of Texas historians, ethnologists, and anthropologists. Students of East Texas history will find relevant passages in all three major sections of the book. Of special interest is the first section that focuses on the early Spanish and French contacts with Caddo groups of our region, highlighting the former’s failures and the latter’s successes.

Tom Middlebrook
*Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, THC*
Nacogdoches, Texas


Intrigue, adventure, and shadowy figures living in and exploiting a frontier region has consistently fascinated historians, and is always fodder for a fine tale. No frontier has contained so many such elements as Mexican Texas, particularly on the eve of and during the Texas Revolution. Texas of the early nineteenth century was the object of filibuster, land speculation, and the often thinly veiled American attempts to claim the Mexican province as its own – just the sort of plots that attract historical inquiry. Stuart Reid’s *The Secret War for Texas* adds an additional chapter to the drama, a treatment of Dr. James Grant and his role in the Texas Revolution and the abortive invasion of Matamoros in 1836.

Grant and his role as the leader of the proposed Matamoros expedition previously received little examination. The scholarship that does exist generally characterizes Grant as an opportunist who used the chaos of the Texas Revolution to cast his personal escapade in land speculation as a patriotic and essential element in the Texian revolt. Reid makes a provocative counter to such an argument. He argues that Grant was not simply another filibuster who used revolt as an excuse to profit, but instead was part of a larger British plot to use Texas as a “buffer” to American expansion and dull the ardor of the growing concept of Manifest Destiny within the United States. Mexican inde-
ependence had created anxiety for the British foreign office. While Spain was no British ally, its possession of Mexico had served to check American expansion. But the near anarchy in Mexico after 1821 had emboldened American efforts to expand to the Pacific, and Mexican failure to secure its northern frontier not only made such efforts possible, but likely. Already embroiled with the U.S. over Oregon, British diplomats determined that the only avenue that would prevent American seizure of Mexico's northern territories was to separate that region from Mexico and form a new British client state in the middle of the continent. The key to such a scenario—Texas.

Great Britain could hardly send "official" agents to accomplish their goal, so the Colonial Office used unofficial agents, ostensibly private profiteers to conduct "secret" operations to accomplish British aims. James Grant, along with other men such as Arthur Wavell and John Hunter took advantage of the chaos in northern Mexico (including Texas) to foster rebellion. The narrative of British involvement in Texas in the 1820s is one of Reid's most valuable contributions. He has uncovered seeming British involvement in the Fredonian Rebellion in Nacogdoches, actions that after reflection answer a number of questions concerning why the Edwards brothers reacted as they did. After Fredonia, British agents, including James Grant, by necessity moved their operations to the northern Mexican states of Tamaulipas and Coahuila and began to exploit the simmering Federalist-Centralist dispute within the Mexican government.

Grant was not a resident of Texas; he owned and lived on a hacienda in Coahuila. He was also one of leading Federalists in the state and served in the Coahuila legislature. When Santa Anna declared for the Centralists and dissolved Mexican federalism, Grant lost much of his holdings and became a part of Federalist plots to overthrow the Centralists in Coahuila. However, Grant's ambitions were larger; he envisioned an independent federalist republic consisting of "Greater Texas"—the entire northern Mexican region. For Grant, the Texas Revolution was simply a small part of a larger rebellion, the first step in creating the vast federalist outpost that would be independent of Mexico and also serve the British aim of hindering American expansion. The Matamoros invasion, to him, was not a Texian action in the Revolution but part of a grander scheme.

Reid's narrative is intriguing and well researched, but in the end somewhat unconvincing. Could the uprisings and discontent in Texas been part of a larger British plot? Was Dr. James Grant actually an unofficial British intelligence agent attempting to create a British dominated nation in North America? The possibilities certainly exist, but Reid is forced to make large leaps in logic to convince his reader. Just as much probability exists that Grant joined the Texas Revolution simply to recover his lost property. The men of his "army" were certainly motivated more by plunder than revolutionary zeal,
which Reid readily admits. Also, in defending and resurrecting Grant, Reid falls into the often convenient trap of becoming anti-Sam Houston. Grant needed a foil and Houston was the most logical candidate. Houston exemplified the entire American plan of exploitation, greed, and Manifest Destiny in Texas and Grant had to stand alone to thwart such naked aggression. Such a view paints with a much too broad brush.

The Secret War for Texas, despite its shortcomings, is a valuable work. Reid has raised challenging questions that deserve fuller answers. Scholars and students of Texas history should add Reid’s monograph to their bookshelves as it adds to the texture of the Texas Revolution and provides an appealing alternative to traditional scholarship on the subject.

Scott Sosebee
Stephen F. Austin State University

Storm Over Texas: The Annexation Controversy and the Road to Civil War,

Joel Silbey’s Storm Over Texas examines the Texas annexation crisis from a national perspective and contends that the political controversies surrounding the admission of Texas into the Union fractured America’s political parties into northern and southern factions. According to the author, the central issue involved in the debates over annexation was slavery. Unlike previous crises involving the South’s peculiar institution where cross-sectional partisanship had prevented sectional factions from overriding party unity, the debates over the admission of Texas in the 1840s divided the Whig and Democratic parties along sectional lines and created a dominant political issue which ultimately led the country down the path to civil war. To reinforce this point, the author reveals how the annexation issue influenced David Wilmot to propose his famous proviso during the war with Mexico, transformed slavery into the dominant political issue during the 1850s, and established the tone of the debates over major political controversies such as the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Though Sibley has produced one of the best single volume studies of Texas annexation, scholars will likely find Storm Over Texas problematic. Students of Texas history will be disappointed to learn that Sibley has devoted little space to Texas political leaders. For example, Sam Houston, who played a prominent role in securing annexation, is only mentioned on two pages. Additionally, the book devotes more attention to how the annexation
issue transformed the Democratic Party, especially northern Democrats (Barnburners), and provides fewer details on how the crisis impacted Whigs and later Republicans. Finally, the author overemphasizes the role that annexation of Texas played in transforming the nation's political parties and in leading the country to civil war. While the annexation crisis was certainly intertwined with the debates over slavery, it seems a stretch to say that it was the pivotal issue which destroyed the Jacksonian party system and was the first step on the path to the Civil War. Similar to the crisis involving the admission of Missouri in 1819, and the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which followed, many of the lingering concerns over Texas were solved with the Compromise of 1850. Perhaps the true pivotal moment was the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854. Despite these criticisms, Sibley's *Storm Over Texas* is a thought-provoking study which will be of interest to scholars and students who want to know more about the politics of Texas annexation.

Kenneth W. Howell
Prairie View A&M University


Historians of the American Civil War have spent a century and a half analyzing battles and leaders. Only in recent years has the nature of the war become a popular topic of study. Walter Brian Cisco has joined those authors who focus on the darker side of the conflict. *War Crimes Against Southern Civilians* is a compilation of official reports, letters, diaries, stories, and anecdotes recounting wartime atrocities. While the title of the book obviously states the author's thesis, it does not go far enough. The title should have been *War Crimes Against Southern Civilians by Union Soldiers*.

The author does not shy away from making it clear that this book is written from the Southern point of view. War crimes against Northern civilians were, by the very geography of the fighting, limited. But modern scholars have not failed to point out that Robert E. Lee's two invasions of the North were not with damage to farms and towns in the army's path. Moreover, Confederate cavalry often pillaged Southern farms as much as their Northern counterpart.

Cisco covers all of the expected topics, including the guerrilla war in Missouri, Ben Butler in New Orleans, William T. Sherman in Georgia and South Carolina (but not Sherman's devastating Meridian, Mississippi, campaign), the destruction of the Shenandoah Valley, ending with the abuse of African Americans by Northern soldiers. No competent historian would deny
that African American civilians were mistreated, but to be fair it should be noted that while the North freed the slaves, Confederates returned captured runaways to bondage.

Cisco does not cover new ground, he simply brings together accounts that are well-documented. Without a doubt war crimes occurred in the South and without a doubt Southerners suffered greatly. Still, not all readers will agree with the author’s decision to omit the other side of the story.

Anne J. Bailey
Georgia College & State University


_The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War_ is a welcomed addition to the growing body of Civil War scholarship that focuses on events in the Trans-Mississippi West. Clarissa Confer provides her readers with a broad overview of the war from the perspective of the Cherokee people. Focusing primarily on social and political issues, the author details how the war devastated the Cherokee Nation by dividing its people into pro-Union and pro-Confederate contingents, by destroying tribal land and property, and by eroding Cherokee sovereignty.

One of the more important aspects of this study is Confer’s explanation of why the Cherokee people divided into Union and Confederate factions. The author explains that centuries-old culture informed the Cherokee’s decisions, with influences as varied as matrilineal descent, clan association, and economic status combining to characterize the Cherokees reaction to the war. Furthermore, Confer reveals that elite Cherokee leaders, such as John Ross and Stand Waite, were influential in shaping the political decisions of individual tribes within the Cherokee Nation. These men were torn between the preservation of their own economic wellbeing and the protection of Cherokee sovereignty. In the end, Cherokee leaders officially signed treaties of alliance with the Confederacy, believing that their Southern neighbors were better situated to aid in the protection their private property and were more willing to tolerate Cherokee political autonomy.

Confer suggest that the Cherokee people’s wartime experience was similar to that of white Southerners in the Trans-Mississippi West. The Cherokees experienced suffering, shortages, enemy occupation, guerilla raids, and forced relocation. The author also reminds her readers that the Cherokee experience was unique in many ways, especially considering that the Cherokees were a sovereign nation prior to their entry into the war. Additionally, the cost of
defeat weighed heavier on the Cherokee people than it did on their white Southern allies. After the war, the Cherokee Nation laid in ruin. In the wake of their defeat, the Cherokees lost their sovereignty and their tribal lands.

Clarissa Confer's *The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War* is an excellent study of how one minority group in the Trans-Mississippi West experienced the Civil War. Both scholars and laypeople will find this book accessible as well as informative.

Kenneth W. Howell
Prairie View A&M University


The political history of Texas from the end of Reconstruction to the beginnings of Progressive reform has been one of the most neglected topics of scholarly research among historians interested in the states past. Scholars have shown some interest in the political protest movements of the period, but other than Alwyn Barr's *Reconstruction to Reform: Texas Politics, 1876-1906* (1971), Walter Buenger's *The Path to a Modern South* (2001), and a few biographies of key actors, scholars have paid little attention to the central story of the era, that of the dominant Democratic Party. Patrick Williams' *Beyond Redemption* offers a welcome insight into this institution and the role that it played in directing the state’s destiny, focusing on the Redeemer Democrats from their regaining control of the state legislature in 1872 through the end of the first term of Governor John Ireland in 1884.

Williams' study is divided into two parts. The first examines how Redeemers consolidated their hold over state and local government between 1872 and 1876. The second explores the characteristics of Redeemer policies, especially their system of taxation, efforts at promoting economic growth, and programs for advancing social well being. Williams sees the Texas experience in each area as different from that of other former Confederate states and attributes the difference to the influence of unique conditions that prevailed in Texas. He sees the influx of white immigrants from other Southern states, the rapid development of new white-dominated communities on the frontier, the ethnic complexity of the population resulting from the state’s location along the Mexican border, and Texas’ vast public domain as determinative factors. These realities produced a Democratic Party factionally more complex and consequently less coherent than that found elsewhere in the South, more activist because of its ability to use public lands to support government pro-
grams, yet ideologically dependent on a Southern identity to weld together the disparate interests it contained.

*Beyond Redemption* is an important book, offering a significant new interpretation of post-Reconstruction state politics. It should be of interest to any serious student of Texas history.

Carl H. Moneyhon
University of Arkansas at Little Rock


Those who are familiar with Elmer Kelton’s work will not question why a fiction book, really three fiction books combined in a single volume, is reviewed in an historical journal. Kelton researches and knows the historical background for all of his books. The story may be fictional but the historical background is factual. Many historical accounts passed off as factual would be more accurate if their authors had been as diligent in their research as Kelton is in his. In reading *The Buckskin Line*, *Badger Boy*, and *The Way of the Coyote*, the three books contained in this trilogy, it is evident that Kelton has done his historical research.

The book relates how Rusty Shannon, the principle character in all three books, and a young boy captured by the Indians when his parents were killed in the notorious raid on Linville and Victoria in 1840, was recaptured by Michael Shannon and his circuit-riding preacher friend Warren Webb during the ensuing running fight at Plum Creek. Rusty joined and rode with his adopted father in various ranging companies until the outbreak of hostilities brought about by the Texas secession debate. Michael Shannon’s Union sympathies got him murdered and since Shannon’s wife had predeceased him, Rusty was on his own.

The problems that Texans had to endure due to the secession movement as well as those brought about because of the Indian problems along the frontier which were exasperated by the removal of federal troops during the Civil War and the Reconstruction efforts after the war, are all given their due in Kelton’s book. Until they are killed, the characters introduced in *The Buckskin Line* remain the principal characters in the other two books that complete the trilogy.

This is vintage Kelton and though it may not reach the heights attained in *The Time It Never Rained* (and few books by any modern western writer ever
reach those heights), it is well worth reading, and considering that you get three books for the price of one it is a bargain.

Tom Crum
Granbury, Texas


James Abijah Brooks participated in numerous gunfights, successfully pursued outlaws on horseback, and impressed his superiors sufficiently to rise in the ranks from private to captain in the Frontier Battalion. Paul Spellman chronicles this Texas Ranger's life from birth in Kentucky in 1855 throughout his adventurous career. Brooks became a Texas Ranger at the age of twenty-one and he remained a Texan until his death in 1944.

Spellman presents Brooks' life chronologically, describing the actions which brought his name to the attention of his superiors based on official reports, his memoirs, and other contemporary documents. Brooks' duties called for him to cover the entire state from La Salle County in South Texas, to Fort Worth and El Paso. He was seriously wounded in an East Texas gun battle with the Conner gang. Spellman was most fortunate in locating descendants who cooperated with him in providing material on Brooks' life which otherwise would have remained unknown. The numerous photographs made available by the family greatly enhance the book.

Although Brooks is considered one of the four great Ranger captains, his personal life revealed many weaknesses. He struggled with alcohol and neglected his family to the point of estrangement. These are character traits which another historian might have ignored in favor of praising his subject. Spellman's biography presents James A. Brooks with both his strengths and frailties intact.

Chuck Parsons
Luling, Texas

This is an outstanding popular history of Fort Worth and the surrounding county. Ty Cashion's writing style is well-crafted and readable throughout, and he is especially adept at distilling national trends into a few well-crafted paragraphs and then illustrating how those trends have been reflected in the local history of the Panther City and its environs. The author has also done an exceptional job of selecting historical photographs that capture the essence of the city and county as they existed during different eras. The net result is an attractive and informative portrait, in words and images, of a place and its people.

Following an Introduction entitled "The Old Frontier," which traces the story of Fort Worth from its founding as a military outpost in 1849 to the end of the nineteenth century, the book is organized, simply but effectively, into ten chapters, each dealing with a decade of the twentieth century (except for chapter 10, "Cowboys and Culture," which covers the fifteen years from 1990 to 2005). Along the way, Cashion treats the reader to well-researched information on every major institution and event to make an impact on the area's consciousness: the creation of the Armour and Swift packing plants in the infant Stockyards district in 1903; the arrival of Texas Christian University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1910; the indefatigable boosterism of Amon Carter from the 1920s to the mid-1950s; the imprint of the New Deal on Fort Worth through such federally funded projects as Will Rogers Memorial Center, the Botanical Gardens, and Farrington Field; the city's role as a center of bomber production during World War II; the construction of the Children's Museum and the current incarnation of Casa Mañana Theatre in the 1950s; the opening of DFW Airport in 1974; and the revitalization of the downtown area in the 1980s and 1990s. A recurring theme throughout the book is the area's success at recalibrating itself economically as times and conditions have changed, from Fort Worth's heyday as "Cowtown," to its World War II and Cold War prominence as a center of defense industries, to its current romance with the natural gas-rich Barnett Shale.

As all talented historians try to do, however, Cashion provides more in these chapters than mere information and dry demographic statistics. He successfully captures the spirit of the region he portrays, and the spirit of Fort Worth in particular. Having grown up in that city in the 1960s and 1970s, I found myself recalling long-forgotten episodes of my childhood as I read Cashion's chapters on those years: rides on the Leonard's Department Store subway at Christmastime; elementary school field trips to Heritage Hall and Log Cabin Village; being regaled by my older brother with tales of "Lake Worth Monster" sightings in the spring of 1969; the sound of sonic booms
from General Dynamics-built F-111 fighter jets; and stolen minutes of fun watching Icky Twerp on Channel 11's Slam-bang Theatre mornings before being force-marched to school. To Fort Worth-lovers like me, *The New Frontier* is priceless. To non-Fort Worthians who would like to know more about the city and who appreciate well-written and well-illustrated history, it should be almost equally valuable.

Troy Davis  
Stephen F. Austin State University

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Williamson County is located just north of Austin, Texas, and includes the cities of Round Rock and Georgetown, which experienced four decades of stagnant or declining population after 1930. It was an agricultural county dependent upon Czech farmers who suffered periodic floods of the short San Gabriel River that flowed from the Balcones Escarpment into the Brazos River. Beginning in the 1970s the population of the county began to double every ten years and reached 250,000 by the end of the century. How and why this happened are the central questions and the answers of this book are found in the title, *Road, River, and Ol' Boy Politics*.

It was not simply Austin's explosive growth that pushed home seekers into Round Rock and Georgetown. Changes in Williamson County made it possible. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, concerned primarily about downstream users, forced out the Czech farmers, dammed the San Gabriel River, and inadvertently provided water for the county's western towns. The construction of Interstate Highway 35 made access to Austin easy. The reservoirs and Interstate, however, were not dictated from Washington, D.C. Local businessmen and politicians participated in these structural changes that transformed the county into a suburban haven.

Scarbrough, a newspaper publisher in Georgetown with environmental sensitivities, based the book on her doctoral dissertation directed by William H. Goetzmann at the University of Texas at Austin. The study is well written, well researched, and convincing. She answers the questions about the spectacular growth of Williamson County and provides a case study for other metropolitan regions.

David G. McCombs  
Colorado State University
Black Gun, Silver Star: The Life and Legend of Frontier Marshal Bass Reeves.

There have been untold numbers of stories, radio and television shows, and movies developed out of the factual existence of Federal Judge Issac C. Parker, his famous courtroom at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the men who served under him as United States deputy marshals. Art Burton, a professor of history at South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois, serves up the interesting accounts of one of the those deputy marshals in his life story of Bass Reeves.

As revealed by Burton, Bass Reeves was the real-life character that legends are made of, and his exploits were the kind of stories often deemed unbelievable. Burton does an excellent job of blending the near fable-like activities of the western lawman with the sad truths of his trials in being an African American in a time when many viewed his services as an affront to their existence. One will find that Bass’ unique style of bringing in the bad guys often added fuel to the fire of the racism he faced in his life.

Burton includes maps and photographs to help readers understand the story of Bass Reeves. In places the details may get to be a little burdensome, but turn a few pages over and get back into the action and don’t give up on the story. A second story line that threads through the book is the movement of time that carries Bass Reeves from western frontier lawmen to serving as a city police officer in Muskogee, Oklahoma, until 1909. Burton provides an excellent and informative reading opportunity that should prove enjoyable to anyone interested in the history of African Americans or frontier law enforcement.

George R. Franks, Jr.
Stephen F. Austin State University


When Brazilians asked about her home during her first trip outside the United States, Anne Sutherland replied that she was from Texas. She discovered that she was clear about her Texas identity and less so about her identity as a citizen of the United States. The Robertsons, The Sutherlands, and the Making of Texas is the result of her search for the origin and evolution of her Texas identity, and in the process she has produced a book that is a delight to read as well as a fount of information on two families that received land grants.
from the Mexican government and survived and thrived through the turmoil of nineteenth century Texas.

Sutherland, an Oxford University PhD in social anthropology, applies her professional skills to the documents left by her ancestors in the Robertson and Sutherland families to describe the emergence and evolution of their identity as Texans. These families, in Texas before the Texas Revolution in which both participated, were involved in the Indian conflicts of early statehood, in the Civil War, and in the Reconstruction era, about which they had strong, negative feelings.

The Robertson clan is the better known of the two, beginning with _empe­rsario_ Sterling Clack Robertson, who challenged Stephen F. Austin for control of a major part of present-day central Texas north of the San Antonio-Nacogdoches Road. Read the interesting summary of the conflict between the two _empresarios_ that reflects the great land grab of early Texas, as well as the history of the Sutherlands and related families, known as the “Alabama Settlement,” who moved to Austin’s original colony on the lower Brazos and Colorado rivers. Both families were filled with enthusiastic storytellers and writers, the Robertsons more than the Sutherlands. Anne Sutherland offers a glimpse at Texas history through the eyes of a group of people who do not get a great deal of attention in the general histories of the state, but who, through her efforts, add their local myths to join the more general myths of the Texas Anglo cultural identity. Sutherland makes it quite clear that she is not attempting a general explanation of the Texas cultural identity, but rather of the Anglo Texan identity.

The stories about the path the Robertson Papers took to reach the Archives of UT-Arlington and about the best known of the present-day Robertson, her aunt, Liz Carpenter, are entertaining reading. Treat yourself to this collection of fascinating information drawn from the written records and oral tradition of these multigenerational families of Texans.

Jo Ann Stiles
Lamar University


Bill Neal, a practicing criminal lawyer from Abilene, Texas, decided to record some of the frontier court stories he has heard about in the course of his career. Neal focuses on the period from the 1880s through the 1920s in northwestern Texas and western Oklahoma. The book includes a series of well-written stories connected by the theme that defendants who had almost certainly
committed murder ended up going free because of the inadequacies of the frontier justice system.

Although the work is anecdotal, Neal backs up his arguments with impressive primary research gleaned from courthouse records and newspapers throughout the region. The bulk of each chapter covers the crime, the original trial, and any appeals. The author concludes with an “Aftermath” and a useful “Off The Record” section which summarizes the reasons for the defense victory in layman’s terms.

Neal argues that several factors tilted the frontier justice system in favor of accused murderers. Most importantly, the system itself barely resembled courts in more settled areas of Texas. The frontier insured that many prosecutors and judges lacked basic legal skills. Defense lawyers, including Sam Houston’s youngest son, Temple Lea Houston, often secured an acquittal for their clients on technicalities or courtroom dramatics. Appellate judges frequently overturned convictions because of the flawed legal reasoning of frontier judges.

Juries also contributed to the difficulty of getting convictions. The author argues that attitudes of frontier individualism and the Southern background of most West Texans meant that defendants who took the law into their own hands often got a sympathetic hearing from their peers. Juries believed that all men had the right to kill in self-defense, over a stolen horse, a wife’s lover, or simply to maintain personal honor. In the hands of a good defense attorney, these attitudes often resulted in an early form of “jury nullification.”

Getting Away With Murder on the Texas Frontier represents a highly readable and insightful analysis of criminal justice on the Texas and Oklahoma frontiers. Although prosecutors and judges did their best under primitive conditions, their shortcomings and prevailing social attitudes often tilted the decision in favor of the defendant.

Charles Waite
University of Texas-Pan American


Not since John L. McCarty’s Maverick Town (1946) has any writer attempted to chronicle the history of Tascosa, Texas. Nolan’s work provides a serious study of the elements which contributed to the town becoming a potential queen city of the Panhandle, as well as the factors causing it to become a ghost. In 1939 the creation of Cal Farley’s Boy’s Ranch brought it back to life.
When the buffalo were wiped out, sheep and cattle herds filled the spaces. Cattlemen such as George Littlefield of the LIT and David T. Beals of the LX established huge ranches. Cowboys and all the various specimen of humanity contributed to the wild region: gunmen, rustlers, fugitives, all hard men, and a few women.

Many relatively unknown men and women are fleshed out in Nolan's work, men who had reason to be there for legitimate purposes. Some were killed there, adding to its gaudy and colorful reputation. Men such as Emmanuel Dubbs, Henry Russell, James McMasters, the Armim brothers, Cape Willingham. Tom Harris, Ellsworth Torrey were but a few. There is a wealth of new information; no rehash of secondary sources here!

Nolan is an established authority on several aspects of southwestern history, and readers will be somewhat familiar with names and events described here, but his intense digging into virtually every possible archive, public and private permits him to assimilate and write a fascinating narrative. This work will serve as the final authority if not the last word on Tascosa.

Chuck Parsons
Luling, Texas

Tio Cowboy: Juan Salinas, Rodeo Roper and Horseman, Ricardo D. Palacios

The author, an attorney and rancher in Encinal, Texas, has written a sensitive and delightful biography of his Tio (uncle). Juan Light Salinas' father was Mexican and his mother and his wife Anglos. He was a large man who looked Anglo but spoke English with a Spanish accent. In the complex ethnic communities of rural South Texas he was considered a "Mexican," the term that his family and community used for those of Mexican descent.

Juan Salinas was a champion calf roper. Rodeo promoters recruited him because a Mexican was a novelty in the rodeo at the time. Ironically, "centuries earlier the Spaniards introduced calf roping riatas, chaparreras, espuelas, ranchos, and every thing cowboy, even the very word rodeo to the Americas" (p. xv). Salinas roped in New York's Madison Square Garden Championship Rodeo for ten years, 1936-1946, and in local rodeos until the 1960s. He worked cattle from the age of eight until eighty-five. Tio Juan became a member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1991. As age and loneliness descended upon him in his last five years, each evening he revealed to his nephew oral traditions and stories about his life in rodeoing and ranching.

Setting the context for this unusual biography, the account begins with family genealogy and a description of Webb County in Deep South Texas – the
rainfall, flora, fauna, agriculture, cattle ranching, and early history of Laredo. The chapter on “Life on the Rancho Las Blancas” describes changes from Spanish haciendas to early twentieth century south Texas ranching. Topics include culinary practices, religious celebrations, ranch fencing, snake lore, cattle drives, landmark names, Spanish language curiosities, and cowboy humor.

This volume includes more topics than those listed above. It touches upon changes in ranching in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, crafts, ethnic relations, prejudice and discrimination, and family life. Over thirty photographs illustrate the text – including family portraits of ancestors, Juan Salinas in rodeo action, Madison Square Garden rodeo group portraits, and banquet poses with celebrities such as Roy Rogers.

This is more than a biography – it shows the contribution that genealogy, oral traditions, and local history can reveal about the context of history. It is the story of “the Mexican people of South Texas, of the South Texas Brush Country, la gente del terrenazo (the people of the big land), as Tejanos call those from South Texas” (p. xv).

Leslie Gene Hunter
Texas A&M University-Kingsville


Using an unpublished manuscript as a wellspring, Don Carlton has illuminated the character and philosophy of a largely overlooked figure of Texas history. Carlton has added insight into the life of Ross Sterling and also to that of other commercial and political leaders of twentieth-century Texas.

Born to a merchant family that conducted business on the shores of Galveston Bay and the deep southeast Texas woodlands, the events of Sterling’s life are deeply woven in Texas history. After dropping out of formal education at age thirteen Sterling pursued commercial ventures with his father and siblings. Recognizing business potential, in 1904 Sterling built feed stores to accommodate the burgeoning oil industry of southeast Texas. In 1904 the literal driving force in the “oil patch” were horses and mules. In 1911, while returning home to Houston by train from Humble, Sterling struck up a conversation with a friend about establishing their own oil company – thus was born The Humble Oil & Refining Company. In 1919 Sterling obtained financing from The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey for construction of a large refinery at Baytown, Texas, which operates today as ExxonMobil.
Commercial connections led to Sterling's acquisition of a flour mill; construction of a railroad; establishment of KPRC radio station; acquisition of *The Houston Post* and *The Houston Dispatch* newspapers, later combined into *The Houston Post-Dispatch*; and establishment of The Houston National Bank.

In the 1920s Houston experienced unprecedented growth in trade, population, and political power. As one of the city's commercial leaders, Sterling was well known throughout the state. His work ethic, sense of equity, and business acumen made him an attractive candidate for political recognition. Following the scandal surrounding the Texas Highway Commission's practice of granting no-bid contracts, which took place during the first administration of Governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, Governor Dan Moody selected Ross Sterling to head the Texas Highway Commission. Sterling brought transparency to the Commission and reformed the Commission's structure with regard to thrift and effectiveness. As Governor Moody's second term neared its conclusion, Sterling was persuaded to run as a candidate in the Texas Democratic primary for the state's highest elected office, a successful effort that included the defeat of Ma Ferguson. Taking office in 1931, Sterling faced a host of problems, two of which were dealing Texas' severe financial setbacks and the collapse of oil and cotton prices. At the depth of the Great Depression, attempts by state regulation to gain control of commodities prices that were already subject to pressures resulting from globalization, while not futile, proved elusive.

Considered likely to win a second term as governor in 1933, Sterling lost the Democratic runoff race to Ma Ferguson. Despite the defeat, his political loss may have proved Sterling's fiscal salvation. During his tenure as governor Sterling lost control of the Houston National Bank and suffered complete financial reversals - he was virtually bankrupt. The 1930s provided Sterling the opportunity to start a new oil company. By the time he died in March 1949, Sterling had reestablished himself as a successful oil and gas operator.

The Ed Kilman manuscript is located in the Ross Sterling papers at the Center for American History at the University of Texas. Kilman worked indirectly for Sterling as an editor of the *Houston Post*. Carlton's not insignificant task included revision and footnoting of the Kilman work. Carleton changed the manuscript's voice from third to first person and placed Sterling's life and numerous achievements - and setbacks - in historical context.

Ross Sterling's life, both personal and public, which for fifty-seven years has "flown beneath the historical radar," has at last been revealed, much to the benefit of those who read Don Carleton's superb book.

Page S. Foshee
Austin, Texas

Zavalla, Texas, native Ray Hawkins has written a sensitive, humble, and straightforward account of an Angelina County man’s journey from an inductee into the military to avenge his brother’s death to an administrator and leader, or from Ensign on January 1, 1943, to commanding officer of the Master Jet Base, Atsugi, Japan, when he retired in 1973.

Written in a simple, readable style, without self-glorification, it is not so military-minded in its approach that the general reader would not enjoy reading it; to help those less militarily inclined, the book includes insets providing information about the various airplanes he flew and carriers on which he served. Preserving a balanced, brief treatment of his life, he gets the reader to his World War II participation by page thirty-three and concludes it by page 107. With the exception of some comments about President Harry S Truman’s handling of the Korean War (p. 169), protests of the war in Viet Nam, the commander-in-chief, the progress of the war there (all on pp. 249-250), working with McNamara’s “Whiz Kids” twice (pp. 228-229 and pp. 244-245), and the secretary’s micromanagement (p. 229), Hawkins avoids political comments. Registering his individual responses as an exemplar of these three wars, he includes his own reaction to his brother Guy’s death, his comments about the deaths of his comrades, and hands-on particulars about missions and flying specific airplanes, from training in an F2A Brewster Buffalo to test piloting the Lockheed Seastar (TV-2).

Ray Hawkins’ work has done the public a service by chronicling his experiences of thirty-one years in the military, demonstrating sensitivity to the ones with whom he worked and finesse in the manner he described what it was like to serve day in and day out for his country.

Hershel Dixon
Lufkin, Texas


Anthony Shaw’s World War II: Day by Day is a valuable reference tool. The book can be read straight through but it serves better as a chronological source of information. There is a brief, four-page introduction outlining the origins of World War II. After the introduction, seven chapters cover one of the years from 1939-1945. Each chapter covers the year’s events day-by-day with
a paragraph commenting on the day’s significant event. The chapters contain subsections titled “Key Moments, Key Personalities, Decisive Weapons, and Strategies & Tactics.” These subsections contain more in-depth write-ups on national and military leaders, battles, weapons, terminology, and strategies.

The best features of the book are the illustrations and presentation. The collection of photographs that cover the pages is outstanding. They bring to life the people, places, and things of World War II. The presentation of the book makes it quite attractive. Each chapter and day are distinguishable with a clear heading introducing the new year or day’s event.

The book provides a valuable resource for a historian, lay reader, and educators. It could be used as a quick overview for someone teaching on World War II. While the study of history is not just a bunch of dates, December 7, 1941, and June 6, 1944, are important dates that our children need to know and respect. Hopefully this book can emphasize that part of learning history and of our own history. The book also serves as a good this-day-in-history source for those like myself who are interested in things like that.

John W. Garbutt
Nacogdoches, Texas


In times of war it is common for nations to look to the past for inspiration, understanding, and relevance. In the United States, that collective reflection, coupled with a realization the human resources of World War II are rapidly diminishing, has led to a number of focused historical explorations, from memoirs and oral histories to unit and community studies, that seek to present and preserve the human side of the global conflict. The results too often are limited, in part because tightly focused studies can be pedantic and lack the contextual backdrop necessary for historical relevance.

Such is not the case with *Combat Loaded*, which, at first glance, is more focused than others. Central to the story is the *USS Tate*, one of only a few hundred attack transport ships constructed late in the war to support and supply amphibious assaults in the Pacific Theatre. The crew of the *Tate* saw wartime action at Kerama Retto, Okinawa, and Ie Shima, where war correspondent Ernie Pyle visited onboard shortly before his death. Vital to postwar efforts in the Pacific, the ship nevertheless faced decommissioning in 1946, less than two years after its launching.
What makes *Combat Loaded* successful is emphasis on context and the personal side of war, including reflections of the author’s father, who served on the Tate. It contains ample detail for students of military history but tempers the technical with the range of human emotions, from tragedy and depression to humor and pride. And throughout, the narrative flows effectively and dramatically. The book is the first for Thomas E. Crew, longtime staff member of the National Oceanographic Office, but given his talent for weaving details of history with complexities of humanity, it should not be his last.

Dan K. Utley
Texas Historical Commission


Changing minds is a difficult task—especially for politicians seeking to change the collective mind of society. On March 15, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson sought to do just that with a televised speech, delivered before a joint session of Congress. His speech, entitled “The American Promise,” proposed what became the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In Garth E. Pauley’s *LBJ’s American Promise: The 1965 Voting Rights Address*, the author seeks to put the speech within the contexts of both history and rhetoric. Pauley investigates “the way Johnson made the principle of equal voting rights meaningful and compelling through a public vocabulary of shared interests, motives, and aspirations in order to secure passage of the U.S.’s most important civil rights laws” (p. 18).

The author begins with the complete text of Johnson’s speech, immediately exposing readers to its rhetoric. Scholars regard Johnson’s decision to speak the result of demonstrations in Selma, Alabama, and “Bloody Sunday.” Pauley opposes this viewpoint, noting that Johnson had made voting rights legislation a priority as early as December 1963. According to Pauley, the demonstrations were the “critical element” that provided a “window of opportunity” for the enactment of a new voting rights statute (pp. 19, 99). Their violence greatly contributed to the readiness of Americans to hear Johnson’s message. The president and his speechwriters carefully crafted the address’ rhetoric, appealing to American ideals of fairness and patriotism. Johnson transcended his own limitations as an orator while using all of his political power and talent to widen the franchise.

In *LBJ’s American Promise* Pauley has shown how rhetoric can have a major impact upon society and history. The author uses established historiog-
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ography, government reports, and archival resources including the Johnson. Kennedy, and Eisenhower presidential libraries to make this important contribution to Civil Rights history.

Mark Stanley
Denton, Texas


William P. Head delves into the world of fixed-wing gun platforms. Since the end of the first "helicopter war," much attention is paid to the development of helicopter gunships, first successfully attempted by the French in the early 1950s. Mounting machine guns and rockets on rotor-wing aircraft resulted in the American UH-1 "Huey," and development of a dedicated gunship, AH-1 "Cobra;" both were off-spring of that war.

A lesser-known gun platform that also appeared during the period was the side-firing, fixed-wing gunship, which carried advanced avionics, illumination systems, and some combination of 7.62mm mini guns, 20-, 30-, 40mm cannons, and 105mm recoilless rifles. Most troops who served in Vietnam are familiar with the AC-47 Spooky and Puff variants, and the more deadly AC-130 Spectre and Spooky.

Success of the AC-47 was tempered by its limited range and firepower, but development of the more sophisticated and powerful AC-130 was delayed because of the shortage of those airframes available for conversion. The quick-fix was conversion of the Korean War-era C-119 Boxcar.

First flown in 1947, 1100 C-119 cargo aircraft were designed and built by Fairchild-Hiller, before production ceased in 1955. It performed well in Korea and, after, around the world. For use in Vietnam, fifty-two aircraft were converted to gunships, beginning in 1967. The project, known as "Combat Hornet," ultimately cost $140 million, but the resulting aircraft performed admirably.

Head masterfully traces the development and history of the AC-119G Shadow, and -K Stinger gunship variants. His effort is well researched and meticulously documented. He relies on extensive project notes, insider memos, and correspondence, as well as technical publications, various military and background reports, secretary-level briefings, various governmental agency testimony, speeches, press releases, and transcripts.
A lack of scholarly publications on the C-119 ensures that *Shadow & Stinger* is an important addition to the historiography of aviation and the Vietnam War.

Dennis Bradford  
Nacogdoches, Texas


This collection of essays, excerpts, and poems is quite a refreshing look at our state’s capital. *Literary Austin* provides an historical overview of the city’s development through the words of dozens of influential authors, educators, journalists, and politicians from the last century. The book is arranged chronologically, roughly in decades, beginning with O. Henry’s humorous account of how Stephen F. Austin, Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, and others decided to create what O. Henry came to call the “City of the Violet Crown.” Brief, interesting author bios accompany each selection, which are taken from several dozen well-known works, as well as some that are rather obscure. A bibliography of additional Austin novels is included for further reading.

Graham notes in his Introduction that although statues of notable Austin figures are abundant throughout the city, there is not one of Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, the city’s founder. Lamar valued education, and many of the selections relate to one of the city’s most prominent institutions – The University of Texas. Graham states, “Government, education, and natural beauty remained the three dominant features of Austin far into the new century” (p. xiii). Politics and the landscape are certainly examined, but the topic of education seems most prominent. Recollections of harsh but valued teachers such as Dr. Hanson Tufts Parlin and J. Frank Dobie, Harry Ransom’s poetic musings about historical preservation, and even detailed accounts of the tragedy in the Tower all focus on UT and its impact on Austin and the Texas literary scene.

What makes this book different from other anthologies of Texas authors and works, including Graham’s *Lone Star Literature* (2003), is that these memories, observations, and testaments offer extremely diverse perspectives – political, philosophical, and philological—all of which are very personal. The selections reveal a loving, intimate relationship with Austin that is unique for every writer.

Kenneth L. Untiedt  
Texas Folklore Society
Folklore: In All of Us, In All We Do, Kenneth L. Untiedt, editor (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2006. Contents. Contributors. Illus. Index. P. 298. $34.95. Hardcover

This, the sixty-third publication from the Texas Folklore Society and the second under the editorship of Kenneth Untiedt, is fine fare. Untiedt's opening essay takes on the old topic, what is folklore? Oddly enough, it's a topic that just keeps coming up. The reason, most will tell you, is because those outside the society don't quite understand it and those on the inside keep adding to the definition - like trying to herd cats. This volume may be touted around as the folklore Bible. Untiedt says it best in his editor's page - "History and folklore go hand in hand." Tom Crum, speaks to "First Cousins: Folklore and History" when he remarks, "There is a great deal of history in folklore, and that's good. There also is a great deal of folklore in history, and that's not good. I suspect that many of you are either historians or folklorists [and] you will be able to tell which people [are which]. The folklorists are the ones who look smug and content. That is because they know that unless they are foolish enough to write about the history of folklore it's impossible for them to make a mistake. They know that no one will ever accuse them of getting their facts wrong or of writing politically correct folklore." If accused, the folklorist says, "That's the way I heard it."

Things just get better from there - essays on the roadrunner, totem of TFS, cavalry traditions, women's "bidness" such as beauty pageants, cooking, and seers. Occupational lore addresses the rural mail carrier, electronics, country doctors, nurserymen, engineers, cops; even politicians, shady characters, and the lore of extended care facilities - old folks homes. There are thoughts on the Bible and the folklore found therein, and finally Meredith Abarca's moving essay about using the family stories in a university folklore class that opens up students to their own worth and how the kitchen - the hearth - continues to be the most valuable room in any house in any culture. It's the traditional miscellany marching like the Energizer Bunny into the future. If there is one criticism it is that Untiedt needs to work on book titles - dare I suggest, more folksy?

Joyce Roach
Keller, Texas


Several years ago Roger Wood teamed with photographer James Fraher to produce Down in Houston, a beautifully illustrated and insightful history of
the Blues music culture in Houston’s African American wards. Wood and Fraher have teamed up again to explore African American music and culture in southeast Texas. *Texas Zydeco* is a more impressive book than their first effort. It explores the origins and evolution of this illusive musical form from its roots in Louisiana black Creole culture to its maturity in the zydeco clubs in Houston, as well as zydeco joints and gathering places scattered along the I-10 corridor to the Sabine River. Wood argues convincingly that zydeco is a uniquely southeastern Texas musical form that evolved out of the musical traditions of French-speaking, black Creoles who migrated from rural Louisiana to Houston’s Frenchtown, Port Authur, and the Golden Triangle, as well as Barrett’s Landing and other small communities in between.

The center of this migration as well as the breeding ground for zydeco was Houston, where Creole traditions and instruments blended with the Texas blues and rhythm and blues, with touches of gospel and even rap and hip hop, to give us modern zydeco. This is a recent phenomenon. The migrations began in the mid 1920s, zydeco began to emerge as a distinctive musical tradition in the 1950s and 1960s, and was well-defined by the 1980s and mushrooming in popularity in the 1990s. Wood’s systematic description of the origins and development of zydeco emphasizes Houston’s role in this process—1940s recording sessions in the Bayou City were the first to incorporate the term “zydeco” in song lyrics, the word “zydeco” and its current spelling appeared first in the city, and Clifton Chenier, the premier zydeco artist, was based in Houston for much of his career. Houston, Wood argues, “served as the primary incubator in which black Creole acoustic music known as la-la would assimilate new musical possibilities and evolve into zydeco” (p. 65). Its role in zydeco was analogous to Chicago’s role in the emergence of the Blues.

Beautifully illustrated with James Fraher’s photographs and rich with Wood’s well-researched vignettes of musicians, their families, the clubs they inhabit, and festivals where they gather with their thousands of fans, *Texas Zydeco* will appeal to a wide audience ranging from social and cultural historians, musicologists, folklorists, and those simply looking for a good read about a music they love.

*Cary D. Wintz*
Texas Southern University


“After all a man says, it’s what he does that counts,” intoned one of the greatest of all Western film stars. Gary Cooper, in *Garden of Evil*, 1954.
“It’s not very good manners telling a lady she smells,” drawled another great Western actor, James Stewart, in Firecreek, 1968.

“It’s hard to sing and be mean at the same time.” observed the first great singing cowboy, Gene Autry, in Spring Time in the Rockies, 1937.

These and more than 2,000 other dialogue quotations are presented in Western Movie Wit & Wisdom. Jim Kane, who has spent his career in law enforcement, is a lifelong fan of Western films. In compiling this book, he selected dialogue from the 1,700 films in his personal collection. Kane presents these quotations without interpretation or comment, although his selections are categorized under topic headings from “ABILITY” to “ZORRO,” and are cross-referenced in a topic index and a list of movie titles.

A large number of quotations are about “WOMEN” or “MARRIAGE.” A puzzled John Wayne asks, in Rooster Cogburn, 1975, “Why do women always want to change a man?”

“Rifles and women don’t mix,” pointed out Chill Wills, in Kentucky Rifle, 1956.

“Cowboys don’t get married unless they stop being cowboys,” mournfully explained Tom Selleck in Monte Walsh, 2003.

“I believe that a man is fire and a woman fuel,” mumbled Marlon Brando in Viva Zapata!, 1952.

A pragmatic Rod Cameron advised, in Santa Fe Passage, 1955, “There’s nothing like whiskey for a broken heart.”

On the subject of “Bullets,” Robert Mitchum, in Bandido, 1956, remarked that, “There’s no love in a bullet.” A worried Bob Hope, in Alias Jesse James, 1959, blurted out that, “A guy can get blood poisoning from getting killed with a dirty bullet.”


With room for such banalities, it seems curious that the most famous line in Western fiction, “When you call me that, smile,” is not included from one of the several film versions of The Virginian. Since there is no analysis or context, this eclectic collection of Western quotations provides the reader with only mild amusement and meager enlightenment.

Bill O’Neal
Carthage, Texas
The editors of *Texas Vistas: Selections from the Southwestern Historical Quarterly* designed it as a supplement for Texas History courses. It would be an outstanding discussion text for graduate students at the master's level. From these selections they could learn how to document sources and provide historiographic context, how to infer an author's bias, and how to impart significance to seemingly narrow topics. The first edition (1980) drew on a backlog of articles published in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* since the journals' beginning. A second edition in 1987 incorporated minor changes, but the third edition is a full revision. Only three of the eighteen articles date from the first edition. The overall goal of the new edition is ethnicity, gender, and topical diversity.

The Colonial section covers Spanish and Mexican Texas. Chipman's article on Cabeza de Vaca's route (1987), is learned and complex. Lemec's discussion of Natchitoches (1998), centers on Louis Juchereau de St. Denis and the connections forged as a mediator between French and Spanish empires and indigenous peoples. Students may find this interesting, but they won't have a clue about what they should know from it for a test. Cantrell's (1995), article on the partnership between Stephen F. Austin and Joseph H. Hawkins describes Austin's warm friendship with an ill-fated benefactor. Cantrell shows how *empressarios* depended on people with dreams and capital (or at least a reckless willingness to incur debt), to underwrite the development of colonies. Henson's essay on what she calls Tory sentiment in Anglo-Texas (1986), seeks to explain why some white settlers opposed the Texas Revolution. For students who think everyone in Texas thought alike, the article brings a sense of reality; but whether they wanted independence or not, it still came, so the issue is ultimately a moot point.

The second part of *Texas Vistas* deals with the Republic through the Civil War. Downs' article on women (1986), will be a favorite with readers, since it shows in human terms how costly it was to move to Texas. The separation from one's previous associates, the stress of domesticating the frontier, the fear of attacks by Native Americans, and chaotic misadventures such as the Runaway Scrape—these are told in the words of actual settlers woven into her prose. Students are always curious about slavery. Campbell's article on slaves in Harrison County in the 1850s (1973), is an excellent introduction to the subject. Without moralizing, Campbell shows what dilemma slavery posed to owners and other free people in *antebellum* society. Snider's discussion of Sarah Devereaux (1994), portrays the down side of being a Southern belle, and Barr's article on Civil War coastal defenses (1961), is a straightforward military his-
tory that reminds us of how vulnerable our coastline might be in time of war.

Articles in the third section describe Texas from the end of the Civil War until the 1920s. Moneyhon’s article on the Coke-Davis governor’s race of 1874 (1996), reevaluates Governor E. J. Davis by showing how Redeemer Democrats demonized him for their own purposes after Reconstruction. Ivy’s account of Frances Willard’s Texas temperance tour in 1882 (1998), shows how territorial reformers can be, and how seldom local elites want to be upstaged. Beneath a pose of hospitality, Texas prohibitionists made sure the trip was a non-event. Wheeler’s article on the Blizzard of 1886 (1991), shows how a cold snap popped the bubble of “irrational exuberance” in the range cattle industry. Calvert’s article on cotton farming (1970), explains why it was such an unsatisfactory way to make a living, and Osborn’s “Curtains for Jim Crow” (2002), humorously exposes how reluctantly the transportation industry cooperated with segregation laws.

The book’s final section begins with Sallee’s account of Ma Ferguson’s governor’s race in 1924 (1996). The author reveals that our first woman governor opposed woman suffrage and partly won by portraying herself as an anti-suffragette. Biles’ article on the New Deal in Dallas (1991), re-emphasizes the fact that local elites do not want outside influence to dilute their own, particularly when it threatens to blur racial lines. Zamora’s discussion of Mexicans working at Texas oil refineries in World War II (1992), focuses on the “prejudice” shown towards Mexicans and the government’s willingness to cater to corporate interests, but he presumes and takes for granted that foreigners are entitled to American jobs. Kuhlman’s article on desegregation at the University of Texas (1995), says that student activism hastened it. Finally, Jordan’s analysis of demographics quantifies the ethnic changes that have taken place in the years since Texas’ Declaration of Independence.

The scholarship in the articles is of high quality and the editors have chosen a broad range of timely topics. Texas Vistas is a good read, whether you are a graduate student or not.

Jeffrey Owens
Tyler Junior College


Much has been written about the county courthouses of Texas, especially since the Texas Historical Commission launched its acclaimed effort to restore many of the state’s historic but deteriorating courthouses.
Many of the books written and produced have been coffee-table productions with beautiful photographs but are difficult to pack around in the family automobile while traveling across Texas.

This book is different, and handier.

With its smaller format (roughly 6x9 inches) and flexible, laminated cover, it is a book everyone should keep in the family automobile for handy reference.

This is actually the second edition of a book published in 1993, but it has been greatly improved from the earlier version.

In addition to photographs and short histories of each of Texas' 254 courthouses, the Kelsey-Dyal book offers a thirty-page history of the evolution of county government in Texas, beginning with the old municipal districts of the Republic of Texas.

Many of the Texas courthouses are some of the most architecturally interesting buildings in our state. Some, however, are sorely disappointing.

In Angelina County, where I live, our county government demolished in 1950 a beloved building designed by J. Riely Gordon, one of America's premier courthouse designers.

The story goes that the commissioners court wanted a modern building and put the issue before the public in the form of an election to approve bonds for a new building, even though the old courthouse was sound.

As the election neared, it became obvious the bond issue was in trouble, so the commissioners reportedly told a work crew to prop some large timbers against the courthouse's sides, hoping to convince the voters the old building was on the verge of collapse.

The election passed – and we got a modern, mundane courthouse.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


The first section includes photographs of 127 historical markers in Palestine and Anderson County, and material for each on the type of marker, location, when it was dedicated, and background information. There is good information about the CSA Ironworks, Palestine Salt Works CSA, and Fort
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Houston, the I&GN railroad in Palestine, the site of the Kickapoo battlefield and McLean massacre, the first grave of Cynthia Ann Parker, and Governor Thomas Mitchell Campbell and John H. Reagan.

The section is followed by more photographs and information about Texas landmark structures. Afterward, a 100-page section includes approximately 300 pictures with directions to and information on markers such as monuments, cornerstones, and plaques on buildings, businesses, cemeteries, churches, people, places, and schools. Then comes a list of those honored in Anderson County, distinguished high school alumni, farms held by the same families for more than 100 years, citizens of the year, county judges, and mayors of Palestine.

The bibliography includes ninety-three sources found in the Palestine Public Library, at the Anderson County Historical Commission, and in the Museum for East Texas Culture. Finally, the index lists approximately 2,650 references.

The work is like visiting a cathedral or a museum. You stop and read about a thing, then move on to the next one. It is a careful discussion of sites, cemeteries, churches, people. Where there are discrepancies in the data, they are noted but explained.

William Enger
Trinity Valley Community College


The word "nostalgia" comes to mind when viewing a book of photographs such as this by Richard Payne, but that term is too easy and certainly insufficient when one considers not only the subject matter – buildings and people in small Texas towns – but also the artistry of Payne’s photography and the historical and personal insights provided in his excellent introductory essay. The reader’s initial impulse to leaf through the photographs and take pleasure in an “I’ve been there, I know that building!” sort of nostalgic tour quickly gives way to a sincere appreciation of Payne’s journey and his unique look at the small-town past of Texas.

Beginning with an insightful foreword by respected architectural historian Stephen Fox, Texas Towns & the Art of Architecture: A Photographer’s Journey is a fine addition to the ever-growing body of literature on the built environment of the Lone Star State. Fox notes that the “arrival of the railroad was registered architecturally” in Texas, and Payne artfully describes the changes in small Texas towns that accompanied the arrival of railroads between the 1880s
and 1930s, as well as the inevitable decline of those communities when the railroads gave way to superhighways and a faster way of life. What the reader experiences through Payne’s lens is a visual journey from the grand and elaborate – architect-designed courthouses, banks, and other public buildings – to abandoned and deteriorating vernacular structures struggling to survive the economic downturns in their hometowns, to corrugated metal gins and other industrial buildings, and even to whimsical expressions of roadside architecture such as the Tee Pee Motel in Wharton (p. 145). Also included are the faces of people who live and work in these communities and buildings, faces that reveal a glimpse into both the hardships and pride inherent in small-town life. This is a book that readers will return to many times over, one that will offer new insights and, yes, feelings of nostalgia with each renewed examination.

Cynthia J. Beeman
Texas Historical Commission


Dorothy MacInerney, a member of the Blue Bell board of directors, has done a wonderful job capturing the spirit of the men and the community that built Blue Bell, “The Best Ice Cream in the Country,” over the past 100 years.

More important than the pictures and the history of their favorite (and not so favorite) flavors, is the history her book provides about how a small creamery in Brenham became a major marketing force in Houston, Austin, Dallas, and Oklahoma, and a highly competitive market in sixteen states. This is the story of how Brenham Creamery developed into Blue Bell Ice Cream and how it adapted to everything from technological changes such as refrigerated trucks and popsicle-making machines, to the Depression, World War II, and modern marketing techniques. It is the story of how people lived their lives over the past 100 years – the story of their work ethic and community values.

The story begins with the making of butter by the Brenham Creamery in 1907, but it really took off when E. F. Kruse became the managing force in 1919. It begins in the years between two world wars when Americans in small towns were focused on their families and their communities. It was in this environment that Kruse, the youngest of nine children from a farming family at Prairie Hill, expanded the capacity of the original creamery and renamed it Blue Bell after his favorite wildflower. To this day, Blue Bell ice cream successfully markets itself as a small rural operation. It has clung to its small
town image as a virtue and celebrated the values of this image invokes even today when Blue Bell Ice Cream is …“100 Years and Still Cranking.”

Blanche Brick
Blinn College, Bryan


During hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Mike Cox served as the communications manager for the Texas Department of Transportation. Earlier he worked for the Texas Department of Public Safety and began his career as a newspaper reporter. In between he has published a dozen books, many on Texas history. His latest, *Texas Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival*, is a must read.

Cox described nineteen Texas disasters that ranged chronologically from “The Lost Spanish Fleet” (1554) to “The Crash of Delta 191” (1985). He also briefly described seventy-eight other disasters in Texas. Cox included a large number of disasters that occurred in East Texas. These included The Galveston Hurricane of 1900, North America’s worst natural disaster in terms of lives lost; the Texas City refinery explosion in 1947, the worst man-made disaster in North America; and the New London School explosion in 1937, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Mike Cox’s *Texas Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival* is a good book. The writing is crisp and Cox’s use of artwork to reinforce the narrative enhances the book. You should enjoy this book on a rainy afternoon. Just hope is does not rain too much, that the sky does not turn too dark, and that the wind does not blow too strongly, or you will be a participant in the next Texas disaster.

Don Willett
Texas A&M University at Galveston


*Journey to San Jacinto*, the second in the Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk Series by, Melodie A. Cuate, is a great book for middle school students. I enjoyed this book very much, and believe that many other students will
as well. It had an amazing way of taking you to the past while still being tied to the present in a cool way. I did not just envision the past but also was able to become part of it. The details are amazing. I could easily picture the three frightened children and sadly, the battle scene, too.

Hannah is a curious seventh grader in Mr. Barrington’s Social Studies class. One morning she notices that her teacher is missing and his magical trunk is open. She has her adventure by taking a trip to the Battle of San Jacinto to rescue her Social Studies teacher and bring him back to the present.

Jackie, Hannah’s best friend, helps her while they look for Hannah’s brother, Nick. Mr. Barrington, and Mr. Barrington’s magical trunk, which they need to get back home! What a load!!

Nick is Hannah’s older brother and he is in the eighth grade. Nick was mixed in with these adventures in the first of the series and decided not to miss out on the next adventure, although he quickly changed his mind after he ended up with the Mexican army! He deals with his problems while his sister and Jackie deal with problems of their own.

When I read a book I hope for adventure, and this book had plenty of it. I never put the book down while reading it and plan to read it again. Not all history books are exciting, but this book linked our world to our past in an enjoyable way. I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did.

Marie Routh Nickle
Alto Middle School


In the decade before the September 11, 2001, attacks, most terrorist violence directed against America came not from foreign but from homegrown, right wing groups that opposed the United States government and what they saw as its capitulation to Jews, women, and non-whites. Sharing a millenarian Protestantism, a virulent anti-Semitism, a propensity for violence, and a commitment to white supremacy, these extremists are not the fringe groups depicted by the popular media. They are, Evelyn A. Schlatter argues, as American as apple pie.

Drawing on the groups’ publications, news accounts, government records, and personal interviews and correspondence with major figures in movements, Schlatter convincingly demonstrates that groups such as the Montana Freemen and the Republic of Texas drew upon traditional American ideas and cultural
myths to justify their goals and to recruit new members. One main goal of these groups— to create white homelands in the West— derives from Manifest Destiny and the mythological American cowboy who tamed the "frontier" by subjugating American Indians, Latinos, and others who stood in the way of American civilization. In such homelands, extremists hope to revive "true" American values where men protect white women from non-whites and males once again dominate the social hierarchy. Such notions of masculinity, Schlatter argues, tie the contemporary white supremacist movements to earlier groups such as the Ku Klux Klan. Although she understates the historical role of women in perpetuating white supremacy—the racist rhetoric of women's rights activists opposing the Fourteenth Amendment and black male suffrage come to mind—her detailed examination and fascinating analysis provide valuable insights into the provenance and purpose of contemporary Aryan Cowboys.

Robert Shelton
Cleveland State University


What would you do if a toxic waste dump in your neighborhood was contaminating the soil, the ground water and the air, causing birth defects, cancers, crops to fail and animals to sicken and die, and filling the air with toxic fumes that could cause ulcers?

In the small East Texas town of Winona, Phyllis Glazer spent her inheritance to organize "a grassroots nonprofit organization using education, litigation, and service to preserve and protect rural, low income, and minority communities from exposure to toxic substances and contamination by hazardous wastes" [p. 2], naming it MOSES (Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins)

Glazer enlisted Longview photographer Tammy Cromer-Campbell to take a picture of one of the affected children to use on a poster. A year later, Cromer-Campbell offered to photograph other victims. The fifty-one B&W photographs in the book are not what you might expect. Cromer-Campbell deliberately used a cheap plastic camera with a plastic lens—one prone to light leaks and other abnormalities—to emphasize the atrocities being visited on the residents of Winona. Many of her photo subjects have since died from illnesses induced by toxic waste. Roy Flukinger, senior curator of Photography at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at The University of Texas at
Austin, contributed an essay in which he discussed Tammy Cromer-Campbell's choice of camera.

Cromer-Campbell contributed an essay about her involvement in the project and explains why she felt she had to do it. In addition, she provided background information for many of the photographs.

Dr. Eugene Hargrove, editor of *Environmental Ethics*, founder of the Center for Environmental Philosophy, and professor at the University of North Texas in Denton, contributed an essay discussing some of the limitations on environmental justice in the United States and offering suggestions for developing preventive strategies.

An essay which seeks to dispel some of the toxicological myths used by industries to try to avoid responsibility for the their damaging activities was contributed by Dr. Marvin Legator, who was in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, Division of Environmental Toxicology, at The University of Texas, Medical Branch at Galveston.

If you care about the safety and health of people, and want to know how one such person responded to the threat from toxic wastes, or if you like serious documentary photography, you should examine this book.

R.G. Dean
Nacogdoches, Texas


The writing of history usually falls into one of two broad categories: it tells us more of what we already know, but with some new clarity or emphasis or angle of vision; or it tells us something we did not know before. Paul Barton's book falls into the latter category. He tells us the history of Hispanic main-line Protestantism in Texas, which, if it was already known, has certainly been overlooked.

Barton's approach is that of a self-professed "insider," a fourth-generation Mexican-American United Methodist who is up-front about his "strong personal affinity for my cultural and religious traditions" (p. 8). Note that he speaks of traditions in the plural because a major emphasis of the book is the development of a distinctive "*los Protestantes*" from the Anglo-American Protestant denominationalism and the Mexican-American Catholic community as a way of negotiating and straddling these two primary frames of reference. These
Hispanic Protestants have experienced constant tension as they sought to retain their Mexican-American identity in relation to Anglo-American Protestants on one hand and Mexican-American Roman Catholics on the other.

Barton limits his focus to Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists, primarily because these were the three Anglo-American Protestant denominations which made missionary inroads among Mexican-Americans in Texas beginning in the 1880s with their revivalism and its strong hymnody, emphasis on personal conversion and piety, Biblicism, and anti-Catholicism. At the same time, there was great emphasis upon education and Anglo-American middle-class values and morality.

A third frame of reference beyond Anglo-American Protestantism and Mexican-American Roman Catholicism is Pentecostalism, which has grown among Hispanic Protestantism in the last thirty years to where it is now the dominant form of Hispanic Protestantism in the United States. This is only touched upon in the last chapter. Even though los Protestantes is rapidly changing and growing in ways beyond main-line Protestantism, Barton’s helpful book lays the groundwork and demonstrates that instead of assimilation, Hispanic Protestantism in Texas has emerged as a distinctive indigenous church.

The Rev. Kyle Childress
Nacogdoches, Texas

Expanding the Horizons of Texas History

The 2008 San Jacinto Symposium looks at the Texas Revolution through the eyes of a novelist, a Mexican borderlands historian, a school teacher, a librarian, and a covert British agent.

Speakers include novelist Stephen Harrigan, author of Gates of the Alamo; Miguel Ángel González Quiroga, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey; Betsy Davis, an Austin fourth-grade teacher; librarian Dreanna Belden, University of North Texas; and Stuart Reid, author of Secret War for Texas and great-great-grandson of Dr. James Grant.

Dr. James E. Crisp returns as moderator.

The Symposium, organized by the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, will be on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at the Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, University of Houston. The $45 registration fee covers lunch and parking. It is approved for six hours of Certified Professional Education (CPE) credit. For additional information, or to register, call (281) 496-1488 or visit the website at www.friendsofsanjacinto.org.