
Here we have the initial volume of a massive historical undertaking—the collecting, editing and publishing of what will likely end up being over twenty volumes (plus several supplementary volumes) of papers to, from, and about Jefferson Davis. Perhaps the word “awesome” should be used in place of “massive” in the above sentence. As in most such works, the earliest volume or so acts as trial balloons. The principal character is strictly in the developmental stage and the papers, necessarily reproduced for the overall work to be definitive, lack the significance of those of an established figure. Because of this, such early books are mainly a display of the editorial methods to be used, and a contest to see if adequate annotation can be uncovered for many items that seem trivial and obscure. This volume is no exception to the rule, it mainly consists of routine reports and insignificant papers (wisely to be calendared in later volumes) taking Davis through childhood and West Point, and into his military career. In fact, it takes about one hundred pages to get him graduated and commissioned. Fortunately, as the book continues, some personal letters and description of his army experiences start creeping in to relieve the monotony. Again, it should be stressed, the inclusion of such routine documents is an inherent necessity in a project of this size and scope.

As for the editorial methods, they could certainly not be criticized for lacking in being elaborate and complete. A brief evaluation of Davis is offered in Bruce Catton’s introduction, in which he mainly traces the “fall and rise” of Davis in the feelings of those, both North and South, who come to respect him for his abilities. A “General View of the Work” by Frank Vandiver, and an explanation of the editorial techniques by the co-editors follow. Then, the editors offer two brief autobiographical sketches of their subject, thus wisely providing a means for the documents to have some positive form of meaning for those readers who are not up on the course of the life of Davis. The papers then follow, with extensive explanatory notes. As could be expected, some of the early papers require far more printing space for these notes than for the documents themselves. The appropriate and complete nature of these explanations and identifications, and their close cross-referencing stand as strong proofs of the great amount of work that has already gone into the project.

The book ends with an expansive genealogical tracing of Davis’ seemingly countless forebears, and with calendars of various military returns and muster rolls.

In all, based on the editorial work, arrangement, and format shown in this first book, the series should stand as a very positive first-rate contribution to the field. It is only hoped (and, in all honesty, expected) that in the second volume the individual papers will grow sufficiently in significance as to make them more worthy of the editorial efforts involved.

Allan C. Ashcraft
Texas A&M University

This volume is another addition to the long list of works which has appeared in effort to publish the papers of the most significant American leaders. It possesses the quality to merit comparison with the previous works for Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, Hamilton, and the Adams Family. While the title of Correspondence indicates a narrower scope than the other projects mentioned, this work might easily be named "The Papers of James K. Polk."

The volume begins with a brief Preface, which includes a terse summary of the period covered by the contents of the work, the "Editorial Method," a "Bibliographical Note," and a table of contents which lists each item included by name, date, and page number. These prefatory pages give the reader the impression that the pages which follow present the basic materials of this Tennessee President’s career with a minimum of peripheral data and information. The editors' single purpose has seemed to be the presentation of good copy, without clutter and minutiae. This goal has been achieved, for this series is very similar to the Alexander Hamilton series, in the absence of lengthy editorial discourses, by comparison with the Madison works, which abound in explanatory matter.

The Correspondence of this "persistent, stubborn, hard-working, somewhat colorless Tennessean" begins with a letter in July, 1817, of an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina to a committee of the Dialectic Society, which included young Polk, and concludes with a constituent’s letter, written in a delightfully phonetic spelling, asking for assistance in obtaining payment for a horse "lost in the Seminole Indian Campaign." The correspondent, writing in December, 1832, informed Polk that he was from "Pulasky" and added, "I resid Some distance from town. You tel by a tittle what a great deal means." Between these two items, the editors have included 664 letters "of which Polk wrote only 96." Since many of those communications addressed to Polk were routine in nature, the editors have presented summaries of these minor items. The family correspondence, while unfortunately sparse, is most interesting, for it details the young lawyer's role as a key person in his family clan. He settled his father's estate, cared for the estates of three diseased younger brothers in 1831, and helped administer the estate of his father-in-law.

Scholars will find the twenty letters to or from Andrew Jackson of value, for they help to show the skill of the Jacksonian political touch. But most of all, these early papers serve to demonstrate the record of an aspiring young product of the frontier: the record of perhaps a few hundred others of the same period—if no more was known of young James K. Polk after 1832. Like many, he had moved westward, married, worked hard, invested in land and slaves, began a practice of law, and ventured into the political arena. In that latter pursuit, he seemed to be a conscientious public servant—at least, the existing correspondence demonstrates that his constituents thought he should be attentive to even their most minor cares and needs.

The thorough index indicates that six items relate to Texas. Perhaps ironically and appropriately, four of these pertain to the escape of four Hardin brothers, who had been accused of murder in Tennessee in 1827, but within a few months had
“fled from the U. States, and taken refuge in the Province of Texas, within the Mexican dominions.” Polk’s aid was sought in persuading the Federal authorities to have these accused men returned to their native state. Another letter came from an obscure citizen of Trenton, Tennessee, who asked for reparation of damages “for the benefit of those who sustained losses by the Indians on our frontiers when engaged in the Spanish trade to Santa Fe and other interior provinces of new Spain.” This request carried an urgent plea, however, for the author informed Polk that he was about “to start in a few days to explore the province of Texas and will not return till next Summer.” The final item of Texas interest included mention of a minor political figure who, after defeat at the polls in his native state, was headed for the Lone Star region to recoup his political fortunes. Texas readers of this series, no doubt will find far more material of deep concern to them in the volumes to follow in this fine series.

This volume is yet another example of the labor of a single scholar and his associates. The editor began to collect Polk items in 1958, and estimates that the total corpus of materials addressed to or from the Tennessean numbers about 10,000 pieces. Although the project has enjoyed support from the Tennessee Historical Commission, National Historical Publications Commission, and Vanderbilt University, funding has always been limited. For many of the years since the inception of the effort, the work has been done by the editor alone. It seems probable that some eight volumes will be needed to complete the series, and the entire set may be available within a decade. If this is possible, scholars will be extremely fortunate, for this first volume demonstrates that both laymen and trained historians will have access to skillfully edited documents, with appropriate explanatory information. All connected with the series deserve high praise for this initial product and for the prospect that the entire series may be completed within a few years.

Haskell Monroe
Texas A&M University


As William Scarborough points out in his introduction to the first published volume of a ten year diary, Edmund Ruffin was “one of the most significant figures in the Old South.” The section's leading agricultural reformer, Ruffin was for many years publisher of the Farmer's Register. When financial reverses forced suspension of publication in 1842, Ruffin purchased a tract of land in Hanover county and devoted himself to building a model plantation. His use of marl to restore exhausted soil increased the productivity of his property and gave new hope to countless Virginia agriculturalists.

At the end of 1854 Ruffin retired from active management of his plantation and devoted himself fully to the defense of the South's political rights. A devoted follower of John C. Calhoun, Ruffin was convinced that northern abolitionists were determined to destroy the South. In a series of speeches, letters, and essays in the late 1850's Ruffin urged his fellow southerners to secede from the Union. When secession became a reality in 1860-61 Ruffin traveled to South Carolina and was given the honor of firing the first shot at Fort Sumter.
In the autumn of 1856 Ruffin began to keep a regular diary describing his activities. Except for extracts published in the William and Mary Quarterly over fifty years ago, this massive manuscript (4,100 pages), deposited in the Library of Congress, has not previously been published. This, the first volume of what will probably be three printed volumes, covers the events of the late 1850's and concludes with the secession of Virginia in April, 1861.

The editor has done an excellent job in preparing the manuscript for publication. He has corrected some obvious spelling errors and eliminated some inconsequential passages. Too, he has carefully identified in footnotes the many individuals mentioned by Ruffin in the narrative.

Ruffin's frank, and often caustic, comments provide an interesting commentary on the times. Northern congressmen he described as "corrupt, & destitute of private integrity." Sam Houston was labeled a "low black-guard & common drunkard" and an "old scoundrel, & traitor to the South." Former Tennessee governor Gideon Pillow was described as "that Bobadil braggart." Although he detested most northern abolitionists, Ruffin admitted that John Brown was "a very brave & able man" and admired his courage and devotion to a cause.

Publication of Ruffin's diary will be of invaluable assistance to those scholars studying the complex events of the late antebellum period. One minor error was detected: Alexander Mouton and not John Perkins, Jr., presided over the Louisiana secession convention. The editor is correct that Ruffin's diary "affords ample evidence of cooperation among the three most celebrated fire-eaters—Ruffin, Rhett, and Yancey," but this writer remains unconvincing that secession was the result of a political leaders' conspiracy. Ruffin's own diary shows how often his advice and recommendations were not heeded by the South. Secession came much later than Ruffin or other fire-eaters wished and only after the people themselves were convinced that their institutions were endangered.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University


According to Samuel S. Hill, Jr., professor of Religion at the University of North Carolina, social historians would do well to pay attention to a work such as Eighmy's because Southern Baptists are a classical case study in the relationship of religion and culture. Since Eighmy died before the publication of this carefully researched work, Hill provided the introduction, epilogue, and some editorial and bibliographical work. At the time of his death, Eighmy, a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Missouri, was professor of history at Oklahoma Baptist University.

John Eighmy chronicles the development of Southern Baptist social consciousness. His work documents the importance of the convention's direct tie to autonomous local churches as a conservative restraint on the public expression of
social morality. For much of the history of the convention this tie has meant that missions was the only possible cooperative effort. A study of the Southern Baptist Convention is, for the most part, an examination of a denomination affirming the cultural values of the South.

A major contribution of this is Eighmy's detailing of the effect of the Social Gospel on Southern Baptists. As the Social Gospel came south it shattered the nineteenth century intellectual solidarity of the Baptists. On the one hand, contrary to Social Gospel thinking, a continued emphasis on the individual kept Southern Baptists from recognizing the strength of impersonal forces as a controlling factor in the lives of individuals. On the other hand, not all Southern Baptists have allowed individualism to blind them to the corporate nature of man. Southern Baptists began the development of a broader sense of social responsibility through the prohibition movement. Temperance committees throughout the Southern states became social service committees within a decade, in most cases, of their organization.

However, a continuing problem for Southern Baptists within their developing social consciousness has been that of finding an effective place for corporate action. Eighmy notes the more recent Baptist penchant to regulate public morality and comments: "Most ministers readily accepted the advantages that civil power would offer in achieving a religious goal they believed to be beneficial to society as a whole. Thus, Southern Baptists adopted, almost unconsciously, one of the basic methods of an established church where their numbers could significantly influence public policy." It is the author's feeling that this action is out of harmony with such traditional Baptist emphases as freedom of conscience, or separation of church and state.

Eighmy finds that Southern Baptists have been the equivalent of a state church in the South. When one compares this with their default in moral leadership, it is concluded "that numerical superiority on the part of democratic churches preaching a voluntary faith does not assure moral initiative."

As a summary statement, Eighmy says of Southern Baptists "Their conservative theology, religious individualism, and congregational government continue to restrict progressive social expression. The main source of hope is the ever-growing number of enlightened leaders."

This study is an important contribution to the study of intellectual history. It will be of use for students of religious history, sociologist, Southern Baptists interested in the relationships of culture and religiously developed values. Eighmy's footnotes are many and scholarly. The bibliography is extensive and helpful. The index has been thoroughly prepared. And the book has been attractively packaged.

Jerry M. Self
Nacogdoches, Texas

Look To The Mountain Top. Contemporary Authors Reveal Our True Indian Heritage. Introduction by Bernard L. Fontana. San Jose, California (Gousha Publications), 1972. Pp. 121. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. $6.95.
In recent years Indians have moved center stage in expressing their side of Indian-White relations, Indian thought, and Indian heritage. From apathy to activism, American Indians are now attempting to understand what happened in their history and to understand what is happening to them now. For this to be accomplished, the editors of this book believe that a grasp of the fundamental facts is necessary to locate and understand the inter-relations between both the Indian and his people, and the Indian with the White; it is within this framework that the "facts" are presented. The virtues of the Indian—as warrior, craftsman, and philosopher—are extolled and their treatment at the hands of the Whites is also examined. It is unfortunate that by the time the reader has completed Look To The Mountain Top a feeling that the Indian and the White might still be at war is felt.

But in spite of an obvious bias, the book is beautifully arranged. Part I includes short articles about different aspects of Indian life. Twelve authors, such as Stewart L. Udall, John C. Evers, Vincent Price, and Vine Deloria Jr., contributed essays about the Indian as ecologist, the Indian as warrior, Indian lore, and the basis of Indian law—to name but a few of the topics. The editors did a magnificent job of providing a pleasing format which boasts seventy color and thirty black and white illustrations. The articles are short and provide overviews developed through specific examples in a given subject area which are both informative and enjoyable. Part II of the book contains maps of Indian tribal and cultural areas, a chronology of Indian history, Indian writing systems, where to buy arts and crafts, recipes from the first Americans, other assorted essays, and a short bibliography of recent works about American Indians. In reality this portion of the book is representative of the practical and pragmatic scope of the book. Names, dates, places, and ideas are presented to the reader as a path to follow for exploration and understanding the Indian way of life—both yesterday and today.

Times have changed since the degradation of having traces of Indian blood in the family to jubilation on the part of family genealogists who can today prove their claim to Indian blood. And also today there is little debate about who received the short end of the stick in Indian-White relations. But warming old pots with the same hates, fears, and jealousies that plagued Indian-White relations since their first meeting will not cure the problems that face Indians today. Conspiratorial ideas that "the United States government sponsored the slaughter of the remaining buffalo as a means of starving Plains people into submission" (p.69) merely makes the pot grow hotter. The proud heritage of the American Indian is one that does not have to rely on inconclusive accusations to prove its greatness and importance in American life today. Such statements that appear in Look To The Mountain Top accomplish little in healing the wounds that still exist between Indian and White and take away from an otherwise beautifully illustrated, highly informative, and thoroughly enjoyable book.

Charles R. McClure
Western History Collection
University of Oklahoma Library

This 8½ by 11 inch book represents the combined effort of professional photographer William Current and Yale professor of architecture Vincent Scully, who present for public consideration a neglected and "special cultural resource which is not yet valued as it deserves to be throughout the United States" (preface). This study attempts to fulfill its purpose through a photographic essay tracing the development of prehistoric Pueblo architecture in the present-day states of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Exposition is primarily introductory and limited to 14 pages. The remaining 65 black and white photographs, with captions, are the core of the work. Scully's remarks in text and captions are basically critiques of Current's pictures, emphasizing technical qualities of the prints themselves and brief sketches explaining the subjects photographed.

Despite Scully's intention to restrict his text to "a preliminary art historical introduction to the subject" (preface), the perceptive reader nevertheless realizes the need for more specific information to better interpret the significance of the many aspects of Pueblo architecture pictured an architecture springing from and intimately connected with the life-style of the Indians themselves. While addressing itself somewhat to this problem, Scully's introductory material is of more interest to the student of archeology and architecture than to the general reader. Because the author's original purpose implied an attempt to gain greater currency for and understanding of a neglected culture, the thoughtful reader must conclude that this purpose remains only partially fulfilled by the text.

Current's photographs feature the abandoned dwellings once occupied by the ancient Anasazi and later Navajo and Hopi tribes. The photographer's camera technique is generally conventional and restrained, enhancing the reality at" the scenes portrayed. The result is a collection of fascinating and revealing pictures which adequately convey what is described on the dust jacket as "the vivid relationship between men and places.

William Love
Stephen F. Austin State University


Young people interested in the Old West, Indians, horses and arts and crafts will find delight in these two beautifully designed books by Shirley Glubok, who knows art and who knows children. Holding degrees in art and archaeology from Washington University and Columbia University, she gives art lectures for children at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is the author of many books on many countries for children. She and her husband, Alfred Tamarin, who did the photography for The Art of the Southwest Indians, live in New York City.

The Art of the Old West is a fascinating collection of reproductions of
paintings, sculptures and photographs of famous men who have preserved the feeling of frontier and Indian life in the United States. The stories of each artist are appealing to adults as well as to young people. The author has brief biographies of painters, such as Titian R. Peale, one of the earliest pioneer artists, son of Charles Willson Peale, who founded the first American museum, in Philadelphia, where the earliest portraits of Western Indians were exhibited and another early artist, George Catlin, who painted Indians in their home lands and exhibited his portraits in Europe as well as in America.

European artists whose works are illustrated in this volume include Peter Rindisbacher and Karl Bodmer, Swiss artists, and Albert Bierstadt, native of Dusseldorf, Germany, whose spectacular landscapes of the West are great contributions to American art. Bierstadt was a member of an expedition that traveled the Oregon Trail, subject of one of his most famous paintings. There are stories of James Walker, who painted Spanish cowboys, or vaqueros, George Caleb Bingham, who painted scenes of life along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, Charles Nahl, famous for his paintings of the California gold rush, Thomas Moran, official artist for an expedition that explored the Yellowstone River Canyon, Carl C. A. Christenson, who painted stories of the first years of the Mormon Church, and Thomas Eakins, one of America’s most important artists.

Frederic Remington, best known artist of the West, and Charles Marion Russell, known as “Kid” Russell, the cowboy artists are given prominence in story material and illustrations.

Sculpture of the Old West is represented by Remington, who turned to sculpture late in his life. Another leading American sculptor was James Earl Fraser, who designed the famous five-cent coin known as “the Buffalo Nickel.”

Works of photographers William Henry Jackson, Hack Hillers, Timothy O’Sullivan and Edward Curtis are also included. Bringing in twentieth century artists the author includes Georgia O'Keefe, Robert Henri and E. Irving Couse, of Taos, New Mexico.

The book is designed by Gerard Nook who has received recognition from the American Institute of Graphic Arts for the high standard of design in other books of Shirley Blubok.

Equally delightful is The Art of the Southwest Indians, which covers in text and illustration pictographs of the Zunis, Pueblo people in New Mexico, basket making, one of the oldest crafts of the Southwest, of the Apaches, who were nomads, sand paintings of the Navajos, the largest of all Indian nations, masks by the Zunis, and kachina dolls of the Hopi Indians of Arizona. There are stories and illustrations of Navajo silversmiths, Navajo rugs, and blankets and pottery of the various tribes.

Miss Blubok traces the evolution of the arts and crafts through the centuries and assures her readers that the Southwest Indians, proud of their art, are teaching their children to carry on this heritage.

Both books are valuable contributions to art of the Old West and of the Southwest Indians as they prove that the art created by all these artists still lives.

A more appropriate title could not have been chosen for this textbook written for the student of Texas history. Because man is a product of his environment and because Texas can only be understood by studying its geography as well as its political history, the authors have integrated the two disciplines effectively with geography receiving extensive treatment in the first two chapters and it is interwoven into the narrative in subsequent pages. They assume that the vast state of Texas can only be understood today in relation to its past, and the aim of the text is to guide the student in acquiring an understanding of the development of Texas and of the people who have participated in its drama.

Texas' organization pursues this method. The twenty-six chapters of the text have been divided into eight major units beginning with the geographic setting of Texas and its first inhabitants and culminating in such contemporary events as man's walk on the moon. Each chapter is accompanied by a glossary containing words which might be new to the student, and each unit has a suggested reading list — both fiction and non-fiction — pertinent to the material in the unit. The subject matter is presented chronologically except for Unit VIII which traces the development of farming, ranching, manufacturing, minerals, trade and industry as well as devoting space to urbanology and its effect on Texas.

Over fifty maps and more than three hundred illustrations, each chosen to complement the subject matter or stimulate further discussion, are included. In addition photographs, drawings and reproductions of paintings by well-known artists are presented. Many of these illustrations are done in attractive color.

The student is introduced to the importance and value of original sources in the study of history by selections from the writings of such former inhabitants of Texas as a Spanish priest, governor, cowboy, housewife and others. Each of these reproductions is set apart in order for the student to realize that he is reading the words of an actual participant in history, not those of the authors.

Biography is also used extensively and effectively. Dozens of characters are portrayed realistically with no attempt to whitewash them. Shortcomings as well as assets are pointed out, and the student is more apt to relate to them as real people and not be prone to view history as being performed by dull, perfect supermen always making the right decision.

Minority groups and their role in the building of Texas are emphasized and explored in considerable detail, with evidences of Negro, Mexican-American, Indian and other cultures being amply noted.

From the standpoint of social, cultural and economic history the authors have done a more than adequate job, but there is a glaring lack of military history. One
chapter is concerned with the Civil War but only a passing paragraph or two is devoted to the Mexican War, World War I and World War II. The Spanish-American War and Vietnam are not mentioned. Admittedly war is not to be glamorized, but it has certainly made an impact on the course of history and should not be ignored.

The Appendix is a definite asset to the text. It contains agricultural maps, population data, informative tables and statistics, a pronunciation guide, the Texas State Constitution and a chart of governors of Texas from 1691 to date. The book is well indexed, and is enhanced by an attractive and readable format with topic headings in bold print for quick and easy review.

Although it was the intention of the authors to place their emphasis on the period prior to 1900, the fact that only four of the twenty-six chapters were devoted to the 20th century leaves a slight imbalance. It would have been more relevant to the student had they dealt with the tremendous progress and change of the past seventy years in greater depth.

In spite of the above mentioned flaws, the authors did an excellent job of presenting an entertaining, informative, and unbiased account of the development of a fascinating state.

Carolyn Parker
Henderson, Texas


This work contains seventy-seven character sketches by as many different authors. The subjects depicted in these pen portraits are courageous women who accompanied their husbands to Texas during the colonial or early statehood period. They range from such prominent women as Margaret Lea Houston and Mrs. James Pinckney Henderson to such obscure personalities, at least to this reviewer, as Mrs. Joseph Manson McCormick and Mrs. William Alley-McCoy. In each case the article was written by a descendant of the subject or a present-day friend of the family involved.

Uniformly the picture presented here is of genteel, cultivated, young Southern women marrying men some years their senior and migrating to Texas. Locally conditions are far from what they had been in Virginia, Tennessee, or Mississippi where the young lady had grown to maturity. Rather than tutors and formal balls, the frontier wife must now contend with raiding Indians, hostile Mexicans, and a large number of children, usually born in quick succession. However, in face of these adversities, the women depicted in this book aid and abet their husbands' careers as lawyers, ministers, or political leaders of the Republic and state. Finally, the years of widowhood are spent among devoted children and rewarding memories of the past.

This is a valuable book for the student of Texas history. Anecdotal information abounds and the vignette-like sketches are basically pleasantly written. However, it would not be carping to take issue with the heavily romantic approach,
particularly in the depiction of black slavery in ante-bellum Texas.

Stanley E. Siegell
University of Houston


This book is a blending of history and literature, a blending aptly suggested by the title. The “Black Beans” refer to the lottery of death that distinguished the Texan Mier Expedition into Mexico in 1842; the “Goose Quills,” to the outpouring of writings on the subject as it fired imaginations and controversy from the Rio Grande to Washington.

As the author acknowledges in his preface, the word literature requires some definition when applied to these writings. Certainly, they do not qualify as literature in the classic sense. But, he submits, “they were honestly and capably written,” and, in the words of J. Frank Dobie, they are “thoroughly Texan.” It was Dobie’s observation that inspired the present study.

Day begins his book with a review of the expedition, using where possible quotations from the various participants to carry the thread of the narrative. He then takes up the various accounts in order of their significance, giving first place to Thomas Jefferson Green’s classic—but biased and controversial—account. Two other book writers, William Preston Stapp and Thomas W. Bell, share the next chapter. Then come the diaries of Israel Canfield, James A. Glasscock, and Joseph B. McCutchan, and then the reminiscences of George B. Erath, Big Foot Wallace, and others. In all instances, Day uses the broadest definition of literature, including in consideration not only the accounts of the participants but the letters, broadsides, and pamphlets that the expedition inspired. Thus, appropriately, the last chapter considers the Texas Monument, a newspaper founded in La Grange for the express purpose of commemorating the Mier men and providing them with a suitable memorial.

If the material considered is “thoroughly Texan,” so is Day’s approach to it. He is troubled by no qualms as to who wore the white hats. Although he shows some embarrassment at the mention of the sacking of Laredo, there is no effort to explain the Mexican side of the affair; nor, although he traces the vendetta of Thomas Jefferson Green and Sam Houston, is there adequate explanation of the position of the Texas government. The participants emerge as heroes who suffered for their country, and he is inclined to forgive them for any shortcomings, even if, as in the case of Stapp, the sin is plagiarism.

All those fascinated by the black bean episode will be interested in this book, and for some specialists it will offer added attractions. For example, it describes in some detail the unpublished diary of Joseph D. McCutchan and directs the reader to additional manuscript materials. The book as a whole shows evidence of the author’s service as State Archivist. It is rich in biographical and bibliographical data and thorough in its annotation. Only one item, one feels, is left to be added to the literature on the subject—and that is an account of the latter day controversy suggested by a footnote of how the author obtained a photocopy of Thomas W.

There has long been a need for a comprehensive and authoritative biography of John Hemphill, a great judge in the early days of Texas. This volume attempts to fulfill this deficiency. The author has painstakingly extracted from primary, secondary, and family sources the facts concerning the career of Hemphill. She writes interestingly about Hemphill's heritage, education, service in the Second Seminole War, removal to Texas, participation in the Council House fight and the Somervell expedition, his judicial services, and as a member of the United States Senate and of the Confederate Provisional Congress.

Those familiar with the early Texas court decisions, including the lawyers and judges who have written biographical sketches which are used in this study, are in accord that John Hemphill as chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic and the State of Texas contributed more to early Texas jurisprudence than any other jurist. He welded together the civil law of Spain and Mexico and the common law to make a workable system which has been unique among American jurisdictions. Becoming a member of the Court in 1840, first as a district judge and then as chief justice, Hemphill taught himself Spanish so that he could read the civil law authorities in the original. He became the preeminent scholar in Texas of the civil law for which he expressed a decided preference. In the eighteen years that Hemphill was a member of the Supreme Court he wrote some five hundred opinions which are found in the first twenty-one volumes of the Texas Reports. These opinions are distinguished for their scholarship, clarity, succinctness and soundness. They reflect a thorough understanding of the frontier society of which Hemphill was an active member.

As other biographers have done, the author has glossed over Hemphill's private life, which, among other things, reflects his compassion for two innocent human beings for whom he apparently considered himself responsible. Two lawsuits were filed in the District Court of Travis County, Texas, in 1870 and 1871 against the administrator and next of kin of John Hemphill who had died in 1862. Cause No. 2954, styled R. S. Rust v. F. W. Chandler, Administrator, was a suit by a Methodist minister, the former president of Wilberforce University, a negro college in Xenia, Ohio. The plaintiff sought to recover for board, tuition and other expenses incurred in 1862 for the benefit of Theodora and Henrietta Hemphill, alleged to be the children of John Hemphill. The plaintiff after a trial recovered the amount sued for with interest, which sum was paid by the administrator. In Cause No. 3074, entitled Theodora Hemphill v. James Hemphill, et al, the plaintiff alleged that she was the daughter of John Hemphill by his slave Sabina, and entitled to all of the property of his estate. The deposition of R. S. Rust on file in the case substantiates the plaintiff's claim. The suit was settled in 1872 by the payment to Theodora of $1700 in gold.
Six of the notes to chapter VII are misnumbered or transposed, and those to chapter IX end at number 19 although the text has eleven additional references. The author deserved better of her publisher.

Cooper K. Ragan
Houston, Texas


*The Public Lands of Texas, 1519-1970* is the fourth major work to deal with the public lands of this state. It was preceded by Edmund Thornton Miller's *Financial History of Texas* (1916), Reuben McKitrick's *The Public Land System of Texas* (1918), and Aldon S. Lang's *Financial History of the Public Lands of Texas* (1932). These three works were only partly concerned, however, with the story of the public lands. Consequently, Thomas Lloyd Miller's objective is twofold: "...to give a complete account of the acquisition and disposition of the public domain of Texas using all available sources, some of which may be those noted but not used by Lang, and, starting with 1929, where Lang left off, to complete the figures on the receipts of Texas lands through 1970." (preface) To fulfill his objective, experience, patience, and literary skill would be required. All three are possessed by Miller, who is a professor of history at Texas A&M University and a student of Texas land grants and politics for over 20 years.

In the early days, Texas had no obvious natural wealth. There was no gold or silver, no precious stones or even furs to attract settlers. There was the land, and in 1836 there was plenty of it, approximately 216 million acres. The story of this land's disposition begins in 1519 when Spain claimed Texas. Although little settlement occurred during the Spanish period of Texas history, the influence of Spanish land laws is still evident, especially with the state's possession of 3 marine leagues (10.36434 miles) of submerged coastal lands.

The Anglo settlement of Texas began in the period 1821-1836 when it belonged to Mexico. Thousands and thousands of acres were granted to *empresarios* by the Mexican government. It is estimated that by the time Texas gained her independence in 1836 some 26,280,000 acres had already been granted by the Spanish and Mexican governments.

The disposition of the remaining 216 million acres is the story of decisions made by the governments of both the Republic and State of Texas. In these decisions, many mistakes were understandably made: land surveys were not always accurate; mineral rights were not reserved; land was sold too cheaply; land laws, in addition to not being enforced, contained many loopholes; and not enough land was reserved for educational purposes. Yet, Miller's balanced account points out that it could have been worse. Many Texas legislators seemed to agree with Senator W. K. Holman, who in 1881 declared, "The sooner the public domain is gone the better." To those legislators who disagreed, Texans owe an eternal debt of gratitude. Had it not been for their foresight, the people of Texas would have realized even less of the economic potential of their public lands.
Many of Miller's figures concerning acreage for various grants are estimates because no one has completely researched the entire records of the General Land Office. This does not detract from the value of the book since a completely thorough examination of the records would not rectify mistakes made in many of the early surveys.

Also included are photographs of early land grant certificates and Commissioners of the General Land Office. There are maps showing the locations of various grants, plus 36 pages of appendices containing tables of land receipts and grants as well as lists of Commissioners of the General Land Office and Commissioners of the Court of Claims.

The simplicity of style and organization make *The Public Lands of Texas* interesting reading for the specialist as well as the layman. The book is a "must" for anyone who is interested in the story of Texas land policy.

_Lindsy E Pack_
_Angelina College_

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Nostalgia, pathos, and subdued excitement characterize this collection of charming essays so carefully thought out and written with grace so many years ago by Mr. Davidson, critic and scholar, who, until his death in 1968, taught English at Vanderbilt University.

Known by some as the "ablest exponent of the point of view of the intelligent Southern conservative" and called by others the "Dean of the Agrarians," Davidson's seventeen essays prove him to be a sensitive poet-scholar at home both in the area of criticism and in the field of original, incisive thought. It is little wonder that this second printing should be made available at a time when the nation again is soul-searching in an effort to determine its own true nature and personality.

The essays range from discussions of poetry as tradition, through reflections on tradition versus antitradition in prose fiction, on to comments upon the origins of our heroes, why the modern South has a great literature, and regionalism and nationalism in American literature. "Still Rebels, Still Yankees," a piece which provides the volume's title, is, perhaps from the historian's view, the key essay, although it should be read with two other contributions, "New York and the Hinterland," and "Regionalism and Nationalism in American Literature."

These sections, based more upon a thorough knowledge of literary sources and a lesser grasp of historical research and documentation, seem, in the light of the decades which have passed since they were written, to mirror dated and no longer valid thought. Yet they reflect most accurately the temper of the times when they were written. Most certainly, they still are a clear representation of what, at a time, was a rather confused critical school. Even so they continue to be excellent background reading.
At times, Mr. Davidson, whether from an inferiority complex which prods him as a Southerner or from a determined loyalty to values he seems to hold dear, becomes a bit testy. He most properly points out that America is a land of diversity, of varying folkways and mores, of differences both great and small. Yet he seems to feel that the "only people who do not know this" are "certain experts" who live in a "sociological pickle of statistics and progress" and "are eternally looking for what they call 'social values,' " (p. 231). He asks, curiously enough, that America be discovered all over again. All this, of course, was written in 1938.

Equally curious is Mr. Davidson's claim, again written in 1938, that the powerful cities of the East took the term region for themselves and gave the "softer" term regional to something "harmless and insignificant." (p.267). He makes his point by calling to the witness box a variety of novelists. He might have done better had he been more proficient in historical and sociological evidence. At times it is difficult for one trained in logic to comprehend the author's logic.

None the less, this is a stimulating volume. It is good that once again it is in print. The balanced, excellent introduction adequately provides background and offers insight into some of Mr. Davidson's complexities.

Phillip D. Jordan
Burlington, Iowa


The diary of Felix Pierre Poche contains useful and interesting information about life and warfare in Confederate Louisiana. from July 8, 1863, to May 12, 1865, but one must read carefully to find it. Poche, a trained lawyer and volunteer staff officer with the Commissary Department of Gray's brigade and who became a partisan leader on the east bank of the Mississippi River near the end of the war, wrote his journal in nine notebooks which are now in the archives of Northwestern State University. The first two of the notebooks were written in English and the remainder in French. Poche devotes attention to and concern for his wife and family, his many friends, numerous relatives, his God and his religion, the Confederacy, and his work, in that order. He enjoys his friends, relatives and acquaintances, polite company, music and literature, and has a high sense of patriotism to the Confederacy. Almost until the end, he is convinced that the war will end favorably for the South.

He offers tantalizing bits of information about the provisioning of Confederate armies in Louisiana. References are made of efforts to secure pigs, flour and meal for the brigade, of competition for supplies between brigades, of foraging and "forcing people to grind corn against their will," and of efforts to transfer arms and personnel to Confederate forces east of the Mississippi. Frequent mention is made of trade in cotton between Confederate and Union lines, some of the trade "official" and some contraband.
One is struck by the almost constant movement of Confederate armies from north to south within the state. The soldiers were constantly marching, moving, and hungry, and if one may judge by Poche's own experiences, often ill. Poche dislikes the "dark pine forests" and the "barbarous country" of north Louisiana. He comments on the people and places he visits, mentions the military units and leaders from Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas with the Trans-Mississippi Department, and refers frequently to the war news, usually garbled, from the east. After the first one hundred pages of the diary the pace of activity and the readers interest rises rapidly with Poche's account of the Battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Mansura, and Yellow Bayou in April and May, 1864. The successes of late spring become the doldrums of summer and the miseries of winter. Eighteen sixty-five begins with an apparent disintegration of Confederate hopes, morale and purpose. Jayhawkers, pillagers, bandits, and deserters, rarely mentioned in earlier days, appear with increasing frequency. Poche effectually ends his military career as the leader of a guerrilla band.

The editor has made an intense effort to identify the numerous people and places mentioned by the diarist, and to match the real record of warfare with "Dame Rumor," whom Poche himself eventually comes to distrust after so many disheartening encounters. Would that the editor's notes have been in closer proximity to the text. The product is a good, interesting, rare, and very personal account of life within and behind the Confederate lines in Louisiana.

Henry C. Dethloff
Texas A&M University


This book provides the first comprehensive analytical account of the military and domestic affairs of the Confederacy's Trans-Mississippi Department, 1863-1864. Robert L. Kerby is Assistant Professor of History at Columbia University, teaching nineteenth century American politics, warfare, and the theory of revolution. His style weaves description and analysis together with a narrative that flows. He seems to incorporate recent historical scholarship through reliance on original and secondary sources, but his failure to include The Confederate Quartermaster in the Trans-Mississippi by James L. Nichols would suggest some lack of thoroughness. Although essentially a scholarly account, the book is written for the general reader who appreciates Confederate history. The work attempts successfully to tie together the mass of available data concerning "Kirby Smith's Confederacy" into a coherent narrative.

This book, the first comprehensive history of the Trans-Mississippi after Vicksburg, investigates the multiplicity of factors which led to the Department's disintegration. Foremost among these factors were military reverses, an erratic economy, speculation, impressment, conscription, inflation, the dislocation of refugees, rumors, the rhetoric of states' rights, and inept command. Insensitive civil administration, the disruption of domestic discipline, poor communication, the army's interference in civil affairs for reasons of "military necessity," and a
pervasive atmosphere of violence and uncertainty all contributed to the
disintegration of the Department. The work offers a case study of a segment of
American society which consumed itself by surrendering everything, including its
principles and ideals, in pursuit of an unattainable military victory.

With the surrender of Vicksburg in July, 1863, the Trans-Mississippi
Department of the Confederacy, which included Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, western
Louisiana, and Indian Territory, was severed from the remainder of the South.
Under the command of General Edmund Kirby Smith, the Department succeeded in
preserving its nominal integrity until the last days of the war, but at a terrible cost.
During the last two years of the war, this Department's existence hinged upon its
own meager resources, and was forced to maintain its defences without significant
support from the remainder of the Confederate States.

Kerby's study of the Trans-Mississippi Department leaves the reader with five
major impressions. First, a fundamental flaw in Confederate grand strategy was the
assumption that the Mississippi River constituted a natural boundary to divide
military departments. The separate responsibility for the supervision of the eastern
and western banks permitted Union forces to exercise command on both sides of
the river, increasing the vulnerability of the trans-Appalachian South. Second,
the economy of the Trans-Mississippi remained viable throughout the war despite severe
dislocations. Third, despite the relative immunity of the southwest from physical
damage, the Department suffered a disintegration of morale during the last months
of the conflict. The southwest was not beaten in battle nor defeated by the
inadequacies of its economy. Kerby states that this area being excused from massive
invasion and continuous battle confirms the hypothesis that the reason for the
disappearance of the Confederate war effort is to be found in the depths of the
Southern spirit rather than in the objective details of political economy. Fourth,
the conventional thesis that the ideology and practice of states' rights undermined
the achievement of Confederate national independence may require modification.
Kerby states that although localism often interfered with mobilization and the
conduct of the war, especially with regard to Kirby Smith's relations to the
government of Texas and his various attempts to transfer troops from one district
to another, nonetheless, Confederate officials west of the Mississippi usually
succeeded in imposing their will upon the states and the people. Even the
government of Texas virtually renounced its claim to autonomy in favor of the
army's authority in the spring of 1864. Finally, the history of the Trans-Mississippi
offers evidence that progressive demoralization of the South began during the
earliest days of the war.

The author's conclusion is, that the Trans-Mississippi Department was only a
 peripheral theater of operations whose fate hinged upon the fortunes of
Confederate arms in the East, is traditional. Yet the Department was the most
expensive military department in the Confederacy. It did enjoy some unique
advantages and encounter some unique problems, and its history does indeed
complement and refine the history of the Confederate States.

Douglas G. Tomplait
Hamshire, Texas

Mrs. Wood's obvious devotion to the Coastal Bend region, her family connections, and her apparent access to seldom-used public and private source materials could have combined to produce a significant chapter in the history of this Gulf region. Unfortunately, they did not. Instead her narrative rambles, repeats, and errs. The semi-civilized Caddos did not, for example, precede the Karankawas, Lipans, Tonkawas, and Comanches in this area. (p.5) Although she records the rise and subsequent decline of such Gulf towns as St. Mary's, Fulton, Bayside, and Rockport, she fails to analyze the causes of their demise; furthermore, she hardly notes the emergence of the largest city in the Coastal Bend, Corpus Christi.

Unfortunately, too, is the fact that Mrs. Wood adds so little to our knowledge of early entrepreneurs in this region. From James Power, empresario of Refugio, to Henry Smith, land speculator and first provisional governor of Texas, to George Ware Fulton, cattle baron, we catch only occasional glimpses of the men who were, after all, regional builders. Since the book lacks notes and bibliography, we cannot look to the sources to flesh out these energetic economic activists.

For a tale in which geography plays such a major role, it is strange that there are no maps. A careful editor would have included several maps and would have caught the inaccurate references to E.E. Pease (p.96) and to Rip Ford's expedition to Brownsville in July, 1865 (p.84).

Contrary to the dustjacket's claim, this is not a regional history of the Texas Coastal Bend. Rather it is a pastiche of recollections, genealogical listings, hearsay, and misinformation, worth perhaps the local buff's skimming, but hardly worth the attention of a serious student.

Nancy Head Brown
Del Mar College


If you drink your history straight, you will find much that is unpalatable with this study of San Angelo. There are no footnotes, no bibliography, and an index which lists names primarily. There are questionable statements such as that contributing the name of the Llano Estacado to Spanish explorers who drove stakes into the ground to mark their path. The book, moreover, is badly organized with biographical sketches, fragments of institutional history, and photographs jumbled together. There is little information about minorities. In general, it is reminiscent of a nineteenth-century mugbook.

If you are not overly concerned about such matters, then, you will find the book pleasant, easy to read, and filled with anecdotes. Included, for example, are the stories of rancher C.B. Metcalf who stopped fence cutters with a shotgun,
and of Marcus Koenigheim, a city father, who later was murdered and robbed of $20,000. Some early history of the town can be picked out of these stories, but the book will appeal mainly to those long-lived inhabitants of San Angelo whose families are mentioned.

David McComb
Colorado State University

The History of Nacogdoches County, Texas, By Richard W. Haltom. Austin (Jenkins Publishing Company; original published by Nacogdoches News Print in 1880 under the title History and Description of Nacogdoches County, Texas), 1972. P. 76. $7.50.

One of the earliest settled areas of Texas was Nacogdoches County. At first encompassing the present counties of Henderson, Hunt, Houston, Angelina, Cherokee, Fannin and Upshar, Nacogdoches County became the first destination of American adventurers to the Mexican frontier. To this county came Philip Nolan’s Expedition in 1801 and Sam Houston made his first home in Texas here. Wishing to record the merits of the county in the development of Texas, Richard W. Haltom, editor of The Nacogdoches News, compiled and published a short history of Nacogdoches County, Texas, in April, 1880.

The volume did not claim to have a single author, but was intended by its writers to be a truthful compilation of facts recorded at the request and under the supervision of Haltom. Little original composition was included by the writers, who chose to merely cull facts available from different sources, such as a letter of William Barret Travis from the Alamo, an article in The Nacogdoches News, an address before the Texas Veterans Association by the Honorable Guy M. Bryan in 1873, and secondary works like Henderson Yoakum’s History of Texas from Its First Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation to the United States in 1846, (1856). No complete bibliographical data was included for any of the material, and numerous quotations provided no clues to the sources at all. This impaired but definitely did not negate the value of Haltom’s history. The volume still represented popular opinion of republic and civil war periods. It embodied the proud heritage of a citizenry, which in Haltom’s opinion, gave a factual history of the development of East Texas.

The physical arrangement of the original volume showed little skill in organization, transition, and type-setting. Divided into two parts, the history provided a general history of Nacogdoches County in essays on isolated topics or events in the county. The second, and lesser, part of the work described the physical, economic, and cultural makeup of the county and its towns as they existed in 1880. The account was extremely favorable, sounding like a tourist advertisement. It was printed on news print at the local newspaper office and sold for fifty cents. The history fell into obscurity until recent years when it was brought to the attention of The Jenkins Publishing Company by Mr. F.J. Tucker of Nacogdoches. The recent edition is a reprint of the best copy available, courtesy of Dr. Ralph W. Steen, President of Stephen F. Austin State University. The years have had their toll on even the best available copy and, since it was photographed and reprinted in the original type, reading the new
Although Haltom's history omitted some eras in the growth of the county, it is a relevant contribution to the local literature from the nineteenth century and teems with references to early historical figures. Now, in its reprinted form, and made available to the Texas historians and the interested citizens alike, it provides a record of original manuscripts and public opinion of the early events in Nacogdoches County as well as an insight into the life of "Great East Texas" of almost a century ago.

Carolyn Koch
Lane City, Texas


Paul E. Isaac, Professor of History and Director of Historical Projects for the Center for Urban Affairs at Lamar University, has provided in this monograph a short study of the charters of Beaumont. The work is important as history in relation to the development of municipal government in addition to being relevant to the charter reform presently under discussion in Beaumont.

Isaac begins his study with a brief description of the incorporation of Beaumont from the earliest charter in 1838 up to that of 1899. From the time when Beaumont was incorporated by the Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1838 to the outbreak of the Civil War, the functioning of city government was rather haphazard. There are several gaps in the city's records and it is assumed because of this lack of records that the municipal government ceased to function. It was not until 1881 that there was any continuous municipal government in Beaumont.

From 1881 to 1899, Beaumont was governed by general statutes passed by the state legislature. Then in 1899, a movement began to secure a city charter. By the charter of 1899 a great variety of powers were granted to the city and were listed in great detail. The city was also given many regulatory and police powers.

Then in 1905 a new charter was drafted and approved by the state legislature. There had been some amendments made earlier in 1903 but it was now felt that there was a need for an entirely new charter. Isaac points out that there were two major developments that influenced this desire for a new city charter. The first was the change of Beaumont into a thriving industrialized city as a result of the opening of the Spindletop oil field. The second development was that the spirit of reform characteristic of the Progressive Era began to reach into Southeast Texas.

The most important change in the Charter of 1905 was the proposal that all
other city officials be appointed by the mayor and city council. The idea was to streamline the government and shorten the ballot. However as Isaac points out, the people felt this plan would result in too much centralization of power and the appointive system was voted down.

In the following years there were many amendments. However most of these were in the nature of increased powers and not in the structure of the government. Then in 1912, the Home Rule Amendment to the state constitution allowed a city of over 5000 population to get a new charter or to amend an old one by just a popular referendum. In 1919 a new charter was thus obtained and almost at the same time, strong efforts were made at revision yet nothing was accomplished.

Finally in 1947, the voters approved a change in the charter. A drafting commission was elected and in December the new charter was approved. This charter was more general and more concise than the Charter of 1919. Under the new provisions there was a smaller city commission and the chief administrator was the city manager. In his concluding remarks, Isaac concludes that with the Charter of 1947 there finally appears an effort to provide simple and efficient city government. Yet the very small voter turnout seems indicative of the fact that most of the people had little interest either in the charters or their reform.

Isaac gathered most of his information by searching through many issues of the Beaumont newspapers. Extensive research was also done in the Minutes Books of the Beaumont City Council as well as the Charters and Ordinances themselves.

The footnotes were quite numerous and detailed for such a brief study. Most of the citations were from the Beaumont Enterprise and Beaumont Journal. The work contains no standardized bibliography, yet a student of municipal government could consult the footnotes for several adequate sources.

A History Of The Charters Of Beaumont, Texas is the first in a series published by the Center for Urban Affairs dealing with urban life and development. If the subsequent volumes are as well prepared as the first, the series will make an outstanding contribution to the study of the urban problems which confront society today.

Ann Elizabeth Heslop
San Antonio, Texas


Upon opening the book, the reader is appalled by a long list of characters with brief identifications. Almost fifty of these are living, several deceased, and a few are named and unnamed animals. It does serve the anticipated purpose for it is doubtful that the end of the story will be reached without at least one referral to this personal glossary in order to clear a mental maze.

The author uses fiction to portray four distinct life-styles found in San
Antonio in the 1890's. The story evolves around the Jim Cullen family who live, not "on the other side of the track," but on the other side of the river. In various ways the family members are employed or otherwise involved in the lives of the Southern aristocracy, the rich German businessmen, the Spanish people, and the newly-established military colony.

In a literary style attuned to the innocence and candor of a child, the events unravel as perceived by Rose Agnes. She is the ninth offspring of these struggling Irish, quite satisfied with her world of play and obviously opposed to learning the alphabet or becoming an apprentice to her dressmaker-aunt. Without embroidered phrases or a play on the emotions, well-chosen words convey the mood or meaning, "clipped" accent could refer only to British dialect and, without insult, there is economy of description such as the "flat" speech of Texas.

Not only is the book of interest to the San Antonio locale and those of Irish decent, but it certainly has a lesson for all of us in this particular time in history. First noted is that problems run a parallel to present day home life with unwanted children and children not wanting to live at home. Secondly, nobody felt the need to call attention to a race or deprived group. In fact, it came as a surprise to Rose Agnes to learn that she was poor.

The story reveals the isolation and frugality of the people in the Flats but points out their independence and managerial abilities, their honesty and acceptance of their station in life. Above all, they lived by a "code of conscience." Their philosophy, in the words of the author, was that "you had to hang on to whatever made you feel like a free man," even if it were as simple a thing as being the owner of a pair of mules.

The author is Marie Fitzhugh. Born in London, she lives now in Hope Cottage, Yapton, Sussex, England. She is widely travelled, a naturalized citizen of the United States and lived many years in San Antonio. This fact, plus evidence of careful research, qualifies her to speak for the time and for the people.

Ava Bush
Stephen F. Austin State University


_Cattle Trails to Trenches_ is an unimportant book about an unimportant man. The autobiography of Howard Green Smith, the slim volume is written in what the editors call "the vernacular of West Texas" - - a kind of folksy, conversational style that does little more for the reader than relate the story. One gets the idea that Smith might be a good fireside story teller, but he is not a good story writer.

The purpose of the book is questionable. One of its few values is that it relates the mean nature of life in rural Texas during the early twentieth century
and the difficulty even an energetic young man had in breaking the bonds of his
environment. Smith was born poor in northeast Texas and was reared poor in
central west Texas. After a number of years in Canada, he returned to Texas
where at more than eighty years of age he works as a Watkins dealer.

Two elements give his story a romantic touch: (1) his years as a kind of
cowboy-farmer, and (2) his service in France with the Canadian army during
World War I. In neither case does he have anything of great historical value to
relate—just his own story to tell, and unfortunately few others than friends and
relatives will be interested. Anecdotes range in subject matter from the time his
new step-mother caught him long enough to box his ears to the day he
reappeared at his father's home after an absence of many years. He includes a
graphic description of an episode in which he lost a hand in an oats harvester.
As if that is not enough, he caps the story by telling how he later dug up his
hand so that he could straighten it out. It seems that his finger nails had
continued to grow and were cutting into his hand, causing him pain. Once the
hand was straightened out and reburied, he had no recurrence of pain.
Unfortunately, added all together, the material would have been about as useful
in manuscript tucked away in a research library—or perhaps better as a part of
an oral history project.

Without index, the text is accompanied by an interesting collection of
photographs and three curious documents as an appendix. *Cattle Trails to Trenches*
will win no awards this year!

Frank H. Smyrl
East Texas State University

*Wake Up Dead Man: Afro-American Worksongs from Texas Prisons* Collected and
Edited by Bruce Jackson. Cambridge, Mass. (Harvard University Press),

Scholars have recently begun to consider with increased tempo the problems
associated with writing the history of peoples rather than with chronicling the
story of nations and the elite within them. In the last few years, scholars from
various disciplines have turned to collecting and publishing material heretofore
overlooked by humanists and social scientists alike. An excellent example of this
trend is Bruce Jackson's collection of Afro-American worksongs gathered from the
Texas prison system. Entitled *Wake Up Dead Man* and published by Harvard
University Press, this compilation contains both solo and group songs and
includes a variety of activities from cotton chopping to road building. The author
purposely omits blues, spirituals, and gospel songs which are equally prevalent
among black inmates in the Texas Department of Corrections who constitute
approximately thirty percent of all convicts. In a period when semantic labels
take on political and sociological significance to many persons, Jackson has—
carefully employed the term Afro-American to describe the music of the
worksongs. While "the songs are sung by Americans," he explains, "the style and
function are African in origin."

As Jackson makes perfectly clear, there are important differences between
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art and folk songs. As part of the latter genre, worksongs cannot be understood apart from the historical context in which they emerged and they not only reflect the singer's inner-most feelings, but also served as a weapon against "a kind of death" unknown to those in the outside world.

With few exceptions, the subject of the songs has "something to do with making it in Hell." The worksongs are designed essentially "to pace work" and not to provide a diversion from labor or even to accompany work. They serve three primary functions. They helped supply a rhythm for work, to pass the time and to offer a partial outlet for the tensions, frustrations and anger of the inmates. One important psychological function was to place their duties in the frame work of the convicts themselves rather than in that of the prison guards.

The contents of the fifty-seven songs included in this collection as well as the comments of several black convicts strikingly reveal the similarities between the plantation slave system of the Old South and the prison system of the modern South. Apart from the fact that both systems called worksongs into being, slaves and prisoners alike found them to be one of the few voluntary associations possible in what was otherwise a highly regimented existence. In addition, both systems tried to stimulate competition by offering rewards to the most industrious workers in order to increase productivity. In each case, however, the workers usually caught on to the device and refused to participate especially when the rewards were nominal.

The editor has commendably rejected the use of "dialect-style writing" in order to avoid the "queer spelling" which serves to "reinforce an invalid caricature." He has also included for each type of song succinct summaries which give the reader "a sense of the life that produced and maintained the songs." The value of this study is further enhanced by the inclusion of a glossary and a group of excellent photographs of the inmates and their surroundings. Both the editor-compiler and Harvard University Press are to be complimented for an excellent contribution to the study of Afro-Americans. Hopefully this collection will stimulate similar studies in other states.

Robert V. Haynes
University of Houston


The essays in this collection were originally papers presented at a symposium sponsored by the Midwest Junto, the Society for the History of Technology, and the University of Oklahoma held at the University in April, 1969. The volume is aptly titled for the ten major papers represent a cross section of the work being done today in the history of science and technology. Eight historians, John C. Greene, Robert E. Schofield, Erwin N. Hiebert, John B. Rae, Cyril Stanley Smith, Richard S. Westfall, Martin J. S. Rudwick, and Marshall Clagett, contributed papers on subjects of their own choosing. For each paper two individuals, specialists in appropriate areas of research, prepared comments. In
addition the book includes lectures by Aaron J. Ihde and Joseph T. Clark. Ihde
gives a warm-hearted picture of Stephen Moulton Babcock, his substantial
contributions to the dairy industry, and his influence on Wisconsin scientists who
made significant studies in agriculture and nutrition. Clark discusses the
relationship between the science of history and the history of science. Thus Perspectives includes the ideas of twenty-seven different specialists on a
variety of topics.

Greene's paper is a discussion of the possibilities of applying the Kuhnian Paradigm (developed by Thomas Kuhn in The Structure of Scientific Revolutions) to the natural sciences; Greene finds Kuhn's hypothesis, though helpful for the physical sciences, inappropriate for explaining the Darwinian Revolution in particular and the natural sciences in general. One commentator agrees; the other does not. Both point out the necessity of carefully defining the scope of one's chosen paradigm when discussing the pattern of scientific change.

Schofield's paper includes an examination of eighteenth century chemistry as background for a re-evaluation of Lavoisier's contributions. That paper and the thoughtful commentaries on it point to the need for additional research on the background and nature of the chemical revolution. Herbert's contribution is an analysis of "the Energetics Controversy and the New Thermodynamics" in late nineteenth century Germany. The commentators ask searching questions calling for further study on the significance of energetics, and one, David B. Wilson, notes an interesting distinction between the philosopher and the historian. He defines the historian's task as trying "to understand a past period in its own context... what scientists thought and why they thought it." The philosopher of science tries "to determine what is right... the true nature of scientific knowledge."

With Rae's paper comes a change of pace, for it is a description of the growth of the highway system in twentieth-century America, stressing the need to design roadways appropriate for an automobile age, and pointing out that highway policies consistently lagged behind both the needs of traffic and the available highway technology. The commentators raise useful questions about why the modern expressway has come to dominate American views of transportation needs and about the role of engineers and similar technical experts in shaping American culture.

Smith very ably examines the relationship of art, technology, and science with examples ranging from man's earliest history to the twentieth century. This section of the book is illustrated by sixteen pages of well-chosen photographs and drawings. The commentators rightly applaud his paper as a major contribution, requiring the historian to consider the aesthetic stimulus to scientific and technological advance.

The remaining three papers deal with specific topics in the history of science. Westfall examines the development of Newton's dynamics, based on a thorough study of Newton manuscripts. Rudwick discusses the contemporary scientific context for the work of Lyell. And Clagett outlines the principal translations of the commentaries on Archimedes' works, commenting on his influence in the Middle Ages. In each case the commentators praise the papers and make suggestions or raise questions adding new ideas or different emphases.
The papers in Perspectives are well-researched and clearly-written, and the commentators adequately fulfill their task. However, the book is also revealing because of what is not there. There is very little, aside from Rae's paper, on twentieth-century science and technology, an area in which a great deal of work still needs to be done. Nor is there much direct discussion of the interaction of science and society, another area in which additional research needs to be done, especially for American society. Thus Perspectives not only includes some valid examples of the work currently being done in the history of science, it can also be used to point out areas where further study is needed.

Sylvia W. McGrath
Stephen F. Austin State University


Local history has a charisma that tends to be irresistible to writers, and will most likely always remain so. Madison Cooper delineates the story of a prominent citizen of Waco, Texas, who by all odds should have been a "favorite son," yet never really achieved that laurel. As is often true in life, a person may not be appropriately cited for his generousies until long after his demise. Such was the case of Madison Cooper. It was on a sultry September evening in 1958 at Waco Municipal Stadium that Cooper, after jogging, stepped to his automobile and there died of heart failure. It is typical that Cooper ran his last mile, signifying his constant state of hurriedness. Cooper had written his funeral plans in 1947, demanding total simplicity and brevity. According to his unusual wishes, he was buried in a plain dark suit and tie, white shirt, wrapped in green military blankets, and interred in the most inexpensive unpainted wooden box available.

Always an essentially private person, Cooper nonetheless had relished parties and social gatherings, where his voice sounded more like that of a Southern patrician than a central Texan. In fact, his speech inflection was lost only in angry moments. A familiar figure to Waco citizens for many years, Madison Cooper was seen on his daily rounds to the bank and other downtown localities always accompanied by a worn leather briefcase containing memoranda on his numerous stocks, investments, and writing projects. A man of heartland Texas, he possessed many friends of the literary and theatrical circles of the East. He vastly admired persons of talent and accomplishment, and wished to be credited as one himself. At age fifty-eight he became a model for state pride when his Sironia, Texas was unleashed as a national best-seller, having been produced in the secret accretion over an eleven year span. Not only establishing the Cooper Foundation to make Waco a better place to live, he made the city sole beneficiary of his $3,000,000 estate.

Descended from Arkansas and North Carolina parentage, Madison Cooper was born in 1894 on the birth date of Jefferson Davis. He was isolated at an early age from his juvenile compatriots as the family spent lengthy vacations in
Wisconsin and Michigan to escape the fierceness of Texas summers. An intelligent student, he entered the Forty Acres at Austin in 1911, and embarked upon what he termed four years of parties and writing. In 1915 he headed home for Waco when the University of Texas awarded him an English degree. With the advent of World War I, Cooper traveled to Leon Springs, Texas to an officer training camp. Natural quietude coupled with his self-assurance of a superior mind labeled him as conceited to many associates. Regiment commanders thought otherwise, and assigned Lieutenant Cooper a slot at intelligence operations in Illinois. Later serving in St. Mihiel and the Moselle campaigns in France, Cooper wisely acquiesced to his family’s pleas and abandoned the military as a possible career. Returning home to help with the family grocery for a decade, it was soon quite evident that Madison Cooper would always be more interested in writing than vegetables. He labored in an attic loft large enough for only one person, with hand-constructed shelves, files, and bookcases holding his trivia. Although solitary, he remained active in community affairs and was always a good mixer with any age group.

In 1924, Cooper began his annual philanthropy gifts. The First Presbyterian Church, Waco Community Chest, and the University of Texas always received a lion’s share of contributions. His private hope was that he could continue this philanthropy through his professional writing income of short stories. After a series of disappointments in dairy enterprises, a shoe and trunk factory, and abandonment of all responsibility for the family business, the Great Depression loomed harshly before this bachelor who had yet to see a steady income from his literary talent. Nevertheless, the thirties were a flourishing time for his writing ability. His attic alcove was quiet and suitable for the purpose, and even complete with a kitchen timer to clock visits when he wanted to delimit a visitor’s stay. Cooper would even stand at the sound to emphasize the end of the interview.

During World War II, Cooper always maintained a brisk schedule of events. Taking famous large hurried steps, he seldom drove anywhere. His continued generosity to a large number of causes saw these anonymous sums earmarked for libraries, the Red Cross, hospitals, parks, and community chests. Because he made no disclosure of his writing activities and discussed his stock market investments with no one, Waco citizens constantly believed him to be an eccentric and shabbily dressed man who spent his days idling away useless pursuits in his attic. Some even thought him secretly deciphering codes for the military, as he had done in the previous war. He conducted his own USO organization at his mansion every week-end through the war’s duration. At the end of hostilities, he gave his dairy farm to Texas A & M University—this proved to be the largest personal gift of his career.

After liquidating the troubled family businesses, Cooper turned all his attention to his novel, *Sironia, Texas*, which Houghton-Mifflin of Boston issued in 1952. His pride and perseverance had paid off in a gratifying triumph at an age in life in which fame is uncommon. The incredibly successful two-volume novel of 840,000 words was longer than *An American Tragedy*, *Gone With the Wind*, *Raintree County*, *Anthony Adverse*, or even the Old and New Testaments combined. Foreign translations gave an added impetus to the book’s popularity, but a stalemate between author and publisher saw the book’s glitter and sales slacken to almost nothing after two years.
With all the fame garnered from his work, Cooper's impulse to financial assistance when needed still never diminished. Money was frequently channeled into special funds for needy writers. To describe the variety of charitable and educational gifts during the five years the public knew him as a writer would take numerous pages here. Very close with the precise amount of money he dispensed, Madison Cooper distributed so many small gifts that he appeared quite lavish. Nevertheless, the best of all was saved until the end for the citizens of Waco.

Madison Cooper is a publication which more than anything else is an excellent example of local history and hindsight hometown admiration. It will by no means become a monument for students of Texas historiography. The chief lessons involved describe how one Texas city saw massive changes in funding, community needs, recreation, and social welfare—all made possible by a millionaire benefactor that no one ever really acknowledged or tried to understand.

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Texas Under A Cloud: Story of the Texas Stock Fraud Scandal, By Sam Kinch Jr. and Ben Procter. Austin (Pemberton Press) 1972. P. 159 Illustrations. $6.95

Scholars and most laymen as well have been aware that state government is less effective than it could be and that it tends to serve "special interests" rather than the general public. Texas Under A Cloud by Sam Kinch, Jr., and Ben Proctor explores the recent Texas stock scandal and might be added to a growing list of studies that are highly critical of state government—its structure, its personnel. In the study, the role of Gus Mutscher in the recent stock frauds is examined as are the roles of such leading Texas politicians as Preston Smith, Dr. Elmer Baum, State Representatives W. S. Heatly and Tommy Shannon, and Mutscher's aid Rush McGinty. Frighteningly, the detrimental role of lobbyists for "special interests" is also divulged. Greatly influenced by lobbyists, many state officials appear to represent their constituents only casually while using their time and power to further business and banking lobby goals. In return, officials are provided with opportunities to make "quick money."

The volume is not, however, a one-sided attack on personalities. Kinch and Proctor point out that the very structure of Texas government is such that incidents similar to the stock scandal may again occur. The presiding officers of the House and Senate have too much power; legislators are underpaid and overworked; and lobbyists are not effectively regulated. These are only a few of the "evils" that the authors list. If not corrected, these "evils" will lead to further abuse.

Unfortunately, what is otherwise a valuable study is marred by flaws in style and research. Although use of "folksy" language throughout may be forgiven as an attempt to appeal to laymen, the use of trite phrases, slang, and metaphors built on cliches is regrettable. For example, the reader finds that
"...Smith walked through the barnyard without messing up his boots" (p. 51), that "...Mutcher was king of the House road" (p. 63), and that the Speaker's team "was an odd litter of cats..." (p. 72). Worse, the authors inform the reader that the scandals"...rocked the Texas political boat down to its ballast" (p. 106) and that business interests"... financed the sailing of the Mutcher ship..." (p. 66). Equally disturbing is the fact that this volume, one that many people may consider controversial, does not include footnotes or bibliography. Nowhere are official records, newspapers, or personal interviews footnoted. Although a "publisher's note" explains that the authors used official records and taped interviews, it is quite distressing to see statements attributed to state leaders inclosed in quotation marks and yet not noted in the text.

The above criticisms notwithstanding, Texas Under A Cloud remains a timely expose in the form of a case study that examines weaknesses in state governmental structure and personnel. Therein lies its value.

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