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An Altar For Their Sons: The Alamo and the Texas Revolution in Contemporary

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An Altar for Their Sons: The Alamo and the Texas Revolution in Contemporary Newspaper Accounts, by Gary S. Zaboly. Buffalo Gap: State House Press, 2011. Contents. Introduction. Notes. Sources and Acknowledgements. Afterword. Index. Pg. 477. Hardcover. \$79.95.

In *An Altar for Their Sons: The Alamo and the Texas Revolution in Contemporary Newspaper Accounts*, noted illustrator and author Gary S. Zaboly provides a significant collection of primary source materials designed to enhance understanding of the events, outcomes, and implications of the Texas Revolution and the Alamo. Although a source work, Zaboly's brief introduction to each article as well as the use of photographs from the Phil Collins Collection will appeal to the scholar as well as the general reader.

The author divides *An Altar for Their Sons* into twelve sections of contemporary newspaper accounts that detail the rise of Texas from Spanish Rule through the Battle of San Jacinto into the first year of the Republic of Texas. These accounts not only present a vivid description of the events and personalities involved in the Revolution and the Alamo, but also provide remarkable insight into how events such as the Alamo and characters such as Bowie, Crockett, Houston, Travis, and Santa Ana were perceived by nineteenth century American observers. *An Altar to Their Sons* also includes an interesting essay which utilized contemporary newspaper accounts and other sources to attempt to reconstruct the appearance and layout of the Alamo during the 1836 siege.

Zaboly's closing chapters clearly depict the role of contemporary newspapers in elevating the Alamo and its defenders to legendary if not mythic status. Indeed these final newspaper accounts of the heroics of Deaf Smith, the fate of Travis' slave Joe, the popularity of the Bowie Knife, reports that David Crockett was alive and working as a mine slave in Mexico, and the rise

of San Antonio/the Alamo as a tourist destination coupled with the examples of long neglected contemporary Alamo poetry in the final chapter may be the most interesting portions of the book.

Gary S. Zaboly's *An Altar for Their Sons: The Alamo and the Texas Revolution in Contemporary Newspaper Accounts* achieved its purpose of enhancing the overall understanding of the Texas Revolution and the Alamo. *An Alaer for Their Sons* represents a significant and useful contribution to the historiography of the Alamo and the Revolution to be enjoyed by scholar and buff alike.

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