Book Reviews
BOOK REVIEWS


You historians who are fond of repeating the following phrase to your classes, should stop doing it: "Columbus did not know where he was going, when he got there he did not know where he was, and when he returned he did not know where he'd been." According to the author of this interesting study, "Repeating this catchy phrase does no credit to such historians and reveals their ignorance of the facts." (p. 19)

What are "the facts"? Circumstantial evidence seems to show that Columbus really did know where he was going because he had a "plan." That plan, according to Chapman, came from St. Brendan, "The Navigator," whose trans-Atlantic hop was taken in four stages circa 564 A.D. Accompanied by fourteen fellow monks, Brendan made his fabulous journey in a skin-covered Irish boat called a currach, which was propelled alternately by sail and oars.

Chapman has taken the Carl Selmer edition of Brendan’s Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis (Notre Dame Press, 1959) and checked the narration by actual measurement of distances, currents and winds in various areas of the Atlantic. Then he superimposes this route with the one taken by Columbus during his four crossings of the sea.

The results are plausible. Brendan sailed northwest from Ireland until he reached a point at sea where the winds and currents drove him south toward the Azores. From thence his currach caught the Canaries Current and the North Equitorial Current toward Barbados. From Barbados the monks journeyed north to Barbuda and then west to Great Inagua in the Bahamas. The homeward journey took advantage of the Gulf Stream past the iceberg floes to Iceland. The final leg of the voyage to the southeast found the party back in Ireland.

Chapman claims that Columbus hid the Brendan account from his contemporaries because he wanted his sovereigns—Ferdinand and Isabella—to recognize his discovery as a totally new one. Columbus even attributed his plan to Pliny, rather than Brendan. Chapman rejects other hypotheses in favor of the Brendan one in easy-to-follow rational fashion. Unfortunately, as with many writers attempting to "prove" a point, he rejects all evidence which does not support his thesis. Moreover, some of his interpretations are open to question. In the map on p. 113, for example, he states that "V de S. B." is Spanish for Isle of St. Brendan. But the map has "S. B." which is Spanish for San Bernardo, St. Bernard.

I rather agree, with Samuel Eliot Morison’s appraisal of Brendan: “No, here is not a discovery of a New World, but a captivating tale which led men of later centuries to sail into the unknown, hoping to find Brendan’s islands, confident that God would watch over them.” (The European Discovery of America, p. 25). Still, Chapman has made us pause a moment before rejecting the hypothesis. It is plausible, and may well have been the precursor of Columbus’ voyage.

Jack D. L. Holmes
University of Alabama in Birmingham


Robert S. Weddle has persuasively reinforced the standard interpretation that the La Salle colonizing expedition to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico stimulated Spanish interest in that region from 1685. Improved geographical knowledge and later colonizing and missionary activities in Texas and Florida owe a debt to “the Spanish search for La
Salle." Beyond confirming this point, Weddle has provided exhaustive descriptions of the various land and sea expeditions sent after the elusive Frenchman and rectified a number of details related to them.

Weddle perceives his topic in a strictly regional way and fails to place it satisfactorily in a broad, imperial framework. Despite periodic references to European conflicts and the dates of war and peace, the whole episode is not firmly rooted in time. For actions occurring during what is commonly considered the nadir of Spanish rule, the expeditions and administrative routine accompanying them proceeded with a smoothness that begs for explanation.

The limited perspective and emphasis upon narrative rather than analysis reflect the bibliography. The unpublished materials at the core of this study derive principally from transcripts of documents in one legajo of the General Archives of the Indies (Seville). Personal investigation of related legajos would have increased the author's breadth of vision. The use of recent scholarship that deals with a region larger than the borderlands, for example John Lynch's Spain Under the Habsburgs, vol. II, also would have helped him to appreciate the broader implications of the Spanish expeditions he described so thoroughly.

On several "mechanical" matters the University of Texas Press deserves criticism. A blanket statement that the archival documents cited are transcripts is an inadequate substitute for full footnotes. If the purpose of notes is to inform the reader where the document actually used is to be found, reference should be to the Dunn Transcripts rather than to the original document listed under a filing system discarded years ago. The utility of the map provided would have been greater had the important places mentioned in the text been given more emphasis. Illustrations detailing the expeditions also would have been useful.

Wilderness Manhunt, despite its defects, doubtless will be the definitive treatment of "the Spanish search for La Salle." The topic itself, however, deserved only an article.

Mark A. Burkholder
University of Missouri-St. Louis


Indians of the Southeast: Then and Now is a general, smooth flowing account of the life style and history of the American Indians who inhabited the Southeastern United States. The term "Southeast", as defined in the book, incorporates in totality or partially the present states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. After briefly discussing the origin and prehistoric existence of the Indians, the authors describe the food, housing, dances, music, religious ceremonies, recreations, and other aspects of native culture. Next follows an account of the white man's encounter with the Southeastern Indians, resulting ultimately in removal of many of the natives west of the Mississippi River. Finally the authors delineate the situation of the Indians in the Southeastern United States today with emphasis on the aspirations and goals of today's Indians and their progress toward them.

Indians of the Southeast: Then and Now is definitely a sympathetic treatment of the Southeastern Indians. The authors show great appreciation of the native cultures and genuinely delight in the Indians' present day progress toward organization and education. However, the book is not designed for the specialist. Much of the account of Indian life is based on early journals and travel accounts. There is no attempt to evaluate these sources, compare one against the other, or relate them to possibly disagreeing sources. In the
selected bibliography the authors state that they have included "non-specialist items" while excluding some technical and hard to obtain material which they used in preparing the book. The bibliography is annotated, and, as admitted by the authors, does not contain some of the more scholarly material although bibliographies are listed in which these can be located. The bibliography represents clearly the authors' view of the Southeastern Indians and includes recent works as well as older sources.

As a book designed for the young and general reader, *Indians of the Southeast: Then and Now* has merit. It portrays the culture of the Indians, the impact of white "civilization" on that culture, and the contributions of the natives to the United States. It also develops an understanding of the Indians' present day struggle to assume a proper and recognized place in American society and history. For the trained anthropologist, historian, and other specialist, however, the book presents little new. On the other hand, the general reader would appreciate, besides the content and easily readable style, three aspects of the book—an excellent photographic section, a list of present day places relating to Indian culture and history, and a glossary of terms. For the non-scholar *Indians of the Southeast: Then and Now* has a lot to offer.

Marietta LeBreton
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana


*The Sign of the Eagle* is the result of skillful merging of two very different kinds of information about the early Mexican republic. The text is the edited letters of Lieutenant John James Peck of New York, a young officer who participated in the Mexican War. Accompanying his letters are some fifty color lithographs of maps, charts, sketches and paintings of aspects of the war and scenes of the Mexico of that time. There is a helpful foreword and conclusion and a biographical sketch of John Peck.

Peck took part in the invasion of Northern Mexico and the capture of Monterrey. He went with the contingent transferred to Scott's command for the invasion of Veracruz and the capture of Mexico City. Thus, Lieutenant Peck took part in every major action of the war except Buena Vista. His letters reveal many things besides his often perceptive observations of day-to-day operations. One can detect Peck's ambivalence to Mexico—he finds much to wonder at and his mental horizons were perceptibly broadened, yet his Protestant and Anglo-Saxon background warred against his receptiveness. Peck reveals himself as a likable and fairminded observer of this forgotten little war. He is generous in his praise of the bravery of the Mexican soldier while condemning the ineptness of his leadership. His letters provide glimpses of the politics of the era and of how the army itself viewed the colorful generals Taylor and Scott. Marginal notes added by the editor provide an overview of the strategy and high politics of the events Peck writes about, a valuable contrast to his purely personal and local view.

The pictures are the real attraction of this book, however. They were chosen to complement the text so that one has the feeling of viewing what Peck himself might have seen as he wrote. Maps and paintings of battles and troop movements are interspersed with selections illustrating the life of the inhabitants, the cities, and the beauty of the land through which the armies fought. The lithographs will be appreciated by the scholar as well as the traveler and the romantic for in addition to their attractiveness they accurately portray cities, buildings and clothing styles of the age. Some selections are by foreigners from the pre-war years, some by military artists with the U. S. forces, and still others by Mexicans who knew and loved the scenes of their native land.
The book lends itself to some confusion concerning its purpose. It is a legitimate historical source, of value to specialists in both texts and pictures. On the other hand, its format, cost, and general appearance would seem to class the book in the "coffee-table" or "gift book" category. Perhaps it is a tribute to the unknown editors that the book can serve both these functions.

D. S. Chandler
Miami University (Ohio)


Jerry J. Gaddy has combined his interest in the Texas Revolution with his hobby of collecting old newspapers to produce this book. Searching through newspapers dating from the summer of 1835 to the fall of 1836, he has selected news stories that reflect events in Texas and reaction to those events on the part of the United States. These stories he groups under seven headings, each dealing with a phase of the revolution.

Gaddy offers the items without comment. Only a brief listing at the beginning of each group suggests the major events. Thus, readers unfamiliar with the revolution will have trouble separating fact from rumor and may find themselves uncertain as to what actually occurred. For example, one "Late and Important!" bulletin reports that David Crockett did not die at the Alamo. Instead he "was lying quite ill but gradually though slowly recovering from his wounds" in a private home.

Specialists in the field will be dissatisfied with the book for another reason. Although the items are presented in roughly chronological order, the specific dates of the newspapers are not given, a circumstance that impairs the use of the book as a scholarly reference work. The specialist will also question artist Joseph Heftcr's depiction of the flags that flew over the Alamo.

Nevertheless Heftcr's six color paintings brighten the volume, and the book offers a fresh approach to a familiar subject. The collected items further suggest the basis for many news stories of the era—letters, visitors' accounts, and rumor. The historian is thus afforded a case study on the perils of using journalistic accounts as source material.

Marilyn McAdams Sibley
Houston Baptist College


This is a pleasant book: informative, interesting, and attractive. Its scope is limited to the shoulder and hand weapons officially used or considered by the armed forces of the Republic, presented in some context of American and particularly Texas military affairs. The photographs are good, the drawings perhaps a bit curious (in facial expressions; and why, in a book mainly about the infantry, is only one infantryman depicted, along with three marines and one cavalryman?). The book is well printed, with illustrations in sepia, the text in reddish brown.

Many of the arms issued to Texans during the Revolution and for several years afterwards were of British manufacture. Some were rifled weapons, others muskets, such as the 600 which fell into army hands as a result of San Jacinto and were subsequently issued to troops. These appear to have been a model of the famous Brown Bess with a fascinating pedigree. It was the post-1809 East India pattern, marked with the Mexican eagle and serpent. This was the type the British manufactured exclusively in the last years of their war with Napoleon but had since superseded.
The vigorous military policy of President Lamar saw the purchase of what Koury calls the "standard arm" of the infantry. This was a musket, model 1816, manufactured in Philadelphia by "Tryon Son & Co", a firm which remained in the arms business until 1964. It was ordered in 1839, a time when many countries were adopting breechloading percussion weapons. Why? Koury, observing that "it is not known whether resistance to innovation is born into all ordnance officers, or is merely acquired with the job," credits Chief of Ordnance Col. George W. Hockley. Hockley had a number of objections to replacing "flint and steel" with percussion caps. First, he believed that too often they failed to fire. Second, "I object generally to very quick firing in action"! He felt this would lead to a decline in marksmanship. Third, rapid fire would overheat the barrel. There were additional objections. Still, Koury generally respects Col. Hockley.

The army subsequently purchased 100 Colt revolving cylinder rifles and the navy 120 Colt revolving cylinder carbines and 120 pistols. A number of the navy pistols found their way on the Santa Fe Expedition, where most were deliberately damaged prior to being surrendered. One Colt pistol of undoubted official Texas issuance is preserved.

In one way Col. Hockley showed flair. He recommended using another British weapon of the Napoleonic era: the Congreve rocket. Noting their effect upon U.S. militia in the War of 1812, he believed that the rockets, used against the Indians "if found in a body," would "excite terror and probably confusion if within their vision—and probably render them victims to the previous arrangement of the commanding officer."

There are a few oversights, such as an occasional use of the possessive for the plural form of a name. But it's a good book, reasonably priced, and is a natural for a gift.

John Osburn
Central State University, Oklahoma


Samuel Price Carson joined that stream of near-legendary men, prominent in their home regions, who came to Texas from the United States in the mid-1830's and there participated in the significant events associated with Texas' separation from Mexico and emergence as a republic. Of Irish stock, Carson carried on a long family tradition of public service. He represented his mountainous region of western North Carolina in the state's General Assembly and then in the United States House of Representatives (1825-1833) until defeated because of his pro-"nullifier" stand in the tariff controversy. His popularity continued, however, as he was elected to another term in the North Carolina General Assembly and to service in the convention rewriting the North Carolina Constitution.

Meanwhile, he had purchased land on the Red River in Arkansas near the present Texas boundary. In 1835 he moved there, bringing an entourage of over 100 persons on the long trek. Barely getting his wife and two daughters and household personnel settled on his land, he was elected as one of several delegates of the Pecan Point region to the revolutionary convention meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1, 1836. He was allowed to sign the declaration of independence, though arriving late, and took a lead in writing the constitution because of his ability and previous experience. Defeated as president ad-interim of Texas, he was elected secretary of state, a post he served briefly before being commissioned to proceed to Washington and New York to work in behalf of Texas. His health declining since 1827, Carson was finally driven to seek recuperation at Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he died in November, 1838, at the age of 40.

Mrs. Henderson has woven a biographical novel into this basic framework. Utilizing local histories and family memories and papers, she has evoked something of the atmosphere and life styles in which Carson worked and loved. Family connections—clans
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and kinship groups—appear as strong factors. I suspect that the only really "novelized" part of the story is in the direct dialogue and the introspective thoughts of the protagonists. There are end-notes to explain important points and a bibliography suggesting the sources. The basic biographical data appear accurate. About three-fourths of the book deals with Carson's North Carolina-related experiences.

The title derives from two important events in Carson's life. One occurred in November 1827, when he fought a duel in which he killed a friend. The cause had grown out of a political campaign. His sense of guilt and remorse was so strong that Mrs. Henderson signals the beginning of his physical decline with that event. The other November, of course, marked his death eleven years later.

David M. Vigness
Texas Tech University


The last Mexican census for Texas was taken in 1836 and the first United States census in 1850, thus leaving Texas without a complete census for the intervening fourteen years. However, Poll lists, such as these compiled by Marion Day Mullins, can be used to fill this void, at least in a partial fashion. These 1846 lists serve as a partial roster of property owners living in Texas when it joined the Union. Unfortunately it does not contain the names of many of those who immigrated during the latter days of the Republic of Texas, such as those who came with Peter's Colony. Thus the researcher seeking information on his family should not be discouraged if the name in question fails to appear in the Poll Lists for 1846. The lists give the surnames in alphabetical order with their county of residence. Occasionally a property owner with land in two or more counties appears on each county list.

Poll Lists for 1846 by Marion Day Mullins is a significant contribution to the published records of the Republic of Texas. This work should be included in every Texana Collection and in every Texas library.

Carolyn R. Ericson
Curator, Stone Fort Museum
S.F.A.S.U.


Whether viewed as an example of the coffee-table type book or as a concise study, Sam Houston's Texas is a delightful work with no exact counterpart, that I am aware of, in the writing of Texas history. The author, Sue Flanagan, currently serves as director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville and is a skillful photographer as well as a gifted writer. Seeking to depict the Texas Houston knew from the time of his arrival in 1832 until his death in 1863, Miss Flanagan has employed “Old Sam's” own words against a backdrop of various scenes linked to his career in Texas.

Employing a year by year narrative approach, the author has made judicious use of private correspondence to and from her subject to portray the era before the Revolution, the period of the Republic, Houston's United States Senate career, and the drift to secession. Perhaps because it is not usually emphasized in biographies of Houston, the author's account of the gubernatorial contests of 1857 and 1859 made for particularly interesting reading. The text and accompanying photographs seem to catch the flavor of those campaigns; constant buggy travel on hot, dusty, roads; a never-ending succession of
barbeques and speeches, and friendships strained almost to the breaking point by the poisonous question of union or secession. In this respect, Houston's relationship with his Senate colleague, Thomas Jefferson Rusk, and his observation on the principal cause of the latter's suicide provide an insight into that tragic figure in Texas history. Equally poignant was the sketch of Houston in forced political retirement, out of step with the mood of Civil War Texas and in declining health. His death on July 26, 1863, strikes the reader as a kind of welcome release.

Previous reviewers of this book have referred to Miss Flanagan's creation as "superb" and a "jewel." I can only heartily agree. Both the author and her publisher, the University of Texas Press, are to be applauded for a job very well done.

Stanley E. Siegel
University of Houston


June Rayfield Welch undertook an ambitious project when he set out to photograph the state's 254 courthouses. From this expedition, combined with a desire to make Texas history more vibrantly alive and relative to all inhabitants of Texas, he gave the project a new twist and decided to photograph and write about sites which ordinarily do not make the pages of a conventional Texas History textbook. The successful result was Historic Sites of Texas with another volume in the making to complete the project.

This 184-page hardback volume contains 72 black and white, captioned photographs, all skillfully executed to co-ordinate and complement the chronological narrative which accompanies them. The narrative itself is an excellent, concise presentation of Texas history at its finest. Well researched, the prolific use of original sources makes the reading more delightful as well as authentic. Texas is presented from the dinosaur age to the present in both scholarly historical writing as well as modern photography. From pirates to presidents, men that have contributed to Texas history are presented on the pages of this volume, with the author's weaving in legend along with facts to confirm the reader's impressions that this mighty state has a fascinating history and that history is to be found in every nook and cranny of this giant once-republic. Such famous names as O. Henry, Francis Scott Key and the Wright brothers, not ordinarily associated with Texas History, are presented as making their contribution to Texas' colorful past. Homesites, monuments and memorials marking the sites where former great Texans dedicated their talents and lives to make Texas what it is today, comprise the majority of the 72 photographs. Portraits of several men and women are included, some being sketches where photographs were not possible.

The major portion of the book is devoted to early Texas history, with no balance being attempted as there is a follow-up volume but it was well tied together, beginning and ending with the dinosaur, the earlier being the ones which actually walked upon the bountiful land of Texas and the latter being part of a massive modern-day advertising campaign of Sinclair Oil Company, but it served to tie the book into a complete unit.

The volume is alphabetically indexed and includes the extensive bibliography which testifies to the fact that Mr. Welch consulted many sources, unearthed many new bits of information and traveled many miles in writing and photographing this volume. It will be a welcomed addition to the libraries of many Texas History teachers.

Carolyn Parker
Henderson, Texas
This book was written to record information on as many of the old stagecoach inns in Texas as possible. It is not confined to those still standing, but includes a few which have been demolished.

The two introductory chapters are very informative. The first details the architecture and furnishings of some of the inns, together with their fare. The second discusses stagecoach travel. It gives a description of various stagecoaches and the perils of traveling on them. It also gives typical times for some of the trips. It lists those stagecoach lines which are known, together with Star Bids and mail stage lines. This chapter advances the thesis that the coming of the railroads doomed the stagecoach lines. I believe a map of the location of these stagecoach lines would be most beneficial.

The book is written with pages for each inn listed, giving its early history, ownership, present status, etc. A photograph or drawing is included for each inn—including those which have been demolished.

The names of several towns shown on the list of stagecoach routes are misspelled, including:

- Melrose (Nacogdoches County) — Mellrose
- Douglass (Nacogdoches County) — Douglas
- Hempstead (Walker County) — Hemstead (in one place)
- Panna Maria (Karnes County) — Pano Maria
- Sabinetown (Sabine County) — Sabine City

This is a relatively minor point, indicative of a need for closer proofreading on the part of the publisher, the author, or perhaps the Texas Almanac of 1875 which originally published the list.

Deep East Texas is conspicuous for its nearly complete absence, and for one inn being located in the wrong county. In The History of Nacogdoches County (1880), Richard Haltom writes concerning this county and its lack of railroads: "We have nothing to boast of in the way of steam transportation. The nearest railroad point is Henderson in Rusk County, distant a little over forty miles northward." Surely, there must have been some stagecoach inns in Nacogdoches, Douglass, Melrose, Alto, Tyler, Henderson, Groesbeck, Palestine, Jasper, Lufkin, etc.

In Two Centuries in East Texas, Dr. George Louis Crockett writes: "Still further down the Attoyac was Nathaniel Hunt, whose house was one of the stations on the mail route from Houston to San Augustine under the Republic." I believe Mr. Hunt lived in the Broaddus-Macune area of San Augustine County.

The one item in this book which I find most disappointing refers to the Halfway House. Another name given to it is Midway House. This inn is listed as being near Chireno, San Augustine County. Chireno is a good 5-6 miles west of Attoyac Bayou, the boundary between Nacogdoches County on the west and San Augustine County on the east. This reviewer has known Mrs. Dixie Branch and Mrs. Pearl Taylor (who live in the inn) and their sister, Mrs. Link Daniel, for some thirty-five years. To the author's credit, this is the only stagecoach inn which she places in the wrong county.

This review is not intended to completely carve up the book. On the contrary, the majority of the information, both written and pictorial, is excellent.

Charles G. James
San Antonio, Texas
Ronnie Tyler's book is a study of the powerful north Mexican caudillo, Santiago Vidaurri, and his relations with Texas and the Confederacy during the late 1850's and the Civil War. His research is extensive and thorough, making excellent use of Texas and northern Mexican newspapers and memoirs, the Texas State Archives, the United States consular dispatches for north Mexico, important Mexican manuscript collections located in Monterrey, and the Records of the Confederate States of America. Tyler draws most heavily upon this latter collection which he mistakenly refers to as the Pickett Papers. (John T. Pickett sold a large manuscript collection, including his personal archives and those official Confederate archives in his possession, to the Library of Congress. Later, Pickett's few personal papers were separated out and formed into the John T. Pickett Papers and the large body of remaining papers, including all those cited by Tyler, were renamed the Records of the Confederate States of America.) The narrative based upon this firm foundation is impressive and stimulating. The detailed discussion of Texas-Mexican border relations will enlighten historians, giving them their most complete description of this fascinating area during the Civil War years. In this context, Tyler perceptively recognizes the major interest of the Confederacy, both Mexican factions—liberals and conservatives—and the French forces in keeping trade and revenue flowing no matter which of these forces controlled the frontier (pp. 148, 151). Even the Union forces had a major negative interest in the frontier—stopping Confederate trade.

Unfortunately two significant weaknesses limit the value of Tyler's monograph. First, he, his readers, and his editors permitted the manuscript to retain chronological confusion and other editorial weaknesses. On too many occasions without obvious or explicit grounds the description of an incident or a series of incidents are not chronologically ordered (see particularly chapter III). More distracting is the appearance of unresolved contradictory statements. For example, Tyler refers to Vidaurri as indifferent to the Confederacy (p. 151) and then labels him "a warm friend of the South" (p. 153), or he states that "the Richmond government hardly considered any trade with Mexico until the Union ships blockaded its ports" (p. 108), while noting that in fact Quintero and the Confederacy expressed great interest in and sought Mexican trade in 1861 and 1862 (pp. 49, 52-55, 127). Second, the major weakness of the monograph derives from Tyler's inability to come to grips with Vidaurri's place in history. At various times he asserts Vidaurri was a Liberal (pp. 25, 39), an opponent of liberalism (pp. 34, 155-156), a Federalist (p. 30), a regionalist (pp. 38, 155), a self-interested individual (pp. 39, 156), an opportunistic power seeker (pp. 154-156), and eventually a high official in Maximilian's government and an apparent conservative (pp. 155-156). Tyler offers no explanation or analysis of the apparent contradictions and inconsistencies in Vidaurri's behavior, thus leaving the reader with the difficult task of attempting to interpret Vidaurri. This reviewer judges Vidaurri essentially an opportunistic power-seeker; it would be interesting to know Tyler's opinion.

In sum, Tyler's book has weaknesses in its conceptual and analytic framework. However, the research is so thorough and the resulting descriptive narrative is so authoritative and detailed that it will long remain an essential, indeed very likely the foundation study of Mexican-Confederate relations along their common frontier.

Thomas Schoonover
University of Southwestern Louisiana

In the Foreword of this volume, Pulitzer-Prize-winning historian T. Harry Williams says that it is one of the superior Civil War diaries, possibly one of the superior American personal records. That the book does indeed live up to the impressive compliment is immediately evident to the reader. McDonald provides a wealth of material in presenting the diary of Jedediah Hotchkiss—Stonewall Jackson's topographer—from March 10, 1862, through April 18, 1865. The introduction is a concise and interesting biographical sketch of Hotchkiss, and the notes contain detailed information on each character, event, or place as it appears in the journal. The book is attractive with an intriguing cover which depicts a sketch by Hotchkiss of the battles of Chancellorsville, Salem Church and Fredericksburg. Further embellishments include two additional maps by Hotchkiss, a photograph of Hotchkiss, a serviceable index, an impressive bibliography, a table of contents, and a preface which explains the choice of time covered as well as the problems of identification.

"I want you to make me a map of the Valley, from Harper's Ferry to Lexington, showing all the points of offense and defense in those places." (p. 10) Such were the instructions Hotchkiss received from General Thomas Jonathan Jackson on March 26, 1862, which launched his career as Topographical Engineer of the Valley District of the Department of Northern Virginia and subsequently Topographical Engineer of the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. The day-by-day account of the war as Hotchkiss experienced it provides, as T. Harry Williams says, "a mine of information about many persons and events—Jackson and Lee, the problem of command, the battles of Virginia, and last but very important, the work of a heretofore unrecognized but necessary man in the Civil War machine." (p. xi.)

Jedediah Hotchkiss had a unique place in the Confederacy, for he became the foremost mapper of the Confederacy and perhaps could be considered the foremost mapper of the war according to Dr. Williams. Since both sides started the war with no reliable maps of the area where they would do battle, securing maps became crucial. That Hotchkiss did his job well is evidenced in the Atlas of the Official Records, for at least half of all the Confederate maps in the Atlas were made by him.

McDonald's editing and annotation of the journal which Hotchkiss kept on a day-to-day basis provides a very readable record of the war in this area during the aforementioned dates. His great service is the documented notes which are invaluable for research purposes as well as for further information and identification. For instance, as the Stonewall Brigade is mentioned in the diary, McDonald supplies a fascinating footnote which gives information concerning the vital statistics of the Brigade as well as the feeling of unit identification expressed in the lines of John Esten Cooke:

And men will tell their children
Tho' all other memories fade,
How they fought with Stonewall Jackson
In the old "Stonewall Brigade." (301 n 4.)

Also adding to the book's readability are the unique chapter headings which are quoted from sentences to be found in the individual chapters. For instance, Chapter Seven is entitled from General Jackson's funeral sermon in Hotchkiss' entry of Sunday, May 17, 1863. (p. 144.)
I am a fan of historical diaries, for I find that nowhere can a reader get the flavor of a period any better than from a day-to-day account by someone who experienced it. The additional bonus of a wealth of research material further enhances this particular volume.

Mrs. Betty Davis
Longview, Texas


"General Grant never fought as well as he fights now," (66). So one newspaper proclaimed, as Ulysses S. Grant gallantly completed his memoirs during the final pain-wracked months of his life. Pitkin's book on Grant's last year—a time of drama, triumph, and tragedy after a period of relative calm and obscurity—grew out of a governmental report on the Grant cottage at Mount McGregor, New York. From the mass of meticulous detail, one sees clearly and touchingly how the Civil War's great battle captain achieved a second moment of quintessential triumph. The able editor of his papers, John Simon, says of Grant in the foreword that "resilience, resistance to outside pressure, and receptivity to innovation—common traits carried to their heights—were the marks of his generalship." (xiii). In a sense, the same qualities applied to Grant's literary endeavors.

Grant became a writer only through financial necessity. Unquestionably honest himself, Grant the civilian never seemed able to avoid unscrupulous associates. Swindled, penniless, and feeling disgraced, he yielded finally to long-resisted pressures that he prepare articles for the Century magazine so that he might provide security for his family. His first effort was poor, little more than a dull rehash of official reports, but perseveringly he learned to rewrite and to revise, and in the process he grew prolific and competent.

Many persons played roles in Grant's literary development; two deserve special mention: Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) and Adam Badeau. Clemens provided warm and sustaining friendship, encouragement, technical help—even proofing and correcting copy, and published the completed memoirs through his own company (which ultimately paid Mrs. Grant nearly one-half million dollars in royalties). Badeau, Grant's friend and biographer, worked closely with the general for a time, revising and sometimes adding his own comments. But Grant realized how important it was that the memoirs be his own work and later parted with Badeau.

The great struggle at the end, before Grant finally succumbed to cancer of the throat, was not to finish composing the memoirs but to complete their revision. Grant could not resist indulging in the process and no doubt this superior effort infused the memoirs with their high degree of quality. The whole nation waited in respect and watched with admiration. Reporters did their utmost to provide the thirsty public with news—"one even made love to a chambermaid across the street to get a good window" (34) in front of Grant's house. Later, when Grant sought refuge at a mountain retreat, the Grand Army of the Republic provided a ceremonial guard to help ensure privacy.

Pitkin's book is a study in historical microcosm, possessing a mixture of positive and negative attributes. The chief fault lies in its prose: cumbersome, marred by a gross overuse of "was," infelicitous variations in tense, and split-infinitive verb forms. Yet one can find elements to praise, such as the logical chapter development and good transition one to another. With sources relatively scant and widely scattered, the research is impressive, perhaps remarkable. To a select audience of specialists and enthusiasts, the book should prove pleasing. It fulfills its purpose. And yet, in places it tells more than most readers probably need, or want, to know.

Herman Hattaway
University of Missouri-Kansas City

If you agree with the saying that "one picture is worth 10,000 words," then Life on the Texas Range is multi-volumed in content. As the "outstanding cowboy photographer of the West," Erwin E. Smith has captured life on the open range. In fact, with the help of historian-cattleman J. Evetts Haley and the University of Texas Press, this work graphically illustrates what Smith wanted to record—that the cowboy, "a proud man on horseback," performed "hard, skillful, and dangerous, . . . hence intriguing, work." (pp. 21-22).

With a choice from approximately 2,000 captivating Smith photographs Haley has selected those which best typified the Cattle Kingdom. Beginning with "Chuck Wagon on the Move" and "Pitching Camp," (pp. 33-34) he moves to "The Drive" and "Working the Roundup." (pp. 46, 51). In turn, he shows the cowboy at work in such pictures as "Dragging Him to the Fire," "Strung Out," "Capturing a Matador Outlaw," and "Range Branding." (pp. 56, 61, 95, 103). He even illustrates several methods of range relaxation in "Shootin' Craps," "Mumble-Peg," and "Settling the Dust." (pp. 88, 90, 93). Overall, Haley depicts the cowboy's life style—combating a hostile yet satisfying environment, dealing with mean and ornery cattle, indeed fighting to endure the everyday perils of a lonely existence.

Life on the Texas Range is therefore a most worthwhile publication to those who are interested in the American West. Through such genius with a camera Smith has recorded what life was really like in West Texas and eastern New Mexico during the early 1900's. In interesting, succinct prose Haley has provided the reader with a short biographical sketch of Smith as well as helpful explanations regarding eighty pictures. And the University of Texas Press has produced an attractive book at a reasonable price.

Ben Procter
Texas Christian University


George W. Brackenridge (1832-1920) was undoubtedly a maverick as he often defied the conventional and orthodox during his long career in Texas as a banker, civic leader, and philanthropist. He was born in Indiana, came to Texas with his family in 1853 and settled near the old town of Texana in Jackson County. A Unionist during the Texas secession controversy, he fled the state with the outbreak of war only to return as a special agent of the United States Treasury during the Federal occupation of the Brownsville area. With profits gained from the wartime cotton trade, Brackenridge moved to San Antonio after the war. There he launched a career as a banker and civic leader which guided the development of the Alamo city from a postwar population of 10,000 to one of over 120,000 at Brackenridge's death in 1920. As a Republican, a Prohibitionist, an active, albeit somewhat paternalistic, sponsor of racial equality, and an advocate of the women's suffrage movement, Brackenridge was often at odds with the prevailing community mores. Yet, the resources of his San Antonio National Bank, the city's dominant financial institution, were time after time used unselfishly to help support municipal improvements and expansion.

In his later years Brackenridge's activities as a philanthropist over-shadowed his business activities. During his long service of over twenty-five years as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas, he played a key role in molding a provincial institution into one of genuine university status. This was accomplished not only through his substantial financial contributions but also through his strong stands protecting academic independence from interference at the hands of state officials.
In the main the author has made a commendable effort in revealing the complexities of Brackenridge's personality. Her research, particularly through her access to the Brackenridge Papers, is thorough. The book is well organized and written with style and wit. The author makes a particular contribution in her efforts to unravel the confused and illicit practices accompanying the Civil War cotton trade in Texas. The book also contains some interesting and germane illustrations although the reader will probably wish for more maps—especially of the Civil War Rio Grande Valley area and of San Antonio during the Brackenridge era. But again, Professor Sibley has made another substantial contribution to Texas history.

John O. King
University of Houston


Those of us who are not professionally trained in history and archives may take heart that there may be hope for us from the example of Elijah Leroy Shettles, expert bibliophile and historian, as well as pastor. For he was for twenty years a professional gambler, for thirty years an active Methodist pastor, and, lastly, for twenty years a collector of rare books and pamphlets on Texas and Southern history, and on Methodist history, especially in Texas.

The autobiography of Mr. Shettles was written in the 1930's, and he "whittled it up for articles in such magazines as The Southwestern Advocate, but it was principally published . . . in the Pontotoc (Mississippi) Progress, with installments appearing [in] 1935 and . . . 1936," writes Professor Archie P. McDonald of Stephen F. Austin University in the Introduction. This edition is the first publication in book form.

Mr. Shettles is an interesting autobiographer. He tells well the story of his childhood and youth in Mississippi, just before and during the Civil War. He reports that his parents "were poor, honest, hardworking good folks, belonging to that class called by some slaveholders and many negroes, by way of distinction, 'poor white trash.' " He adds that he felt a lingering "sting and feeling of resentment for the contempt shown for my sort of people because they were poor and had to work hard in order to live."

In order to get out of this cycle of poverty he first left home when only eighteen with little formal education. He did rather poorly in his first jobs, and soon turned to gambling, adding to this the usual habit of drinking. But the twenty years of gambling was a succession of short stays in various cities and towns—St. Louis, Little Rock, Hot Springs, Fort Smith, Muskogee, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, El Paso, and Jackson, Mississippi.

There are frequent accounts similar to this in his story: "I at once entered into the sport [gambling] that was running high and lasted about three days before whiskey, cards, and other forms of sport had me stripped to my last dollar. I had to get out of town . . . " He once told J. Frank Dobie (who reports this in a eulogy at Shettles' funeral, printed in the book as a foreword) that "despite the fictionizing of gamblers, there was never a professional who did not play tricks or cheat."

Converted in 1891, he entered the Methodist ministry that fall, and for thirty years he served small and large churches and was twice presiding elder. In his earlier years as pastor he was unhappy at several appointments, but as a whole he felt his ministry was worthwhile. He retired in 1921, and moved the next year to Austin where he entered what he called "the out-of-print book business as an employment."

Mr. Shettles had already been dealing in out-of-print books before he retired—ever since 1895 when, as a pastor in Austin, he got acquainted with Judge W. C. Raines, who
published the next year his *Bibliography of Texas* literature; Dr. George P. Garrison, history professor at the University of Texas; and Mr. H. P. N. Gammel, a dealer in old books. Gradually his interest and activity widened, as he had opportunities to secure materials in Waco, Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Fort Worth.

Eventually he traveled more widely, securing books on Methodism, the Civil War, Texas, and Southern history. He became the authorized agent to secure materials for the Littlefield Southern History Collection at the University of Texas. He donated his collection of Wesleyana to Southern Methodist University in 1917, and, he writes, "in that collection may be found some of the rarest materials on the early activities of the Methodist people in America." He provided important acquisitions also to the Texas State Library, the Rosenberg Library (Galveston), the San Antonio libraries, and Sam Houston State University (Huntsville). For a few years he was employed by the Methodist Publishing House in Dallas, and in that relationship he also spent his time traveling and collecting pamphlets and books.

Mr. Shettles made significant contributions to the historical interests of Methodism in Texas. He helped organize a Texas Methodist Historical Society, which produced seven issues of the *Texas Methodist Historical Quarterly*. He provided much of the material that enabled Macum Phelan to write his two-volume *History of Methodism in Texas*, and he was the publisher of *The Texas Colonists and Religion* by William Stuart Red.

The life of E. L. Shettles was varied; it was colorful; it was fruitful. What more can one desire?

Walter N. Vernon
Nashville, Tennessee


Dams, canals, tanks, pumps punctuate the chapters of man's struggle for water—for survival—in the Southwest. *Water for the Southwest*, done in the manner of the National Park Service's successful series of thematic guide books, tells the story through descriptions of sixty significant sites.

Prepared at Texas Tech University, with support from the National Park Service and the American Society of Civil Engineers, the volume devotes a bare twenty-five pages, including illustrations, to a chronicle of the development of water systems in the Southwest (the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado) from the ancient Hohokam Indians, through Spanish endeavors, to twentieth century agricultural, industrial, and community water supply projects. The majority of the book is given to necessarily brief notes about specific significant sites, most of which offer a visitor physical remains to view, some even the original construction still in operation. Each note provides a historical summary of that site, a statement of its significance, a paragraph on its present state of preservation and accessibility, and a list of references. The references lead to a bibliography twice the length of the introductory matter, which obviously goes well beyond support for the narratives, yet which is neither annotated nor comprehensive.

As a guide book, however, *Water for the Southwest* serves admirably, for it presents a highly useful survey of water engineering achievements in the region, up to shortly after the turn of the century and thus before the development of modern pump irrigation systems on the High Plains. Included among the sites, five of which are National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks designated by the American Society of Civil Engineers, are the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona, the first multipurpose project of the U.S. Reclamation Service and the largest masonry dam in the world at the time of completion in 1911, the
Ames Power Plant in Colorado which first generated (with water power) and transmitted high voltage, alternating current for commercial use (1891), the largest roll crest dam in the country, an operating canoa (log flume) in New Mexico, an acequia in use in San Antonio for almost 250 years, and several interesting municipal and railroad water supply systems.

*Water for the Southwest* is, in balance, a necessary and useful first step in recording our heritage in water engineering in the Southwest.

David B. Gracy II
Georgia State University


Reading this book about the largest oil field in the United States has proved to be an exercise in irony. Here I sit, some forty or so miles from the Black Giant's discovery well, which still produces a few barrels a day, wondering if I will be able to buy (or afford) enough gasoline to get me through next week. And yet, less than 45 years ago, oil was selling for a dime a barrel in East Texas, and they were producing more than the nation could absorb. As an historian I should not be surprised by the changes wrought by time, but the sheer enormity of this anomaly is almost overwhelming. In short, the oil business has changed a great deal in less than half a century, and the authors of this entertaining book have done a good job in describing an earlier era of abundance.

Clark and Halbouty approached the subject with both practical and scholarly credentials. Both were on the scene during the great East Texas boom—Clark as a working newsman and Halbouty as a geologist and engineer. Since then, they have produced a book on Spindletop and now they have combined again to record the history of what they choose to call "the last boom." Their efforts should not go unnoticed in a day of international concern over petroleum resources.

Beginning with the exploits of Columbus Marion Joiner, himself a case study of the American speculator, Clark and Halbouty proceed to show how Joiner's discovery not only changed the face of East Texas but led to modern methods of oil conservation. Dividing their work into three books—The Believers, the Exploiters, and The Aftermath—the authors carefully weave human and technical elements into a rich tapestry, much as a modern weaving machine might combine cotton and petroleum-based synthetics into useful material. Indeed, one of the main strengths of this work is the careful attention to colorful personalities. "Old Man Joiner" comes to life as he travels the East Texas countryside cajoling money from dirt-poor farmers, gullible widows, and depression-wrecked businessmen. He was a man with a dream, and it came true when he struck oil on Daisy Miller's Rusk County farm in October, 1930. The resulting boom brought a steady flow of oil and humanity to East Texas, forever changing that small corner of the Old South. Other colorful characters include the legendary H. L. Hunt, who really struck it big in East Texas; "Doc" Lloyd, the self-proclaimed and unscientific geologist whose efforts outperformed the "pros" of the major companies; F. W. (Big Fish) Fischer, who defended hot oil runners all the way to the Supreme Court; and Judge R. T. Brown, the East Texas jurist who had to listen to thousands of legal disputes, many of them precipitated by "kinfolks" who came out of the woods when the smell of oil grew strong.

Equally impressive are the author's efforts to show the technical side of the East Texas Oil Field. A tremendous reservoir of oil, it covered more than 140,000 acres in Rusk, Gregg, Upshur, Smith, and Cherokee counties. The Woodbine formation which contained the oil was not especially difficult to drill, but it presented problems because of the abundance of salt water. Wide-open production—so characteristic of an oil
EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

boom—threatened to ruin future recovery, and to glut the market with cheap oil. Both problems invited governmental intervention by the state Railroad Commission and later the federal government. The intricate story of proration is admirably recounted, and one cannot help but respect the efforts of Railroad Commissioner Ernest O. Thompson to bring some order to the scene, despite the nasty political and bureaucratic bungling that accompanied the government's action. An estimated 100,000,000 barrels of "hot oil" (produced in excess of proration) flowed from the field before the Connally Hot Oil Act finally plugged the holes in 1935. The net effect of the East Texas experience was to bring modern conservation techniques to the petroleum industry, but not before major and independent operators leveled charged and counter-charges against one another.

Other interesting parts of the book deal with the field's role in fueling the Allied side in World War II, the New London school explosion, and the slant-hole controversy of the early 1960's. In all, it is a fascinating account of the mineral frontier and its impact on Texas and the nation.

Careful scholars may be distracted by the absence of footnotes and the brief bibliography which is simply titled "an acknowledgment." Surely it would have been proper to print the list of 200 persons interviewed, since their comments obviously furnished much of the material for the book. Perhaps this work will whet the interest of historians in this aspect of the American frontier, although it will be difficult to produce a more readable account of the "Black Giant."

Bobby H. Johnson
Stephen F. Austin State University


At the risk of boring you with the first sentence, you need to know, nonetheless, that this book covers: Temple, 1929-1933; Taylor, 1929-1931; San Marcos, 1932-1933; San Antonio, 1929-1936; Midland, 1929-1933; Kilgore, 1930-1931; Dallas, 1929-1933; Galveston, 1929-1933; Houston, 1929-1933; San Angelo, 1933-1936; and Austin, 1929-1936. Since there are other Texas cities, and because the depression persisted for a decade, the volume, obviously, lacks comprehension despite the title. However, to steal a line from an old Spencer Tracy movie, "What is there, is choice."

Written by various graduate students and assembled by Professor Robert Cotner of the University of Texas the chapters are well-constructed and researched in a professional manner. The illustrations, including cartoons, paintings, and photographs, are excellent, and the authors deserve praise for their work. Although they often record depression hardship with unemotional statistics concerning welfare, government expenditure, and charity agencies, once in a while a human feeling glimmers through the hard-rock of the text. Robert Ozment comments, for example, about his family's rent-free home in Temple: "I remember this house well because it had no coverings on the splintery old floors. My one pair of shoes had to be saved for winter use, and during the summer my feet were constantly bandaged from the thrust of splinters." (page 2).

The book could use a summation chapter to compare the experience of these various towns. Taylor, Midland, Kilgore, and Dallas, for instance, enjoyed an oil boom while Austin, Galveston, and San Antonio possessed governmental institutions all of which served to soften the cruel impact of the depression. In the cities, moreover, local governments and charity groups worked hard with only partial success to prevent abject deprivation. Yet no government collapsed; there was no revolt; the banking structure, with losses, survived; and most cities welcomed the relief of the New Deal. Perhaps, Professor Cotner can provide such a summation in a separate book.
There exists an additional editorial quirk that deserves comment. Footnote numbers are included in the text, but for reasons of economy, the footnotes themselves have been left out. Since this study will appeal largely to professional historians who like to read such items, this situation will create frustration. Dr. Cotner in his introduction offers to supply citations when requested. I hope that he is flooded with inquiries—it will, at least, prove the popularity of this worthwhile book.

David McComb
Colorado State University


This handsomely-designed book is a fascinating chance to view this unique region through the eyes of two who obviously have a deep affection for it.

Though it is largely a picture book, the text by William A. Owens gives a sensitive portrayal of the area that makes an effective counterpoint to Michael Frary’s bold and dashing watercolors. Especially helpful is Owens’ description of the people of the Big Thicket. He writes sensitively of their history, their attitudes, their songs and their mannerisms, sometimes with humor but always with affection and respect. One comes away with the feeling that rugged independence of the people is a part of what should be preserved in the Thicket.

Owens is currently a Professor of English at Columbia University, but is a native of Texas. He first visited the Big Thicket in 1933. Many trips have followed over the years, some in the line of duty as a teacher at Texas A&M and at the University of Texas, some purely for pleasure. His text bears out his claim that the book is a record of a 40-year “love affair” with the Big Thicket.

Granting the effectiveness and beauty of Owens’ text, the book still largely belongs to Michael Frary. Seventy of the 112 pages are devoted to full page reproductions of his paintings. Thirty-six of them are stunningly reproduced in full color. In addition, there are numerous sketches decorating the ample margins of the text.

The paintings are direct, on-the-spot works rather than studio paintings. They are neither careful copies of nature nor calculated designs. Rather, they are records of a perceptive eye and a trained hand translating a scene into watercolor with joy and spontaneity. The most effective ones are those that strike a proper balance between a degree of descriptive realism and an effective display of a fluid, sparkling, watercolor quality. Some perhaps can be faulted for exploiting one of these attributes at the expense of the other. They are all stamped with Frary’s intense and individual style.

Frary’s qualifications for the book are impressive. A native of California, he received the Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Southern California. Since 1952 he has taught at the University of Texas. He has exhibited widely and has many awards and one-man exhibitions to his credit. John Palmer Leeper writes in his introduction to the book:

“Other artists of the area have dwelt on its pensive and nostalgic aspects. None, however, have caught its excitement and splendor so forcefully.”

The book recounts the long struggles to preserve the Big Thicket and to create a National Park or National Monument of the area. Its appeal, however, is not to the intellect so much as to the senses. Simply by inviting you to share their intense love for the Thicket, the authors make a very effective appeal for its preservation. The book is elegantly produced, without being ostentatious. It is one that invites frequent leisurely perusal.

Reese Kennedy
Stephen F. Austin State University

This chronicle of the Neal family’s exodus westward during the Civil War no doubt will bring memories of family stories passed down to many of us of an era from which we are only a few generations removed. Many of us of the Big Thicket area were born here because our great-grandfathers were Tobe or Ed Neal’s counterpart. Although the Big Thicket is mentioned numerous times, the setting is not Big Thicket and the title may at first appear to be a misnomer. Only near the end of the story does any of the action take place in the Big Thicket, but as Pete Gunter points out in the foreword, the goal of the two Neal brothers was this “jungle-like wilderness” and the rest of the family wanted “a new start on the rich prairie land of Texas” even though they never got farther than the Cane River of Louisiana.

This novel is an engrossing bit of history of our fratricidal war, ending in an episode of unforgettable horror of brother killing brother. Talbot seems to have an intimate knowledge and understanding of the life of this period. His characters are very realistic and the plot moves dramatically to the climax except in chapter six which seems to be more of an essay covering the situation prevailing at the time of the Battle of Port Gibson, Grant’s success at Bayou Pierre and Big Black which “put Grant into Vicksburg through the back door”. We think this information might have been better integrated into the story. It does seem that the author would have done well to have had the runaway slave Orin found by some other means than through “enquirin’ amongst the niggers” for if there is one trait that we have found among black people, it is that they will never tell the whereabouts of a black brother no matter how harmless it might be to do so. There are many folksy expressions and sayings typical of those times. One word, “whicker” of English provincial origin did not come to Texas to stay. (The words “whinney” and “nicker” are used instead.) But all of these are reminiscent of an era past. There are a few typographical errors.

We think that Talbot is an excellent storyteller and might well have stretched his plot over three-hundred pages instead of a thin ninety-eight, but on the other hand, he has packed it with action and it is an easy evening of reading.

Lois Williams Parker
Beaumont, Texas


Works by a number of journalists and historians have analyzed southern “massive resistance” to the Brown decision. Such journalistic accounts as Benjamin Muse’s Ten Years of Prelude and Reed Sarratt’s The Ordeal of Desegregation and in a more scholarly vein such efforts as Neil R. McMillen’s The Citizens’ Council and the reviewer’s The Rise of Massive Resistance have not only mined similar materials but have approached their subjects from broadly similar assumptions. These studies have generally seen black culture as essentially American culture and have visualized assimilation as the solution to the race problem. Written mainly by “white southern liberals,” they have been friendly toward national power and, at least by implication, distrustful of community control. Although some of the books have strongly reflected the stability-continuity thesis advanced by Wilbur J. Cash, they all approached their subject within the broad framework structured in the writings of C. Vann Woodward, V. O. Key and Dewey Grantham (two of the studies mentioned above were written by Grantham students), which viewed race as something of a spurious political issue that upstaged the “natural” alliance of poor blacks and whites.
Since many of these assumptions are increasingly open to question, further analysis of the dynamics of massive resistance within an innovative theoretical framework might well produce rewarding insights. And it is in this context that Francis M. Wilhoit's *The Politics of Massive Resistance* is so disappointing. The work is curiously dated, perhaps because it originated as a Harvard University doctoral dissertation presented in 1958. Although Wilhoit offers in the concluding section of the book an "interpretive explanation" stressing political, economic, psycho-cultural and religious factors that offer interesting approaches to the study of the massive resistance movement, none of these hypotheses are tested in the study itself. Instead, the author structures his analysis loosely around a struggle between "the equalitarian revolution" and the massive resistance "counterrevolutionaries," a design so general and vague that it obscures more than it illuminates.

Wilhoit's research is not impressive; the book rests heavily upon the standard coverage of *Southern School News*. As one of numerous examples, the author seems not to have consulted Marshall Frady's significant biography of George C. Wallace in formulating his shallow discussion of the Alabamian. Indeed, Wilhoit's topology of southern political leaders (tutelary, charismatic demagogues, pragmatic self-aggrandizers, intellectual ideologues) is astonishing: he lumps into the "pragmatic self-aggrandizers" of massive resistance Senator William Fulbright of Arkansas and Governors James Folsom of Alabama, Haydon Burns of Florida and Luther Hodges of North Carolina, characterizing these disparate gentlemen as examples of "the architects of the new status quo" (91-92).

At best, Wilhoit's concluding "interpretive explanation" might serve as a starting point for future and more adequate studies of massive resistance.

Numan Bartlet
University of Georgia

*The Year They Threw the Rascals Out*. By Charles Deaton. Austin (Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc.), 1973. P. 244. Bibliography, appendices, and index. $2.75.

The year referred to in Deaton's title is 1972 and the "rascals" are those Texas politicians who felt the wrath of Texas voters in the wake of the Sharpstown and related scandals. The genre is political history mixed with some analysis of the events reported; the style leans more in the direction of the journalistic than the academic giving this study wider appeal than many political histories. The author's credentials are more than satisfactory: native East Texan; resident in West Texas, Central Texas and South Texas; political reporter in Austin; and student and teacher of government, history and business.

Deaton's story begins with events surrounding the Sixty-second Legislature (1971) and ends with an analysis of the events of the Sixty-third (1973). Along the way he recounts the developments in the 1972 primaries and general election as well as the "reform legislature" of 1973. Through it all, the author's purpose is to help the Texas citizen-voter "determine the difference between true reform and surface change" and to point the way for him when he decides "to do something about it all," but "don't know where to begin".

After following carefully the trail of the Frank Sharp story, the effort of the Sharpstown scandals on the elections of 1972 and the fight for reform in the Sixty-third Legislature, Deaton offers some perceptive conclusions. He suggests that some of the new legislators elected in 1972 quickly established the same type of voting records as those they replaced and that the reform laws actually passed in 1973 are yet to be tested in action. He detects three major agents of change in 1972: the Sharpstown Scandals, the
advent of single-member legislative districts in urban areas, and the new reform rules adopted by the Democratic Party. Of the three, Deaton concludes that single-member districts will be the most significant and long lasting.

Throughout the book, Deaton focuses attention on the parties, personalities and voting records in the political "free-for-all" that was 1972 in Texas. Highly recommended for all who are interested in contemporary Texas politics—readable, factual—all in all, a real contribution to Texas political history.

Joe E. Ericson
Stephen F. Austin State University


This collection of essays about Southwest writers by William T. Pilkington is a useful addition to the growing body of scholarship regarding writing in the area. As Pilkington points out in his final essay, there is a revival of interest in regional literature, as evidenced by such things as the establishment of the Southwest American Literature Association with its journal and its bibliography of Southwest writers which is now at the publisher.

Since this collection is composed of essays which Pilkington published over a period of about five years ending in 1969, it makes no pretense of being any more than an assortment of pieces covering, for the most part, minor figures. The first and the final essays attempt to put the others into the perspective of the Southwest literary and cultural scene. The comments in the final essay are worth reading, if only because they enumerate questions most students of Southwest writing have seen as ones that must be dealt with if writers in the area are to deal forthrightly with contemporary Southwest life.

Pilkington says that these essays have been reprinted in their original form. While one can understand that extensive revision would have been arduous, some of the essays would have profited by revision. Most particularly, the entire text of the pamphlet which Pilkington wrote on William A. Owens for the Southwest Writers Series is reproduced. This gives an imbalance to the book, since it places Owens in the position of getting about twice as much attention as some other writers whom Pilkington seemingly rates more highly, especially Harvey Fergusson.

Pilkington's judgments of such writers as Edwin Corle, Paul Horgan, Edward Abbey, and Frank Waters are by and large good ones, except that he is somewhat guilty of the very accusation he makes concerning enthusiasts for regional literature; he admits that most of these people are minor figures, but he insists that they are worthy of attention because they have treated the Southwest scene.

Even though this collection can be faulted in some ways, it still has its values. In the revival of interest in regional writing, any intelligent view of writers of the region is welcome. With the plethora of publications in our day (mayhap the paper shortage will curtail many of the avenues for publication of scholarly, semi-scholarly, and pseudo-scholarly effusions), it is easy to welcome any collection of articles on a topic of interest.

Ernest Speck
Sul Ross State University

The sixth publication of the USL History Series published by the University of Southwestern Louisiana, *The Whig Party of Louisiana*, makes available in the offset process a study of the political manifestations of the rise and fall of the Whig Party in Louisiana. First attracted to national issues by the elections of 1824, Louisiana voters betrayed loose party affiliations throughout the ante-bellum era. Not unlike twentieth century voters, Louisiana voters before the Civil War had a habit of voting for one party on local-state offices and for another on national offices. Ethnic conflicts, rural-urban hostilities, the Negro, sugar, cotton, tariffs, business, banking, internal improvements, and personality cults provided the seemingly ever-constant ingredients of Louisiana politics during the days of whiggery.

The Louisiana Whig party, an integral part of the national party, evolved from the National Republican party in 1834. Louisiana Whigs supported protective tariffs, the Bank of the United States, and federally financed internal improvements. Henry Clay was unmistakably the "godfather" of the Louisiana Whigs. Outstanding state leaders included such men as Judah P. Benjamin, Alexander Porter, and Edward Douglas White. From 1834 to 1842, Louisiana Whigs controlled the state, but thereafter went into a slow decline, only to suddenly evaporate after having won control of the state constitutional convention of 1853.

A host of factors contributed to the decline of the party. Andrew Jackson's local popularity competed with whiggish sentiments. Texas Annexation, John Tyler, the slavery controversy, nativist sentiments and the more whiggish program of the Louisiana Democratic party in the 1850s contributed to the decline of Whig strength. The study is intensive, state-oriented, and generally informative. There are some distracting, but minor errors in the text and notes and the overall composition is somewhat disjointed. There is considerable attention to voting detail and little attention to the hard economic data depicting the trade, manufacturing, and banking structures in New Orleans, and the sugar interests in the interior, which provided the foundation of Louisiana Whig strength. The bibliography is impressive and useful. Complementary studies include Louis M. Norton's unpublished dissertation, "The Whig Party in Louisiana," (1940); and that of Joseph G. Tregle, Jr., "Louisiana in the Age of Jackson," (1953); and Wendell H. Stephenson, *Alexander Porter: Whig Planter of the Old South*. The absence of Whig references and citations in standard Texas histories, suggests on the one hand the nominal influence of the party in Texas, and on the other argues for further historical investigation.

Henry C. Dethloff
Texas A&M University

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